

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1), £2,350,000.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 4.37 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 6th August, 1942.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION—RAILWAYS.

Refreshment Room Facilities.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Railways: In view of the fact that many passengers find it quite impossible to obtain refreshments at Chidlows and Spencer's Brook railway stations, owing to the very limited amount of space available, will he take steps to increase the facilities existing at those stations?

The MINISTER replied: The inconvenience mentioned is not unusual at the present time owing to war conditions. The position is being closely watched but capital expenditure on additional facilities cannot be made available at present.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. North, leave of absence for the remainder of the session granted to Mr. Abbott (North Perth) on the ground of duties with the R.A.A.F.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Third Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. F. C. L. SMITH (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [2.19]: The work of this Parliament, although important, is more or less overshadowed by war and the requirements of war, which impose on the central Government a task of such great magnitude that everybody who can help should do so, and none should hinder. War in our time is

different from the conflicts of the past. Ever since the machine-gun was invented, industry has had to bear a greater share of war work. Now we have infantry, cavalry and artillery all highly mechanised, all armed with automatic weapons, and all calling upon the industries of every country and upon the scientists of every country, for scientific application towards their maintenance and equipment. Notwithstanding this, science has not reduced the use of troops in the mass. As a matter of fact, the equipping of armies with automatic weapons has apparently accentuated the use of troops in the mass. The task of equipping those troops is one of great magnitude and we find that, in every country engaged in the war, more workers are required in factories than men in the field. The last war started as a partial war, but finished with all nations engaged endeavouring to make it a total war. Since that war, some of the nations occupied in the present conflict have directed their attention to total warfare, to the bending of their energies in peace-time towards the building up of armaments for future warfare, so that in the case of many of them the outbreak of hostilities merely became an acute phase of normal conditions. But in this country we were not engaged in total war during times of peace. Nor were we organised to an extent, or on a basis appropriate to the dangers that at present confront us. We therefore find that most of our munition factories, and other factories engaged in the manufacture of the necessities of war, are largely located in the Eastern States.

In the early stages of this war the nations to which we were opposed were not so very threatening, but with the entry of Japan they became extremely threatening to us. Now we have to make the best use of all the manufacturing plants at our disposal for the purpose of putting up a maximum war effort. It is quite possible that in that connection some of the States might have suffered in regard to the war expenditure and the building up of factories within them. Some idea of the industrial background of modern military equipment is given by the figures I am about to quote, which were published by the German Institute of Business Research: To construct a cruiser it takes 18,000 men, and they have to work one year. To construct a destroyer 5,400 men are required; for a submarine 4,000 men; for a

battery of heavy mortars 980 men, and for a locomotive 100 men, and they have to work a year to complete their tasks. Each automatic weapon requires the services of seven or eight workers. Steven Possony, an American authority, gives the figure of nine to 9.5 workers for each soldier in a defensive war, and 12 to 12.5 for each soldier in an offensive war.

The Secretary of State in U.S.A. in 1925, Mr. Davis, officially declared in the "Army and Navy Journal of the U.S.A." in that year, that 17 men were at work at home to provide and maintain the equipment of each American soldier at the front. I draw the attention of the House to these figures which provide a reliable guide to the huge task of equipping an army, and which, I think, are worth remembering when the question of equipment is giving rise to carping criticism.

This Government is to be congratulated on the fact that it achieved a surplus of £1,768 for the last financial year despite the fact that the Budget Estimates provided for a deficit of £198,297. This improvement is largely due to increased railway receipts and taxation receipts. Coming from these sources it points to the fact that we must have had a bigger national income last year despite the fact that some of our main industries were and are experiencing difficulties as a result of the war. It seems to point to the conclusion that the surplus was due to Commonwealth expenditure on the war. Although it is true that the surplus was a small one, nevertheless there is some satisfaction in achieving it although, I fear, it might be used—that is the smallness of it—as an argument to prove that we are not getting our fair share of war expenditure in this State. All of the other States were successful in having a surplus. I am not too sure about Tasmania, but the surplus in New South Wales was £880,000. Mr. Lang, of New South Wales, declared that if it were properly accounted it would be nearer £4,000,000. Victoria had a surplus of £150,000 and Mr. Cain, M.L.A., the Leader of the Labour Party in that State, said that if the finances were properly accounted the surplus would probably have amounted to £2,000,000. He meant that there was not the same necessity today for the Treasurers of the various States to show that they had achieved surpluses of some magnitude. The difficulty is to keep sur-

pluses within reasonable bounds. Queensland had a surplus of £63,772 and South Australia a surplus of £1,287,000, which latter amount I think is less than the sum given to that State by the Commonwealth Grants Commission last year. All these surpluses, I can say without fear of successful contradiction, support the contention of the Prime Minister that the States are retrieving much of the money that has been circulated by the expenditure of Commonwealth money on Australia's war effort and thus served to justify uniform taxation with its incidence falling equally on comparable incomes irrespective of the State or States in which those incomes were earned.

I feel that it is only by the concentration of the means of defence and of the supply of the sources of payment in the hands of the Commonwealth Government that it can be said that not only are we taking a rational view of our war effort, but that we are making a maximum effort. I feel that even if the war gives rise to issues that impinge upon or threaten State rights, and in the end even abridge those rights, it is the highest wisdom to resolve those issues by such measures. I make that statement because I feel that State rights are only secondary to our united war effort and in themselves are not vital to that effort. I feel it is better to emerge from this war without a vestige of State rights rather than by too great emphasis upon those rights make our effort less formidable than it would otherwise be.

Any enemy, no matter how insignificant, has to be treated with respect, but our present enemies have naval and military achievements to their credit that demand that we treat them with even greater respect than formerly and that we put forth our best efforts in connection with the prosecution of the war, even sacrificing some State privileges if such sacrifices should be necessary so that we may further our effort.

Hon. C. G. Latham: I think we all agree with you in that statement.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: I think so. I also think that members will agree that rights, personal or State, may have to be subordinated in order that we may be better organised for war. The war and its requirements at present overshadow every other consideration. Who would have thought that the goldmining industry of Western Australia would be so seriously affected by the

necessities of the war? I remember that during the progress of the 1914-18 war the goldmining industry was regarded as indispensable to our war effort as it was making a very important contribution towards it. As a matter of fact I think the present is the first war in history, of which I am aware, in which the gold resources of the nation have not been mobilised. During the previous war the Commonwealth Government not only issued regulations prohibiting the export of gold but actually commandeered all the gold in the State. Not only did it commandeer gold that had been won but also the current production, and the gold was taken at the standard price of £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce. The Government placed an embargo on the export of gold by companies and individuals, but exported the commodity itself and acquired for itself the enhanced price that followed on the depreciation of the currency during the progress of the war. In that way the Commonwealth Government deprived the goldmining industry of an amount estimated at £3,000,000. Whereas the goldmining industry in Western Australia is not regarded as of much account, I have not noticed that any other country has restricted its goldmining activities.

The Minister for Mines: As a matter of fact, other countries are increasing their gold production.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: One cannot blame them for doing so. Those countries are not obsessed or influenced by the talk about the position of gold in our future economy or any such-like nonsense. It seems curious, of course, that during the 1914-18 war the Commonwealth Government required all the gold it could secure whereas the present Commonwealth Government apparently would not care if gold production stopped altogether. I do not know for certain what has brought about this changed view, but perhaps the members of the present Federal Government have been reading what appears on page 162 of a recent text-book issued by the Department of Industrial Development in conjunction with the Education Department.

Mr. Patrick: Is that our publication?

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Yes, that is the hon. member's book—the one that has been lent to him. On that page the following appears:—

As a commodity gold is not of much real use in the world, except for ornaments and

jewellery, for filling teeth, for decorating the interior, and sometimes the exterior of buildings, for lettering and signs on the glass of doors and windows, and perhaps for spectacle frames (though nowadays the modern hornrim is much more popular). Moreover it is not worth as much as many people think it is. If all the gold produced in the world in a year were made into blocks these could easily be stored in two or three normal-sized classrooms, and its total value would be less than half that of the annual wheat crop of the world. In fact, a few years ago its total worth was less than half that of the annual value of the wheat crop of the United States alone.

In modern times gold has its chief usage as a basis for currency and for exchange of goods; and for this purpose it is mostly stored away in vaults of great banks so that you and I don't see much of it.

This is an official publication and therefore we can hardly complain about the goldmining industry being curtailed in wartime.

The Minister for Mines: All the same, those are facts.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: The book tells us that a ton of gold measures 15¾ cubic inches and is valued at £300,000. It does not tell us that a ton of wheat is worth only about £8. So this story which is to be given to the children of the State is entirely fallacious. Napoleon is recorded to have said of history—history such as is being taught in the schools today—that it was a fable agreed upon. The story of gold in this book is a fable that is not agreed upon. What has been said in the book regarding the utilitarian value of gold could be said with equal or greater truth of diamonds, for instance. No-one would suggest that diamonds have little or no value. The only uses to which they are put, so far as I know, are for cutting instruments used by glaziers and for diamond drilling machines, and perhaps in powder form for abrasive purposes. If there are few utilitarian uses at the moment, mainly on account of their high cost, it does not follow that they are of no value. They have a value for purposes other than utilitarian.

Not long ago the Bank of Belgium took action in the United States of America against the Bank of France to recover a sum of £50,000,000 or £60,000,000 for gold which originally was stored in the vaults of the Bank of Belgium but which, in the early part of the war, owing to the threat of German invasion, was passed on to the Bank of France. The Bank of France, apparently fearing the security of its gold deposits, sent this gold to Dakar in Africa

and from Dakar it was returned to Marseilles, where it was afterwards handed over to the German authorities. Thus the Bank of Belgium felt that it had an action against the Bank of France which, by the way, had £139,000,000 worth of gold stored in the United States of America. The Bank of Belgium was so impressed with the value of gold that it took action against the Bank of France and was successful. Of the £139,000,000 worth of gold to the credit of the Bank of France, some £50,000,000 or £60,000,000 worth was earmarked for the Bank of Belgium.

This book repeats a statement often reiterated that gold is dug out of the ground only to be put back again; in other words, only to be put into vaults. But there is an important difference. The gold does not remain in the vaults. It has been refined and made uniform in respect to its fineness. It has been made into bars of a weight appropriate to ensure both its portability and its utility. It has been certified in respect of both its quality and its weight. It is of a fineness, size and weight that experience has shown to be most suitable for the purposes it was destined to fulfil. Gold is not the only thing of value that is kept in vaults. All commodities that have high value in small volume are kept in vaults. Even title deeds are kept in vaults. Does it lend force to the argument to say that gold has little value because it is kept in vaults? I hold the contrary view. One must be forced to the opposite conclusion. We are told of all the gold stored at Fort Knox in the United States of America and of the fortifications and precautions taken to protect the gold. Does not Fort Knox stand as a monument to the high regard that has always been shown for the value of gold, and does it not indicate high regard for the value of gold in the future?

Not long since the "West Australian" reported that the Secretary of the United States Treasury, Mr. Morgenthau, had been questioned concerning a suggestion by Mr. Arthur Greenwood, a British Labour M.P., that the United States should erect a statue of liberty made of solid gold to prove that it no longer worshipped the golden calf. Mr. Morgenthau replied, "That statement is silly." The reporter asked, "You mean you think there will be a better use for the gold we have?" Mr. Morgenthau answered, "I think there will be

and I think there is now." These contentions that move the minds of people like Mr. Arthur Greenwood about the present and future use of gold are always conditioned by a lot of "ifs." I am reminded of the story of a young woman who was weeping bitterly and when asked the reason by her mother, she replied, "In a year or two I might get married. If I did so, and if some time after I had a little boy and if after a year or two he was playing in the streets and and if he went into one of the streets and was run over by a tramcar, what a terrible thing it would be." That is the attitude of people towards the value of gold. They say that if it were not used as a measure of value and a medium of exchange and a basis for currency, if it did not have peculiar qualities that recommend it for those purposes, if it had not been used for the purpose of exchange right down through the centuries from the days in which the Phoenicians established trading centres at Tyre and Sidon, 3,000 years before Christ, if it had no assets except stability and portability, if in short it lost all its peculiar qualities, then its value would fall.

But gold never has to wait for a buyer; gold never has had to knock at the door to gain admission. It is not subject to customs duty in any country. No other commodity rivals it in its power to maintain equilibrium in trade; in that, so far, gold has never failed. If managed in accordance with the rules of the gold standard, gold provides an unrivalled measure of exchange for goods in international trade. It has made the placing of long-term contracts possible. It has made international investment possible. It has eliminated uncertainties in respect of foreign currencies and their future. It has done more than inspire confidence; it has justified that confidence. The departure of countries from the gold standard has not been due to any lack of confidence in gold, but was due to confidence in gold, thus causing an undue demand for it, which undue demand in turn brought about the departure of countries from the gold standard. With all the disadvantages that may be said to emerge from the use of gold as a backing for currencies and a measure of values, the difficulties involved would be multiplied many times by the introduction of any substitute. Not only has gold maintained its value through all the years which have passed

since the departure of England from the gold standard, but in point of fact its value in relation to goods has risen very considerably. To what does that point? It points to the confidence in which it has been held in the past and the confidence which will be felt in it in the future.

I would like the Government to give some consideration to the question of pensions for miners in this State during the current session. I do not go so far as to say that I think it possible to bring down legislation for that purpose, but I would like inquiries to be made as to the possibilities of the proposal. New South Wales now has pensions for miners in the coal industry. Under it men are retired at the age of 60 years, and upon retirement are entitled to receive £2 per week subject to certain conditions. The wife of such a miner is entitled to a pension of £1 per week, and any children to pensions at the rate of 8s. 6d. per week. In other circumstances the pensioned miner receives £1 10s. per week. Gold-mining is somewhat different from other occupations as regards incidence of industrial disease, the incidence being much higher in this case; and therefore I consider it far better to provide for industrial diseases in connection with goldmining than to provide for old age pensions. Age, after all, is a disease which every one of us will contract if only we live long enough.

There are many cases of mine workers who have paid into the Mine Workers' Relief Fund over a long period of years. One such case came under my notice quite recently, that of a man 75 years of age who had paid into that fund ever since 1915. This man, although he has worked in dusty places—he was working in a dusty place when he retired quite recently—has never had even a silicotic ticket. On the Golden Mile there have been several cases of men who have worked underground for 30 years without contracting any industrial disease, even though they had worked in bad places and had been doing work of a nature which in the case of 999 men in a thousand would have caused silicosis. So here is this man of 75 years, and I suggest it would be very nice on the part of the Government, the man having paid into the fund for 20 years, to make up the allowance he would receive by way of an old age pension to the full

amount he would be entitled to without interfering with that pension.

I desire to touch on only one other subject, and it is one of those on which there are diversities of opinion. I refer to the vice squad which is now so active around the City of Perth. The activities of that service seem to be making wonderful copy for the "Daily News." I do not know why some organisation of women has not risen up in revolt against some of the headlines used, such as "More Women Rounded Up"—as though they were cattle! I object to copy being made by journals out of the activities of the vice squad. Certainly that squad has made an important contribution towards more orderly conduct in the city streets. But why this sudden onslaught on so-called vice? These morality campaigns seem to me to come in waves. Ever since the war began women have been on the streets. Many of them—I would say most of them—are following their natural instincts in their desire to meet some member of the opposite sex, preferably in uniform. Predacious though their pursuit may be, they are governed by an urge that is as old as Adam.

Member: Eve!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Older than Eve; Eve came after Adam.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Vice came first.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: These young women are a living manifestation of the duality that bisects nature moved by the will to live and to grow, attracted by all that furthers growth and repulsed by all that hinders it. Since war has broken out, these women have not been hindered much until recent weeks. Indeed, broadly speaking, they have been encouraged. But like all urges with which the human race is afflicted, the sexual urge can lure its victims into the dark morass of social censure.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Until we become civilised.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Punishment is inflicted upon all those who do not conform to the collective standards of the community and these are not necessarily the individual standards. It has been truly said by the German writer, Treitschke—

"It is sad to observe that so-called public opinion is always much more moral than the deeds of the individuals themselves. The average man is ashamed to mention publicly, and approve, a thousand things that he actually does. What the ordinary man, when

he is not himself concerned, can accomplish in the way of Cossack-like defence of virtue is unbelievable."

As I was saying, for three years the predatory instincts of the female were given free rein in the city of Perth. They were assisted by drinking in hotel lounges and no attempt whatever was made to enforce the law against supplying persons under 21 years of age with liquor.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: You were Minister for Justice.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: I was not. Well might these young women say, with Omar Khayyam—

O, thou who didst with pitfall and with gin
Beset the road I was to wander in,
Thou wilt not with predestination round
Enmesh me—and impute my fault to sin!

Now we have a vice squad on the job and I am fearful that it will go too far in the other direction. I have a profound distaste for the enthusiasm of those who are charged with the responsibility of maintaining a high moral standard and for the inspectors, whose enthusiasm, very often improperly shown, is equalled by their lack of tact and discretion. When, to the efforts of these censors of public morals is added the theorising of magistrates, some long past their prime in the physical sense, well, I do not know where the position is going to end. I consider that the reason Mr. Wallwork takes a more tolerant view of these cases—they are not offences—than does Mr. McMillan is for the same reason that Mr. McMillan takes a more tolerant view than does Mr. Schroeder. Mr. Wallwork is younger than Mr. McMillan and Mr. McMillan is younger than Mr. Schroeder. I take this opportunity to object to young girls being committed to gaol for these so-called offences.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Get a home ready for them.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Particularly do I object to young girls under 21 years of age being committed to gaol for such offences. I also object to their being committed to institutions for periods of 12 months. That kind of treatment is not going to cure those who love not wisely, but too many and too often.

The Minister for Mines: Has the action not something to do with venereal disease?

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: That is governed by the Health Act.

Hon. C. G. Latham: But it cannot be controlled.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Why should the young girl mentioned in last night's "Daily News" have been tracked down to a boarding house after leaving a cabaret, because she happened to go there with an American sailor?

Mr. J. Hegney: Why should it not apply to the opposite sex? Why should not the male be treated similarly?

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Why should not the sailor be arrested if it is an offence? Why pick up the girls only?

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Quite so!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Women in better circumstances who sleep with officers are not tracked down.

The Minister for Mines: You have a down on soldiers.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Yes. It is the old story.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: The woman pays!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: When poorer people indulge in sexual intercourse, it is vice; but when the wealthier, the aristocratic, young woman indulges in sexual intercourse, she is merely bestowing her favours.

Mr. Berry: That is the first bit of hokey you have spoken this afternoon.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: It is correct.

Mr. Berry: I agree with everything you have said about that. Otherwise you have put up a good story.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: I know it is correct.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: How do you know?

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Has not the hon. member read, "Where she bestows her favours—"?

Mrs. Cardell Oliver: No.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must address the Chair.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Has the hon. member ever read anything about a poor working-class girl bestowing her favours? If anything like that appears in a novel it has reference to a member of the wealthier class.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: And you are the Government?

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: A member of the wealthy class bestows her favours. It is vice in the case of the poor. The girl I am speaking of when dealt with by Magistrate Schroeder objected to what was being said about her. She had a perfect right to object, for I presume the statements were untrue.

The magistrate said, "We like our girls to be nice, above suspicion." The girl replied, "How can we be nice when we are tracked down all the time by this vice squad, or whatever it is?" The magistrate then said, "The vice squad does not track down nice girls." He has never heard the song—

All the nice girls love a sailor,
All nice girls love a tar;
There is something about a sailor,
You know what sailors are.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Love and vice are not the same thing.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: I know the hon. member's attitude on this question. Virtue dwells in ruins, but in the young sex it is a high explosive that has to be handled just as carefully. Only those who are subjected to most stringent disciplinary measures can sublimate their sexual impulses. It has been truly said by one very well known writer—that if the bringing of children into the world depended on an act of pure reason the human race would die out. Recently in the Bulletin the following item was published—

Maoriland, which reads the Australian newspapers, is affected (though it pretends it isn't) by tendencies across the Tasman. Lately, following Australian precedent, there has been a hullabaloo in the pulpits, reflected later in the newspapers in the Dominion's larger cities, about the awful goings-on of soldiers. Some of these dreadful fellows, it appears, drink beer and go walking with girls. On this background the fecund imagination of a certain type of wowsler has painted pictures that outdo the Dionysian orgies. Falling on the tumult with a dull, final sort of thud came the considered opinion of Salvation Army Commissioner Smith, a terse man:—

I do not think the position in New Zealand is very much more serious than it has ever been . . . Behaviour in the streets may appear rather worse today than formerly because there are more men in uniform, and that draws attention to them and their companions. But we must beware of singling out for suspicion every man in uniform who is seen with a girl . . . Let us beware of thinking evil where there is no evil.

The Commissioner has been backed up by Wellington's respected City Missioner, Rev. Jasper Calder, and by the city's Mayor Hislop, and hysterical suggestions about curfews are becoming less vehement than formerly.

I agree with the opinion expressed by Salvation Army Commissioner Smith, and the others I have mentioned. I hope the vice squad will take a more rational view of the whole position, and that a more rational view will guide their future activities in this city. The mobilisation of men and women in large numbers does not make for conditions suit-

able for the cultivation of the monastic control of the sexual urge. Even extreme puritans do not deny there is such a thing as sex, although they consider it a forbidden and painful subject. The army authorities in the last war were so impressed by the necessities of it that they issued prophylactics even to the married men.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: So that they would not become diseased; the people you support.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: I have expressed my views on this subject because I feel that gaol and incarceration in institutions is not the way to deal with promiscuous sexual intercourse, or to deal with certain emotional reactions that seem to stimulate the sex-urge impulse.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: It is the uniform, not the war.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Even if it is the uniform, the uniform is necessary in connection with the prosecution of the war. Whatever it is, these girls should not be singled out for treatment unless it be of a corrective character, something that will tend to instruct and point out to them that it pays them better to withhold their favours until they get hold of a man who is prepared in return to enter into matrimony with them. As for the magistrates, I am always a little suspicious of men who are getting on in years when they come to deal with these subjects. What I would like would be to see the Minister for Justice appoint one of these young men in his department, a man who is young enough still to feel the fires of youth burning within him.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: And who has children to protect.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: And is still old enough to have passed his magisterial examination. Then only would I feel that in the cases such as those I have referred to would justice be done. In any event I trust that whatever is done in the Children's Court, or in any other court in this country, will not in future be made the subject of glaring and inappropriate headlines in the "Daily News" or any other of our journals.

MR. NORTH (Claremont): A recent leading article in the "West Australian" put forth the plea that this Chamber should not become a roads and bridges chamber, and suggested it should deal with subjects of a higher value than that. When we look back upon the speeches that have so far been delivered on the question before the House

we cannot help feeling that good results have so far been achieved. It will be generally agreed that the interesting speeches we have heard are very far removed from roads and bridges. I was particularly pleased with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition and the member for West Perth with regard to uniform taxation and State Parliaments. We cannot at this stage stress too much the danger to Western Australia of the effects of uniform taxation. The outstanding difference between this State and the other States is the tremendous undeveloped section of Western Australia and its rich resources. It has always been an annoyance to me, ever since I have been in Parliament, to hear Western Australia referred to as a State with no resources and large, useless areas. We have always been at a great disadvantage compared with Victoria. With the passing of time, however, science has demonstrated that there are a number of assets awaiting development in various parts of the country. That is common knowledge, but up to date very little has been done about it. On that account it becomes a matter of tremendous interest to me as to what form of government we shall have in future—whether we shall succumb to the principle behind uniform taxation and come under a unified form of government from Canberra, or whether we shall receive further power and maintain the State's entity.

Some years ago the member for Nedlands, with others, led a vigorous movement for secession, and if a two-thirds majority vote in favour had been received at Westminster we would have been given power to control the finances of this State. The alternative put forward has been unification which would presumably mean the same sort of financial control as we have had through the Loan Council, and the Loan Council has not succeeded in the past ten years or so during its period of control in accomplishing for us any more than the construction of a certain number of roads. If Western Australia had been under the control of a country like the United States or even our enemies, Japan or Germany, we would have advanced very quickly in many directions, although perhaps not in ways or under direction conforming to our ideas. Whatever is done in the future, we must ensure that some provision is made for a big developmental policy for this State which so far we have not had,

everything having been against us in that regard. I trust this question will be examined at a very early stage and some decision reached. If we are to witness the failure of the State Parliament and to see it driven out by total encroachment from elsewhere, we must examine what alternatives there are ahead of us. We must investigate the possible form of unified government from Canberra and not be content to allow it to be designed in the Eastern States.

I was very pleased to note the line taken by the Leader of the Opposition and by the Leader of the National Party, and I trust that their remarks were well read throughout Western Australia. At least one advantage accrues from shorter sittings, namely that those who speak seem to have their utterances more fully reported than is the case when the sitting hours are longer and the speeches more numerous. The matter with which I have been dealing has been touched upon so often and so fully that I would not expect to receive much attention from the House when addressing myself to that subject. The other night the member for Midland-Guildford in one of his larger efforts—

Hon. W. D. Johnson: A marathon!

Mr. NORTH: Yes. The hon. member was generous enough, for some reason unknown to me, to include the member for Claremont in his remarks, and to chide me for not having done sufficient to encourage the establishment of secondary industries in Western Australia. That is not altogether a very sound charge to make. It is quite true that since the establishment of the committee dealing with industrial expansion and the appointment of the Minister for Industrial Development, there has been no activity in my district along those lines. We have left things as they stood, and accepted the position. For many years before that, however, the people of Claremont in many ways attempted to have secondary industries established here. Through me the Government was asked to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into economic reforms, and we have appealed for the Disabilities Commission to be enlarged so that it might take on the character of a developmental commission. In a hundred other ways we have from time to time dealt with the question of the establishment and encouragement of secondary industries in

Western Australia, but since the committee to which I have referred has been in existence and everything that could be done has been done in various places and at various stages from the point of view of the Opposition members, we have looked to the Committee to carry on the work it was appointed to do. I trust that during this session we shall have a report from the Minister for Industrial Development in regard to the various activities of his department.

Mr. J. Hegney: The member for Guildford-Midland also made reference to speeches on the Esplanade.

Mr. NORTH: I have never yet spoken on the Esplanade though I have often heard speeches of that kind on other esplanades. I cannot help admiring the tremendous courage and pertinacity of speakers on the Esplanade, because their audiences are limited and there is always a chance of rotten eggs being thrown at them.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: The audiences are not limited.

Mr. NORTH: The size varies. Sometimes there is a good deal of competition. Here we have the protection of the Speaker.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: But what sort of audience?

Mr. NORTH: It is very cultured, elite and select and represents 250,000 electors, which is rather important.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: What results have you had up to date?

Mr. NORTH: That question is one that I have considered at different times when I have thought over this Parliamentary life, and I have come to the conclusion that one obtains quite a number of indirect results. The member who is interjecting has himself had quite a large effect on the affairs of this State in many ways.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Only when I was on the Ministerial bench.

Mr. NORTH: If the hon. member looks back through the pages of "Hansard" he will find that he mentioned many important matters and suggested various reforms that in later years were adopted, though often the persons adopting them were never aware that he had advocated them.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: The greatest work I have done in my life was done on the Esplanade and at similar places.

Mr. NORTH: That is an interesting confession to hear. For my part, when I have

been concerned about the lack of present results, I have been surprised to realise how at various times the line of thought which I had in mind has been pursued by others at a later stage. Take the question of child endowment for instance. That is now commonplace. We all accept it. But go back to 1924, the year in which the electors first sent me to this Chamber! That was the very year when the Labour Party submitted its famous Industrial Arbitration Bill which is now the law of the land, and is looked upon as one of the greatest statutes of its kind in any part of the world. At that time the electors of Claremont required me to tell this Chamber that they considered child endowment was superior to the system of basing on non-existent children, the wages paid to workers. It is recorded in "Hansard" that it would be better to have child endowment to provide for the children who exist and not attempt to provide for those who do not. Many go without the necessities of life. It was not my voice. I was merely expressing the opinion of my electorate, but apparently it fell on stony ground. New Zealand and New South Wales very soon afterwards adopted it.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: The Domain in Sydney launched the child endowment.

Mr. NORTH: I do not deny that argument. But it is possible to do a lot in this Chamber and, if one is prepared not to demand all the kudos for the work, one can continue doing good work. I have seen suggestions put up and later adopted as having come from some other source. What harm is there in that? None! All that matters is that the ideas have been originated and gradually developed. The member for West Perth has often mentioned things in this Chamber in his not very loud voice, and we find some few months later that they have been adopted.

Mr. McDonald: That constantly happens.

Mr. NORTH: I wish to deal with the schools. The Education Department is not so difficult to move as would appear from previous speeches. We had an instance in my district the other day. A scandal was created at one of the schools on the boundary of my electorate and that of the Minister for Works. The school was being frequented each night in the manner stated this afternoon by the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe. Every night couples were mak-

ing their way to the school which, three months before, had had a new wing opened by the Minister for Works. It formed a wide space open to the air. Unfortunately, soldiers and girls were going to this place each night and having a great carouse, and leaving all the evidence of their various abuses behind them. Bottles of beer and various gloves were found there. It was a disgusting matter. The school teachers had to hurry to the school ahead of time in the mornings in order to clean up the place before the children arrived. We are told that the Education Department is asleep and that we cannot get a penny from it. On this occasion little agitation was needed. The matter was brought before the notice of the department and the Minister concerned. The member for Mt. Hawthorn was very concerned because the building was really in his district—by about 20 yards.

The Minister for Works: You had better be careful; it is just on the edge of your electorate.

Mr. NORTH: It is very close. I was in the district within a few days and carpenters were on the job. The whole place was closed in so that the couples referred to by the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe were kept out. On that occasion there was quick action.

I have to bring forward another matter connected with schools. We have a lot of trouble in Swanbourne in regard to the air-raid shelters. They have been dug at the schools, as members are aware, and they fill up with water and also, being constructed in loose sand, fall in. As a consequence, the parents and citizens are anxious to have these trenches covered and if possible roofed. The money required is being sought from the Civil Defence authorities.

The Minister for Mines: It is not so much a matter of the money, but whether the children will go into the trenches.

Mr. NORTH: Another question is that of shatter. We are now told that the school children have to attend at school during an air-raid. We are asking whether some assistance could be given to provide anti-shatter for the school windows. We have been told that the money must come from the parents and citizens. These things are not really affairs of State, but they are big matters in the local districts. They apply to other districts besides my own, and

that is why I have brought the subject forward.

The only other question I desire to raise follows on the remarks of the member for West Perth. He dealt with post war employment and public works, and mentioned a long list of valuable works which he would like to see carried out. I remind the Minister for Works that we had a motion on this subject last session, and six or eight big works were mentioned as being worthy of investigation. It was considered that they would provide post-war employment. The House carried a resolution suggesting that the Government might see its way clear to having these works brought to the attention of the officers concerned with the object of providing for them to be carried out during the war, thus avoiding a hiatus afterwards when men are ready to return to work. Has it yet been possible for the Government to start any inquiries in connection with those matters?

On motion by Mr. Needham, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.37 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 11th August, 1942.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (2).

NATIONAL SECURITY ACT.

Lighting Regulations.

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Are the black-out and brown-out regulations enforceable against Army authorities? 2, If so, why are the authorities not prosecuted for flagrant and consistent breaches thereof?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, No. 2, Answered by No. 1