

towards the alteration of schedules outside Parliament, I feel I must move an amendment—

Page 2, line 6—Delete the words “and add its name to the Schedule of this Act.”

If we are to legislate to allow the Governor to prescribe these ex-servicemen's associations by proclamation, it should be done by the Governor-in-Council and be recorded by being published in the *Government Gazette*.

Previously in debate we agreed that a schedule is part of the legislation, and to allow an authority outside Parliament to alter the schedule is wrong in principle. All members are aware of the arguments that have been advanced in support of that principle.

Mr. DURACK: Whatever may be the merits or otherwise of the arguments advanced by the member for Beeloo about schedules, the fact remains that clause 2 has been passed and it sets up the framework of the schedule. Therefore it would be nonsensical to delete the words proposed in the amendment.

Mr. Graham: We will recommit the Bill to pass the amendment.

Mr. Jamieson: The amendment, Mr. Deputy Chairman (Mr. Crommelin) is out of order; I have missed out.

Amendment put.

There being no voice raised for the “Ayes”, the Deputy Chairman put the clause as printed.

Clause passed.

Clauses 4 and 5 put and passed.

Schedule put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 9.32 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 26th October, 1967

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): I am now prepared to swear-in The Hon. F. R. White, the member for the West Province.

The honourable member took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance and signed the roll.

The PRESIDENT: Welcome to the Legislative Council of Western Australia, Mr. White. May your service here be fruitful to the State and rewarding to yourself.

QUESTIONS (3): WITHOUT NOTICE

PASTORALISTS IN MEEKATHARRA

Investigation of Plight

1. The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Local Government:

In view of the desperate position of pastoralists around Meekatharra, and north of that town, will the Minister have an immediate investigation made with a view to offering some alleviation of their plight?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

I will make some investigations. However, in the meantime I would suggest the pastoralists and Mr. Brand start praying, because this looks to be the only answer to their plight.

RESEARCH STATION AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DENMARK

Staff and Salaries

2. The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) How many are on the staff actually engaged on the farm site of the Denmark Research Station?
 - (2) How many are on the staff engaged within the office of the Department of Agriculture at Denmark, excluding Mr. R. Sprivulis, now resident at Albany?
 - (3) In the event of the research station being closed, would the Department of Agriculture office at Denmark also close?
 - (4) What are the net total salary and wages per annum—
 - (a) covering (1);
 - (b) covering (2)?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

I wish to thank the honourable member for giving me prior notice of this question. The replies are as follows:—

- (1) The manager and a field assistant on the salaried staff and eight wages staff employees.
- (2) Two salaried staff.
- (3) No.
- (4) The net amount of salaries and wages paid is not available. The gross figures are—
 - (a) \$22,439.
 - (b) \$ 7,351.

POLICE AND TRAFFIC OFFENCES
Recovery of Costs of Successful Appeals

3. The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Justice:

- (1) In the event of a person being convicted on a police charge and later successful in his appeal in the Supreme Court, could that person recover his appeal costs from the Crown?
- (2) In the event of a person being charged by a traffic inspector under the control of a local government authority and convicted, if that person is successful in his appeal to the Supreme Court, could he recover his costs of appeal from that local government authority?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Only as provided in section 219 of the Justices Act.
- (2) No. While under section 206 of the Justices Act, the court or judge may make such order as to costs as it or he deems just, nevertheless section 72 of the Traffic Act protects the inspector who acts in good faith (*Hitchens v. Martin* (1964) W.A. Reports p. 144).

QUESTIONS (3): ON NOTICE
SCHOOL AT KAMBALDA
Provision

1. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

In view of the large influx of children of school age to Kambalda and the distinct possibility of a very large increase by February, 1968, will the Minister inform me—

- (a) Has the site of the school at Kambalda been cleared and prepared for building purposes?
- (b) Have plans and specifications of the proposed school buildings been prepared?
- (c) If so—
 - (i) when is it expected that tenders will be called; and
 - (ii) what type of buildings will be constructed and of what materials?
- (d) To allay any further concern to parents of school age children, as the school commencing date is fast approaching, will a firm decision be made to have the school ready for occupation for the commencement of the 1968 school year?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) A site has been selected in readiness for the new school.

(b) Sketch plans have been prepared by the Public Works Department, Architectural Division.

(c) (i) Late 1967.

(ii) Timber framed building with asbestos cladding.

(d) It is not possible for the school to be ready until the beginning of second term, 1968. In the meantime the school will be formed and the children transported to Kalgoorlie until the new building is available.

**KALGOORLIE-PERTH DAYLIGHT
 TRAIN SERVICE**

Connecting Buses: Timetable

2. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

In view of the proposed daylight train service from Kalgoorlie to Perth when the standard gauge line is completed—

- (a) What rearranged road bus timetable will be necessary to connect at Kalgoorlie, for Esperance to Norseman passengers booked for Perth on the daylight schedule?
- (b) Will it be necessary for an overnight stay at Kalgoorlie?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) Final determination of rail schedules has not yet been made and road bus timetables will be contingent on the rail schedules.
- (b) Overnight stay in Kalgoorlie will be avoided if possible.

**KALGOORLIE-ESPERANCE BUS
 SERVICE**

Air Conditioning

3. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

In regard to the road bus on the Kalgoorlie-Esperance route, and in view of the dust which enters the bus to the inconvenience of passengers, due to the necessity to keep the window open for cooling purposes, the dust being caused by heavy road traffic, will the W.A.G.R. road bus service install air conditioning in this bus or supply an air-conditioned bus?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Experience with present air-conditioned buses in service has not proved entirely satisfactory and for this reason it is not intended to install air conditioning or provide an air-conditioned bus on this route.

However, when new buses are obtained they will be equipped with forced draught cooling facilities.

BILLS (2): THIRD READING

1. Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and transmitted to the Assembly.

2. Land Act Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and passed.

CREMATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West—Minister for Local Government) [2.46 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

When a body is cremated at a licensed crematorium the ashes must be deposited within the crematorium grounds unless the Commissioner of Public Health grants permission for their removal. This is provided for in section 7 of the Cremation Act. The Act itself was introduced in 1929 and was modelled on the then existing English legislation.

Cremation legislation of the mid-nineteenth century was extremely cautious. The practice was opposed by strong elements in the community and the apparatus employed in those days was not as efficient as it might have been. There was, therefore, a substantial reason for demanding that no remains be removed from the premises without the permission of a health authority.

We have two licensed crematoriums in Western Australia. These are at Karrakatta and Fremantle. Both are supervised by the Public Health Department. They are conducted on rigidly controlled lines, and have advanced equipment. I might interpolate here and say I have been behind the scenes and observed what goes on and am perfectly satisfied there is no health hazard in this regard.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: You were lucky they didn't cremate you.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: At least I came out in the flesh. The law requiring the administrator to obtain a permit from the Public Health Department before removing ashes has been reduced to an exercise in red tape which, in my opinion, ought to be removed.

This Bill, therefore, is to amend section 7 of the Cremation Act, so that in future the authority controlling a crematorium may deliver ashes to the administrator of an estate without reference to the Public Health Department. I commend the Bill to the House.

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

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 25th October.

THE HON. H. R. ROBINSON (North Metropolitan) [2.49 p.m.]: I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. White on being elected as a member for the West Province and I hope his stay in the Legislative Council will be a very happy one. He comes to this Chamber with experience in local government. I understand from the Minister that he has been a member of the Shire of Kalamunda for the past five years, and has been the president of that authority for the past three years. Therefore, I am sure his knowledge of local government and, I understand, educational matters, should be of great help to other members of the House. I wish him well in his election to this Chamber.

In supporting the Supply Bill I would like to bring a matter to the attention of the Government for its investigation. It deals with a request for additional assistance for kindergartens and infant health centres. I am fully aware that kindergartens come under the control of the Minister for Education, and infant health centres come under the Minister for Health. However, these two items have been grouped in a report which I received from the Shire of Perth. I note from the report that the matter will take some time to investigate, so I do not expect the Minister to be able to give an answer today to the matter I am raising.

Last night we listened to Mr. Watson speak on Commonwealth-State financial relationships. I am sure most of us realise that if the Commonwealth financial distribution was carried out on a more equitable basis—as Mr. Watson proposed—many of the suggestions we make from time to time would be so much easier to meet—and that includes housing.

Speaking of housing—if I can deviate for a minute—it seems to me that a little more co-operation is required between local authorities and the State Housing Commission to speed up the erection of additional homes. There seem to be unnecessarily long delays caused by some local authorities.

The report which I received from the Shire of Perth—it was also forwarded to other members of Parliament who represent the area within the Shire of Perth—is very comprehensive and deals with kindergartens and infant health centres. Perhaps it is not so applicable to some of the other local authorities that have not experienced the rapid development which is going on within the Shire of Perth. As a matter of fact, I was speaking to the chairman (Mr. Hamer) of the regional authority this morning, and he said that the Perth Shire has absorbed more of the

metropolitan explosion than any of the other 27 local authorities in the metropolitan region.

When one observes the tremendous development which is taking place in the Nollamara-Balcatta area, and which is now spreading from Karrinyup to North Beach, the rapid growth of the Shire of Perth is apparent.

Local authorities already receive financial help from the Government and the Lotteries Commission for the construction of kindergartens and infant health centres. The request submitted in this report seeks additional allocations of finance. The authorities seem to be restricted to the erection of two centres each year. Because of the large amount involved in the request contained in the report, I think the Government will have to carry out considerable investigation to find out whether pre-school training is necessary and whether it has proved essential as an element in the education system today. I think this is something which has to be looked at.

Accompanying the report was a letter dated the 6th October, 1967. The letter is as follows:—

As a result of continued requests received from established and newly developing areas of the Shire for the provision of Kindergartens and Infant Health Centres to serve those areas, Council in May, 1967, reviewed the position in regard to the need for these facilities for the whole of the Shire of Perth. In this connection, a report and plan was prepared by the Shire Planner indicating the total present and future requirements for an additional 22 Kindergartens in the district. The report was submitted to various interested authorities for comment and Council has now considered the replies received from the Kindergarten Association of W.A. and the Perth City Council.

A copy of the original report by the Shire Planner, together with copies of the replies, and the further observations on these by the Shire Planner on 11th September, 1967, are enclosed. As will be seen, there is a waiting list of 1727 children for six existing Kindergartens in the Shire, and the current programme for the erection of two new Kindergartens a year will make little impression on this backlog. It is suggested in paragraph 9.4 of the report of 11th September that a fundamental policy decision is required at Government level on the provision of Kindergartens.

On the instructions of Council these reports have been referred to yourself and all other State Parliamentary representatives in the Shire of Perth district for comments and suggestions.

The report states that the attached schedule indicates the full needs of the district. The overall needs have been very carefully shown on a plan prepared by the shire planner covering the large area of 44 square miles. The area is divided into various sections, and various priorities are mentioned. The report goes on as follows:—

Requirements have been based on approximately one mile between centres (i.e. theoretically no child would have to walk more than half a mile: modern and future conditions, especially car ownership, could allow some increase on this distance).

The District has been divided into zones, based roughly on this distance requirement, but "rationalized" in conformity with road patterns, local conditions, effective catchment—e.g., public open space, and the like.

Zones adjoining Shire boundaries present some problems, and any facilities provided in adjoining Municipalities would have to be used.

There are a number of fringe zones, where population density, finance and practicability may always preclude the services. In these cases, services would have to be provided from adjacent zones.

Priorities are as follows:

	Kindergartens	Infant Health Centres
No. 1	8	6
No. 2	4	4
No. 3	10	10
Totals	22	20

There could be two or three additional of each, especially where the development potential of zones is not yet clear; or where population density exceeds the normal.

The existing services are: 13 kindergartens—and that includes the Mt. Lawley pre-school centre—and 17 infant health centres. The survey shows that the total district requirements, including existing services, would then be 35 kindergartens and 37 infant health centres. That is approximately 2.7 times the present situation. The present population is about 120,000 and is expected to reach 300,000 or more, which will be an increase of 2.5 times what it is now. To continue the report—

Obviously, all services in No. 1 category cannot be provided immediately, and a priority within this may have to be allocated. Again, this depends to a great extent on the existence and enthusiasm of local Committees.

To give you, Mr. Deputy President (The Hon. N. E. Baxter), some idea of the number of children waiting to enter these kindergartens, it is stated in the report that in the newer areas which have developed in the last two, three, or four years there are waiting lists. For the North Innaloo kindergarten there is a waiting list of 431. The Tuart Hill kindergarten has a waiting list of 322, and the Joon-danna kindergarten has a waiting list of 140. The Wembley Downs kindergarten has had a consistently high waiting list and at present the number is 309.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Have they not heard of the pill in the Perth Shire?

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: They do not use it. The Yokine kindergarten has a consistently high waiting list, the present number being 330. It is understood that the Perth College kindergarten will close in December, 1967, which, of course, will mean that additional children will be seeking entry to the Mt. Ingle kindergarten which at present has a waiting list of 195.

Overall, this gives some indication of the very large number of children registered and awaiting entry to the various kindergartens. This is a matter that could be given some consideration by the Government with a view to ascertaining whether more funds could be provided for kindergarten purposes. It is considered that the amount made available at present could be increased to assist local authorities to enlarge the scope of kindergarten activities. Further, in my opinion the matter should be investigated to ascertain whether pre-school training is a desirable part of the education system. I support the Bill.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [3.2 p.m.]: Firstly, I wish to refer to a matter which will be of great interest to a number of people after the 1st November next. On making inquiries into the question I approached Mr. Shillington of the Titles Office and he has forwarded me a very courteous letter pointing out what would happen in regard to strata titles. I will not read the whole of the letter, but portion of it reads as follows:—

This office registers the Strata Plan on application by the owners and issues Certificates of Titles to the owners of the various lots but before this can be done the Strata Plan must be approved by the Town Planning Board and the relevant Local Authority. Regulations made under the Act were published in the Government Gazette of 29th September last and these set out the procedure so far as the Office of Titles is concerned.

He then deals with a matter of considerable interest as will be noted from his following remarks:—

Section 20 of the Act sets out the matters to be considered by the Town Planning Board and the Local Au-

thority when deciding whether the certificates required under section 5 of the Act should be issued. I do not know whether the Town Planning Board or the various Local Authorities have laid down any formal procedure to be followed when application is made for the issue of the necessary certificates as these matters are outside the scope of this Department. All that the Office of Titles is concerned with is to see that any Strata Plan lodged for registration is accompanied with the prescribed certificates from a licensed surveyor, the Town Planning Board and the relevant Local Authority. I think your best plan is to contact the Town Planning Board and the Claremont Town Council and ascertain their requirements.

The point that interests me is the number of plans required for a strata dwelling. Initially, plans are forwarded to the various authorities concerned when the building is being constructed, but my understanding of the position is that the building is not commenced without the permission of these bodies first being obtained. Apparently the plans have to be duplicated, because the necessary certificates have to be sent to the Town Planning Board and the local authority concerned.

From the wording of the legislation it could be inferred that the local authority might alter its views in regard to the number of plans that have to be provided. I have discussed this matter with many people who desire to take out strata titles and they are living in the hope that the Minister, by the 1st November next, will produce something definite on the question and so remove from their minds any doubts as to what could occur when application is made for a strata title.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That will be a matter for the Minister for Justice.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Yes. Although the Bill was discussed in this House last year I still feel we do not know enough about the legislation, but, I realise that the local authority does require a certificate. This may turn out to be a costly business if additional plans have to be drawn and made perfect in accordance with the requirements of these organisations. If photostatic copies could be made of the plans this would reduce the cost considerably, especially when six copies, or the number required by the various departments, will be necessary.

When the Bill was being considered by the House last session, in company with the Minister for Justice I considered that difficulties could arise and that amendments to the legislation would be necessary. I still congratulate the Government on the type of Bill that was introduced, but it would be more acceptable to the

individual who sought a strata title if the Minister for Justice could issue a statement making quite clear the procedure to be followed.

This document would have to be phrased very carefully because, in time, it must be accepted by all those who seek strata titles. Difficulty may be experienced by those persons who have formed themselves into companies, because some will be paying off their units and will not be able to obtain the strata titles; and, as a result, it is possible that they may not be able to obtain representation on the committees. Further, this may give the departments concerned quite a lot of work.

However, where the area is small, such as the one in which I live—there are four units in the building—there does not seem to be much trouble in obtaining a strata title and so making secure the rights of the individual owners in the property. Members will no doubt recall that the retired Commonwealth Commissioner of Titles stated he knew of a builder of a block of units who had mortgaged the building and had invested the money obtained in another building, with the result that the occupiers of the first block of units had no equity whatsoever.

We could not countenance practices such as that, and the strata plan will obviate such occurrences. I thought the Minister may consider this matter with a view to explaining to individuals desirous of obtaining strata titles how to approach the various authorities concerned.

Members of this House will have memories of the recent difficulty experienced with a by-law issued by the Mosman Park Council. From the time it was first issued we believed we could come to some amicable arrangement with the council. We all thought that the difficulty had been overcome and that everything would work out satisfactorily. However, in the view of several of the residents of Mosman Park that does not appear to be the position. When the proposed by-law was put before us it was thought that when promulgated there would be an added protection.

I would like to refer to a letter which I have received from Mr. Dobson, one of the persons affected. In doing that I do not wish to make any charges against anyone. I would ask the Minister to accept this letter in the spirit in which it is written, and I would ask him to make an appeal to the Mayor of the Mosman Park Town Council to put an end to this era of difficulties, so that peace will reign again in that district.

Before reading Mr. Dobson's letter I should point out that Mr. McMahon has also written to me indicating that what has happened has altered the situation considerably, but the position is not yet totally satisfactory. The following is the

letter which Mr. Dobson sent to the council:—

Additional Building Restrictions in several Residential Sites in Saunders Street.

I now list some of my objections which I have been told to put in writing.

I OBJECT to the Mosman Park Town Council's protracted and costly attempts over the last several years to deprive me of my rights to my property. It has given me the greatest of anxiety, and insecurity to find this continued attack by the Council on a handful of land owners in this area. It has been necessary to engage lawyers, surveyors, and town planners to defend our property and all this at considerable cost. Fortunately Members of Parliament on both sides of the House rejected the Council's prior proposals and are now taking a close interest in our affairs.

I object to being treated as an eccentric foreign millionaire who has suddenly come to Mosman Park to deprive the public of their river front area. The facts of the matter are that my great great grandfather had the first land grant in this district and I am certainly no foreigner to these parts. As for my being a millionaire, I would point out that I came back from active service overseas and purchased my land using all the money I had in the world, which was my deferred pay supplemented by a bank loan. I paid for this land 20 years ago. Then, Saunders Street was a bush track, there was no electricity, water, gas, telephone, and the nearest milk, mail, and paper delivery to my place was up at Owston Street, some 250 yards away. The area of my land is less than half an acre and the title goes down to high water mark. This is customary all over the world and is one of the reasons I purchased the land. I hope to sub-divide after having worked on it for nearly 20 years. Your proposal in your latest building restriction by law is that I cannot build within 80 feet of my North-West boundary. This is very valuable land as I imagined it would be when I purchased it. If this by law goes through, it will restrict the use of my land, thus depreciating its value, and will make sub-division more difficult. No recompense has been suggested by the Council for depriving me of the full use of my land, but I am told that this restriction will add to its value. What nonsense!

I object to the Council not acquiring this land by purchase at current prices rather than "sterilising" it (as more than one Member of

Parliament called it in the House). If the Council wants the land, then it should resume it and pay market value for it.

I object to the Mosman Park Town Council not supplying me with plans showing measurements where restrictions on building applied in the first instance. Several times I asked for measurements and was told that I could measure the distance myself from the yellow pegs. The yellow pegs were placed along my West boundary, many months ago, and indicated the line below which it was proposed by the Council that no building be permitted.

After many arguments, letters and delegations, including legal representation, the Minister for Local Government at one delegation agreed that the yellow peg on my Western boundary should be moved a lot nearer the water. I enquired where this peg had been moved to and wrote to the Council asking for a plan but this was not given.

I object to the Council not having those pegs moved. A couple of weeks ago I was asked by a Member of Parliament if the pegs had been moved. I inspected them and as they were still in the same position, I told him that they were still there in the same place. They are still there today.

I object to the Council then accusing me the next day of not looking for new pegs. I was verbally told that there was a white peg with a brass top on it some 40 feet down towards the water from the yellow pegs. That evening I eventually found this 2 in. x 2 in. square peg only 3 in. above ground level and in rubble and 2 ft. outside my boundary fence. Even if I had seen this before, (which I had not) how could I possibly connect this peg with the promised movement of the yellow pegs?

I object to being misled by the Council. They did not move these yellow pegs, despite the fact that they well knew I had no knowledge of this other small white peg, and despite the fact that I spoke to Council members on other matters and no mention was ever made to me that a new position had been determined for the "Yellow peg line."

I object to being further told on the same day that I should have enquired about another peg 7 ft. further towards the water from the abovementioned small white peg. I was told that this was to mark the edge of the cliff and the "new line." This peg was discovered later that day, by me and found to be a black and white painted $\frac{3}{4}$ in. stake stuck

in the black soil between 2 pine trees on my boundary. I had never previously been told that this was put in the ground but it, like the other small white peg in the rubble, cannot be seen unless one knows that it is there and one must part the bushes and crawl under the hedge to see it. I cannot imagine how I should be expected to relate this to the new building restriction lines, when it is put there in secret.

I object to being kept in the dark by the Council in matters relating to my property. Why cannot the whole business and the real reasons for these restrictions be discussed openly and fully.

I object to not being given an opportunity to co-operate with the Council. I am more than anxious to co-operate in all these matters and believe that there are enough fair minded people on this Council who will see that this is arranged.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: I thought you said that people down there were happy with the result.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I thought so too until I received the two letters, and it appears that neither of the two people concerned is satisfied. Apparently everything has worked out well for Mr. Justin Seward. I would ask the Minister to look into this matter himself. I can understand his position when the matter was first brought before the House, and his defence of the mayor of the council.

I decided to move to disallow the existing by-law, and I have before me a copy of the proposed new by-law. It is recorded in the pages of *Hansard* and no doubt members are familiar with its contents. There is nothing to suggest that the difficulties of Mr. Dobson, as indicated in this letter, will be solved. The House should be made aware of what exactly is meant by the proposed new by-law. As I said earlier, I do not wish to lay charges against anyone, because I consider this matter requires further investigation.

It is a pity that in some instances the people concerned with a particular matter are not accepted as a group. The people in this instance have asked the Minister several times to meet them. In Mr. McMahon's letter to me he indicated there would be no trouble at all if only the Mayor of the Mosman Park Town Council would discuss the matter with him and with the others concerned in a round-table conference. I am sure if that is done, the matter will be settled very quickly.

However he refuses every time. He prefers to deal with one person after another, and those concerned believe this is just trying to mislead them. I do hope the Minister in his investigations can

persuade the whole council to meet the people concerned who have spent enormous sums of money to make this a very presentable area. Some of the homes are exceedingly beautiful.

I wish now to speak on a different subject altogether, one which probably does not come under our control at the moment. I refer to the election of the Lord Mayor of Perth. Although a man does not live anywhere near Perth, he can stand for election for Lord Mayor simply because he pays rates on land on which he carries on his business. I doubt whether more than one or two of the present candidates live in the City of Perth. I think the opportunity should be open to all ratepayers of the metropolitan area.

Another point is that the voting should be limited to one man, one vote, rather than a person having about four votes because he has a big business in the city. If this system were adopted, it would be indeed a high honour if one were elected to the position of Lord Mayor. It seems ludicrous to me that someone is allowed to stand for Lord Mayor and yet he might live as far away as Fremantle, or somewhere up north. But because he has a business in the city he is entitled to stand.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: A person could conceivably live in the Darling Range and still be the member for the Metropolitan Province.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Not for long, because people like a member to live in the area he represents.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I live in Perth, but I represent a province miles away.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It would be a little difficult for the person who represented the North Province to travel up and down to the sittings of Parliament.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If he decided to live in the city—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is all right for you to talk like this, but you would not do so if you were the member who had to do the travelling.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: This is not the fair way to elect a Lord Mayor, and if other methods are suggested, they should be considered.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Do you suggest they could live anywhere in the metropolitan area and be eligible to stand for the office of Lord Mayor, even though they are not ratepayers?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: No. They would have to be ratepayers.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: They could be outside the district of the local authority.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Something will have to be done because the present situation is ludicrous.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You did not get any opposition to the suggestion of one man, one vote.

The Hon. C. E. Griffiths: I do not know that the situation is ludicrous. There are six candidates. We could not get a better selection than that.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I am sorry the Minister for Health is not here this afternoon because I was going to give him an opportunity to reply to a certain number of questions which are worrying some of us.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He is away on Government business, but anything you say I will refer to him.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: He will give you the answers afterwards.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: The first point is that it would be of interest to members of this House to learn of the numbers of potential nurses who have made application to the Royal Perth Hospital in each year since 1964, including the number for this year. I understand the number of girls who are applying to do nursing at Royal Perth Hospital is getting lower and lower every year, and it would seem to me that something must therefore be wrong.

It appears that in the other hospitals, and especially the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, the same difficulty does not exist. The reason given for the better situation at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital is that Matron Anstey was there some years ago as a nurse herself, and now the nurses who worked with Matron Anstey are sending their daughters there because they think so much of her tutorial classes and her ability generally.

That may be quite all right, but I often have a chat with the matrons at the various hospitals and I have been told the reason the Royal Perth Hospital is not gaining many nurses is simply that the living quarters are not suitable. I understand that about a year ago the erection of a new building for the nurses of the Royal Perth Hospital was contemplated, but apparently nothing in that direction has transpired as yet. I understand from notes which I happen to have gained from the Board of Management of the Royal Perth Hospital that the matter has been postponed indefinitely. Apparently there is no money available for the purpose.

The situation can become very dangerous if we lose our nursing staff and an investigation should be made to see what can be done about the position. Nurses from the Royal Perth Hospital have over the years used various buildings in which to board, and this is nothing like the situation which is required these days to attract girls to the occupation.

Another matter I find of interest is the way the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital is organised and operated. It seems to have an easier method of approach to patients than is the case at the Royal Perth Hospital, and no difficulty is experienced in admitting an urgent case to the Sir Charles

Gairdner Hospital. However, on occasions at the Royal Perth Hospital, as many as 16 people have waited all day for admittance. There is inequality all the time at the hospital.

As I pointed out before, a great deal of the trouble is because many beds are occupied by geriatric patients, many of whom do not require intense care. These patients are responsible for the fact that many patients who urgently need medical treatment are unable to be allotted beds. If a geriatric patient is well enough, he should be accommodated in a building on ground level where he can wander about and sit in the sun or the shade, just as he desires. This is the sort of life a geriatric patient who is reasonably well would enjoy. I would say that about 50 per cent. or more of the beds at the Royal Perth Hospital are allotted to geriatric patients.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Are you suggesting that it should be a Government-fostered building?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: These patients should have access to the hospitals. The buildings should be erected around some of the hospitals already established, such as the one at Osborne Park, Belmont, and so on. Buildings should be established for occupation by geriatric patients who are not well enough to look after themselves, but who do not need intense care.

If any mild epidemic occurred in Perth, we would see a great disaster. People would have to be put out of the Royal Perth Hospital in a hurry. This does not appeal to me at all as a way to look after people. It does not give me any satisfaction.

I would like the Minister to lay upon the Table of the House the plans that have already been made for nurses' homes. I understand from some of the officers holding high positions in the various hospitals, that they have had conferences between themselves on this question. The feeling is that no home of this sort should be provided where two girls are asked to live in the one room. Even if the rooms were very small, it would be much better to provide a nurse with her own accommodation. If it is not done in this way the inconvenience is considerable. Nurses finish their duty at all hours of the day and night, and if somebody else is asleep in the room it means that she is disturbed. In the main, the feeling is that a nurse is justified in asking for a single room. I am quite certain that a large number of people would like to see the plans of these buildings placed upon the Table of the House.

I would like to speak for a moment or two on the position that exists regarding physicians in relation to hospital work. It has been said by people in office in the Royal Perth Hospital that the physician spends more time in the hospital than any other member of the profession. In the years gone by, nobody expected payment

for doing honorary work. It was regarded as a real advantage to the individual to be in a position on that staff. Times are altering and the whole matter of treatment has changed in many ways. It takes much longer to examine a patient thoroughly today and to come to a diagnosis of the illness. The result is that some of the senior professionals now in practice attend the Perth Hospital almost every day. That was never required of us years ago. We did our rounds twice a week and knew that there were registrars who could be relied upon. Indeed, at the present moment there are registrars who can be relied upon; but, at the same time, the intensity of the work is so great that the physician's personal attendance is needed.

I understand there are people on the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital staff who are in private practice, but who are also occupied with a number of teaching and medical units at the hospital. Of course, I presume that this type of individual would receive payment. It would only be just that he should receive payment. However, when it comes to the question of payment at the Royal Perth Hospital, it is a very different matter. Perhaps it should be done on the same basis as in the Commonwealth organisations, such as the Repatriation Department and even the Social Services Department, and people would be paid at a fixed rate for the hours they spend working in this capacity.

Some members of the profession in Western Australia have asked for this, and others do not want it at all; because, under the present situation, they would be completely in the hands of the department and this would be resented. They would have to carry out orders which were given to them. Therefore, the question of payment is one which is still open for consideration under this whole set-up. I cannot really believe that the situation is becoming so difficult. I feel compelled to refer to the very first words I spoke in this Chamber when I said that the hospital service will not continue to be a major service if we do not have a hospital commission which is established to consider all aspects. Members of that commission should have knowledge of building, training in hospitals, the needs of the profession, and the needs of the nurses. In fact, it would be a full-time occupation.

Sometimes I receive a journal which is published by the Royal Perth Hospital. Mention is made of study leave as follows:—

The decision of the Board was that it is prepared to support the principle that predictable study leave should be available, at least to Heads of Departments.

The matter was to be referred to the Minister for Health for his approval. The next few words are what interest me.

These are—

On the point of referral to the Minister, there was considerable discussion and it was considered regrettable that the hospital should be so "bound and tied" by the Minister for assistance, and that matters concerning the future Hospital policy and expenditure could not be determined by the Board or its committees.

Therefore, the hospital has nothing whatever to do with its future. This sort of thing cannot exist for very long. Even beyond the treatment of patients who cannot afford to pay, we have to look ahead to those who can afford to pay. The St. John of God Hospital does all that it possibly can to accommodate patients. It is extraordinarily good in this regard. Those responsible make every effort to place the patient. What is going to happen to the Mount Hospital? Even if the decision is made that it should stay on the ground where it is currently situated, the hospital can never accommodate more than 120 beds. Apart from that, there is the problem of the noise around the Mount Hospital. It sits almost on the edge of the excavation and, then again, traffic sweeps around the curve in front of the hospital.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It is almost unendurable now for patients.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Almost everybody who goes there asks to be moved away from the front of the hospital to the back rooms. There is nothing wrong with the size of the rooms and the equipment at the Mount Hospital is very good.

Where do we go? How do we get anywhere? Has the Government any money to lend at low interest? What will happen under the conditions that exist at present? Unless those who are in a position apply some insight to this problem and come forth with suggestions which will overcome the difficulty, there will be chaos and confusion which cannot be handled. This matter really concerns the whole of Western Australia, because people come from all parts of the State to Perth for treatment. They look to the Royal Perth Hospital, the Mount Hospital, and the St. John of God Hospital for treatment. Nevertheless, we are told that the Government has not any money to provide more hospitals; that it has not the money to build nurses' quarters; and that it cannot tell the private hospitals what to do. On the very day I made the last attack on this problem, I was told by the director of the hospital that the position had never been so bad. He said that the last three years had been chaotic. I am sorry to say I did not hear the Minister when he appeared on television, but I am told that he said there are plenty of beds. We cannot bluff ourselves. We are not meeting the situation and we have to find a way out.

We will never find a way out of our difficulty if we answer "No" to every application made. I understand, if I read the article aright, that a sum approximating £200,000,000 is to be spent on roadways this financial year. A sum of £1,000,000 out of a figure like that would not make much difference.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What did you say the figure was? Was it £200,000,000?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Yes.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Are you sure? You said "pounds" and not "dollars."

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I meant \$200,000,000. I have not got used to the new currency yet.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That sounds more like it. It is a big difference.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Surely we could listen to the requests that are made and do something to improve the situation of our hospitals. I am sorry to keep nagging about this subject but I am doing so in the hope that something will be done.

I have been in this House for some time now—about 26 years—and I have always believed that we in this Chamber are not supplied with sufficient information about Bills that are presented. It is not the fault of Ministers in this Chamber, but very often it is impossible for us to understand what is said about a Bill which we have not seen before. Then, quite often, we have to debate the measure the next day. We are not all gifted; not all of us can go through a Bill and understand immediately all that it means. Sometimes a Bill is hurried through, and then I do not suppose anybody understands what it means; and I believe that in this Chamber we miss out on a good deal of the information that is provided in the lower House.

I could refer, for instance, to the Bill which deals with the wine problem. I realise that that Bill was initiated in this Chamber and therefore I cannot growl too much about it; it looks as if we will have to deal with it again when it comes back to us from the Assembly. However, at times, one has to read what was said in the Assembly about a measure before one understands it. Therefore, generally speaking, I think we need to have more information about Bills that are presented to us.

I would like to see the debate on Bills adjourned for some days so that they can be studied; and I also believe the introductory speech of the Minister concerned should be supplied to all members. I do not think this would incur a great expenditure, but it would create a greater interest in this Chamber in the Bills that were introduced.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is a very sensible suggestion.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It is the only way to deal with the position. Also, fre-

quently in this House one cannot hear what has been said because of the person sitting behind or on one's left or right. Therefore, I think it would be a good idea if we had the introductory speeches so that we could all read them and be given time to develop our interest in the measures that are introduced. I support the Bill.

Sitting suspended from 3.44 to 4 p.m.

THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND (North) [4 p.m.]: I rise to support the Supply Bill which will authorise the Government to spend \$44,000,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and \$10,000,000 from the General Loan Fund. Whilst supporting the measure I have, however, some criticism to make concerning the expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund as it applies to the northern half of the State.

From a total estimated expenditure for the financial year 1967-68 of \$245,000,000, in round figures, the Government proposes to spend \$10,600,000 in the northern half of the State. This is a little less than 4½ per cent. The other 95½ per cent. will be spent in the southern or more populous portions of the State. While one has some difficulty in justifying an argument as to why most of the revenue should not be required in the more populous and greater developed areas of the State, one also has difficulty in justifying an argument against it.

This Government is not spending sufficient money on developmental works in the northern half of the State. For that reason I intend to criticise the meagre 4.32 per cent. of expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in the north.

As has been said time and time again in this Chamber, the area of the north amounts to approximately 500,000 square miles—a little more than half the area of Western Australia. I refer now to the three statistical divisions of North-West, Kimberley, and the Pilbara.

We hear a lot about the European Common Market, but the European economic community, which consists of the countries of the Netherlands, Luxemburg, Belgium, France, Italy, and Western Germany comprises a total area of approximately 460,000 square miles. This is slightly less than the area of the northern half of this State. That European community has a population of 181,600,000 people, whereas we in the northern half of the State have no more than 32,000 people, and that includes the aborigines.

As I have said, on a *per capita* basis, it is difficult to justify such expenditure when one considers the population involved; but for how long can we as Australians expect, with a few thousand people, to hold an area as large as that, and keep

it out of production; particularly when we have regard for the millions of people living in Asian countries which comprise a much smaller area.

I feel this Government is not paying enough attention to the development of the north. It has merely followed the lead set by previous Governments, commencing with the Government of Mr. Wise, when he was Premier in the early post-war years. It followed the lead given in connection with the development of the Ord River irrigation scheme, and successive Governments have been forceful enough to continue this scheme.

Unfortunately, however, the Federal Government has placed obstacles in the way of further development on the Ord River; development which has certainly justified the expenditure entailed. As Mr. Watson said yesterday, Federal Governments have often frustrated the Governments of Western Australia and of other States in their development. We have been frustrated in regard to the greater Ord River scheme. But because the Commonwealth Government declines to contribute anything more towards the essential development of food production, there is no reason why the State Government should not keep the ball rolling with the funds available to it. The present State Government has not attempted to further any development in the north. The iron ore industry has come along, without any expense to the Government, although the Government has encouraged its establishment.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: At least that is gratifying!

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: But this industry would have been established by any Government in due course. More money should be allocated for the development of the agricultural side, which is very necessary in this vast area of our State.

In the expenditure proposed, I find itemised in the financial statement some \$8,000 which is to be spent on irrigation works. It does not say on what works the money will be spent, but I cannot see very much being achieved with \$8,000. There are many other rivers in the north which could produce as much as the Ord River scheme is doing; they all need attention, and it is time we did something to encourage this production.

We should not sit back and wait for the Federal Government to provide the money, because it may never do so. Canberra is subject to a great many demands from other States. For example, Queensland never stops singing out for more capital for the development of what is really northern Queensland. In my opinion Queensland is very fortunate in the tremendous amount of money it gets from the Commonwealth for the de-

velopment of its northern areas. The amount we get is a mere fleabite by comparison.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Did you do anything about the rivers and the harbours when you were Minister for the North-West?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Ord River scheme was commenced when I was Minister for the North-West. I was Minister for the North-West when the original \$10,000,000 was granted for the Ord River scheme by the then Prime Minister (Sir Robert Menzies). It is my firm belief that had Sir Robert stayed in Canberra the Ord River scheme would have proceeded apace.

The Hon. E. C. House: Perhaps that is why he had to get out.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I do not know of any job that he left half done. Although he and I belong to different political parties, one must give credit where it is due. When the first £2,500,000—as it was in those days—was promised at a public meeting, the audience challenged the amount and Sir Robert immediately said, "I will double it"; which he did. So in response to the interjection by the Minister for Mines, I can say that I was also responsible for building the Wyndham Jetty, and for one or two other things which took place in the north.

I must add, however, that the Government to which I belonged did not have the funds which this Government is so fortunate to possess. The public accounts of the Minister's own department will show that in this financial year his department will double its revenue from \$2,900,000 to \$5,800,000. The bulk of that will come from the north as a result of royalties from oil and iron ore. There is no problem in his department, because it is estimated its expenditure is \$2,100,000; therefore the department will show an estimated surplus of something like \$3,800,000. That is a lot of money, but we are very pleased to see that it is available.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: In the next decade it will be better and better.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: Because of the north the Minister's department is a very handsome contributor to the State Treasury, and also because of the north we are rapidly reaching the position of being a non-claimant State.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: We will provide more help to the Commonwealth.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Commonwealth Government has also received contributions as a result of the iron ore development. I notice in the report of the Customs Department that it collected over \$500,000 in duty last year on account of machinery and goods which were required for the establishment of

Dampier and Mt. Tom Price. At Port Hedland it collected about \$390,000. So by the movement of these goods in the north-west the Commonwealth has received a tremendous amount of money. All the Commonwealth does for this money is to grant permission for the ore to be exported. That is all. It also makes available the services of a customs officer to check the charges made on the goods coming in.

The north cannot be left to dawdle along as has been done in the past. We know that pressures are being exerted from all directions. Asiatic nations have an opportunity to migrate to Australia, and I have not the slightest doubt that many migrants would naturally turn to the empty spaces which hold the greatest potential. In the little work done on them the rivers have proved that they can bring more people to the northern areas; certainly as many people as can the multi-million pound expenditure at Dampier or Mt. Tom Price.

We have proof of that at Wyndham and Kununurra. One can confidently say that the Ord project at Kununurra has already brought 2,000 souls to that area, and to Wyndham; and one can say with confidence—because it is in the statistician's quarterly report—that there were 1,200 people at Dampier when the census was taken in June. One could also say there would perhaps be another 600, 700, or 800 people between Mt. Tom Price and Dampier. So the figures are comparable; the development at Kununurra has brought 2,000 people to the area, and the iron ore projects have brought about 2,000 people to the area. The difference is in the production. The production from one is spread much more throughout the Commonwealth and the State than is the production from the other. I am not saying the iron ore industries should not be up there, but I am making a factual comparison.

We have the settlement on the Gascoyne River at Carnarvon which was achieved without a large Government expenditure. Some personal loans of very small amounts have been made to growers to help them put in irrigation plants of some kind, or a small pumping unit. That settlement meant something like 2,000 people going to Carnarvon. There are more people there now, because the tracking station and tourism have boosted the town. However, it is quite safe and factual to say that, before the tracking station came along, and before tourism developed, the industry on the Gascoyne River was the means of attracting 2,000 people.

We have other rivers, such as the Barker and the Fitzroy, the Fortescue, the De Grey, and the Ashburton, all of which can be utilised in one way or another if the waters are controlled; and the Government should be spending something each year in those parts now that it is so

affluent. It should contribute something each year to one of these schemes; but finish the Ord and the Gascoyne schemes, because the pastoral industry in the north has gradually gone back and, unfortunately, it continues to go back.

One knows by the turn-off of cattle in both the east and west Kimberley this year that the cattle numbers have gone down. The same applies to Noonkanbah sheep station where the figures have gone down from 60,000 or 80,000 to 20,000. The position is the same all the way down until one reaches the wheatbelt areas. The numbers on every pastoral holding between Northampton and Wyndham have slipped; they have not increased; and where the end will be nobody can foretell because of the very irregular rainfall and the pests that now thrive in the area every time a water hole is put down and a watering point is constructed on a sheep or cattle station. One can be sure that that is another means whereby vermin can spread their haunts and breed more easily.

Therefore the development and damming of the rivers is a must for the north. It will take years and years to do, but it is a must; and every Government should be regularly contributing something towards it. The economic community countries of Europe with an area similar to that in the north—it is a little smaller—have a population of 181,600,000 and are better developed; and there is no reason why our population of a mere 32,000, including natives, could not be stepped up in number.

There is another item about which I wish to speak while I am on my feet. This also has to do with encouraging people to live in and remain in the north. I refer to the tremendously high costs in the north. The cost of living in the north is very high compared with the cost of living in the city, and the Government has not done anything at all to alleviate the position. On several occasions the Government has been asked to ease or remove the road maintenance tax, which is paid almost entirely by the people in the north and in the remote areas, the rest of the community being left free. I read where one of the new members in another place had something to say on the subject and, if I interpret his views correctly, he thought—as did Labor members in this House and elsewhere when the Government brought down the legislation a couple of years ago—that the motoring community as a whole should contribute to road maintenance, and that the tax should not be paid only by those who depend on road haulage—heavy haulage.

I hope that when that member gets in his party room, he will be able to induce some of his confederates to support him and get the road maintenance tax removed from the people who can ill afford to pay it.

Another direction in which the Government could assist to encourage people to remain in the north, and also appease tourists who are going there in great numbers, but who complain rather vehemently at the very high costs and the poor amenities to be found in caravan parks and other public places, would be for it to give some attention to the high cost of electricity. The cost of electricity is one of the highest that befalls every householder in the north. I have spoken on this at length on two previous occasions. Since then I have taken out some figures which show that the burden is really severe. My own account for 1,380 units over a quarter cost me \$27.22 on the domestic householder's rate. I worked out that the same number of units used in Wyndham would cost \$76.35; more than three times as much as the metropolitan charge.

The Hon. C. E. Griffiths: Have they only one rate in Wyndham?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: No, the rates vary. The domestic rate for the first 20 units is 18c; for the next 25 units, it is 12c; for the next 100 units, it is 8c; and for the balance, the rate is 5c. The commercial rate is lighter; for the first 300 units the charge is 14c; the next 200, 12c; the next 1,000, 8c; a further 1,000, 7c; and the balance 5c. In January this year, 228,068 units were consumed in Wyndham; and worked out on the local charges, receipts were \$14,323.37. If this were worked out under table "F"—which is the rate charged by the State Electricity Commission to farmers for combined lighting and power—the cost would have been \$6,284.74; and under table "D"—the domestic rate for the metropolitan area—the cost would have been \$4,567.35. The difference between the domestic rate in the metropolitan area and the rate at Wyndham was nearly \$10,000, which is a lot of money; and the difference between the rate at Wyndham and the farmers' rate was \$8,000.

The Government should arrive at a figure somewhere between those to which I have just referred and subsidise, from Consolidated Revenue, the old-established towns in the north. I do not mean the new towns established under the iron ore agreements, because their electricity is supplied free by the companies concerned. I think at Exmouth there is a flat rate of 5c or 6c.

Earlier I pointed out that tourists complain that charges are too high. If one has an air-conditioned room in the Kimberley—and it is necessary to have air conditioning in one's bedroom if one wants to sleep because the temperatures are well above 100 degrees both day and night—the cost is terrific. The hotel-keeper at Kununurra kindly gave me his monthly account. The units consumed from the Public Works Department plant were 7,506 at a flat rate of 6.2c per unit,

and his account for the month was \$469.12. So we can see it costs somewhere in the vicinity of \$6,000 per year just to pay for the electricity consumed at the hotel. All of these costs have to be passed on; and if one has an air-conditioning unit for sleeping at night, one finds it costs up to \$10 per night to sleep. That situation does not apply only to Kununurra; it is the same at Wyndham, Derby, and Broome.

If the hotel at Kununurra were charged at the farm rate, which operates throughout our wheatbelt areas, the cost would have been \$178.41 as against \$469.12. When one asks the Government to do something about subsidising these electricity supplies in order to bring them into line with the rural areas, the Treasurer and his Minister have a look at the position and say that if they do that, it will cost a lot of money.

Wyndham, Derby and Broome, could be hunched together and we could say that Wyndham was the average of the larger towns. If Wyndham was on the rural rate it would cost the Government something like \$8,000 per month. That would be \$96,000 a year for each town, and would amount to \$300,000 in round figures. However, when we come to the smaller towns, such as Roebourne, the cost would be much below that figure because they do not have the same population.

Overall, I would say that \$500,000 a year would go a long way towards providing more comfortable conditions for the people living in northern towns, and also for the tourists who travel through that area during the winter months. I suggest the Government has a good look at the matter and, out of the \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000 in royalties which the north is providing for the Consolidated Revenue Fund, \$500,000 should be spent in the direction I have mentioned and thereby bring some comfort to the people living in the north.

THE HON. E. C. HOUSE (South) [4.31 p.m.]: I support the Supply Bill. I do think it is rather a pity that we do not debate the Estimates in detail, as members do in another place. When one goes through the Estimates and sees the amount of money allocated to the towns in the country areas, and in particular to the towns we represent, one realises the amount of money the Government is spending throughout the country.

We should give full praise to the Government for the way it has spread its activities throughout the length and breadth of the State. The Government derives a great deal of its income from the country areas but it certainly is not frightened to put that money back into those areas. Because of this, we have such amenities and facilities as are provided by the State Electricity Commission, which is making big strides in the great southern. I give full credit to the State Electricity Commission for the work it is doing.

The provision of reticulated water, deep sewerage—which some city people are not fortunate enough to have—the money being spent on schools and swimming pools, and the like, all tend to make living in the country far more pleasant. It helps decentralisation and encourages people to retire to country towns. In many cases—or in most cases—country people now prefer to retire to country towns rather than to the crowded cities.

So I think we can consider ourselves very fortunate indeed for what we are receiving. We are also fortunate in having sound shire council administration in country areas. The shire councils are doing a great deal to build up the various towns for which they are responsible.

The Estimates do reveal, I suggest, that the Government is still short of funds in every department, and that more money could be used if it were available. I am reminded of Mr. Watson's remarks when he criticised the Commonwealth Government for its allocation of moneys back to the States. We all know that taxes are fairly high and they are always an unpopular burden, but it is rather disconcerting to think that although we are paying quite large sums in taxation we are not receiving in return a fair share of this money for our major projects.

In addition, there seems to be no general recognition of the need for Western Australia to go on expanding at its present rate. It is high time our members in the Federal Parliament made their colleagues more fully aware of this.

I also noticed in the Estimates provision for increased expenditure by the Native Welfare Department. The increase will be from \$42,000 to \$227,000. The amount of \$42,000 which was allocated last year is shown as having been expended on housing. The estimate this year allows for a new office at Collie, and the balance will be spent on housing. One must assume that the office at Collie will not be a very expensive unit, so that the majority of the extra money will go to the housing of natives.

It is very encouraging to think that at long last there has been a recognition of this need. The housing of natives is of prime importance. However, that is not the only aspect, of course, which must be considered with regard to natives. There is a vital need to help those people achieve a better standard of living. Personally, I think they are experiencing a fairly raw deal. This has been brought about largely by criticism on the one hand and, I think, by rather misguided and inexperienced attempts to improve their lot. Rather than endeavouring to satisfy public opinion we should be getting to the root of the problem and trying to do what is best for the natives. Some attempts to help the natives have been along the wrong lines and have virtually achieved the reverse effect.

It is very difficult to find people who really understand the natives, understand their problems, and know how to deal with them. I feel that this understanding will never be achieved by Government departments or Government servants, because there is a distinct distrust by natives of what one might call, strangers.

Officers move in and out of these areas and never stay long enough to gain the confidence of the natives. The natives are a very loyal group of men and women, and they are a very sensitive race. They are frightened of being ridiculed, and that their approach, and the things they do, will be taken the wrong way. It takes many years to gain the trust of these people.

Simply to provide benefits equal to those given to white people is really not sufficient. The natives must be treated as special cases, and they need special training in all spheres of normal life. They need this training, especially in hygiene and cleanliness, and in being able to live in a modern community.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find farm labour, but it is also difficult for natives to find full employment, or continuity of employment, because they need more training in the basic skills which would fit them to do the work more efficiently. Especially does this apply to the Main Roads Department where the natives could be employed to drive graders or trucks. Also, they should be taught to shear sheep. Practically nothing has been done in this field for natives. They are natural shearers and they are very supple. We are short of shearers and this shortage will become more acute. Natives would be kept in continuous employment if they had some training in this particular field, but this is not being done.

The main body of natives are very intelligent and can be trained as mechanics, or for almost any trade. However, somewhere along the line they have to be given special tuition. The idea of integration with the whites is not really popular with the natives. The native does not want to be integrated; he prefers his own crowd, his own friends, and his own community. It is only natural that this should be so.

I congratulate the Government on its provision of housing but I hope that before long we can do something to have these people trained after they leave school but before they reach adulthood. There is need for some special courses and they need not be expensive ones. Such courses would mean a great deal to the natives themselves. There is a shortage of labour on farms today and the natives could fill a need in this direction. The standard of their living would be raised by training, and they would be able to pay the rents on their new houses. The natives are very fond of their children and are very good to them. However, there is a lack of hygiene and a need for more cleanliness.

I do not think we should be frightened of what the United Nations might think of the way we treat our natives. There seems to have been thinking along those lines, and criticism has been thrown at Western Australia for its treatment of natives. We have a race of natives in Australia who are different from the coloured races overseas. We should do what we think is best for them. In this way they will become self-supporting. In any event, the Government, in allocating this extra large sum of money apparently realised the need.

I also notice that in the Estimates \$5,000 has been allocated for the construction of a new berth at Albany. It may appear to be a small sum, but it is not the actual money that counts; it is the fact that the Government recognises the need for this berth which is now about to be constructed. With the \$300,000 the Albany Harbour Board can borrow in its own right to finance the construction of the berth, I am given to understand this will allow a good start to be made and the project to be completed at the end of three years.

I repeat, we are extremely grateful that this berth has been made possible by the Government's assistance. It is only a small amount compared to the \$201,000 last year, and \$101,000 this year made available to the Bunbury Harbour Board. Nevertheless, there is a distinct difference between the two harbours inasmuch as Albany has a natural harbour, but to make the harbour at Bunbury more efficient a great deal of work is needed and therefore greater expenditure of money.

The Albany Harbour Board has been ably led by Mr. Jock Murray and full credit must be given to the members of the board for building up the port to the stage it has now reached and the efficiency that is shown in its administration. It is obvious that the port has a very bright future. Albany is the natural services and supply centre for the whole of the great southern area and we are confident that more and more works and industries, although on a small scale, will be established because of this fact. At the moment there is in Albany the superphosphate works, the wool sales, C.B.H.—which company at the moment is spending \$4,000,000 on new silos—the abattoir, the whaling industry, the dairying industry, and the pea-growing industry. All of these play a very important part in Albany's trade, and they have been ably supported by the very valuable and closely settled area in the vicinity of Albany itself.

The tourist potential of Albany, too, is almost unlimited. There is probably no more beautiful spot anywhere else in the world, and because of the Government assistance that has been rendered the town is now enjoying increased tourist trade. It is slowly becoming the major depot for the whole of the southern portion of the State, and I know its activities will con-

tinue to grow. Once again, I express my appreciation to the Government for its assistance in giving the area a good start, especially in the construction of roads. A terrific mileage of major bitumen roads has been added to the road network which serves the Albany area, and only Government financial assistance has made this possible.

The allocation of \$48,000,000 towards education—which is an increase of \$5,500,000 over last year's expenditure—is certain proof that the Government of this State lays heavy emphasis on the importance of education. That the Education Department is entitled to this amount of money, and the fact that it is not really enough, is quite certain. As I have said, it proves the Government is conscious of the importance of education and is desirous of doing all it can to improve the standard.

A grant of \$10 per child for children attending primary independent schools is a small contribution towards the cost of education in this sphere. I will not have 20c each way on this question, but there is a need for further Government support to be given to independent schools for the principal reason that they educate approximately 25 per cent. of the total number of children educated in this State. In a democratic country parents should have free choice of the school where they wish to have their children educated, and this should not be limited to those who can afford to pay for a separate education, as distinct from education in a State school. Even parents of modest means should be free to have their children instructed religiously and in a better way than they are in a State school.

I realise this is very difficult question. When we consider the early history of church schools in this State it will be found that nearly all of them were established initially by individuals who had little to do with churches, but eventually they were taken over by religious orders. Over the years these schools have played an important part in maintaining the general social, moral, and educational standard of children in this State, and they should not be discredited in any way for the work that has been done.

I was about to say that our education system was rather socialised, but possibly a better way to describe it would be to say it has been streamlined. In our education system a middle course is followed, with emphasis being placed on the average child. The church schools could prove to be of even greater benefit if they could make specialised education available to the children in their schools, but this is practically impossible because of the high cost of education.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: What do you mean by "specialised"?

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: I am suggesting that a distinction be made between a child who is brilliant and one who has only

average ability. If this were done the bright child would make more rapid progress and reach a higher standard with a view to his entering University with a better standard than he would under the present system.

The Hon. C. E. Griffiths: That is being done in some of our State schools.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: Yes; the honourable member has made a good point with that interjection. Specialised education is being given to some children in the metropolitan area, but it is difficult to put this into practice in country schools. This is one of the reasons why I am backing Government assistance to church schools, because if those schools did not exist children living in remote areas would find it extremely difficult to obtain a broader standard of education.

Many of the children attending public schools in the metropolitan area have been sent there mainly because of the boarding facilities rather than the academic advantages. Parents find it necessary to send the children to those public schools so that they can gain the qualifications to matriculate. Although some schools do not need assistance, people living in country centres—Albany in particular—still regard them as being of great benefit. Recently I visited the Ave Maria Convent which is non-denominational, and which accepts Catholics and children of other denominations if they wish to enrol, and there was not one class which was not made up of children from all the areas surrounding Albany. This is the type of school we should have, because there are insufficient hostels in which to accommodate these children, and even if there were sufficient, many people are not satisfied with the supervision that is provided in these establishments.

The sisters at the convents do excellent work not only in educating the children academically, but also in their moral and religious training. This is a wonderful combination in the education of a child, and it should be encouraged. It is for this reason that I fully support the system.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Are you referring to Catholic schools?

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: Not in particular. They are not the only denominational schools. There are many schools which are conducted by various denominations. The Kobeelia Girls' School in Katanning is conducted by the Anglican church, for example. These wonderful sisters of the church are dedicated in their work and devote a great deal of their time to the children under their care. There have been rumours that some church schools will have to close, but I hope this does not occur. This evening Mr. Robinson mentioned that the Perth College kindergarten would be closing at the end of the year, but I would point out that the

primary school at that college is also closing at the same time, not only because of the college's lack of ability to support it financially—and this would include the difficulty experienced in paying teachers' salaries—but also on account of the lack of sufficient teachers.

This is a trend that is occurring all over the State and it is most unfortunate. In the political notes published in *The West Australian* this morning Mr. Nalder pointed out the desperate shortage of funds, teachers, and other facilities needed for Government schools and, regardless of everything else, we do not want those children who are at present being educated at independent schools being forced to attend Government schools. Consideration must also be given to the parents, not necessarily in a high income group, who prefer to send their children to a school of their own selection.

In Government primary schools the number of classes containing more than 35 children represent about 60 per cent., and in the secondary schools it is about 80 per cent. I am not certain of those figures, but they are fairly accurate. As a result the classes are overcrowded. However, I do not want to get away from the subject of religious training in education.

I wonder whether the powers that be, or the Government, fully appreciate the importance of religious training for children. There is no better place for them to obtain religious education than in church schools. The story I am about to relate I have told quite often, but it is rather apt in the circumstances. In the Army religion was not fully appreciated by the troops until the commencement of the Korean war. During the course of that war the number of prisoners taken included 10,000 Americans, 980 Britishers, and 300 Turks. Statistics show that one-third of the American and British prisoners died, one-third turned communist, and the remaining one-third were eventually freed. The Turks did not lose one man.

The authorities concerned were so shocked at the figures relating to the American and British troops that they appointed an advisory panel to ascertain what were the contributing factors. They discovered that the main reason for the difference lay in the religious training of those who had survived, and the others who did not survive. The Turks are not Christians; they are followers of Islam. They have a deep religious faith which is the same thing. As a result of this instance the general thinking in regard to Army religious training—whether it be under national service or in the permanent forces—has altered. It took the Korean war to reveal how important was religious training in the Army.

I am wondering whether the Education Department, the Government, and the

State generally have considered the importance of the religious side of training. Most of us casually follow our religion, but probably we do not think deeply enough. Today we see the lowering of social and moral standards, the teenage problems increasing in numbers in the schools, and the need for the Government to provide more reform schools, police patrols, etc. If we allow the religious background of the church schools to be pushed out through lack of finance then we will face a further lowering of standards and an increase in juvenile offences and behaviour. I thank members for listening to my remarks. I support the Bill.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [5.2 p.m.]: In supporting this Bill, which seeks to grant the supply of \$40,000,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and \$10,000,000 from the credit of the General Loan Fund, I would like to congratulate the newly elected member for the West Province, Mr. White. I have known him for a few years, and I feel sure he will make an excellent member of this House and will create a good impression among us. I know he will do good work not only for his province, but also for the State.

One of the many subjects in which I have been interested for a long time is education. It seems that education in this State is not progressing. One has only to talk to businessmen and the people generally to realise that the three "Rs" in education are given little consideration today. At the conference held by the Chamber of Manufactures earlier this year, the president (Mr. May) spoke on the inadequate training of the young people entering into employment. He said that in many cases they could not spell or do arithmetic.

This does not speak well for our education system, which is so essential to any State or country and which costs so very much in these times. In this respect I do not blame the teachers. In my discussions with various teachers I gained the impression that many of them have to work under handicaps imposed by the department, particularly in relation to the curriculum by which they have to teach. I learnt of the many disturbances they experience during their teaching hours, and of the many petty duties which they have to undertake and which have grown over the years. All this has a detrimental effect upon many of the young people of this State.

Recently I had a discussion with a headmaster on the subject of education in general and on these particular problems. He was rather amused by a remark I made in reply to one of his comments. He told me that when he was discussing the subject of education with some departmental officers and teachers he said that teachers should be happy people. I commented, "Yes, if it were not for the department." That is only too true.

During the planned periods the teacher is likely to be disturbed by a specialist in one subject or another—such as arts or drama. This was emphasised recently when I read an article in the newspapers which asked this question: What is the use of art unless behind it it has some basic educational qualification, as on its own it is pretty useless? When one sees the situation which exists in regard to education one wonders where the State is going in this respect.

Another aspect of education with which I am very much concerned is the supply of school books, and how this affects the pockets of the parents. Recently I spoke to a gentleman who had shifted residence from one suburb to another. He has three children attending a high school and two at a primary school. When those children changed schools he had to buy practically new sets of books for them. I would point out that books are not cheap items, and I wonder how the people in the lower income group can afford to pay for them.

I cannot understand why the education system in a State such as ours cannot adopt uniform text books in the primary and the high schools. I cannot fathom the reason why there should be a difference in the text books that are used in the various schools. I understand that the books are decided upon by the headmaster of the particular primary or high school. This is a peculiar system. It did not exist in my young days. I do not think this furthers our education system; in fact it is adding to the cost of education.

Over a period of years education in this State seems to have deteriorated, and this reflects no credit on the State. I think I know the reason; it is that one person might travel in other countries of the world and gather many ideas from them, jumble them together, and then apply them to our schools.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is the truest thing you have ever said, but you put it very crudely.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: This has not done the education system in this State any good.

I now wish to deal with the Wundowie charcoal iron and steel industry. Some 12 months or so ago the Government reached agreement with the A.N.I. company. Questions were asked in this House during the debate on that agreement, but the answers were not as satisfactory as we would have liked them to be. In some respects the whole proposition looked rather nebulous.

What we thought at the time came into being when the agreement was terminated, and this happened 10 months or so after it had been ratified by Parliament. I understand that the cost of this agreement to the State was quite considerable—I think roughly around \$250,000. In the period of the agreement that was the amount involved in meeting the additional

overhead expenses. This figure cannot be substantiated from the reports or figures which have been produced, because I understand that a lot of this expenditure is hidden in various items. Unfortunately it was a very costly experiment to the Government.

The people of Wundowie had very high hopes that this agreement would put the town on an economic basis, by the establishment of a foundry, and by the use of the iron in that foundry to give an economic return to the industry. One good feature that has resulted from the agreement is that a new furnace has been established at Wundowie. The agreement to purchase the retort was made with A.N.I., but the Government had to take over this commitment. However, the retort has now been built in Wundowie. This has increased the production of the works to what can be considered to be an almost economic unit.

The Hon. C. E. Griffiths: Did the company anticipate making a profit there?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: That is hard to say. At one time the undertaking did make a profit, but the overseas price of iron fell and so the profits turned into losses. I have been told by those who know the industry very well that a great deal of foundry work can be done there. I think the foundry work will mean the difference between a loss and a profit. If I remember rightly, the sum to be invested by A.N.I. was \$400,000.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Something like that.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Although the Government has many commitments to meet, it could, perhaps, look further into the economics of this industry in view of the establishment of the foundry. It might pay the Government to invest \$400,000, and thereby avoid sustaining the increasing losses in the years ahead.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: All that is needed for that to be done is to have a different Government.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: It is only a matter of building up the business, to make a difference between a profit and a loss. In my view this proposal is worthy of examination. Consideration should be given to the economics of this foundry work.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That makes me laugh.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The honourable member does not know the industry very well. Although I am not an expert in this matter, I know the position from my discussions with the people who are engaged in the industry. Here is an opportunity for the Government to save money by investing in the industry.

I wish to deal with another matter; it refers to the lack of doctors in country areas. I know the Minister for Health has plans for the establishment of hospitals in

country areas, for the building of regional hospitals, and for furthering the bush nursing scheme. There are many country centres to which doctors have been appointed, and where hospitals have been established; but as most country members are aware very often inducements have to be offered to doctors to practise in the country. Many of them are provided with homes and surgeries, and are guaranteed a subsidy of \$2,000 to \$6,000 per annum.

At Wundowie, itself, for instance, the house and surgery cost the local shire in the vicinity of, I think, \$24,000. Several doctors have been employed there but they do not stay long. A doctor is expected from England in the near future, but how long he will stay, we do not know. This situation is experienced in many other country towns. I would like the Minister for Health to study the matter to see whether some solution could not be evolved. Perhaps bursaries could be made available to train medical students on the understanding that they must serve a period in the country. Perhaps this could be of some assistance to those who could otherwise not afford to train.

It would have to be some substantial bursary to offer an inducement. The doctors would serve a set period in the country to repay the shire for the bursary. This is just a thought which I had, and I have not discussed it with any of the local authorities. However, I do feel it could be investigated and it would give the people in the district some heart if they knew they would have a doctor for set periods at a time. I trust the Minister for Health will look at this suggestion to see whether such a scheme could be introduced. It might not be possible to train enough students to fill all the vacant positions, but it would certainly be a tremendous help.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: What if they could not be included in the quota?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: That does present a difficulty, but perhaps within that quota a certain number could be reserved for trainees such as I have suggested so that people in country areas would be assured of the services of a doctor. After all, they are just as entitled to the services of a doctor as are the residents in the metropolitan area. It would be necessary, of course, for the students desirous of taking their degree to enter into an agreement which would more or less amount to a bond and would require that they serve a period in the country. It is merely a suggestion, but I trust the Minister will give it some thought. It may not be worth much, but, on the other hand, it could be worth following up.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [5.18 p.m.]: In closing the debate I would first of all like to take the opportunity to join with other members who have expressed a welcome to our new member, Mr. White,

and I have pleasure in doing so on behalf of the Government. I am sure Mr. White will find his period in this House an interesting one. I hope his experience over the years will be profitable to himself and to those he represents.

He will find the Ministers willing and anxious to do all they can for him, within reason. He will find his fellow colleagues in the House just as willing to assist him; and I assure him he will find the staff of Parliament House ever anxious to do whatever they can to assist him and make his stay here a happy one indeed.

Having said that, I now wish to refer to the debate on the second Supply Bill. This has followed the usual course of events, with members taking an opportunity to address themselves to matters of particular interest, to complain where they think complaint is justifiable, and to mention matters which concern their districts or themselves.

The main subject which has been mentioned by most members is that of housing and the shortage of land. I will have a little to say on that at the conclusion of my remarks; but at this time I would like to say that we had a very full-scale debate on the subject when the Leader of the Opposition moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply.

Mr. Willesee himself confined his remarks to the problem of the supply of and the demand for land. Mr. Ferry gave us a very interesting dissertation on national income accounting, a subject I am sure we all found most interesting. It is a deep and complex subject, and I commend him for the amount of thought and study he put into his speech and look forward to the time when he will address the House in greater detail on a matter of such importance.

Mrs. Hutchison also kept to the question of housing, in the main, and in the course of her remarks she made some extraordinarily extravagant statements. We heard such things as the suggestion that we have a major calamity on our hands; that there is no pity from this Government in regard to family tragedies—

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: There isn't either; don't worry about that.

The PRESIDENT: Order, please!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We also heard a statement about how very near we were to the precipice of human suffering; what a hideous mess the Freeway near Parliament House looked—

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You cannot say that is a lie.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: —and there was some reference to the rape of Perth. I think those are quite extravagant remarks.

On this occasion Mr. Griffiths made a very good speech. He prepared his material well and stuck to the point. He

took my colleague the Minister for Housing to task and I felt the cold chill running down my own spine. I congratulate him on his speech and if he sticks to that type of speech in future I will find it much more difficult to answer his propositions than I have perhaps on other occasions.

Mr. Lavery also dealt with the question of housing. We heard from Mr. Watson on Commonwealth-State financial relationships, a subject in which I am sure we are all very interested indeed. The only comment I could make at this time is that Mr. Watson did not indicate how we could implement the suggestions he made in regard to the problem. However, one thing is certain, and that is that whilst it is most necessary we do something about this urgent problem, the States cannot, in the meantime, allow things to come to a stop. We must go on and we must in some way get the money we need for the commitments of the State.

At various stages of Bills of this nature, and at other times, members of course never lose an opportunity to put in a little plug in the interests of the particular electorate they represent. The Government of the day must live up to its responsibilities or be prepared to let things go back, and each Government which follows this one will find itself in that position.

Mr. Dolan mentioned such matters as equal pay for equal work. I have no need to elaborate on that because of the headlines in this morning's issue of *The West Australian*.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It is not equal pay though.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: He expressed some concern about the growing valuations and increasing rates experienced by property owners. Of course we know this is something from which we all suffer to some extent. I find that whilst I am domiciled in my house, my local authority rates will rise as the value of my land rises; and whilst I may be prepared, on the one hand, to complain that my rates and taxes are high, if, on the other hand, I sell my property, then I react in the same way every other human being reacts.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is—

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Would the honourable member be good enough to let me finish what I am saying and then she might understand. The situation is that I try to get the best for the article I am selling.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I thought you were more of a philanthropist than that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No. I am the same as the Leader of the Opposition, only not quite as tough. Mr. Robinson mentioned the question of kindergartens and health centres. I, too, received the

communication from the Perth Shire, and I can well appreciate the problems of the shire because I am told there is no district the population of which is growing at a greater rate than the Perth Shire, and this, of course, brings all types of demands with it.

Dr. Hislop mentioned the question of strata titles and the procedure necessary to obtain one. I will study this matter and see what I can do about making it clearer, if that is possible, so that people can understand what they must do. However, I do think that the application for a strata title, involving security in portion of a piece of land and a building on that land, deserves the best attention and people are well advised to consult a solicitor to ensure the transactions in connection with a strata title are properly carried out. The knowledge of bush lawyers in this type of thing could be dangerous.

On the question of nurses, and Dr. Hislop's remarks on this subject, Mr. MacKinnon is, as I have already stated by way of interjection, away today on Government business. However, I will pass on the remarks of the honourable member.

I must join issue with Dr. Hislop on the matter of information on Bills. He said members are supplied with insufficient information, and he singled out the Licensing Act Amendment Bill. I would like to retaliate by saying that the second reading was introduced on the 7th September and the Bill was not read a third time until the 21st September, which was a period of 14 days in which members were able to consider the Bill during its various stages.

We all have a responsibility to do something for ourselves. We have a responsibility to look at the Bill and to examine the principal Act. We must study the situation in order to understand the legislation submitted to Parliament. On this particular Bill, as a matter of fact, the Leader of the Opposition complimented me on what he described as a lucid explanation of the Bill and its clauses. Members will not mind, therefore, I am sure, if I join issue with Dr. Hislop on this point.

May I take this opportunity to reiterate that in the files Ministers have in front of them are always five or six copies of second reading notes. One is supplied to the Leader of the Opposition, one to *Hansard*, and one to the Press; but there are always two to four or more copies available. From time to time some members do avail themselves of the opportunity and ask for an additional copy of the notes.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: The way I have overcome the problem is to ask *Hansard* for a pull, but that means a day's delay.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not mind if the honourable member takes that

action, but I am saying that these copies are available and if any honourable member would like an additional copy of notes, and asks for it, he will be supplied with it. Of course, during the final stages of the session, when Standing Orders are suspended, Bills are put through a little quicker. However, at all times we are anxious to obtain information for members. On scores of occasions I have reported progress—and so have my colleagues—during Committee in order to obtain information to pass on to members. I cannot agree that there is any justification for Dr. Hislop's complaint.

In respect of the remarks made by Mr. Strickland, I do not think we have ever known a greater period of prosperity or activity in the north. I have forgotten the figure he mentioned as the amount expended in the north this year. However, I will quote from the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure which show that the Minister for the North-West estimates a proposed amount of \$11,633,600 for this year. This figure is shown under the heading "Summary of Departments, Expenditure, Estimates." It represents an increase of \$882,847 in expenditure. In addition, of course, there are the loan items. We cannot think about this kind of thing merely on the basis of what is being expended by the Government. We must think about an area and the progress of the State as a whole. By this I mean we must think of what has been expended by the Government and what has been expended by the private sector, because they are so closely allied. The expenditure by the private sector frequently brings about the necessity for the Government to spend money.

Only this afternoon I answered some questions which were asked by Mr. Stubbs in relation to the building of a school at Kambalda. We know that 12 or 15 months ago Kambalda was not even thought of. It was only a prospect at that stage, because a company was looking for nickel. It so happens that the company's work in the area indicates what looks like being a very good nickel deposit. As a result, the area will go forward. Therefore, the expenditure by a private sector in relation to a mining project will, of course, cause the Government to spend money in association with the company's expenditure. One has to look at the north in exactly the same way.

It is all very well to talk about Asian people who look down upon our country with devouring eyes and, in fact, I would agree with this comment. However, for many years the north has gone without the type of development we are experiencing at the present time. The minerals have lain there for a very long time. They did not just grow in the course of the last few years, but have lain there for millions of years. It so happens that at this point of time they are being developed, with the

result that we have tremendous development in the north. We see this development in the form of ports, towns, railways, schools, police stations, buildings, and employment of every description.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: On the cheap!

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I wish the late Mr. Don Barker were in the Chamber at this moment.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I can appreciate the remark made by Mr. Lavery and I agree with it. I, too, wish he were here. In answer to Mr. Watson, I say it is not at all a question of it being on the cheap. This is a question of having a satisfactory arrangement between the Government and private enterprise. Members should not think for a moment, because I would not agree, that any mining company that is making good profits out of the natural resources of the State provides the Government with something on the cheap. The Government gives a company the right to explore the natural resources of the State. I have said this before in the Chamber. When the company finds reserves of ore, the Government calls a meeting and the two parties sit down to find out which is the best way to develop the State's natural resources. The company has to play its part, along with the State, with the result that we see evidence of this all over the State. Wherever one goes in the north today, one sees examples of this sort of development. I am sure it is acceptable to every member of the House and to every person in Western Australia.

Surely we could not take Mr. Strickland's remark seriously when he suggests that the north is being left to idle along. I repeat: There has never been a period in our history when there has been more activity and more growth in the north than there is at the present time. Of course, costs in the north are high, but I do not think this can be avoided. Costs anywhere in country areas are greater than they are in the metropolitan area.

I wish to turn to the remarks made by Mr. House. I noted with pleasure that he has made some study of the Estimates that are available to members on application, as they are introduced into another place. He rightly said that the Government appears still to be short of funds. I would say that I consider the Government of the day will always be short of funds. The greater the progress in the State of course, the greater the shortage of funds; because, there will never be enough money to do the things we want to do. We will never have enough money to build the hospitals, schools, houses and everything else that we need to keep the State going.

I know it is very difficult indeed to explain to people that a State like Western Australia, which is growing at a rate one-third faster than anywhere else in the Commonwealth, has to introduce more

taxes in order that this situation can continue. It is so very difficult to explain to people that this is necessary; but it is necessary, because as the State grows the demands become greater, and these demands can only be met by a greater supply of money from all sources.

I noted Mr. House's remarks concerning natives and also the question of aid to church schools. I think that if Mr. House had taken the trouble to look a little more deeply into the question of aid to church schools, he would have found it is not limited to \$10 per child. With the other ancillary benefits that are being given, the figure is greater than that.

The Hon. E. C. House: I am very conscious of that, and I am sorry I did not mention it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is all right. I wish now to refer to Mr. Baxter's remarks concerning education. I would not be sure, but I think I saw an eyebrow raised here and there by the two educationalists we have in the House. I cannot agree that education is not progressing in the State. I venture to suggest that, if the two educationalists were in my position at the moment, with the right to reply, they might give Mr. Baxter perhaps a greater supply of both barrels than I am able to do. However, I appreciate Mr. Baxter's remarks, although I cannot agree with him entirely.

I draw Mr. Baxter's attention to the fact that most of the principal officers; that is, most of the people who hold the highest positions in the Education Department, were themselves teachers at one stage of the proceedings.

The Hon. J. Dolan: They came through.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, they came through, taking their ideas with them. I do agree with Mr. Baxter when he said it was a bawdy and extravagant expression to refer to somebody who had been overseas and who had jumbled up his ideas in connection with Western Australia.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: He gathered them overseas.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: As I have said, this is a little extravagant. So far as Wundowie is concerned, the Government is continuing to watch the situation closely. As Mr. Baxter remarked, it was hoped that legislation introduced in a previous session of Parliament would be successful; but, up to date, that has just not been the case. However, Wundowie is recognised as a problem which needs to be watched by the Government.

In connection with his remarks concerning doctors in country areas, Mr. Baxter has asked me to convey this information to my colleague, the Minister for Health. This I will do.

This brings me to the conclusion of my remarks, except to recapitulate briefly on the question of housing. The other day I

was asked a question in this House which concerned housing. The question was asked on the 18th October by Mr. Robinson and it was couched in these terms—

(1) How many houses, flats and home units—

(a) have been built throughout the State during 1966-67;

My answer was—

(1) (a) Houses	8,272
Flats and units	1,742
	<hr/> 10,014

The next part of the question read—

(b) are expected to be completed in 1967-68;

To which I replied—

(b) The level of approvals and commencements indicate that the 1966-67 completions will be exceeded in 1967-68.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: The Minister knows the State is not building nearly the number of houses that were built by the previous Government.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I know that even when it is in black and white, the honourable member who has just interjected will not believe it.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: No, because it is not true.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is true, and if the honourable member will be patient I will not take up much time to complete these remarks and ask the House to agree to the second reading of the Bill. The final question asked by Mr. Robinson was—

(c) were built during the period 1956 to 1959?

This was probably a pointed question, in view of the particular period. My answer was—

(c) Houses and flats completed:

	Houses	Flats	Total
1955-56	7,760	584	8,344
1956-57	5,030	365	5,395
1957-58	6,196	171	6,367
1958-59	5,846	212	6,058

The next parts of Mr. Robinson's question read—

(2) How many men were employed in the building industry from 1956 to 1959?

(3) How many men are employed in the building industry in 1967?

To which I replied—

(2) Men employed in the building industry as at the 30th June:

1956	9,080
1957	9,439
1958	8,924
1959	9,092

(3) 14,133.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: What does that mean when it is not nearly enough?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Once again I would point out that one has to take the whole of the situation into consideration.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Let us hope you do just that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: One cannot say, "Here are the figures for 1966-67 and they are more than in the days of the previous Government." One cannot say that the numbers can be divided into sections. One has to take the whole into consideration; that is, the whole of the development in housing, or whatever it is, right throughout the State. The figures I have just mentioned tell the story. There are, in fact, more houses being built. There are many thousands more people being employed in the building industry now than there were in the years mentioned. One can make qualifications, but one cannot deny the figures put before this House. I probably will not be able to convince anybody who does not want to be convinced upon this point.

I would like to quote from the Thirty-fourth Report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission for 1967. The item is housing and it reads as follows:—

Gross private capital expenditure on new dwelling construction was \$943m. in 1966-67 and gross public capital expenditure on housing was \$89m. The total of these two figures was over 6 per cent. more than in 1965-66.

The report then refers to table 6 which is set out on the opposite page.

It continues—

Table 6 which follows shows the total number of new houses and flats commenced and completed in each State, and for Australia as a whole for the last six years. The table also shows these figures on the basis of 10,000 of population. The number of new houses and flats completed for Australia as a whole in 1966-67 was slightly less than the numbers completed in each of the two preceding years.

The commencements increased considerably during 1966-67, reversing the decline which had occurred in 1965-66. The variations in the numbers of new houses and flats commenced and completed in 1966-67 were not spread evenly over the States. Except for South Australia, all States showed a higher number of commencements.

If I can interpolate here, members will recall from a previous debate that South Australia has a considerable number of houses vacant. To continue—

New South Wales and South Australia showed a lesser number of completions in 1966-67. The other four States showed increases. The increased activity in the building industry in each claimant State contrasts

with the decline in both commencements and completions from 1964-65 to 1965-66.

I ask members to note these concluding words.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Tell us the percentage built.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: To continue—

The figures in sections (iii) and (iv) of Table 6 indicate that, on a population basis, Western Australia is building more houses and flats per head of population than any other State, while Tasmania is building less than any other State.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Of course not.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is the private sector and not the State Housing Commission.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Of course. The honourable member obviously was not paying attention when I spoke about the quotation.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Yes, I was.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I started off by speaking of the gross capital expenditure. Right?

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Yes, I am with you all the way.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Surely the document I have just quoted cannot be doubted in any way! The figures referred to in it should be fairly reliable as they come from the Commonwealth Grants Commission. Those figures indicate that Western Australia is building more housing units than any other State in Australia.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I don't care. It is not building enough houses.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Therefore the argument that has been put forward on previous occasions, and on this occasion, fails because it is on false ground.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: We have more homeless people in this State than there are in any other State in Australia.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Will Mrs. Hutchison please refrain from interjecting.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It is true.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Of course, in view of the information I have just given to the House that just cannot be the situation.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: The Housing Commission can't supply the houses wanted.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Of course not. It cannot supply the full number of houses now any more than it could when the Labor Government was in office.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: A total of 14,000 applications and supplying only 900 a year.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Let me say I sincerely hope that in Western Australia we never reach the stage in our history where a person can walk into the office of the State Housing Commission, ask for a house, and get one just like that. I hope we never reach that stage.

The Hon. E. C. House: They have that position in South Australia now.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If we reach that position we will be back to the decadence we experienced in past years.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Bunk!

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: South Australia has a Labor Government.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is true that the demand for housing, so far as the commission is concerned, is difficult to satisfy; but everything possible is being done on all fronts to satisfy the demand. If we have a situation where more migrants are coming into the State—and do not let us forget that the previous Government stopped migration—

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Because it had no houses for them.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It stopped migration, the basis of the thinking being that there were not enough houses to go around; but that Government forgot the fact that for every migrant that comes into the State there is a new demand, a new creation, for services, goods, jobs, and so on. All those things follow.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: But they suffer.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: However, the people who do not want to think about that sort of thing; who cannot think about it, and make all sorts of excuses—

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That's not fair.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: —do not realise—

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Don't you think I am thinking about these things.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I know the honourable member is.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Then don't say these people don't think.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I was not including the honourable member among those people.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Don't include me either.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am pleased to know that both Mrs. Hutchison and Mr. Lavery are not included.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: You had better be careful whom you pick on.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am glad to know those members are not included. I hope all members are thinking.

The Hon. E. C. House: There are 750 vacant homes in South Australia.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is something to think about. I hope we never reach that situation. I think I have caused a little difference of opinion in the ranks by speaking a few home truths.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: By politically attacking the only Labor Government in Australia—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister will please address the Chair.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: May I conclude my remarks by thanking members for their contributions to the debate, and also for their useful interjections.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Assembly with an amendment.

DISCHARGED SERVICEMEN'S BADGES BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. H. K. Watson, read a first time.

House adjourned at 5.55 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 26th October, 1967

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (17): ON NOTICE ONION MARKETING BOARD

Annual Accounts: Auditor-General's Report

1. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Will he advise what is contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the inspector's report to the Auditor-General dated the 28th April, 1967, on the annual accounts of the Western Australian Onion Marketing Board for the 1965-66 season?

Mr. NALDER replied:

Paragraph 3.—Depot Expenses.

The total expenses for the year was reduced by unpaid proceeds of pools. Transactions on the