

are forced through a constantly wet slurry situation which traps the dust. When dried, it can be reused.

I understand that the consultants who were engaged are fairly confident that this will work. The company hoped to use a dry method to avoid the drying-out process, but it had to go back to the wet process. The advice of the consultants on which type of flooded disc scrubber, or its equivalent, is to be preferred is expected any day. The company is firmly convinced that this will work and it will be a relatively short period—a matter of some months—before it is installed.

The story, briefly, has been one of trial and constant frustration. The company has obeyed the letter of the law and has tried all practicable means, as the Act demands. We are hopeful that the people who live in the areas affected will soon get some relief, because it is a worrying situation. I do not suppose any of us would like to be living adjacent to the plant. I can understand Mr. Clive Griffiths being disturbed. He has a nice-coloured car and I can well understand that the lime dust does not do it any good.

Mr. Wise mentioned barramundi. Strangely enough our scientists seem to think that the overflow from the upper dam will be within the scope of the small barramundi. Our problem is the barrage dam—the one presently there. Perhaps if we had thought of this problem 20 years ago, the dams could have been constructed in a slightly different manner.

The barramundi adult fish go downstream to brackish water where they spawn. When the young fish are big enough they go back up the rivers where they grow to their full size.

The Hon. J. Dolan: They appear to have the opposite instincts to salmon.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: There are two species of popular sporting fish in the north and both species go downstream to the brackish water. Unfortunately the Fitzroy barrage would be too much of a jump. Here again, if we had thought about this earlier we could, perhaps, have overcome the problem. However, nobody else thought of it so perhaps we can be excused. The matter is being looked at.

There has been mention of reserving the fish as a sporting fish. We would like to do that, because the area of the Ord Dam is a lovely place to make into a resort. We recently had Dr. Morrissey there. We believe there should be restrictions so that the fish can be taken only by sporting methods, and this would mean no nets. We are currently looking at this matter.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Nets have already been banned at Langi Crossing.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I think that is fair enough, especially for those who like to go out and get the barramundi.

I hope that my few remarks have cleared up one or two matters, in particular, those mentioned by Mr. Stubbs.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: It looks as though I will have to do some more homework.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: With those remarks I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. C. R. Abbey.

House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 28th August, 1969

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

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Public Gallery and Speaker's Gallery:

Statement by the Speaker

THE SPEAKER: With the indulgence of the House, I wish to make an announcement. On the 1st November, 1968, the member for Swan asked me three questions relating to the procedure in this Chamber. Really, the questions related not so much to the procedure as to the convenience of the public.

The first question the member for Swan asked me was whether I would consider allowing the general public to enter the Public Gallery and the Speaker's Gallery before prayers.

The second question was whether I would make available to the public copies of the Notices and Orders of the Day.

The third question was whether I would arrange to have a list of members placed in both the Public Gallery and the Speaker's Gallery so that members of the public who were attending Parliament could know which member was addressing the Chamber.

I have delayed making any statement, because I had hoped to be able to make a decision on all three questions at the one time. When I replied on the 1st November, I indicated that, on the question of the admission of the public before prayers, I felt there should not be one procedure in this Chamber and another procedure in another place. It was highly desirable, if a change were made, that it should be made in both places at the same time so that there would not be any confusion.

Since the 1st November I have had a number of discussions with the President of the Legislative Council on that question; indeed, on the last occasion only as late as last night. The President asked me to allow him a little more time to give

the matter consideration. In consequence, no decision has yet been reached on that particular question.

However, I would advise members that for a trial period as from today the constable in the Public Gallery will be provided with copies of the Notices and Orders of the Day so that people in the Public Gallery may be able to follow questions, particularly, and understand that the answer relates to a particular question. They will be asked to put the papers away after question time.

As members realise, one of the objections in the past to providing a copy of the Notices and Orders of the Day has been the difficulty of discerning whether a person is taking notes or whether he is merely looking at the Notices and Orders of the Day. The only real need that members of the public have for the Notices and Orders of the Day is during question time and, as I say, this procedure will be given a trial for a certain period.

I will also arrange for a copy of the card showing the location of members to be placed in both galleries so that anybody who is attending the Chamber can know which member is speaking. That has not yet been done, but I will see that it is done as from next week.

The question of prayers will be a matter for later consideration. In any event, I will consult leaders on both sides on that point before I make a final decision.

QUESTIONS (41): ON NOTICE

1. MILK BOARD

Control

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Is there any truth in the rumour that the Milk Board may be placed under the control of his department?

Mr. NALDER replied:
No.

2. EDUCATION

Yale Road, Thornlie: Cost of Land

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Education:

What was the price paid for the land on which the primary school is to be built in Yale Road, Thornlie and what was the acreage purchased?

Mr. LEWIS replied:
\$86,500 for approximately 9½ acres.

3. *This question was postponed.*

4. TOWN PLANNING

Kalamunda Shire Council Schemes

Mr. DUNN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) What progress has been reached by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority in its consideration of the Kalamunda Shire Council's schemes five and six?
- (2) When is it likely the shire will receive the results of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's considerations?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority is not involved in the consideration of local authority town planning schemes.

Kalamunda Shire Council's Town Planning Scheme No. 5 is currently being examined and officers of the Town Planning Department will arrange in the near future to discuss various aspects of the scheme with council representatives before submitting the scheme to the Town Planning Board for consideration and subsequent recommendation to the Minister for Town Planning.

Scheme No. 6 has been granted preliminary approval. Notice that the scheme is available for public inspection will be published in the *Government Gazette* on Friday, the 29th August, 1969.

5. HEALTH

Kidney Transplants

Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are the routine tests on Government hospital patients adequate to equate for compatibility purposes to patients requiring a kidney transplant?
- (2) If not and with a view to minimising the prospect of rejection, will consideration be given to compiling such records so that in the event of the death of a hospital patient early permission may be obtained of near relatives to remove a kidney or kidneys for donor purposes?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Tests on a patient are relative to the diagnosis and treatment of the patient.
- (2) Records of tests relative to compatibility are maintained for persons who have indicated a desire to donate tissues or organs after death.

6. HOUSING

Building Programme

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the building programme for the current financial year in the metropolitan area under the headings of:—
 - (a) flats;
 - (b) terrace housing;
 - (c) duplex units;
 - (d) individual houses?
- (2) What are the corresponding figures for elsewhere in the State?
- (3) Of the respective totals under (1) and (2) how many are being built primarily for renting?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

I would say that I presume this question applies to the programme of the State Housing Commission. If so, the answers are as follows:—

- (1) The metropolitan programme for 1969-70 calls for the construction of 1,033 houses and 1,524 medium-density units. No definite allocation has yet been made as to the proportion of flats, terrace housing and duplex units. In some cases the proportions are dependent on local authority requirements. The Bentley project is in addition to the above and consists of—

31 Houses.

119 Terrace houses.

32 Flats (2 and 3 storey).

320 Flats (two 10 storey blocks).

- (2) 413 Houses.

8 Duplex units.

39 Flats.

- (3) Primarily 50 per cent. of the houses will be for rental, however, tenants may elect to purchase. Terrace housing, flats, and duplex units are primarily for rental.

7. FISHING

Barramundi

Mr. RIDGE asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) Have any surveys ever been undertaken in the Kimberley region to establish the potential of commercial barramundi fisheries?
- (2) Has it been determined if the barramundi moves upstream into fresh water estuaries to spawn?

- (3) Is it considered that structures like the Fitzroy barrage and the Ord diversion dam impede the migration of barramundi?

- (4) Has consideration ever been given to the provision of "fish steps" or other similar devices to aid upstream migration?

- (5) During the spawning season would it be practicable to net fish "in roe" and transport them to permanent water backed up by man-made structures?

- (6) What restrictions have been placed on the taking of barramundi by net fishermen?

- (7) Is it intended to extend these restrictions?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.

- (2) Barramundi move downstream to spawn in the estuaries.

- (3) Yes.

- (4) Yes. However, it can be a very costly exercise.

- (5) Maturing barramundi move downstream. The barrages stop the upstream migration of the young fish.

- (6) Nil at the present time.

- (7) Restrictions on the taking of barramundi by nets in the northern rivers is under consideration.

8.

DERBY LEPROSARIUM

Nursing Quarters

Mr. RIDGE asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) In conjunction with the current rebuilding programme at the Derby Leprosarium, will consideration be given to the provision of new quarters for the nursing sisters?

- (2) If "Yes", when is it expected that work will commence?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) Authority has been given for the provision of new quarters for the nursing sisters and, depending on the ability of the contractor to construct, they should be available within six months.

9.

WATER SUPPLIES

Dam at Moochalabra Creek

Mr. RIDGE asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is planning and design work completed for the proposed dam at Moochalabra Creek near Wyndham?

- (2) When is it expected that tenders will be called for this project?

- (3) Is it anticipated that the structure will be completed during the course of one dry season?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) September, 1969.
- (3) Yes.

In addition, it might be of interest to the honourable member to know that the estimated cost of this structure is \$530,000, and about \$80,000 has been allocated this financial year.

10.

EDUCATION

Staff Quarters

Mr. RIDGE asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is planning in process for the provision of school staff quarters at Fitzroy Crossing and Hall's Creek?
- (2) If "Yes", will consideration be given to transportable or prefabricated structures to ensure that the buildings are completed before the onset of the 1969-70 wet season?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Every endeavour will be made by the housing authority to provide the accommodation for both centres by the beginning of the 1970 school year.

11.

EDUCATION

Fitzroy Crossing School

Mr. RIDGE asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is consideration being given to the provision of an additional demountable classroom at the Fitzroy Crossing School?
- (2) If "Yes", when is it expected that the classroom will be on site?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The construction of a demountable classroom at Fitzroy Crossing School is almost complete.

12. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Kwinana Area: Regional Committee

Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) With the tremendous growth of the Kwinana industrial complex resulting in an increased demand for homes in the Shires of Rockingham and Kwinana, will he advise whether a local regional committee comprising representatives of local government, employees, business and industry could be established to assist in the creation of more job opportunities

for resident families who are somewhat isolated by distance and transport from employment opportunities elsewhere?

- (2) What would be the estimated home building programme for the Shires of Rockingham and Kwinana for the next five years?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) I am conscious of the difficulties associated with the employment referred to. We are continuously examining ways and means by which the position may be alleviated.

I doubt whether a local committee along the lines suggested would have any practical value at the moment. But my views on this might change after I have had discussions that are planned with a number of prospective employers.

I appreciate the interest being shown by organisations such as the Country Women's Association, the Business and Professional Women's Association, the honourable member and others, and I will endeavour to pass more information on to those concerned when the current round of proposed talks is completed.

I am of the opinion there is scope for established industries to employ more women if there is a realistic approach to reorganisation according to modern concepts of work that can be done by women within industry.

I am working on the assumption that there will be goodwill from employers and trade unions in any approach made to reorganising some of the established industries to absorb a better balanced work force.

Such moves, of course, would only be part of a total effort being made to develop more opportunities for women and young workers generally both in established as well as additional industries of varied nature.

- (2) It is estimated that there will be 6,000 houses built in the Medina-Rockingham area over the next five years.

13.

EDUCATION

Building Programme in Dale Electorate

Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have plans and specifications been completed, tenders called, contracts awarded, and work commenced for this year's building

programme at each of the following schools—

Armadale High
Kwinana High
Kingsley Primary
Safety Bay Primary
Bungaree Primary?

- (2) When did or when will each of the above stages of the work commence and what is the estimated date of completion?
- (3) Are these additions still expected to be ready for use at the commencement of the 1970 school year?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) See schedule.

ed persons for the guidance of those conducting formal functions, has any progress been made, and if so what?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

Information on procedures followed by the Commonwealth and States has been received and is now being considered.

17.

DRAINAGE

Canning Vale

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Works:

Can he guarantee—

- (a) there will be no accumulation of decomposing material at

School	1 Plans and Specifications	2 Tenders Called	3 Contract Awarded	4 Work Commenced	5 Estimated Date of Completion
Armadale High (private architect)	June 1969	Estimated late October	Estimated early November	Estimated mid November	June 1970
Kwinana High—additions (a), (Science labs., manual arts, and staff block) (b)	March 1969	Closed 15/7/69	August 26, 1969	September	June 26, 1970 (a) February 1970 (b)
Kingsley Primary	May 1969	Estimated end September	Estimated mid October	Estimated end October	February 1970
Safety Bay Primary (private architect)	April 1969	End September	Estimated early October	Estimated mid October	February 2, 1970
Bungaree Primary	June 1969	Estimated end September	Estimated mid October	Estimated end October	February 1970

14. This question was postponed.

15. WATER SUPPLIES

Rating Revaluations

Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) How frequently are properties in the various districts revalued by valuers in the Taxation Department for use by the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board for rating purposes?
- (2) Are the periods between successive valuations uniform as between all districts?
- (3) If "No", what districts were last revalued more than three years ago?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Every three years. The most recent one operated from the 1st July, 1968.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Answered by (2).

16.

PROTOCOL

Official Precedence List

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier: Further to questions asked in 1966 and 1967 relating to an official table of precedence of distinguish-

any time in the proposed drain leading from the waste water disposal area in Canning Vale;

- (b) that flushing of pipes carrying waste material will not be discharged direct into the drain;
- (c) that the drain reserve will not be more than 25 links in width;
- (d) that the excavated soil will be used to level low lying area;
- (e) that a person whose property is resumed will be compensated?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (a) The guarantee can be given so far as it relates to any discharge from the wastewater disposal area in Canning Vale.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) No.
- (d) No guarantee can be given but the board would not have any objection to the excavated soil being used on low lying areas.
- (e) Yes.

18.

EDUCATION

Youth Organisers

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is there a shortage of teachers applying for positions as youth organisers?
- (2) What districts are short of youth organisers at present?
- (3) Is any action being taken to encourage teachers to take up youth organising and to obtain organisers outside the Education Department?
- (4) Is any effort being made to bind to youth organising those people who are being specially trained in youth work?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) All established districts are fully staffed.
- (3) Advertisements are placed in the Education Circular and an allowance is paid to district youth organisers of \$450 per annum.
- (4) No.

19.

EDUCATION

School Bus Transport

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is any provision made for school buses travelling to Midland or nearby country schools to pick up children inside the three-mile limit?
- (2) If "No", what provision is made for physically handicapped children?
- (3) If "Yes", what conditions apply and are physically handicapped children entitled to preferential treatment in transport to school?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) School buses travelling to Midland and nearby country schools may pick up children within three miles of the school provided there is sufficient room for them on the bus. Each individual case would be considered on its merits.
- (2) and (3) Whenever loading on a particular bus necessitates the exclusion of children within three miles of a school priority for transport is given to children with any physical handicaps provided there is sufficient room for them on the bus and a suitable medical certificate is produced.

20.

PAINTERS' REGISTRATION BOARD

Complaints

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) During each year since its inception, how many reports have

been made to the Painters' Registration Board concerning faulty or inferior painting?

- (2) In how many of such cases have the complaints been sustained?
- (3) Of these, how many respectively have resulted in—
 - (a) the complaint being rectified by the painter concerned;
 - (b) the complaint being rectified by another painter at the direction of the board;
 - (c) the registration of the offending painter being suspended?
 - (d) the registration of the offending painter being cancelled?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Year ended 30th December	No. of reports
1963	26
1964	38
1965	54
1966	60
1967	64
1968	69

(2) Year ended 30th December	No. sustained
1963	11
1964	21
1965	37
1966	39
1967	41
1968	53

- (3) (a) Work has been carried out satisfactorily. In all cases except one where complaints have been sustained and remedial action ordered by the board.
- (b) Only once has the board directed work to be carried out by another painter. The cost of such work was borne by the original painter.
- (c) Suspension on seven occasions.
- (d) Nil.

21 and 22. These questions were postponed.

23. SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

Exmouth School

Mr. NORTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has a school dentist visited Exmouth during this school year?
- (2) When is it anticipated that he will next visit Exmouth?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A regular visiting service based at Carnarvon will be established this year to service Exmouth and Onslow.

24. **AIR STRIP***Exmouth*

Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Should the R.A.A.F. take over the Learmonth Aerodrome on an operational basis and D.C.3's and Fokker Friendships not allowed to use the Learmonth airstrip, will any provision be made for an alternative airstrip to service Exmouth?

- (2) If "Yes", what provision is to be made?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) It is not unusual for R.A.A.F. airfields in Australia to be controlled on a joint-user basis. Two such examples are Darwin and Townsville. There appears no reason why this arrangement should not apply at Learmonth. If not, I am sure the Department of Civil Aviation would arrange alternative facilities at the appropriate time.
- (2) Department of Civil Aviation has plans for a separate civil aviation apron at Learmonth.

25. **EDUCATION***Wilson Park School*

Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that when the two new classrooms at the Wilson Park School, Collie, are completed one class will still have to occupy an old classroom situated some distance from the main school?
- (2) If "Yes", and in view of the poor standard of the old classroom will he give favourable consideration to the immediate construction of a new classroom?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A further classroom will be built as finance becomes available.

26. **ELECTORAL ROLLS***Joint Preparation*

Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has any move been made in accordance with section 31 of the Electoral Act for joint preparation of electoral rolls with the Commonwealth?
- (2) If not, how long is it anticipated that this State will retain this expensive separate enrolment system?
- (3) Other than Legislative Council rolls for South Australia does any other State still make up their own rolls?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2). The subject of joint preparation of electoral rolls with the Commonwealth again received consideration recently and it was decided that the State would maintain its own rolls at least for the time being.

- (3) Yes. Queensland.

27. *This question was postponed.*

28. **TIMBER***Leases: Worsley Mill*

Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Forests:

In view of the fact that Hawker-Siddeley has closed the Worsley Mill what has happened to the timber leases which were made available to the company for this mill?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

The sawmilling permit at Worsley is still held by Hawker-Siddeley Building Supplies.

29. **TIMBER***Leases: Bowelling District*

Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Is there an area of Crown land situated to the north of the Bowelling townsite which contains millable timber reserved for Hawker-Siddeley?
- (2) If "Yes", what is the area involved and the terms of the agreement.
- (3) If "No", will he make some of the leases available to smaller mill operators in the district who may be forced to close down their mills due to the fact that no private owned leases are available which contain millable timber?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) to (3). The area north of Bowelling Townsite is 16,400 acres of State Forest No. 24. This area is held in reserve to provide part of the intake of timber guaranteed to Hawker-Siddeley Building Supplies in the Collie area under the terms and conditions of the sale of State Building Supplies.

30. **EDUCATION***Teacher Bonds*

Mr. CASH asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the total amount outstanding as debits against ex-teachers for breaches of teacher-bond agreements?

- (2) How many ex-teachers are liable, at the present time, for repayment of bonds?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) \$504,900 as at the 27th August, 1969. (This figure includes ex-bursars, ex-students and ex-teachers.)
(2) Approximately 600.

31. BEACH-FRONT EROSION

Research

Mr. FLETCHER asked the Treasurer:

- (1) Does the University or any other authority indulge in research into ocean beach erosion?
(2) Is any Treasury or other grant made for such a purpose?
(3) If so, to what extent?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) Some work is being undertaken at present on ocean beach erosion by the University and the Public Works Department.
(2) No, but expenditure by the Public Works Department is met from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.
(3) It is understood that the University has made a grant for research work by a post graduate student. The Public Works research consists of a theoretical study of the subject particularly in the Busselton area.

32. *This question was postponed.*

33. TIMBER *Karri Poles*

Mr. H. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Forests:

- (1) During the past year in the Pemberton area how many owners of private properties with timber rights reserved to the Crown were notified that contractors would be cutting karri poles on their properties?
(2) From how many such properties were poles taken?
(3) From how many of these properties is it expected that karri poles will be cut in the coming twelve months' period?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) One.
(2) One.
(3) Not known.

34. SUMMARY RELIEF COURT WARRANTS

Service Personnel

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is he aware that a member of the Royal Australian Air Force against whom a warrant has been issued

out of the Summary Relief Court cannot in fact be served with the warrant?

- (2) Is it a fact that personnel of the Army and Navy can be served with such warrants?
(3) If "Yes", to (1) and (2) has he made representation to the appropriate authority to overcome this anomaly?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) With a warrant of commitment, and it is assumed that is what the member refers to, it is not a matter of "service" but of execution. A permanent member of the Royal Australian Air Force cannot be imprisoned on a warrant of commitment issued out of our Summary Relief Court. This is because of a provision of the Air Force Act, 1923-1956 (Commonwealth) making applicable to members of the R.A.A.F. certain provisions of the Imperial Air Force Act; one of which (s. 145) contains a prohibition against the issue of execution against a member of the English regular air force, that is, against his person, pay, arms or other personal effects. The matter is fully explained in the decision of the N.S.W. Court of Appeal given in the case of *Ex parte Evans; Re Moroney and Others* (1966) 8 *Federal Law Reports*, p. 42.

- (2) There does not appear to be a similar immunity attaching to members of the Army or Navy.
(3) No representation to the Commonwealth has been made on the matter.

35.

RAILWAYS

W.A.D.C.: Office Space

Mr. BURKE asked the Premier:

- (1) Was the fact that Western Australia Development Corporation offered to develop the Perth railway land at no cost to the Government and to provide free office space the primary reason for the Government considering its offer the best submitted, and requesting that company to submit firm proposals?
(2) Does the offer of free space still stand?
(3) If "Yes", what area of floor space will be provided at no cost to the Government?
(4) If "No", would he advise if any discussions have taken place between W.A.D.C. and the Government concerning Government departments renting office space in the project?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) All aspects were taken into consideration before Western Australia Development Corporation were given a letter of intent regarding the proposal they submitted to us. These included financial details but effect on railway and town planning were also major considerations.
- (2) to (4). Western Australia Development Corporation's final submission has not yet been received by the Government. The information required can be obtained when final details are released.

36. WESTERN AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Compliance with Companies Act

Mr. BURKE asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is Western Australia Development Corporation registered at the Companies Office?
- (2) Is the company at present complying with all the requirements of the Companies Act?
- (3) If "No", in what particular are they in default?
- (4) Has it been necessary at any time subsequent to its registration to advise the company it was not complying with the Act?
- (5) If "Yes", what are the particulars?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, so far as is apparent from the records of the Registrar of Companies.
- (3) Answered by (2).
- (4) Yes.
- (5) On the 30th May, 1968, the company was advised by the Registrar of Companies by letter that it had failed to comply with section 348 of the Companies Act for the calendar year, 1967. That is, that it had not lodged its balance sheet. The balance sheet was lodged on the 20th December, 1968.

37. CREDIT TRADING

Extent in Western Australia

Mr. BURKE asked the Premier:

Further to my question of the 27th March, 1969, would he advise if he has any information to hand on the inquiry he undertook to make into the extent of certain trading under which the State is losing revenue and the buying public any protection it might have under the Hire Purchase Act?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

Inquiries have disclosed that there has been a continuing decline in stamp duty collections from hire purchase agreements because of the extension of other credit facilities. A similar situation developed in other States and a review is now being made of the measures taken to counter this trend.

38.

RAILWAYS

W.A.D.C.: Australian Involvement

Mr. BURKE asked the Premier:

- (1) What is the extent of Australian involvement in the Western Australia Development Corporation project for the development of the central railway land?
- (2) What are the companies involved?
- (3) What is the extent of each company's involvement?
- (4) Which of these companies have directors on the board of W.A.D.C.?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) Proposals for the sinking of the railway are being submitted by a joint venture of Western Australia Development Corporation and J. O. Clough and Son Pty. Ltd. J. O. Clough and Son Pty. Ltd., who have 50 per cent. interest, is a company wholly owned by Western Australians and Western Australia Development Corporation also has Australian shareholders.
- (2) The first three companies listed are Australian companies—
Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd.
Australian United Corporation Ltd.
Nuytsland Pty. Ltd.
Morgan Grenfell and Co. Ltd.
Philip Hill Investment Trust Ltd.
Lehman Bros.
Dudley N. Schoales.
United Fruit Company.
Train Cabot & Associates.
The Battelle Development Corporation.
De Leuw Cather and Co.
Planners Collaborative.
The Ralph M. Parsons Company.
Technical Projects Ltd.
- (3) The percentage share holding of each is not known.
- (4) The Battelle Development Corporation.
Technical Projects Ltd.
Train Cabot and Associates.
Planners Collaborative.
De Leuw Cather and Co.
Lehman Bros.

39. **LIONS PARK**
Establishment

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) Has he received any application or has he any knowledge of any person intending to establish a lions park?
- (2) If "Yes",—
 - (a) will he state whether permission has been granted to allow the lions park to be proceeded with and when;
 - (b) will he supply the names of the applicants and define the area in which the lions park will be established?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No approach has been made to the department in the matter.
- (2) Not applicable.

40. **FORESTS ACT AMENDMENT**
BILL

Net Revenue

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Relevant to his second reading speech on the 21st August, 1969, in support of the amendment to the Forests Act, 1918-1964, what are the circumstances which caused the Solicitor-General's opinion to be sought as to the method of determining the "Net Revenue"?
- (2) Will he table the said opinion?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) and (2) The Forests Act defines "Gross Revenue" of the Forests Department but the term "Net Revenue" of the department is not defined and the Solicitor-General commented accordingly.

41. *This question was postponed.*

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. **DROUGHT**

Relief: Publicity

Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) When the Government decided to pay the transport costs on coarse grains needed by farmers for emergency stock feed, was the first public announcement made on the radio, on television, or through the Press?
- (2) On what date was the first announcement made?
- (3) Was the decision intended to have retrospective effect?

(4) If "Yes", was this announced publicly and from what date was it intended it would operate?

(5) If "No", will he agree to make the concession apply to all purchases back of coarse grains by farmers this season?

Mr. NALDER replied:

First of all, I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for prior notice of this question. I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that as you know I did approach you, and I was going to ask the House, for permission to correct an interjection which I made in all good faith when the Leader of the Opposition was, yesterday afternoon, debating the amendment moved to the Address-in-Reply. The answers to this question will correct the statement I made. They are as follows:—

- (1) I released a statement to the Press and the Australian Broadcasting Commission simultaneously on Friday, the 8th August, 1969.
- (2) Friday, the 8th August, 1969.
- (3) No. I announced the assistance would come into operation on Monday, the 11th August, 1969.
- (4) Answered by (3).
- (5) No, but consideration is being given by the Government to the payment of freight on consignments of coarse grains to farmers between the 1st and the 11th August.

2.

DROUGHT

Minister for Railways: Apology

Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Railways:

Is it his intention to apologise for the statement he made in the House last night with regard to the date of the announcement by the Minister for Agriculture?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

It is not my intention to apologise, because anything I said last night was correct. What I stated was that the amendment to the motion was incorrect in that it referred to the fact that the Government had taken no action prior to the Opposition bringing the matter to the notice of the House on the 6th August, 1969, and that the paper stated on the 1st August that action had been taken. Therefore I see no need to apologise.

Mr. Tonkin: You just said it was the 1st August.

BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Western Australian Institute of Technology Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Lewis (Minister for Education), and read a first time.

2. Land Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands), and read a first time.

3. Architects Act Amendment Bill.

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

4. Inspection of Machinery Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. O'Neill (Minister for Labour), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: ELEVENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 27th August, on the following motion by Mr. McPharlin:—

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

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

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [2.47 p.m.]: It is not my intention to delay unduly the passage of this motion, but there are one or two matters of a general nature which I would like to discuss.

I have not the faith some members have in the debate on the Address-in-Reply as a medium by which the problems of one's electorate can be fixed up. The debate seems to have the effect of filling a few volumes of *Hansard*; and now and again a condensed portion is published in the newspapers. I have not the faith of some members who usually commence their speeches by saying that the Address-in-Reply gives a member an opportunity to air his complaints and bring them before the Government. I do not know how much notice the Government takes.

I think that perhaps sometimes Ministers, or their staffs, may go through *Hansard* and take out extracts and then endeavour to carry out some form of rectification, but I cannot ever remember—perhaps my complaints were not genuine enough—obtaining any prompt rectification of problems which I have raised in the House.

Mr. Nalder: You probably never had complaints, because of the activities of the Government.

Mr. BICKERTON: I will deal with the activities of the Government in a moment. The Minister has a drought on his hands and I do not want to upset him.

I would point out that there seems to be less attention given in this place than in another place to the speeches made by members during the Address-in-Reply debate. I have been in that Chamber when the Minister in charge has been replying to the debate. He has dealt quite exhaustively in replying to matters raised by members—in fact, he has dealt with each individual matter that has been brought up. I realise there are more members in this Chamber and to do this would take longer, but it would be more gratifying to members if there were some recognition of the matters they brought forward. If this is not possible perhaps the matters could be dealt with by communication to members from the departments.

I will not worry with the parish pump issues, because they can be dealt with more effectively in other ways. I would not like the Government to think that because I am not dealing with those issues during the Address-in-Reply everything is perfect in my area. As I said, I believe they can be dealt with more effectively in other ways.

I wish, firstly, to deal with the recent overseas trip made by the Premier. I might say, from the outset, that I am not opposed to such trips. Indeed I applaud them and I think they are most necessary at certain times in certain circumstances. However, if I have any criticism I would say that I think the trips become somewhat protracted.

This is the jet age and travel is simple and fast. It should be possible, perhaps, for the head of the State to make more trips but of a shorter duration. When the Premier is out of the State for months and months, and the State goes along fairly smoothly, people are inclined to inquire whether he is necessary.

I believe the trips are necessary, and I was rather impressed by the Premier's report, at a dinner in this place just recently, concerning his trip. I think he gave everyone the impression that he gained much as a result of it. That brings me to the main point at issue.

I believe this privilege should also be available to the Leader of the Opposition. This principle applies in all other States in the Commonwealth; and if the Premier, as he has told us, gained so much from his visit then surely the same could apply to the Leader of the Opposition. It may be said that the Leader of the Opposition could ask for a trip, but I do not believe this should be the case. The Leader of the Opposition should not be placed in the

position where he should have to compromise in a matter of this nature. It should be his right over a certain period; perhaps every five years or some such period.

The taxpayer is paying the cost of the trip, in both cases, and the taxpayer is responsible for our being here and for maintaining us here. I think a representative of the Opposition should travel overseas, not only to improve the outlook of the Opposition, but also to ensure that what the Premier tells us about various matters in various places is, in fact, as good as he maintains.

I do not think this request is outlandish and I repeat: the Leaders of the Oppositions in other States make those trips fairly frequently. I also think that when he makes a trip he should be accompanied by the same number of people and advisers as accompany the Premier when he travels overseas.

Mr. Cash: Who would you suggest should go with him?

Mr. BICKERTON: I suppose the Premier has secretarial assistance, and someone to advise him. I would not lay down who should go with the Leader of the Opposition, but I think at least his secretary should accompany him, or someone from the administrative side of his department.

Sir David Brand: While speaking, more or less privately, to the Leader of the Opposition some time before I went away I suggested I was giving consideration to making such an offer: the Leader of the Opposition to go overseas on the same basis as a Minister, having regard to the conditions and the time involved.

Mr. BICKERTON: I am pleased to hear that.

Sir David Brand: I have not yet notified the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. BICKERTON: It should become something of a right and not just a privilege granted by the Government.

Sir David Brand: I was not going to lay down any conditions.

Mr. BICKERTON: I would not like to see the Leader of the Opposition get a trip just because he got on well with the Premier. Another Leader of the Opposition, who did not get on well with the Premier, would not get a trip.

Sir David Brand: Probably once every three years, as has been my case.

Mr. BICKERTON: I wish the Premier would speak up a little.

Sir David Brand: You have a rather thick voice today.

Mr. BICKERTON: As a matter of fact, I do have a thick voice today. It came rather as a surprise to me to notice that I had the adjournment of the Address-In-Reply. I repeat: I do not fancy the idea

of a trip becoming a favour from the Government to the Opposition. I would much prefer a gentleman's agreement that this sort of thing should take place from time to time.

Another matter I want to deal with briefly while I have the attention of the Minister for the North-West is the lease fees payable by iron ore companies. I refer to mining lease shire rates. As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, if you or I, or anyone else of this Chamber, should peg a mineral lease it would not be very long before we were issued with shire rate notices to cover the lease.

The iron ore companies, first of all, were granted temporary reserves which, of course, are not ratable. However, the temporary reserves are converted to mining leases, and at that stage they are naturally eligible for shire rates. However, to the best of my knowledge, up to this time none of the iron ore companies have paid any shire rates whatsoever in the Pilbara district.

Mr. Court: Some have made *ex gratia* payments whilst the matter is being sorted out.

Mr. BICKERTON: I will deal with that in a moment. I am referring to the mining leases; those which are ratable by the shires. I am not referring to the towns, railways, ports, and the rest of the instrumentalities that go with the leases. I am dealing purely and simply with the leases themselves.

For reasons best known to the Government, a committee was set up to reach a decision on what rates should be paid by the iron ore companies. To start with, I see no good reason why the committee should have been set up. If everyone else who pegs a lease has to pay the shire rates in accordance with the rates struck, then it would be reasonable to ask that the iron ore companies do likewise.

When we are dealing with the iron ore company towns and railways, then that is a slightly different issue because those facilities have been supplied by the companies themselves. Therefore, it would be reasonable to say that some special set of circumstances may be brought about to cover rates on what the companies have supplied. However, the mining leases are entirely different. The mining leases are taken up in the same manner as a lease would be taken up by any other person. As I have said, there is no reason whatsoever why the leases should not be ratable the same as any other lease which is pegged.

The committee has been sitting for I do not know how long—for months and months. I have asked questions as to when its recommendations will be brought down, and I have been informed on every occasion that it should be in the near

future. I have inquired if, when the committee does bring down its recommendations, they will be retrospective. Again, I have been informed that this is something for the committee to decide.

The shires urgently need those rates and there is no reason at all why a committee, if set up to make a decision, has to take the time which this committee has taken.

If, in fact, it has to sit as long as it has done, one wonders what it is going to hatch when it finishes. I think it must be sitting on a china egg, judging from the time it has been there. If the Minister for the North-West was responsible for the fertilisation of this egg, I would say he is one rooster that needs a booster, because the committee has sat and sat and hatched nothing. There must be some reason for this.

In many cases the shires are irate; I have letters from some of them and they want to know when the committee will reach its conclusions. I asked the Minister a question on opening day, and he seemed to think the committee would reach its conclusions shortly. Perhaps, if you will permit it, Mr. Speaker, the Minister may be able to tell me by way of interjection when he thinks the committee will make its report.

Mr. Court: I asked my colleague, the Minister for Local Government, to see if he could get the committee to speed up its report, and he told me the other day he thought it would be within a few days. I want to add that the companies are anxious to get finality. They want to get the matter resolved. It is not just as easy as issuing an assessment, because there is some legal doubt about the position.

Mr. BICKERTON: I can see the problem where the towns are concerned, but I cannot see the problem about the leases. All the companies have to do is to pay the rates that anyone else would pay for the leases and I think the shires would be quite happy.

Mr. Court: It is not quite as simple as that.

Mr. BICKERTON: It would be simple if they paid the rates. The ordinary ratepayer in these areas is rather irate about the fact that he has to pay rates on his leases, but companies such as the big iron ore companies do not pay rates.

I think a committee was set up recently in connection with the drought conditions. That committee seemed to reach a few conclusions—particularly after the Opposition got into this matter—very quickly indeed. So, if finality is required, I am sure the Government can get this committee—because the Government controls it—to come to its conclusions so that justice is done where the shires in the Pilbara are concerned.

The Minister referred to *ex gratia* payments, but I think these would not be in connection with the mining leases; the payments would be in connection with the townsites. This was certainly the case at Hamersley, and also at Mt. Newman where the town of Port Hedland was concerned. However, it is a different matter when referring to the committee's recommendations with regard to shire rating of iron ore leases.

The only other point with which I wish to deal is the matter of standing committees, and this is an issue to which I would like the Premier to give some attention, as this is an egg that he has been sitting on for something like two years. A motion was introduced in this Chamber some time ago calling upon the Government to set up Parliamentary standing committees. The Premier amended that motion to the effect that the Government would examine the advisability of setting up such committees.

Questions have been asked from time to time, and the Premier gives the same stereotyped reply: the matter is still under consideration. It is well known that all other Parliaments have parliamentary standing committees—particularly on public works. We all know the value of these committees; but Parliament these days has become more and more a control by the Executive.

We all know that party politics operate, and to the best of our knowledge there is no alternative to this—at the moment, at any rate. So there is considerable control, I suppose one would call it, within party rooms. Certainly there is much discussion within party rooms, and once that discussion has taken place on the Government's side of the House, very little discussion takes place within this Chamber.

As this control applies in present-day politics, and as the custom seems to be more and more Government by Executive and less and less by the back benches, then surely the only chance the average member of Parliament has of playing some role and having some say in the affairs of the State is *via* standing committees.

A public works standing committee which, as I have previously pointed out in this Chamber, would investigate the advisability of, say, undertaking a large public work, would be able to supply to members of Parliament, per medium of its reports, all of the details in connection with that public work before the matter was debated in Parliament. This would mean that the average member of Parliament would be much more fully informed. Furthermore, if necessary he would have the opportunity of going before the committee if he felt he wished to have some say in the approval or otherwise of the particular project.

This is not a matter of trying anything new. This system works. It works in every other Parliament. It works in the House of Commons, and in the Commonwealth Parliament. There may be delays, but in some instances perhaps delays are necessary. However, if we want Parliament to operate as a Parliament should operate we will have to have parliamentary standing committees.

I will not argue the point on the issue of whether the members of these committees should be paid or whether they should be honorary. If one of the objections of the Government to these committees is that they would be costly because of the need to pay the members of them, let us have them without payment and see how they work. In any case, whatever may be the cost of operating such committees, I do not think it would be any greater than some of the costs involved in various blunders that take place from time to time under the present system.

With a standing works committee, I doubt whether the circumstances could have come about concerning the cancelling, midway, of the contract for the Main Roads Department building. I think that possibly a proper investigation by a standing works committee of the financial standing, etc., of the particular contractor may have revealed some interesting facts which could have prevented what took place.

Sir David Brand: Do you think a standing committee on public works in New South Wales—if there had been one, of course—would have prevented the problems with the Opera House?

Mr. BICKERTON: I have not read the report of the public works committee on the Opera House; but bear in mind that the Premier has picked on rather a strange matter—the building was simply something that had never been constructed before—and I doubt whether anyone, even the architect who designed it, could have predicted all the problems which came about.

Sir David Brand: But a committee could have looked into the facts before the project was started, and maybe it could have foreseen some of the difficulties which have emerged.

Mr. BICKERTON: I think the Premier is drawing a long bow in regard to the Opera House. We are talking about normal public works, and, as I have pointed out to the Premier in the House before—and I have read reports from South Australia—an investigation committee would in many instances prevent the Government from going ahead with something which could be as risky as the project to which I have just referred.

However, the public works committee is but one standing committee. Another committee which is absolutely essential in

present-day parliamentary conditions is a subordinate legislation committee. Practically every piece of legislation that goes through this Chamber has provision in it for the Minister to make regulations.

Sir David Brand: How many of these committees exist in Australian Parliaments?

Mr. BICKERTON: I know of three.

Sir David Brand: Where?

Mr. BICKERTON: They exist in South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales. In the case of regulations, we know that under the Interpretation Act they must go through a set procedure. The regulations are made by the Minister and tabled in Parliament, and the Interpretation Act contains provisions for such regulations to be disallowed in Parliament.

There are many regulations, as we all know, and it is difficult for the average member of Parliament to keep up with them. It would be necessary for him to read every *Government Gazette* to know that they had even been made; or he would have to make a very close study of the regulations as they were tabled in Parliament.

If a standing committee were appointed to control this aspect, its job would be to bring to the notice of members any information that might be necessary, and for the committee itself to see that the regulations were in order. It could also issue reports which could be easily and readily obtained and read by members.

In other words, at all time Parliament would have a watchdog operating on any regulations, by-laws, and so on, that might be made. It might be true to say that very few of us in this House read regulations unless someone specifically brings them to our attention. The job of a subordinate legislation committee would be to study every regulation made under any Statute and to report on it. The sooner we reach that desirable set of circumstances the better.

Accordingly I would remind the Premier it is my intention to reintroduce during the present session a motion in connection with this matter. It is possible that by then the Premier will have something to tell us on these parliamentary committees. But, until such time as we get them, I feel sure that Government by Executive will continue and the role of the average back-bench member of Parliament will be as ineffective as it had been in the past.

MR. I. W. MANNING (Wellington) [3.13 p.m.]: Despite the opening comments of the member for Pilbara, I should like to take this opportunity to add some remarks to those made by other members when speaking to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

I would first like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the people I have the honour to represent in this Parliament, to extend congratulations to the Premier (Sir David Brand) on the honour conferred on him by Her Majesty. This has brought much favourable comment from my electorate and it is with great pleasure that I pass on this comment.

When I first entered Parliament some 19 years ago I raised the matter of the Old Coast Road and the need to develop and seal it with a view to making it a major highway. I am glad to say that the finishing touches are now being put to that road; so, for the next 20 years, I will be able to turn my attention to some other problem.

Mr. Jamieson: Is it complete?

Mr. Bovell: Yes.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: At this point I would like to say that the irrigation farmers are pressing for additional water storage to meet the ever-increasing demand for water for irrigation purposes. Additional storage is required to fully cater for existing needs and to provide a safe draw in the dams, especially in the event of light winter rains. It is also needed to provide for the requirements of the future. It is only by this means that we can continue to lift production from such irrigation areas, because increased production will only come from the use of additional water.

Irrigation farming is becoming a very scientific exercise; it has to be, because the irrigation farmers, like all farmers today, are faced with rising costs on the one hand and falling or static incomes on the other. There is also a need for increased production from these areas in the interests of the State, and in this connection I would mention briefly the whole-milk industry.

The consumption of whole milk in Western Australia in 1950 was approximately 10,250,000 gallons, but in 1968 this consumption increased to approximately 20,500,000 gallons. The consumption doubled in 18 years, and it is estimated that by 1980 the consumption will have increased by an additional 20,000,000 gallons.

The greatest opportunity to increase the production of milk and to cater for the growing market obviously rests with the irrigation districts. If the consumption of whole milk is to double in the next 10 years I think it is urgent that we should give consideration to increased water storage.

Very largely the same story could be told about beef production. Most of the sources of the supply of beef during the difficult months of March, April, May, and June, are from the irrigation districts. There is also an ever-increasing demand for fat cattle during the autumn months, and here again we can only get increased production from an increasing and more scientific use of water.

Farmers in these areas need additional water to permit them greater flexibility in its use to permit more frequent waterings and flooding on dry land in the early autumn, so as to give the new season's grass an early start.

The member for Collie suggested that some of the sheep from the drought-affected areas could be agisted in the south-west. In the irrigation areas there is no drought—certainly not at the moment—and with the scientific use of water an opportunity would be provided for greater production.

I would like now to turn to the butterfat industry. In recent years we have spoken in this House about the dairy farm improvement scheme. That scheme and the consolidation plan which operated proved a great success, but the dairy farmer in the butterfat area is again looking to the future in an endeavour to find better markets for his produce. This, of course, is quite a fair outlook on his part.

The Capel River is, approximately, the boundary between the whole milk zone and the butterfat areas. Beyond the Capel River the Milk Board does not issue licenses for whole-milk production. I suggest that the time is now ripe to remove this arbitrary boundary between the two dairying districts. I see no virtue in retaining such a boundary any longer. I daresay the thinking behind the original establishment of the boundary was in regard to transport costs as they related to milk.

However, with the tanker pickup and the modern facilities available there is no great need for retaining it on that score. It would have many advantages, too, because the farmers in the butterfat areas would also see the possibility in the future of being licensed. I am not suggesting the Milk Board, at this point of time, should go out and issue licenses left, right, and centre, but I do think the arbitrary line should be removed. This would permit the Milk Board to receive applications from farmers interested in seeking a license to produce whole milk. It would also sound out the area and, at the same time, offer encouragement to those farmers who desired to eventually go into whole milk.

When speaking about irrigation earlier, I indicated that there had been a steep increase in the consumption of whole milk and I predicted that by 1980 we could double this consumption figure. I have suggested that increased quantities by certain ways and means could come from the existing whole-milk districts and from the fringe of the whole-milk area, which is an extensive dairying district producing butterfat.

Mr. Davies: Does the boundary mean that anyone south of the Capel River is not allowed to produce whole milk?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: Yes. The boundary beyond which licenses are not issued is approximately the Capel River. The side benefit of this, of course, is the throughput of the various dairy factories in the area. Today a great quantity of manufacturing milk comes from milk produced by the whole-milk dairies. These dairies are producing over their contract quantity and the milk is being used for manufacturing purposes. A large percentage of manufactured dairy products comes from this source.

In the interests of these milk depots and dairy factories, I think permission to produce milk in the butterfat areas ought to be given to encourage the farmers in those areas. I do not think I need remind the House that today, in Western Australia, we are falling far short of producing our own requirements of butter. There is a further comment I would like to make in regard to the arbitrary boundary. In New South Wales there is a pegged boundary of the milk zone and this has created a great deal of resentment among farmers beyond the boundary. While the same resentment is not being expressed by the butterfat producers in Western Australia, unless we offer them some hope for the future, we will have resentment to deal with.

While I am speaking of production, I would like to indicate briefly some figures which are applicable and which I picked up out of a publication a moment or two ago. It says that the population of Asia and Africa is growing at the rate of 2.4 per cent., while that of Latin America is growing at 3 per cent. per annum. This last figure means that the population will double in 23 years; and world economists forecast that the continents of Asia and Latin America will be in the grip of famine by the early 1970s. The effect of the population problem will be a major factor facing the world from 1975 onwards.

Various parts of Australia have suffered drought conditions for several years and it is possible that some other nations are in for lean years in the near future. In the light of the figures I have just quoted, I would like to say to the Minister for Works that an early start on the new weir at Harvey is imperative. I trust he has got the message.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I have got the message, but not the money.

Mr. Brady: Same old excuse.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I think I would be failing in my duty if I did not say something about potatoes, which have been a live topic for some months now in my electorate. The potato industry is one to which I have given a great deal of thought, particularly in regard to the dissatisfaction which has been expressed in many quarters, and I have endeavoured

to do something about it. However, up to date, I have had very little success. I have made suggestions which I thought might help the industry along, but they do not seem to have found favour in the quarters to which they were directed.

I have suggested that, for Western Australian marketing, the growers should be licensed on a tonnage or quantity basis, in lieu of the acreage basis as at present. The license itself should be a continuing one and the subject of a signed contract between the grower and the board. In this I see the opportunity of ensuring more equity in returns to the growers in the different districts. This contractual arrangement could prevent defections from the organised marketing system. At the moment it would appear that the big men are getting bigger and the small ones are getting out.

Mr. Brady: You are getting onto Karl Marx; you had better be careful.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I have not worked out where Karl Marx fits into the picture, but I would go further and say that the question of the manufacture of potatoes is one to which some thought has been given. A number of people have expressed interest in this, but one of the problems facing the manufacturer in Western Australia is the cost of potatoes as against the finished product. I think it is generally known that potatoes grown in Western Australia have a higher moisture content than those grown in the Eastern States. For this reason it takes more potatoes to produce a given quantity of the finished product.

I think that in licensing on a tonnage, instead of an acreage, basis, the surplus which would result could be directed to manufacturing at a lower cost. Like the whole-milk producer, the farmer would receive a given sum for his quota quantity and then—also like the milk producer—he could dispose of his surplus at a lesser price to the manufacturer.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Have you worked out how to control sales?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I see no problem in the control of sales, because prior to the 1967 amendment to the Act the activities of the board were directed towards preventing the black-marketing of potatoes. People who do not want to abide by the rules of the game do not usually last very long.

I suggest, too, that provision should be made by way of permits to give growers an opportunity to enter into contracts with interstate and overseas markets. Many potato growers have told me that at certain times of the year, while they are in short supply, it is possible to capitalise on Eastern States markets. This is only for a very limited period, but growers in the district which I represent could, at the

appropriate time of the year, grow potatoes to take advantage of the particular market they have in mind.

The board has said that production for the Eastern States is uneconomic. Of course, this is generally so; and when the board exports to the East, only the surplus potatoes go and the board accepts whatever price it can get. People have also indicated that they are interested in producing potatoes for the overseas market. The board itself has tried to enter this field. I do not know how successful it has been, but a number of people have been frustrated by the fact that they could not get a permit to grow for the overseas market.

Another matter in which I am particularly interested concerns the point that the power to revoke the license of a grower should be exercised only by a court. In support of that line of thinking I would like to tell the House that some 12 years ago 1,200 farmers were licensed to grow potatoes in Western Australia. Today, only 600 growers hold licenses. In 1958 there were 130 potato growers in the Harvey-Benger-Brunswick district. Currently, 23 growers hold licenses in that area. I think it is generally known that the Harvey-Benger-Brunswick district has, over a long period, been one of the main potato-growing areas of Western Australia.

There would probably be a number of reasons for a decline of this magnitude but, undoubtedly, the majority of the growers would have been delicensed by the board for breaches of the Act. The denial of a license to a grower is a very severe penalty and threatens his livelihood. It should not be left to the administrative authority to determine. As a penalty, it is far more severe than a fine, which can be imposed only by a court. Therefore, the power to suspend licenses for specific periods in appropriate cases should be exercised by the court.

As is known, the existence of half an acre of potatoes on a property is *prima facie* evidence of the illegal growing of potatoes. To sell potatoes out of the State, no matter how small the quantity, would cost a grower his license for life. This was proved by a Brunswick potato grower named John Papalia who chose to go to gaol rather than pay the fine. He did this in an effort to highlight the injustice done to him by the board. I think it is absolutely imperative that the authority to pass judgment of this magnitude should be entrusted only to the court and the appeal system which is part and parcel of our judicial system. I hope the Government will take an interest in this matter and do something about it.

I have another problem which I regard as one of some magnitude. I refer to the question of probate. This subject has

been mentioned in the paper recently and expressions of opinion have come from both the Liberal Party and the Country Party. I have been concerned with this subject for some time because the problem is an ever-mounting worry to the farmer with a family. The probate, or estate duty tax, imposed on the land is having a crippling effect.

The effect is most noticeable among whole-milk producers where the milk quota is, for probate duty purposes, valued at \$180 per gallon. This figure is added to the value of the property. During the recent lean years many farmers in Western Australia have had their incomes considerably reduced. Strange as it may seem the value of the properties has escalated. Added to that are the everyday increasing costs and liabilities.

Widows and surviving sons are finding that instead of being left a property from which they can make a living, they have been left what is proving to be a millstone around their necks for the rest of their lives. I have taken out a calculation for what would be the probate on an average dairy farm producing whole milk.

Mr. Graham: First of all, what would a dairy farm be worth, on an average?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: In my view, \$120,000 would be the average value. My calculation shows the buildings and sheds would be worth \$20,000—that is, the cow palace required by the Milk Board—the farmhouse, some \$15,000; the quota with an estate duty tax value of \$20,000—for an average property—and the stock, about \$12,000. That would give an estate worth some \$187,000 and, under all the concessions available, the cheapest probate duty would be \$73,214. I have worked out my calculation under the column headed "Surviving sons, infant children, wholly dependent adult children, and wholly dependent widowed mother." As is known, there are four different categories under which probate is assessed and they include "Adult children who are not dependent and all other issue"; "Parents other than wholly dependent mother"; "Brothers and sisters"; and "Any other beneficiaries."

I am not so concerned with "any other beneficiaries." But I am concerned with the first two categories where the property passes from parent to children whether it be to widow and infant children or to adult son. I think the Government should look very closely at this, because I notice there is a steadily rising return to the Treasury under the heading of "Estate duty tax."

In 1967-68, the return to the Treasury was \$5,197,899. For 1968-69, the return was \$6,364,180. So I think there is an opportunity, surely, for granting some easement in certain respects. I notice from a comment made by the Federal

Treasurer that the Federal Government is offering some easement with regard to the estate duty tax. I am surprised that the Federal Treasury has remained in this field, because it is a field which is heavily taxed by the State. The State would know best how to provide concessions and I keenly support this category arrangement.

Mr. Brady: Has the member for Wellington ever considered the savings in gift duty by comparing probate as against gift duty?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: Yes; there is a chart available which sets out gift duty, but it would seem to me from the chart that there is not very much to be gained by giving the estate away.

Mr. Brady: That is the way I feel about it myself.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: Also, there have been many attempts made by learned people to advise property owners how to dispose of their estates before death. But this seems to me to have only created a great deal of confusion within the families.

I was starting to say that I believe the Federal Treasury ought to withdraw from this field of taxation. It is one which it could clearly withdraw from and leave to the States, because the State authorities could then more readily assess what is a fair duty tax on estates. I think we have got a little carried away with this, because probate duty is something which was designed to break up the estates of English barons in the old days and to break up the feudal system itself. I do not think there is any need in this country to advance that argument in support of continuing a high rate of duty.

I would like to give some attention to the Mining Act. Strange as it may seem, those people exploring for minerals are very active in the South-West Land Division and in particular the dairy districts. They are mainly exploring for heavy minerals, such as ilmenite in particular, and there is a variety of people representing many companies operating in the area of my electorate at the moment.

These people are going on to farming properties without first giving notice to the farmers that they are about to move over the land exploring for minerals and pegging the area. This practice is frowned upon considerably by the land holders concerned. My appeal to the Government is that it should have a look at the Mining Act to see if it can be tidied up, and to require mineral explorers—particularly in the closely settled areas—to seek permission from land holders before entering their properties.

There have been some unfortunate cases where vehicles have been driven backwards and forwards across pasture and have damaged it; gates have been left open, and stock have got out; and in one or two instances stock have got onto the railway

line causing grave concern to the farmers involved.

Mr. Davies: You should apply the same conditions as the Government applies to mushroomers.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I would very much like to. I think it is wrong that outsiders can come in and more or less take over people's land without any consideration for the property of others. I hope something can be done about this. As I have said, farmers are objecting strongly and they are backed up in this instance by the shires concerned—and I am speaking now of the Harvey and Dardanup shires in particular.

I offer my support to the motion before the House and I trust it will be carried.

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

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.

DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [4.8 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this measure is to repeal a provision in the Dairy Industry Act, 1922-1953, that requires the manager of every dairy produce factory to forward to suppliers of milk or cream an annual account in the form prescribed showing the charge levied for the manufacture and sale of all dairy produce manufactured during the previous year. The account must also indicate the quantity and value of milk or cream of each grade for which suppliers have been paid during that period.

There have been many changes in the industry since this provision was included in the Act in 1936, and the producer now receives this information on his monthly statement, thereby making the annual return redundant.

No other Australian State has a similar provision in its dairy industry Act and this requirement not only serves no useful purpose, but is, in fact, the cause of avoidable expense and work on the part of the dairy produce factories.

The repeal of section 15(2) of the Dairy Industry Act, provided in this Bill, will remove the necessity for a dairy produce factory to submit an annual account to each supplier of milk or cream.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. H. D. Evans.

WHEAT MARKETING ACT CONTINUANCE BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [4.11 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The existing Wheat Marketing Act was continued for a further five years in 1964 and that period is due to expire on the 31st October, 1969; hence the need for this continuance measure.

For the benefit of members who may not be aware of the reason for the retention of this Act when we already have on the Statute book the Wheat Industry Stabilisation Act, which is complementary to the Commonwealth Act that controls the wheat stabilisation scheme, I would like to explain some of the background to this legislation.

The original Wheat Marketing Act was passed in 1947 when the marketing of wheat was under the control of the Commonwealth, under the Defence Act, which was due to expire at the end of that year.

In view of the uncertainty of the position regarding the marketing of wheat at that time, it was decided to legislate to provide wheatgrowers in this State with their own marketing system. The main provision of the Act was to set up a marketing board to function in the case of an emergency in regard to the marketing of wheat. The legislation has since been renewed so that the present expiry date is, as previously mentioned, the 31st October next.

Although the Act was passed in 1947, it has never been used for the reason that, in the intervening years, as a result of agreement between the States on common policy, the wheat industry stabilisation scheme came into being in 1953, and has been in operation ever since.

Any breakdown in wheat marketing arrangements with the Commonwealth, although unlikely, would be covered by the continuation of the Wheat Marketing Act in this State.

This continuance measure will be available should the occasion ever arise when the State finds it necessary to implement its own arrangements for the marketing of wheat and, while I trust we are not faced with this possibility, we will nevertheless be armed with this precautionary legislation.

Might I add that I consider there is not any doubt this is a wise precaution, and I do not have any fear that the House will not agree to the Bill, especially in view of the fact that we appreciate the value of the industry to this State. Should a situation arise, such as I have outlined, the whole operation of the marketing scheme could immediately be implemented in Western Australia. The value of organised marketing has been proved, especially in regard to wheat, and, as I have said, the value of the industry to Western Australia indicates that a provision of this nature is warranted.

As a result, the Government has agreed to present the measure to Parliament with the object of having the legislation available on the Statute book should any situa-

tion arise whereby it becomes necessary for the State to market wheat on its own.

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

METROPOLITAN MARKET ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [4.16 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill to amend the Metropolitan Market Act follows advice to the Metropolitan Market Trust that the Act is deficient generally for the control of traffic within the trust's property; and legal opinion obtained indicates that the present traffic control in the market, or any extension by way of regulation, may be open to challenge.

In view of the problem, it is the considered opinion of the trust's legal counsel that it should seek to have express powers included in the Act to control vehicular movement or vehicular standing, and at the same time include an "owner onus" provision such as that to be found in the Traffic Act.

"Owner onus" control has been in operation in the Melbourne market for nearly two years and has proved to be most successful. It is contended that this method of control has saved up to 80 per cent. in inspectors' time in waiting to warn people who have committed a parking infringement, and also the time involved in following the case through in the court.

When Market Place is returned to the trust following the alteration of the traffic flow through Dyer Street, control of traffic and parking will increase considerably and the trust will need to have express powers including "owner onus" control to cope with the situation for the whole of the market.

Any fines and penalties imposed as a result of the amendment will be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

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

SOIL FERTILITY RESEARCH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [4.20 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The amendments provided in this Bill are required for two reasons. Firstly, advice has been received from the Farmers' Union of Western Australia that the name of the barley and oats section of that organisation has been changed to the coarse grains section; and, secondly, what was previously known as "The Trustees for the time being

of the Wheat Pool of Western Australia" is now identified as "The Grain Pool of W.A."

Under section 4 of the existing Soil Fertility Research Act the trustees appointed are—

- (a) the president for the time being of the wheat section and the president for the time being of the barley and oats section of the Farmers' Union of Western Australia (Inc.);
- (b) the two vice presidents for the time being of the wheat section of the Farmers' Union of Western Australia (Inc.);
- (c) the Director for the time being of the Institute of Agriculture of the University of Western Australia; and
- (d) a person nominated from time to time by the trustees for the time being of the wheat pool of Western Australia.

Following the change in title of the barley and oats section of the Farmers' Union and the trustees of the wheat pool, it becomes necessary to amend the Act to conform with the present designation of these organisations. The latter change was effected by an amendment to the Grain Pool Act by Act No. 18 of 1962, while the Farmers' Union altered the name of the section concerned by resolution of the general executive of the union at a meeting held on the 3rd May, 1968. Consequently, there is also provision in the Bill to fix this date as the commencement date for the amendments to come into operation.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Jamieson.

BILLS (2): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills:—

1. Wheat Marketing Act Continuance Bill.
2. Exmouth Gulf Solar Salt Industry Agreement Bill.

EXMOUTH GULF SOLAR SALT INDUSTRY AGREEMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [4.25 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Before members is a Bill, the purpose of which is to ratify an agreement dated the 2nd May, 1969, between the State and Exmouth Salt Pty. Ltd. for the production and export of salt from an area south of Onslow on the shores of Exmouth Gulf.

The company has had a temporary reserve under the Mining Act over the area since December, 1965, and has carried out a thorough investigation to determine the suitability of the site for production of solar salt.

Comprehensive testing of soil conditions has proved that the salt flats are impervious. Net evaporation of the area is in excess of 120 inches per annum, and there is every indication that salt of very good quality can be produced.

Initially it is proposed that the salt after harvesting and washing will be placed in barges and loaded into ships lying at anchor in the sheltered waters of Exmouth Gulf. Later, as export tonnages build up, the company proposes to develop a deep water loading terminal at "Y" Island which is shown on the plan that I will ask permission to table at the conclusion of my remarks.

The agreement is conditional on the company satisfying the State that it has entered into satisfactory contracts for the sale of salt, and that it has arranged the necessary finance to complete the works.

Originally it was thought it would be possible to introduce this ratifying legislation in the autumn sitting of the first session of the 26th Parliament, 1969, and clause 3 provided for the passage of the Bill prior to the 30th day of June, 1969, or such later day as the parties may agree upon. Agreement has been reached on the extension of the 30th day of June, 1969, to the 31st day of October, 1969.

The agreement provides that the company will be able to obtain a renewal of the temporary reserve until the 30th day of June, 1979. The reason for this provision is that the temporary reserve, as originally granted, covered an area of 768 square miles. This area was for study purposes. The original area is considered to be in excess of the company's requirements and it has been agreed that initially the company will only be granted a lease of 30,000 acres, which could be more than sufficient for the company's planned production of 800,000 tons per annum. On the plan which I will table, the leased area within the temporary reserve area is shown.

With the developing salt market in Japan it may be possible for the company to increase its share of the market in the future, and provision is made in the agreement that further areas, being part of the temporary reserve, up to a maximum of 60,000 acres may be leased to the company if it satisfies the Government that a market exists for the additional production.

The agreement provides that the plant shall be constructed so that it will have a capacity of not less than 500,000 tons of salt per annum and cost not less than

\$3,000,000. Construction and establishment of the plant shall be completed not later than the 31st December, 1972.

Royalty payable by the company is the same as that payable by other salt companies—

On the first 500,000 tons in any year—5c per ton.

On the second 500,000 tons in any year—6.25c per ton.

On all tonnages in excess of 1,000,000 tons in any year—7.5c per ton.

The agreement provides that there shall be a review of salt prices every seven years so that an adjustment of rental and royalty payments can be made. The company will be liable to provide any necessary housing for employees.

Clause 22 of the agreement provides for the use of the company's facilities by third parties, subject to the payment of reasonable charges.

I should add that this is the sixth agreement the State has had with companies intending to produce and export salt. At the present time three of the companies—Shark Bay Salt Pty. Ltd.; Leslie Salt Co.; and Texada Mines Pty. Ltd.—are exporting.

Mr. Bickerton: How do the other companies feel about the introduction of a new company?

Mr. COURT: I will comment on that under the heading of "Markets." Dampier Salt Ltd. has commenced construction of its pan system, and Lefroy Salt Pty. Ltd. is proceeding with its planning.

Exmouth Salt Pty. Ltd. originally was a wholly-owned Western Australian company. Because of the amount of capital required an overseas partner was necessary and William Baird Mining Co. of the United Kingdom has taken up a majority shareholding. William Baird Mining Co. is a very well-known organisation and we were pleased it joined the local syndicate, which would otherwise have been in some difficulty in arranging the necessary finance for this project.

The final line-up of partners has not yet been officially submitted to, and approved by, the Government, but it is expected it will be a combination of the local syndicate, the English company of William Baird Mining Co., and a Japanese component. All of the parties under consideration are acceptable to the Government. I might point out that one of the conditions we have made is that Western Australian ownership must be not less than 20 per cent.

Exports are expected to commence in the latter part of 1970. In 1971 it is planned that over 600,000 tons of salt will be shipped and from 1972 onwards exports could run at a rate of not less than 800,000 tons per annum.

The project initially will employ less than 50 persons and therefore cannot be considered a major employer. However, it is located in an area which has not benefited directly from the great projects that have been undertaken north of the 26th parallel in recent years, which makes it important, as more and more similar developments are needed if our plan to develop and populate the north-west, and make use of its vast resources, is to progress.

Regardless of the comparatively small number of employees in salt production, it is an export industry and it has the great advantage that it uses land which was previously considered to have no economic value.

The member for Pilbara asked how this was looked upon by other companies, and that is a very appropriate question. Naturally most companies in any business would prefer no competitors at all. However, having considered the matter with great care, the Government decided it was desirable to have more than one or two of these solar salt producing projects if the State is to become an increasing and substantial supplier of salt to the Japanese chemical industry. We hope eventually we will supply other countries and some of the Australian market. Because of the very low f.o.b. value of salt, which is less than \$4 a ton, it is not the sort of commodity which can compete at the moment in countries like Europe. However, with some of the chemical industries in the world developing deeper direct ports, it is expected we will become more competitive in other countries.

Mr. Jamieson: Which are the principal salt countries now, then?

Mr. COURT: From our point of view, Japan is the main prospect.

Mr. Jamieson: I mean salt producers.

Mr. COURT: Mexico is a very big producer and other countries like India produce it, as do some of the African countries. In fact, most countries in this particular latitude have some part of their country capable of producing similar salt.

Mr. Jamieson: All very unattractive to the developers though.

Mr. COURT: They are in the main.

Mr. Jamieson: For obvious political reasons.

Mr. COURT: From our point of view it is a good thing, because we are able to turn valueless tidal flats into something productive.

Mr. Bickerton: I was asking regarding the market itself, particularly the Japanese market. It must have a saturation point from the chemical industry point of view.

Mr. COURT: I want to try to put this all into place if I may continue with my remarks in their logical sequence. I was trying to answer the member for Belmont at the same time. Completing my comments on the interjection of the member for Belmont, I would say there are other countries which produce salt from means other than the normal solar system. There are countries which have prodigious quantities of salt in mines which they mine in a rather conventional way as distinct from the methods we employ.

Even in our own State we have three different methods. There is the Leslie Salt type of project at Port Hedland. There is the Texada project at Lake McLeod near Carnarvon, which is an entirely different type, and which we hope will eventually also produce potash. There is the third type at Lake Lefroy.

I can understand the concern of some of the producers when they look at the world's market, but we feel that by 1978, if not before, the Japanese market will absorb 4,000,000 additional tons of salt per year. We also believe there will be scope for most, if not all, of our projects to make an economic contribution to this requirement. The chemical industry is probably the fastest growing industry in the world and salt is a basic requirement of that industry.

There is another reason why the buyers are anxious we should have more than one source of salt, and that is the fact that if, for instance, there is a heavy wet season in the Port Hedland area and heavy cyclonic rains fall two or three times during the year, the salt harvesting rate could be retarded considerably. However, it is most unlikely that those same cyclonic conditions would be experienced in all the areas—Port Hedland, Dampier, and Shark Bay, as well as Texada, Lake Lefroy, and the new one we are discussing, which is to be established at Exmouth.

My own view is that the situation will be logically sorted out. All the projects will not come into full production immediately, but on an increasing basis which will be approximately the rate at which the potential market in Japan will develop.

I should also add that we are still actively negotiating an industry in Western Australia which will process salt in order to give us caustic soda for the alumina industry, which is a very big user of caustic soda. However, our main problem at the moment is to find an outlet for the chlorine, because the industry which produces the caustic soda produces chlorine in approximately the same quantity. The amount of chlorine we use in a year is so terribly small that it does not matter.

Mr. Jamieson: You ought to try to drink the water out our way before you decide whether we use very little chlorine.

Mr. COURT: I would not encourage the Minister for Water Supplies to use double the dose in order to utilise the chlorine, because if he did he would still make no impression on the amount produced in an industry processing 200,000 tons of our salt. However, we are making steady progress and I believe that within two years at the latest we will have managed to find an answer. The problem is getting rid of the chlorine, so we have to find a way to convert it to a transportable material.

Mr. Jamieson: Who is interested in it? Is I.C.I.?

Mr. COURT: No. We have a multinational group, because what we have to do is find another country short of chlorine and fortunately for us—and this is our greatest hope in the matter—most of the highly industrialised countries like Britain, Europe, and Japan, want chlorine. We have this awful problem of having caustic soda in places where it is not wanted and the reverse with chlorine. We are endeavouring to find ways and means of converting the chlorine to chlorinated hydrocarbons.

The other method we are trying to develop is to process the upgraded ilmenite, if we are successful in developing such an industry, into titanium tetrachloride. If we can achieve this it will be an important breakthrough in the chemical industry because it will give us an industry we have been trying to get for a long time, but without success. However, I believe we will find ways and means of doing this within two years.

Mr. Jamieson: We need to press on with regard to natural gas.

Mr. COURT: It would not be appropriate in this case. Our main deterrent with this one is power. We have to get power much cheaper than we are getting it now.

Mr. Jamieson: You get that from natural gas, too.

Mr. COURT: Unfortunately, no. Natural gas is not at its best in power generation. The last use a Government would make of natural gas, if it was possible to find any other customer, would be for power generation. It is best for metallurgical uses, but if there are no other customers, as is the case in the Middle East where it cannot be given away, it is naturally used for power purposes because any use that can be found for it is better than none.

In our own case if we could find a metallurgical or similar use for natural gas we would prefer using it for that purpose rather than for power generation. Reducing it to an absurdity, much better use is gained out of the natural gas by boiling a kettle in the kitchen than using it for the generation of power in a power station. However, if no other economic use can be found for the natural gas, it will have to be used for power generation.

Mr. Jamieson: That only applies if you use it through the steam turbines. What about the modern turbines used for direct conversion of energy?

Mr. COURT: That is all right for certain purposes but for the type we want, it would not be on.

We do hope to have plenty of metallurgical uses for it. For instance, in Don-gara, natural gas would be used at its best if it is found that the Mt. Gibson low-grade ores are an economic proposition. Natural gas is also very economic when used by the alumina industry, because in that industry it has a twofold use. It is used for reducing the bauxite to alumina, and then the company uses the excess heat, which would otherwise be wasted, and converts it to steam for power generation. However, I hope we will find metallurgical uses for it.

The particular industry to which we are referring—the conversion of salt into caustic soda and chlorine and then chlorine into chlorinated hydrocarbons or titanium tetrachloride—involves the ordinary conventional type of power of a very cheap kind. In fact, if it is anything more than .6c per kilowatt hour it is not on.

Mr. Bickerton: Have the existing salt companies been given any undertaking that this particular one will be the last company with which the Government will negotiate?

Mr. COURT: They have not been given any undertaking at all, but from our point of view, we have made it known publicly, and to all applicants, that at this juncture we have no intention of negotiating further agreements. We feel we have a responsibility to those who have been given, in all good faith, temporary reserves to study the suitability of the areas.

It must be borne in mind that, because of the permeability or otherwise of the soil not all areas are suitable. We felt we had some moral responsibility to give the companies a chance to at least develop their projects further. To the best of my knowledge there is no other company interested at this juncture, and no other company has been encouraged to believe that another project of this kind would be warranted. However, if anyone else came along with a proposition it would be considered on its merits.

My own view is that the number of projects, and the nature and diversity of the areas involved, provide a nice balance and should ensure that we obtain our fair share of the world's markets. It is interesting to note that we did not think the Lake Lefroy project would have a chance of getting off the ground, but it was welcomed by the Japanese because it was in an entirely different climatic zone from all the others. This was a matter of security of supply as far as they were concerned, although it will probably cost slightly more than the other salt.

Mr. Bickerton: Were there any discussions between the Government and the local shire? I noticed such matters as temporary housing, roads, and so on. Has the shire been consulted?

Mr. COURT: Roads are the company's responsibility. This has been made very clear, and before housing is permitted, the company must get local authority approval. The company is responsible entirely for its own housing.

I should add that this particular project has been well researched because a French firm, internationally acknowledged, was engaged to undertake the studies and the firm satisfied all the parties concerned, both past and present, that this is a suitable area for salt production.

Mr. Norton: Will this industry affect the fishing industry?

Mr. COURT: The Department of Fisheries and Fauna has been a party to the actual selection of the area to be leased within the reserve area, and it is satisfied that the project will have no detrimental effect on either ordinary fishing or the breeding grounds of the prawns.

Mr. Norton: What will happen to the bitterns?

Mr. COURT: I think that for all time the bitterns will be poured back into the sea, because it is most unlikely that this area will ever have the amount of cheap power necessary to convert the bitterns into chemicals in a marketable form.

It is our objective in the Port Hedland project and the Dampier one to process the bitterns eventually, but I cannot see this being done at Exmouth. It may be the day will come when it is economic to transport the bitterns to other places, but there is no prospect in the foreseeable future of bitterns being processed at Exmouth.

I seek your permission, Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Mitchell), to table two copies of the plan showing temporary reserve 3558H together with the leased area. I suggest that one copy be available for the general use of members and the other copy be tabled.

The plan was tabled.

Debate adjourned for one week, on motion by Mr. Bickerton.

COLLIE RECREATION AND PARK LANDS ACT REPEAL BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 21st August.

MR. JONES (Collie) [4.46 p.m.]: The Collie Recreation and Park Lands Act of 1931 provided that a certain area of land in reserve at Collie should be vested in a board appointed under the Act. The board was to consist of five members: one to be

appointed by the Governor; the mayor and a councillor of the municipal council of Collie; and the chairman and one other member of the Collie Road Board. As the Minister outlined when he introduced the Bill, the two local authorities became defunct and joined in one body to become officially known as the Collie Municipal Council, and that organisation has now become the Collie Shire Council.

I understand the Collie Shire approached the Government some time ago and requested it to repeal the Act in view of the fact that both organisations had become defunct. Because of this, the shire felt that the land should be vested in the shire on the understanding that the existing leases continued and that the shire would be given authority to negotiate other leases within the area itself.

The land involved is Wellington Locations 1314 and 4515 and part of Wellington Location 4344, which comprise some 576 acres of land. The passage of this legislation will have the result of the area being revested in Her Majesty and removed from the operation of the Transfer of Land Act. After provision has been made for roads, for special areas, and for inclusion of land in the enclosed roads, a new reserve for recreation and park land, classified "A", will be vested in the Collie Shire in trust with the power to lease for specified purposes. That is the intent of this legislation.

The area itself involves a very picturesque part of the Collie district known as the Minninup pool area. The Collie Golf Club is situated in the area as is the men's hockey association, and one sporting ground is located there. Until several years ago the Collie Race Club, which is now defunct, and the Collie River Rowing Club also had certain rights under the provisions of the Act.

A special set of circumstances prompted the Collie Shire to move in this direction inasmuch as the Collie Golf Club became involved. The Collie Golf Club is an 18-hole course and the position was that the front nine holes were granted to the Collie Golf Club on lease from the Collie Shire, but the back nine holes were subject to some confusion in that the Collie Race Club had certain rights over the area in which they were situated. It was found on one occasion not so very long ago that a registered trainer was exercising his horses on the old training track and at the same time the golfers were trying to enjoy their sport. The horses and the golf balls became mixed up with each other and a nasty situation resulted. This is another reason for the Collie Shire to try to clear up the matter by requesting the Government to repeal the legislation and vest the land in the shire itself.

Last weekend I held discussions with the president, the shire clerk, and the town engineer of the Collie Shire to ascertain their views on the legislation. There is another reason, in their view, why this legislation is necessary. Collie, like most other towns of a similar size, did not see the need for a town plan to be drawn up for the development of the town itself. It was not until recently when a local undertaker attempted to build a new funeral parlour in a housing area that the local authority saw the need to have a town plan prepared. In consequence, this plan is now being prepared, and it was shown to me in confidence last weekend in Collie.

There may be a minor problem associated with the question of vesting portion of this land in the shire. This is one matter which causes me some concern. I understand from the plan shown to me and from the information made available to me by the local authority that the planners, in drawing up a plan for Collie, have recommended that an industrial area be set aside adjacent to the grain distillery, which is situated in Mungallup Road, Collie, and that this area should run back to the railway line going in a northerly direction. The area involved is portion of that mentioned in Location 4344.

Collie has no industrial area and, consequently, the shire is very keen to have an industrial area set aside. The planners, in considering the overall planning for the town, have decided the area should be in the location of the existing power alcohol plant.

I agree with the suggestion in this instance. The land is not a big acreage and it may be reasonable to suggest that portion of Location 4344 be set aside when approaches are made to the Government. However, if this is done, I think it should be done on the complete understanding that no other land will be released for this purpose.

Unfortunately, I have not had the opportunity to discuss this matter with the Minister for Lands and Forests. Nevertheless, I am certain that after he receives the delegation from the Collie Shire he will see the merit in the suggestion made by the town planning authorities to the effect that the locality would lend itself to an industrial area. Firstly, the grain distillery is located in the area and, secondly, a spot timber mill is in existence towards the back portion of it. The locality is very close to rail and road access and, from a number of viewpoints, this is probably the most satisfactory area which could be set aside in Collie for industrial purposes.

Whilst the council of the day has certain ideas on what the planning should be, I am concerned because I would not

like to see this matter extended. It would be wrong in principle for all the park land which is at present vested under this order and situated on the opposite side of Mungallup Road to be vested in anything else but park land. Anyone who knows the Minninup pool area in Collie will know it is a natural bush area. Although Collie has an olympic pool, some people still prefer to swim in the Minninup pool. Further, we hope that when Collie comes good again in the not too far distant future, the rowing club will once more come into being.

I support the measure, but I consider the points I have mentioned should be kept in mind. Although favourable consideration might be given to the request which will come from the Collie Shire to the Minister, I think the Minister should make it firmly understood that, if any portion of land now vested under the Collie Recreation and Park Lands Act is to be released for industrial purposes, then it should be only that portion in the vicinity of the power alcohol plant, and that none of the area on which the Collie Golf Club is situated, or the Minninup pool area itself, should be released for any purposes other than park land.

For the reasons indicated, I wish to indicate I support the measure. The Act is actually out of date. It cannot operate, because the representatives mentioned in the Bill are non-existent.

I conclude by making the comment that I hope the Government of the day—whatever its political colour may be—will ensure that none of the area adjoining the Collie Golf Club or the Minninup pool will be used for anything other than park land and recreational purposes. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse — Minister for Forests) [4.55 p.m.]: I thank the member for Collie for his comments. The measure seeks to rectify a position and it follows the usual present-day course of vesting park lands for recreation in a local authority. The member for Collie has explained the position with the change of administration and local government in Collie. The measure will legalise the leases and maintain their continuity.

With regard to his comments about encroachment of industrial areas into park land and recreational areas, I can assure the House that very careful consideration is given to any proposals that may infringe upon land that is set aside for public open space. As the population of Western Australia grows—and we are enjoying a percentage rate increase which is double that of any other part of Australia at the present time—we must be careful about retaining sufficient open space for the people. The Premier himself, during

his overseas visit, made several comments, which I read, of the impressions that he gained on this question; namely, it is very necessary to maintain and preserve public open space.

However, every case must be considered on its merits. I will certainly see that the proposals submitted are considered on their merits. When the member for Collie knows that proposals are coming forward, perhaps he might care to discuss them with me so that I can have the benefit of his advice. I will not say I will agree with him, but at least I will have his comments, which I can take into consideration when reviewing the proposals.

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.

DROUGHT

Relief: Statement by the Premier

SIR DAVID BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [5 p.m.]: I would like to seek the permission of the House to make a short statement.

The **SPEAKER**: The Premier has sought the leave of the House to make a statement and there being no dissentient voice, leave is granted.

Sir DAVID BRAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure and a great deal of relief that I inform the House that the Minister for Agriculture has received advice through the local representative that the Wheat Board has agreed to the redelivery of wheat in declared drought areas at \$1.10 plus 12c handling charges back into the bins of farmers who delivered wheat to the board. This matter will, however, have to be discussed and defined.

Representatives of Co-operative Bulk Handling, the Wheat Board, and the Government will meet tomorrow to iron out further details in connection with the whole matter and how it will be handled. It is sufficient for me to say that we have this information and it is with great pleasure that I make this announcement. I am sure it will be a tremendous relief to all of us.

At the same time, however, we must not lose sight of the fact that there are still a number of problems to be resolved; problems which face us as a result of the extremely dry season we are experiencing.

House adjourned at 5.3 p.m.