

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 1st August, 1974

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

QUESTIONS (57): ON NOTICE

1. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES

Mandurah and Busselton

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Referring to question 39 on Tuesday, 30th July, 1974, concerning community health centres at Mandurah and Busselton, can he advise—

- (a) an estimated or firm rent per quarter to be charged for each consulting room;
- (b) whether visiting consultants will be charged rent for use of premises and, if so, how much?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (a) A firm rent of \$219 per quarter per consulting room.
- (b) This matter has not yet been determined.

2. CANNING VALE PRISON

Contractors

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is the work at Canning Vale gaol still proceeding?
- (2) If so, are Hobbs and Walters still the developers?
- (3) If not, who are the contractors?
- (4) Does he realise some sub-contractors are not being paid on time for work done?
- (5) Can he assure sub-contractors they will be paid for work done on the gaol and paid regularly?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Hobbs and Walters, in conjunction with J. C. Hanson and Company, liquidators, are the contractors.
- (3) Answered by (2).
- (4) No.
- (5) This is a matter for arrangement between the contractor, liquidator and the sub-contractor.

3. *This question was postponed.*

4.

POLICE

Election Rally: Demonstration against Prime Minister

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many police—uniformed and plain clothes—were on duty in Forrest Place for the political rally addressed by the Prime Minister on Monday, 25th March, 1974?

- (2) Will he table a list of names and numbers of the police on duty?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 129.
- (2) No.

5. LAND AND BUILDING BLOCKS

Price and Availability: Investigation

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Who are the members of the Cabinet sub-committee investigating price and availability of land and ways of handling land transactions?
- (2) When can any announcement regarding the outcome be expected?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Cabinet has appointed a Land and Housing Consultative Committee consisting of—

Hon. E. C. Rushton,
Hon. D. H. O'Neil,
Hon. A. Mensaros.

- (2) The committee is a working rather than an investigatory one and is continuously paying attention to matters relating to housing and land. There is no requirement for the committee to make specific reports or announcements.

6. COLLIE HIGH SCHOOL

Downgrading and Home Service Centre

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Following his recent visit to Collie to inspect various schools in the area, will he advise whether he has reversed the decision to downgrade the Collie high school in view of the anticipated industrial growth in the town which will result in the creation of large scale additional employment in the Collie district?
- (2) In view of the condition of the home service centre at the Collie District High School and also in view of the representations made by the Member for Collie over

several months, will he advise whether or not the centre will be rebuilt or upgraded?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The Collie Senior High School has not been downgraded in status, number of staff or courses available. Principals and deputies are paid according to whether the school has an enrolment of above or below 600 students. For some years the enrolment at Collie has been below 600 and the estimate for 1975 is 440.
- (2) The renovation of the home economics centre at Collie has been receiving consideration but commencement of work is dependent on the availability of finance.

7. COLLIE HIGH SCHOOL AND SCHOOLS

Alterations

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

What alterations will be carried out at the Collie high school, Amaroo school, Wilson Park school and Fairview school following recommendations to him during his recent visit to Collie?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The needs of these schools are being considered within the total building programme but the finance available for 1974-75 is already fully committed.

8. TEACHERS

Housing at Collie

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister advise if additional teacher housing will be provided at Collie following representations made by the teachers' union during his visit to Collie?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The Education Department will take up the question of teacher housing in Collie with the Government Employees' Housing Authority.

9. JOHN FORREST NATIONAL PARK

Tea Rooms Lease

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has there been a determination in connection with the appeal by the lessee, Mr Black, against the termination of his lease of the tea rooms at John Forrest National Park?

- (2) If not, when is it anticipated a determination will be made?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The matter is proceeding to arbitration and arrangements are currently in the hands of Mr Black's solicitor.

10.

DOG ACT

Amending Legislation

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is he able to indicate the stage to which he has been able to proceed with the proposed amendments to the Dog Act?
- (2) When does he anticipate the amendments will be introduced into the House?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The committee formed to review the Dog Act has made several recommendations for amendments which are being closely studied.
- (2) With legislation of this magnitude, the great deal of consideration still necessary precludes me from giving a precise time.

11.

ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL

Admissions from Waiting List

Mr MOILER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it correct that orthopaedic surgeons at Royal Perth Hospital received communication from the administration of that hospital that as from 22nd May, 1974 no further booked admissions could be accepted from the waiting list?
- (2) If "Yes" has there been any improvement in the situation since the communication?
- (3) How many people are now on the waiting list?
- (4) If there has been no improvement in the situation, what action does the Government propose?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) There has been a slight improvement.
- (3) 97.
- (4) The Medical Department is examining ways and means of achieving more efficient utilisation of all hospital beds in the metropolitan area.

12. BUILDING BLOCKS

Victoria-Commonwealth Agreements

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Town Planning:

Referring to the report contained in the *Sunday Independent* of 12th May, 1974, detailing the agreement between the Victorian Government and the Australian Government, whereby under that agreement the Australian Government will provide \$12.5 million for cheap home sites in Victoria and a further \$12.5 million in 1974-75—

- (a) as this is expected to allow Victorian low income earners to buy home sites for half the present price and in view of the fact that it is almost 3 months since the article appeared in the *Sunday Independent* in which the Premier was reported as saying he had asked the Minister for Town Planning, Mr Rushton, to get details for the next Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, would he advise whether he has yet obtained the details of the agreement;
- (b) in what way does the agreement between the Victorian and Australian Governments vary from proposals previously put forward by the Tonkin Government under the Land Commission Bill and Land Control Bill; and
- (c) will he table all the information he has been able to obtain on the particular agreement between the Victorian and Australian Governments?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

According to my latest information—

- (a) The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments have not yet completed an agreement.
- (b) and (c) Answered by (a).

13. SCHOOLS

Admission of Four and Five-year-olds: Implementation

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) In answer to questions asked in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, 30th July, the Minister referred to having set up an "expert committee": would he please state the names, qualifications and occupations of members of the committee(s)?

- (2) When is a report expected from the committee(s)?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Dr D. Mossenson, Chairman, Assistant Director-General of Education and Chairman of the Pre-School Education Board.
Mr. M. Angus, Superintendent Research, Education Department.
Mr C. R. Bridge, President of the W. A. Council of State School Organisations.
Miss W. Froude, Headmistress of Westminster Junior Primary School.
Miss N. Harken, First Mistress of Carlisle Primary School and Vice-President of the State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia.
Mr D. Hewitt, Chairman of the Bedford Park Pre-School Committee.
Mrs B. R. Jones, Director of Kindergartens, Western Australian Pre-School Education Board.
Dr A. Little, Head of the Child Studies Centre of the University of Western Australia and a Member of the Australian Pre-School Education Board.
Professor W. Macdonald, Professor of Child Health at the University of Western Australia and a Member of the Australian Pre-Schools' Committee.
Miss J. Morton, Superintendent of Junior Primary Schools and Member of the Western Australian Pre-School Education Board.
Mr S. Palmer, Director of Primary Education.
- (2) The committee was constituted in June and asked to submit initial recommendations to the Minister as early as possible.

14. WELLINGTON DAM
Catchment Area

Mrs CRAIG, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How much clearing has taken place in the Wellington catchment area since the Public Works Department, Irrigation and Drainage branch, became aware of the increasing salinity level in the Wellington Dam?
- (2) Are restrictions on clearing contemplated in the catchment area?
- (3) What level of salinity would make agriculture of the type presently being pursued in the area unsuitable?

- (4) Has the Department of Agriculture noted the deterioration of willow trees in the Wellington Irrigation scheme area?
- (5) Are plans envisaged for reforestation within the catchment area?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) Salinity levels in Wellington Dam have been monitored since the early 1940s.
Precise details of clearing are not known.
On a percentage basis of the total catchment area, the cleared area has increased from 5 per cent in 1943 to almost 20 per cent in 1971.
- (2) Restriction of clearing is one of a number of possible measures that may be considered.
- (3) Irrigation pastures are likely to suffer some yield reduction when irrigated with water containing more than 500 mg per litre total dissolved salts.
- (4) Yes. The deterioration is believed to be associated with cattle and not necessarily a salinity effect.
- (5) No plans are envisaged at this stage.

15. HOUSING

Collie

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Housing:

Further to my letters to him under dates 18th June, 1974 and 24th July, 1974, will he please advise the position regarding the erection of additional State Housing homes at Collie to meet the industrial expansion in the area?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

A reply to the Member's letter was forwarded today. Investigation of the position in Collie shows that, for some time, the increased housing demand will be from company employees engaged in construction work and it is not within the housing commission role to provide specific employee housing. The early increase in mine employment is expected to be from persons already living in Collie and, therefore, additional housing demand will not be created.

The peak of normal housing requirement is not expected before 1978. During the intervening period the position will be reviewed from time to time and, consistent with available finance and priorities elsewhere in the State, the

housing commission will build if there is a continuing requirement. No construction is planned for 1974-75.

16.

PAY-ROLL TAX

Commencement and Percentages

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Treasurer:

- (1) When was the pay-roll tax introduced?
 - (2) What were the original percentages on wages?
 - (3) What are the total earnings allowed before pay-roll tax becomes payable?
- Sir CHARLES COURT replied:
- (1) Introduced by the Commonwealth Government on 1st July, 1941.
 - (2) 2½ per cent.
 - (3) Wages not exceeding \$400 per week.

17.

TRAFFIC

Speed Limits: Reduction

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) Is he aware of any moves by traffic authorities in any part of the world to reduce the permissible speed limits in the interests of traffic safety and saving fuel?
- (2) If he has any information would he kindly inform me?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) During the Middle East oil crisis I understand the United States of America, the United Kingdom and New Zealand reduced speed limits principally for the purpose of conserving fuel.

I am not aware of the extent to which speed limits were reduced in the United States and the United Kingdom but I understand that in New Zealand a blanket speed limit was reduced from 65 to 55 m.p.h.

Speed limits have been reduced in various countries from time to time in the interests of traffic safety and recently the maximum speed limit of 70 m.p.h. was set on motorways in the United Kingdom.

18.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Traffic Control: Police Takeover

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Traffic:

Will he list the local authorities who have changed over to police traffic control, and the dates the changes took place?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Date District

1919—

All the metropolitan traffic area defined by regulation, including part of Wanneroo Road Board, part of Greenmount Road Board (now the Shire of Mundaring) and part of Armadale-Kelmscott Road Board, Rockingham and Darling Range (now Shire of Kalamunda) Road Boards were excluded.

1955—

Rockingham and Kwinana were included in the metropolitan traffic area.

1966—

Oct. 1—Armadale-Kelmscott—Balance of shire added to metropolitan traffic area.

1969—

Jan. 1—

Shire of Broome.

Shire of West Kimberley.

1970—

Jan. 1—Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale added to metropolitan traffic area.

Oct. 1—Shire of Ravensthorpe.

Oct. 1—Shire of Esperance.

Oct. 1—Shire of Manjimup.

1971—

Jan. 1—Shire of Merredin.

Apr. 1—Shire of Busselton.

July 1—Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley.

July 1—Shire of Ashburton.

July 1—Shire of Lake Grace.

July 1—Shire of Murray.

1972—

July 1—Shire of Tableland.

July 1—Shire of Marble Bar.

July 1—Shire of Nullagine.

July 1—Shire of Roebourne.

Aug. 1—Shire of Kardinia.

Oct. 1—Shire of Port Hedland.

Oct. 1—Town of Northam.

1973—

Jan. 1—Shire of Coolgardie.

Apr. 1—Shire of Halls Creek.

July 1—Shire of Menzies.

July 1—Shire of Laverton.

July 1—Shire of Leonora.

July 1—Shire of Wiluna.

Sept. 1—Shire of Tambellup.

Dec. 22—Shire of Mandurah.

1974—

Feb. 28—Shire of Collie.

May 22—Shire of Waroona.

There is a notable exception from the list—that of Albany. I will have that rechecked.

19. RAILWAY BARRACKS

Collie

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are railway barracks available at Collie?
- (2) If not, where are railway men transferred to Collie on expenses accommodated?
- (3) What allowances are made available by the department?
- (4) Is it a fact that locomotive employees have been temporarily transferred from Collie on expenses and at the same time Bunbury locomotive employees have been brought to Collie on expenses?
- (5) If so, will he take action to prevent any recurrence of this nature?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Hotels.
- (3) Full expense of accommodation is reimbursed.
- (4) Yes. On one occasion only, but this has since been rectified.
- (5) Yes.

20. SUBURBAN RAIL SERVICES

Reduction

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will he advise if the railway department is considering the cancellation of suburban rail cars after 8 p.m. from Monday to Friday inclusive, after 1 p.m. on Saturdays and all railcars on Sundays?
- (2) If so, will he please advise the extent the new programming has reached and when a firm decision is likely?
- (3) Does he not consider it would be in the best interests of traffic safety and the economics of the railways and the MTT to introduce more efficient feeder-bus services to railway stations?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) The MTT is currently examining the service being provided by public transport in the urban area, including the railway service, with a view to co-ordinating the various transport modes

into an integrated system which will utilise each to the best advantage.

When the investigation is completed an announcement will be made.

21.

RAILWAYS

Coal Haulage to Power Stations

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When is it anticipated coal will be hauled from Collie by rail to the East Perth and South Fremantle power stations?
- (2) What are the anticipated annual tonnages involved?
- (3) What are the anticipated annual tonnages of coal that will be transported by rail over the undermentioned sections—
 - (a) Collie to Bunbury power house;
 - (b) Collie to Capel;
 - (c) Collie to South Coogee?
- (4) In view of the additional tonnages of coal involved will he advise—
 - (a) the additional railwaymen that will be required at Collie; and
 - (b) the sections the Collie crews will cover and the "bookoff" depots if any?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Negotiations are still current between the Railway Department and the State Electricity Commission. Present indications are that haulage will commence September/October 1974.
- (2) 380 000 tonnes.
- (3) (a) 400 000 tonnes.
(b) 50 000 tonnes.
(c) 235 000 tonnes.
- (4) (a) Ultimately, under presently planned working, there could be up to 8 additional crews (i.e., 24 men) stationed at Collie.
(b) Present planning envisages crew working—
 - (1) Collie—Bunbury and return.
 - (2) Collie—Pinjarra (Book-off point).

22.

AGENT-GENERAL

Appointment

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it intended to appoint an Agent General?
- (2) What reorganisation in relation to the position is contemplated?
- (3) If reorganisation is proposed, when is it likely to take place?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes, but not immediately.
- (2) and (3) The re-organisation being considered is aimed at achieving a better coverage of continental Europe—but without increasing to any appreciable extent, the overall cost of the London Agency.

It is hoped to reach finality within six weeks.

23.

MINING

Iron Ore: Hanwright Tenements

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it intended that the following undertaking given by him will be honoured in the breach or the observance—

We will guarantee, however, that any changes do not disturb the basic requirement of security of tenure attached to any tenement, and the right of legitimate discoverers to develop and mine what they find, subject to the statutory requirements?

- (2) If it is the intention to honour the above promise why does not the Government take the necessary steps to enable "Hanwright" to proceed towards developing certain tenements in partnership with "Kaiser" for the establishment of a steel mill?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) It is intended to honour the undertaking given in my policy speech.
- (2) If the Leader of the Opposition is alluding to tenements subject to application, then whatever the decision of the Government in connection with applications for mining tenements will be, that could not constitute honouring election undertakings referred to by the Leader of the Opposition—whether in the breach or the observance.

24. OPEN LINE GOVERNMENT

Establishment

Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

In view of the great emphasis placed on a "New Style of Government" to take government back to the people, in his policy speech, and the Liberal Party's advertising during the State election campaign, will he indicate what action has been taken to establish the proposed "open line to Government in Perth"?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

As indicated in my reply to question 1 of 31st July, a report and alternatives to improve the present position, and without serious increases in cost, are under consideration by the Government.

25. DECENTRALISATION

Administrative Centres

Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

Has the Government defined the regions which are to be the basis of its decision to decentralise the Government's administrative and decision making centres?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Boundaries of regions have been proposed but no final decision has as yet been made.

26. GOVERNMENT PRODUCTIVITY

Index for Measuring

Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

- (1) (a) Arising out of the undertaking in his policy speech to improve the efficiency of government has the Government fulfilled its promise to "... devise ways of measuring the productivity of Government";
- (b) if not, will he indicate what type of personnel or committee will be appointed to achieve this objective?
- (2) Which specific aspects of Government organisations did the Premier have in mind when he claimed in his policy speech that "... much of it was substantially out of date?"
- (3) (a) Has the Government agreed upon the terms of reference for its review of the Public Service;
- (b) when is the review likely to be concluded;
- (c) when the outcome of such a review is known does the Government propose to make the findings public?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) See answer to question 19, 31st July.
- (2) In stating this, we considered that too little attention had been given in the past to periodic reviews of the functions—as distinct from numbers, of personnel—of different departments and Government instrumentalities.

This is one of the matters being reviewed by the Public Service Board as part of the overall study of the Public Service.

- (3) (a) to (c) The complete review of the Public Service, as promised in the policy speech, has commenced. Because it will be a continuing practical type of operation, with decisions and action taken progressively, the questions of fixing a date of completion and making findings public, do not arise.

27. IMMIGRATION

Teachers from the USA

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many migrant teachers arrived in Western Australia from the USA during the months of May, June and July of this year?
- (2) How many of these arrivals have had no previous classroom experience?
- (3) How many more migrant teachers from the USA does his department propose to bring to Western Australia during the remainder of 1974?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Thirty-eight.
- (2) The aim is to recruit young teachers. Twenty-nine of the initial group were direct from teacher education.
- (3) Approximately 150.

28. IMMIGRATION

Building Company Nomination Scheme

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Immigration:

- (1) Has he or his department received representations either verbal or in writing from any building company urging the State Immigration Department to drop the following condition previously applying under the building company nomination scheme—

... On arrival in Western Australia nominees will be met by a company representative and conveyed to their accommodation. Within three days of arrival it is incumbent on the company to convey its nominees to the State Immigration Office so that they may be given an advisory talk on such subjects as, home purchase, contracts, hire purchase, employment, vehicle purchase, over commitments, etc. It is reiterated at this talk that

there is no compulsion to purchase a home and that they are free agents. They are also offered departmental assistance if required . . . ?"

- (2) If so, will he name the company or companies concerned and the date that any such representations were made?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) No.
(2) Not applicable.

29. BENTLEY HOSPITAL *Extensions*

Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Medical Department any plans for extensions to the Bentley Hospital?
(2) If so, what are the details?
(3) Is the Minister aware of the acute shortage of beds at the Bentley hospital, particularly in the midwifery section?
(4) As no casualty reception hospital is situated south of the river, what is the possibility of a casualty section being provided at Bentley at an early date?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) Extension of X-ray Department, administration and some service areas.
(3) The Minister is aware that the hospital is operating at a high occupancy level.
(4) A casualty section to be effective must have at least one doctor available at all times. Bentley Hospital has no resident medical staff as it is serviced exclusively by private practitioners.
For the information of the Member, Fremantle Hospital, which is south of the river, has a casualty section.

30. ELECTORAL

Member for Moore: Political Designation

Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

What was the political designation stated on the nomination form of the member elected for Moore at the general election held on 30th March last?

Mr O'NEIL replied:
National Alliance.

31. *This question was postponed.*

CANE TOADS

Consignments to Western Australia

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Referring to my question 17 of 30th July, 1974, would he explain with whom the responsibility for the supervision of cane toads lies once the creatures have been permitted into the State, and what inspectorial measures are carried out in schools and institutions to which cane toads have been delivered?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

The Agriculture Protection Board supervises the safekeeping of cane toads being kept alive under permit.

All toads introduced for use by high schools are killed and preserved on arrival by the importer before distribution.

33. DAIRYING

Milk Quotas: Negotiability

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has he received any recommendations from the single dairy authority regarding the negotiability of milk production quotas?
(2) If so, will he give the details of the recommendations received and indicate whether they will be approved and from when they will become operative?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) As the matter has not been finalised, it would be inappropriate to release details at this stage.

34. RAILWAY ROAD BUS SERVICE

Perth-Geraldton: Closure

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Transport:

With reference to the deputation of 12th June regarding the projected closure of the WAGR road bus service between Perth and Geraldton, can he give an indication of when he expects to be able to announce his decision?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I advised the Member that no action would be taken until after I had received detailed submissions from the Railway Department. These submissions have been received. I am now studying the implications and expect to make a decision within the next two weeks.

35. KWINANA POWER STATION

Transfer of Units to Muja

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What stage has been reached regarding investigations into the economics of transferring units 5 and 6 from Kwinana to Muja power house at Collie?
- (2) If the transfer of either or both units can be justified, could they be brought on stream in 1978 instead of 1979?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) Investigations and evaluations in order to ensure the most efficient and economic working and power generating by the State Electricity Commission are continuously in progress and encompass a much larger and comprehensive scope of subjects than the ones the Member has referred to.

36. SOUTH FREMANTLE AND EAST PERTH POWER STATIONS

Conversion to Coal Fuel

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) When is it anticipated that both the South Fremantle and East Perth power houses will be converted to coal?
- (2) What will be the cost of fuel (coal) per kilowatt hour at these power houses following conversion?
- (3) What is the current price of fuel (oil) per kilowatt hour per 120 megawatt unit?
- (4) What will be the anticipated price of fuel (oil) per kilowatt hour per 120 megawatt unit following negotiations of the new contract?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) It is planned that both stations will commence burning coal towards the end of August. Full reconversion will be progressive taking some months to complete.
- (2) Approximately 0.9c. per kWhr.
- (3) Approximately 0.45c. per kWhr.
- (4) This is the subject of current negotiations and the exact price and all conditions have not yet been arrived at.

37. COLLIE POWER STATION

Rehabilitation

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Has a decision been made regarding rehabilitation of the old Collie power house?

- (2) If so, would he advise the result of the decision?
- (3) If it was found economical to bring the old power house on load what would be its maximum capacity?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) to (3) It has been decided that present and foreseeable conditions do not warrant rehabilitation and operation of the old Collie power station.

38.

HOUSING

Karawara Project

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In connection with the houses already erected at the SHC Karawara estate, how many will be allocated as—
(a) rental;
(b) purchase?
- (2) When will construction commence on the next phase of this estate?
- (3) What is the anticipated completion date for the total complex?
- (4) Have all areas of concern been resolved between the SHC, Town Planning Department, and the City of South Perth?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) All 18 properties in the contract now in progress are intended for rental.
- (2) and (3) This depends on when developmental approval can be obtained from the City of South Perth, to allow contracts to proceed.
- (4) No. To a varying extent, all three stages of the project are affected by the following incomplete items with the City of South Perth—

Time and performance schedules;

Retention of trees;

Plans of all services;

Siting of community buildings;

Road construction and road drainage designs;

Provision of bus bays;

Footway and connecting foot-path treatment;

Vehicular crossovers;

Underground power;

Street lighting layout.

It is understood the City of South Perth is seeking resolution of all these items over the whole of the estate before development approval will be granted for any stage of the project.

39.

HOUSING

Undergrounding of Electricity Mains

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In view of recent new technical developments whereby the SEC has announced a cut in price for a new home block from about \$400 to as low as \$235 in a new sub-division to supply underground power, is it the intention of the State Housing Commission to install underground power lines when new State Housing Commission residential areas are being established?
- (2) Is it the intention of the SHC to provide underground power lines at the new Karawara estate?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The housing commission requests power reticulation to its estates, and it has been for the electricity commission to decide whether the reticulation would be overhead or underground. The question of additional costs for underground electricity reticulation would need to be considered in the context of total development costs to the housing commission and the overall economics of each estate in relation to the income and rent paying capacity of those to be assisted with housing.
- (2) A requisition from the City of South Perth calling for underground electricity reticulation is currently under consideration by the housing commission.

40.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Undergrounding of Mains

Mr. MAY, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) In connection with the recent announcement that the cost of supplying underground power in new subdivisions had been reduced by more than 25%, will he advise the date that the new technical development which was responsible for the 25% cut, became known?
- (2) Do the technical developments apply to transmission and sub-transmission lines in excess of 22kV?
- (3) When was the decision taken to send an SEC engineer to England to study underground installation techniques?
- (4) Having regard for the price reduction from about \$400 to as low as \$285 in a typical new suburb what would be the anticipated

cost for a similar service in an established city or metropolitan area?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The charge for supplying underground mains is based on the difference in cost between overhead and underground. Over a period the cost of overhead mains has increased while progressive improvements in techniques and methods have reduced the cost of undergrounding.
- (2) No.
- (3) The engineer concerned was proceeding to Europe on recreational leave. The opportunity was taken and arrangements were made for him to stay an extra period to examine underground methods.
- (4) Costs of undergrounding established areas vary widely depending on the number of footpaths, roadways, driveways, gardens, etc. involved in the work, and is not related to broadacre development.

41. SHORTAGES OF MATERIALS

Appointment of Mr Hodgson

Mr BATEMAN, to the Premier:

- (1) What salary is being paid to Mr Hodgson who was appointed "expediter" in May?
- (2) What travelling allowance is he receiving?
- (3) Has Mr Hodgson effected any "expediting" since his appointment?
- (4) If so, what are they?
- (5) What effect have they had on the overall material shortages in Western Australia?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Mr Hodgson was appointed on a six months contract on a salary of \$9 000.
- (2) Out-of-pocket expenses and Public Service rate car allowance.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Western Australian representative has taken successful action to accelerate the supply of a wide range of items for local industry. These have included—

Pentathol anaesthetic,
Miners' lamps,
Coke for foundries,
Materials for production of miners' footwear,
Switch gear for Kwinana Power Station,
Electric light globes,
Refractory bricks,
Electrical terminators,

Equipment for Western Australian Government Railways,
Chemicals,
Electrical cables.

He is continuing work on a large number of other items.

In addition, he is closely involved in negotiations to expedite transport of urgently needed supplies from the Eastern States to Western Australia.

- (5) The activity of the Western Australian representative has been successful in expediting supplies to Western Australian firms which have sought assistance—even though his operations are only in their early stages.

42.

TRAFFIC

Fatal Accidents: Country and Metropolitan

Mr FLETCHER, to the Minister for Traffic Safety:

- (1) Is he aware of the comment in *The West Australian* of 24th June, 1974, which makes reference as follows—

"A recent survey in W.A. shows that 88% of road deaths outside the metropolitan area involve people living in the country."?

- (2) Does he place any credence on this survey?
- (3) Since by far the greatest percentage of people and cars are located in the metropolitan area, is it not reasonable to assume that there would be a greater prospect of fatal and other traffic accidents in that area?
- (4) To what factor does he or his various departmental officers attribute the higher incidence of traffic fatalities in which residents of country areas are allegedly involved?
- (5) Since the survey further shows that 41% of the 171 persons killed were not wearing seat belts and that almost half the cars involved were not fitted with seat belts, does this imply that vehicle drivers and passengers are more "seat belt conscious" in the metropolitan area where traffic police supervision is greatest?
- (6) If so, will he ensure, in conformity with Labor Party policy,
 - (a) that State-wide traffic control is the prerogative of the Western Australian Police Force; and

(b) that country local authorities are not financially disadvantaged by any consequential loss of revenue?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) Not necessarily, as traffic congestion in peak hours has been shown to reduce the incidence of serious accidents.
- (4) It is difficult to attribute a fatal traffic accident to any one factor as usually there are several involved. However, it is believed that fatigue and lack of concentration are the cause of a large number of traffic fatal accidents, and other highly significant factors are speed and consumption of alcohol.
- (5) Yes. But other factors referred to must be considered as mentioned in answers to (3).
- (6) (a) and (b) The matter of a single traffic authority is at present being investigated and details are expected to be presented to Parliament during this session.

43.

KANGAROO SKINS

Ban on Export

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) Does the ban on the export of kangaroo skins still apply?
- (2) If so, what progress has been made in regard to having the ban lifted?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Conservation has written to all State Fauna Ministers advising that he would make strong representation to Senator Murphy for the lifting of the ban as soon as States complied with the requirements of the working party on kangaroos established under the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers. As far as Western Australia is concerned the lifting of the vermin classification is the outstanding requirement to be met.

44.

PENSIONERS

Motor Vehicle Licenses

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

What rebate, if any, against the 65% increase on vehicle licenses will be given to age pensioners who by reason of their limited

means have not the capacity to pay this increase and who by reason of their minimal use of their motor vehicles have no moral obligation to do so?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The whole question of pensioner concessions is at present under consideration by a Cabinet sub-committee, and will be subject to a broader based study with representatives of appropriate pensioner organisations in the near future, as promised by me during the State Elections.

45. POLICE

Prosecutions: Policy

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it his policy to prosecute all offenders against the provisions of the Criminal Code and the Police Act whenever he has knowledge of an offence having occurred and sufficient evidence is available as to entitle him reasonably to expect a conviction to be recorded in respect thereto?
- (2) If not, will he state each and every reason for his policy?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The attention of the Member is drawn to the following extract from the judgement of Lord Denning in the case of *R. v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, ex p. Blackburn* (1968) 2 W.L.R. 893—

"I hold it to be the duty of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, as it is of every chief constable, to enforce the law of the land. He must take steps so to post his men that crimes may be detected; and that honest citizens may go about their affairs in peace. He must decide whether or no suspected persons are to be prosecuted; and, if need be, bring the prosecution or see that it is brought. But in all these things he is not the servant of anyone, save of the law itself. No Minister of the Crown can tell him that he must, or must not, keep observation on this place or that; or that he must, or must not, prosecute this man or that one. Nor can any police authority tell him so. The responsibility for law enforcement lies on him. He is answerable to the law and to the law alone."

46. INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSITION

State Representation

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) Was Western Australia represented at the International Environmental Exposition in Chicago of this year?
- (2) If "No" why was this State not represented?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) I assume the Member for Morley is referring to Expo 74 in Spokane, Washington. If this is correct the answer is—no, Western Australia was not represented.
- (2) Australia was represented as a whole at Expo 74 in a Commonwealth Government pavilion. As far as I am aware no invitation was extended to this State to participate.

47. PUBLIC SERVICE

Review

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Has a complete review of the Public Service been undertaken as promised in his policy speech?
- (2) If "Yes" will he table a copy of the report?
- (3) If "No" when is it expected that the review will be completed?
- (4) If it is still incomplete, will the report be tabled in Parliament upon completion?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) A complete review of the Public Service has been commenced as promised in the policy speech.

I am sure, on reflection, the Member would not expect such a large and complex matter to be completed by now—or even within the next 12 months.

I do not expect the review to be the subject of one complete report.

It will be a continuing practical type of operation with decisions and action taken progressively.

Therefore, the question of tabling a report does not arise.

48. EMPLOYMENT

Females: Policy

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

What progress has been made towards implementing the declared aim outlined in the

Premier's policy speech that "We will develop special courses for women wishing to re-enter the workforce"?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

It is the policy of the Government to assist in the retraining of adult personnel to enable them to adapt to the rapid changes which are envisaged in the workforce as a result of the advancements in technology and the changing demands of commerce and industry.

This is particularly so in the case of women who are wishing to accept other vocations or to re-enter the workforce in this new capacity.

At the present time, courses are available in most technical colleges/schools. However, in developing courses, it will be necessary for the Government to establish close liaison with the Commonwealth Department of Labour which is responsible for the payment of allowances to persons undertaking training in such schemes.

49. EDUCATION

Community Participation in Decisions

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

What has been done to implement the declared aim in the Premier's policy speech to develop "community participation in school decisions"?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

As a first step towards the implementation of this programme, the Education Department is seeking ways to accelerate the formation of school councils.

50. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Metal Polluted Areas

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

Can he indicate if there are any areas in Western Australia which are identifiable as areas suffering from—

- (a) lead pollution;
- (b) cadmium pollution;
- (c) zinc pollution;
- (d) mercury pollution;
- (e) pollution due to any other heavy metal?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

There are no areas in Western Australia which to date are identifiable as areas suffering from pollution due to any of the heavy metals mentioned.

The Environmental Protection Authority in conjunction with other responsible statutory authorities such as the Public Health Department, the Department of Fisheries and Fauna and the Fremantle Port Authority have this matter of heavy metals in the environment under continuous review.

51. TRAFFIC

Drivers' Licenses: Personality Defects

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

In view of the road toll, is he considering altering drivers license standards so as to place more emphasis upon personality defects and irresponsible attitudes?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I understand the Member requires an in depth reply. This is being collated and the information will be passed to the Member as quickly as practicable.

52. TOWN PLANNING

Environmental Open Areas

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Town Planning:

With reference to his statement reported in the *Daily News* of 26th June, 1974, in what ways are the "environmental open areas" different from areas hitherto set aside for public open space?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

In general they are areas in private ownership and may be developed at low density. They would complement the public open space as breaks in an otherwise continuous urban mass.

53. HIGH SCHOOL

Dianella

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

- (1) Is there a need for a high school in the Dianella area?
- (2) If such a high school was to be established in 1975, what would be its expected enrolments for each of the next five years?
- (3) If such a school is not established, which other high schools would be adversely affected?

- (4) What is the chief impediment to the establishment of such a high school?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The needs of the Dianella area in secondary education are, at present, catered for in the following schools:—

Morley Senior High School
Mirrabooka Senior High School
Tuart Hill Senior High School
John Forrest Senior High School
Expansion of the facilities would be dependent on future secondary educational policies.

- (2) A school is not planned for 1975.
(3) It is not considered that any of the abovementioned high schools will be adversely affected in 1975.
(4) The need for such a high school has not been established.

54. HIGH SCHOOL

Margaret River

Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

Would he advise the cost and estimated completion date of buildings under construction for the Margaret River high school?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

A contract for changerooms and extensions to the administrative section was let on 1st February, 1974. The contract price is \$55 281 and completion date is 26th July, 1974. However, the contractor has experienced difficulties in obtaining certain supplies and blasting which could only be carried out in weekends has been necessary for effluent disposal. Indications are that the work will be completed within approximately two weeks.

55. SOUTH AFRICA

Apartheid Policy

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Is it his Government's policy to support the South African Government's apartheid policy?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

No—and it never has been.

56. EDUCATION

Free Milk Scheme: Review

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What action has been taken by this Government to review supply of free milk to schools?
(2) When was action taken?
(3) What was the result?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) to (3) Subsequent to the present Commonwealth Government withdrawing financial support for the supply of free milk to schools and considering that the former State Government took no action to allocate funds for the continuance of the scheme, the present Government has undertaken a study on the feasibility of reintroducing the supply of milk.

Present indications are that the State will be unable to finance the scheme on a State-wide basis but consideration is being given to operation on a limited basis whereby children in disadvantaged areas would benefit.

57.

HEALTH

Fish: Toxicity Test

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

- (1) How often was—
(a) wet;
(b) canned,
fish tested for mercury content during 1973 and to date in 1974?
(2) Who is responsible for conducting the testing?
(3) How many samples of each type of fish are tested each time?
(4) What are the results of the testing?
(5) Has there been any testing during the year for other toxic residues in fish such as arsenic?
(6) If "Yes" what are the results of such tests, and the details of such testing as indicated above?
(7) If "No" is it intended that such testing will be instituted?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) to (7) Yesterday I asked that this question be postponed until today but I regret the research required has not been completed. I now ask that the question be postponed until next Tuesday.

QUESTIONS (9): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. DAYLIGHT SAVING

Legislation

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Chief Secretary:

I regret that I have not been able to give any notice of this question but I had no idea the Government was in such haste to introduce a Bill for daylight saving. I ask the Chief Secretary: Is it his intention to vote for the Bill?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

I think I answered yesterday that if members are prepared to wait they will find out my intention.

2. KANGAROO SKINS

Ban on Export

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

My question arises out of the answer given to question 43 today and concerns the export ban on kangaroo skins. The Minister said that as far as Western Australia is concerned the lifting of the vermin classification is the outstanding requirement to be met.

What action is the Government taking in that regard?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

No doubt the member for Victoria Park would be aware that the previous Government sent a letter to the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Conservation on the 18th March of this year indicating our State's intention. We have not received a reply to that letter. I have followed the matter up by requesting a reply.

Actually, discussions with an officer of the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Conservation have taken place today and we will follow the matter further.

3. DECENTRALISATION OF INDUSTRY

Brick Manufacture at Boulder

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

I address this question to the Minister without formal notice, although I was able to convey the subject matter to him by telephone this morning. My question relates to a tender put in by a company manufacturing clay bricks in Boulder. The company hopes that the clay bricks will be used in the construction of the Kalgoorlie District Hospital, but the price of the bricks exceeds the 10 per cent margin which is usually allowed for a decentralised industry. Does the Minister think he can intervene in any way so that this company can survive as a decentralised industry?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The honourable member rang me this morning and I was able to make inquiries about this matter. The answer to his question is

"Yes", as I am able to intervene; indeed, I have intervened already. About five minutes after his phone call I received a reply from the Minister for Works notifying me that he could not accede to my intervention. I would like to mention, however, that although we have not yet formulated any specific policy on this matter, we are very much in favour of promoting decentralisation. The existing policy which has not been altered by our Government up to date is contained in a Cabinet minute approved by the Tonkin Government which says that the 10 per cent preference does not apply to building materials. This statement then has a rider that the preference will apply for building materials up to the amount of \$20 000 and will apply only to the extent of 5 per cent. Probably after taking this into consideration the Public Works Department decided to instruct the main contractors for this job to use the clay bricks despite the fact that it has been established that masonry bricks manufactured in Boulder stood up to the requirements. However, the price difference was calculated at 14 per cent, including the laying which was more than for clay bricks. Therefore, the contractor has been instructed to use the clay bricks. I am sorry I have had to give this reply.

4.

HOUSING

Metropolitan Area Residences

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

How many residences were there in the metropolitan region in 1961, 1965, and 1973?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The answer is as follows—

1961	129 400
1965	158 400
1973	234 300

5.

TRAFFIC BRIDGE

Spencer's Brook, Northam

Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

Is the Minister aware that the Spencer's Brook, Northam traffic bridge has been closed due to damage caused by flooding? If the answer is "Yes", will he take immediate action to have repairs effected and a new bridge constructed in view of the dangerous

condition of the present bridge and the inconvenience caused to people using this bridge where they are forced to travel additional miles over another route?

Also, as two timber piles have collapsed and a third could collapse, would the Minister undertake to have barricades erected at each end of the bridge in the interests of public safety?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. Yes. An officer of the Main Roads Department has inspected the bridge today to ascertain what repairs can be undertaken. It is realised that the bridge is very old and in poor condition and it is proposed to commence replacement during this financial year.

I will look into the point raised by the honourable member in regard to some barricading around it. I take it that the honourable member will not take exception to the fact that I have taken action before replying to the question.

6. FLOTTA LAURO BUILDING

Purchase by Government

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Yesterday I asked a question relating to the Flotta Lauro building. I would now like to ask the Minister whether he has the information?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The answer is "Yes".

Mr Davies: What was the question again?

Mr GRAYDEN: May I read the question, Sir?

The SPEAKER: I think it would be better if the Minister proceeds with the answer.

Mr GRAYDEN: The answer is as follows—

- (1) Alquay Pty. Ltd. of Sydney.
- (2) Yes, settlement was effected on the 29th July, 1974.
- (3) \$4 600 000 payable as follows—
 - \$ 100 000 deposit.
 - \$2 900 000 on settlement.
 - \$1 600 000 on the 29th July, 1975.

\$4 600 000 total

7.

FLOODS

Emergency Service Assistance

Mr BATEMAN, to the Premier:

With indications that Perth may get more rain following the wettest July in 16 years, is the State Emergency Service in readiness for any major flooding which could cause many to be homeless?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The situation regarding the possibility of floods occurring due to the recent heavy rains is being closely watched.

Those organisations with capacity to care for the homeless have been alerted, and local voluntary emergency services in areas subject to flooding are in readiness.

8.

CRUDE OIL PRICE

Government Policy

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Electricity:

I regret that no notice of this question was given, but it arises because of answers given today.

Mr Mensaros: Which question are you referring to?

Mr MAY: The question relating to oil prices. Because of the change in Government, is it the intention of the present Government to direct the SEC to revert to the "veil of secrecy" attitude which was adopted during the term of office of the Liberal-Country Party Government from 1959 to 1971 regarding oil prices and other associated matters?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

This being a technical matter, I would ask the honourable member to put the question on the notice paper.

9.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Charges Prior to 1st August, 1974

Sir CHARLES COURT (Premier): I promised to obtain an answer to a question raised by the member for Clontarf. I would like to give that answer now.

The SPEAKER: Yes, very well.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Before I do so I think it appropriate to mention, with your indulgence, Sir, that the member for Greenough is celebrating his birthday today, in common with His Excellency the Governor and all the racehorses in Australia!

The other night when discussing a matter in connection with power charges, I informed the honourable member that I would discuss

the matter with the Minister for Electricity. At the time I did not hold out much hope of our adopting a system of some apportionment due to administrative and other problems which have been pointed out. However, after some discussions with the Minister and his discussions with the SEC, the Government has decided to instruct the SEC that it should charge the new and old rates on a combined average unit tariff in a way which results in the consumption prior to the 1st August being charged at about the same rate as the tariffs applicable at the time of consumption. The honourable member knows it is not possible to have complete accuracy in this regard, but at least the charges will be as near as practicable to those applicable at the time of consumption. The SEC has been advised accordingly.

The SPEAKER: I will take one more question only.

10. IMMIGRATION

Building Company Nomination Scheme

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Immigration:

Further to question 28 on today's notice paper, I ask: Will the Minister table the relevant reports and papers pertaining to this subject?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

As I am not aware of whether or not the information in the relevant papers is confidential, I ask the honourable member to place the question on the notice paper.

BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Pay-roll Tax Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Treasurer), and read a first time.
2. Police Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Minister for Police), and read a first time.
3. Official Prosecutions (Defendants' Costs) Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Minister for Works), and read a first time.
4. Weights and Measures Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Grayden (Minister for Labour and Industry), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 31st July, on the following motion by Mrs Craig—

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 A. R. TONKIN (Morley) [3.30 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I am not going to weary the House by speaking for too long today. There are, however, one or two points I should like to make which I think are of great importance.

I believe there are two matters which require urgent attention and I would suggest that one of these is the need for a study to be commissioned to examine what may be the optimum size of the Perth metropolitan area. I realise that the idea of an optimum population is a very vague concept, because it depends on what we mean by optimum; optimum for which or optimum for whom?

I believe at present we are in a situation where we assume that the metropolitan region is growing and will continue to grow, and we have introduced plans and established authorities whose job it is to see that we grow with some degree of order. But, however, there has really been no attempt to examine the degree to which it would be desirable for us to grow. That is one point I wish to raise.

Another matter which, I believe, should be dealt with as a matter of urgency by the Government is the establishment of a land use authority, entrusted with the task of reconciling the many competing interests which make demands upon the land. These are the two principal matters with which I would like to deal.

I will deal firstly with the question of the metropolitan region. I believe that a study should be commissioned by the Government to enable an examination to be made as to where we are going as a metropolitan area. Of course this ties in with my second suggestion, that a land use authority should be established, because that would also help us decide where we are going and how we should rationalise our concepts on a State basis.

The two questions are complementary, because the growth of Perth will depend upon the development in the rest of the State. One of the problems of urban development is that warnings are often treated as instructions. In other words,

the experts plan for trends and, therefore, confirm them. Of course it seems obvious that warnings are different from instructions. But this is how we usually plan: we say the traffic is snarling up; that we are going to have tremendous headaches in the next 20 years getting people along a certain route. That is a warning.

This is treated, however, as an instruction; ergo, we need a new freeway. This seems to me to be rather fatalistic and to assume that the way in which the city is developing and the way in which the bottleneck is occurring is the way the city should continue to be planned; that we should merely smooth out the bottleneck and thereby confirm a tendency which may not be desirable at all.

When we look at the improvements for the metropolitan region, of course, we enter into matters of value judgments, philosophies, and so on, but I believe this is necessary.

I also feel the public should be involved as widely as possible. I know the Perth Society of the Royal Institute of Architects (WA Chapter) has called for some studies, not exactly along the same lines because that body tends to be talking about something larger than the central business district, but something smaller than the metropolitan region.

I think a very interesting study that has caught the imagination of many people in Australia is the City of Adelaide planning study. I feel this is something which could well be looked at by the Government with a view to understanding the kind of proposals one should look at.

Mr Rushton: You are aware there is a study of the Perth central district and of the City of Perth's plan in another major direction?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I am aware of that but I am thinking of the area being larger and covering the whole metropolitan complex, not what is built now, but as we can envisage it will grow beyond the central business district of the Perth City Council.

I think involved in this kind of study will be an examination of the gospel of economic growth. We are on the Gadarene slopes of a society. We do need to examine just where we are going and why.

Projections based upon estimates of growth of Perth are inevitable and, of course, in the short term growth is inevitable. I do not think anyone will deny that growth will occur or that we could halt growth in Perth. We could not say there will not be growth in five or 10 years. However, this does not mean to say that growth will continue *ad infinitum*; of course, growth cannot go on *ad infinitum* in a city like Perth. Too many controlling factors would prevent that from happening, and so I believe we should examine where we should go, how far we should go and, indeed, whether we want to go in that direction at all.

Mr Rushton: Do you have any recommendations on that point?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: No, not really. Any recommendations I could give in a 45-minute speech would be rather spurious. I am not posing as any kind of expert in this field; I am saying that such a study should be commissioned and would generate a public debate on this issue which would continue over a long period. Certainly, there is no quick answer to the problem. Probably, we will come up with many answers. But I believe the matter should be examined.

Of course, if we decide the kind of Perth we want in the year 2000, the people in the year 2000 will disagree with us. It is quite clear that we cannot decide the kind of city they will want. So, for that reason, we must keep open as many options as possible. We must maintain flexibility so that with changing values and problems which come to bear upon this issue, it will be possible to take other turnings. One of the big problems facing planning at present, is that it has been far too rigid and has not allowed for enough flexibility.

More and more people are beginning to realise that there are certain evils which appear to be attendant upon large cities. Perhaps it is not just the largeness of the cities; perhaps there are some other factors flowing from large cities which give rise to these attendant evils. I suggest that for too long we have regarded cities as economic phenomena and therefore we tend to apply economic measurements to them. We decide that if there are economies of scale to be obtained, we therefore should build large cities.

The member for Warren yesterday very ably dealt with some of these diseconomies of large cities and they are very obvious. I example the increasing cost of services and so on. However, in addition, I believe that we should pay more attention to the social implications of large cities. I suppose at the moment there are three main directions our economic policy can follow—there may be more. There can be straightout economic growth; we could perhaps decide to place more emphasis on a greater distribution of the national product with a greater component of equity so that we aim for a more equitable distribution of the national product; or, perhaps, we could concentrate upon improved allocation of resources. I suggest that, to date, most of our concentration has been upon growth.

Let me discuss the third aim. The question of improved allocation of national resources is something which has hardly been touched upon. Members will recall that I mentioned the desire for a land planning authority which of course could deal with this question of the correct allocation of land rather than allowing some body—perhaps the Mines Department, for example—unilaterally to decide the way in

which land will be used and therefore, very often, the way in which it could be used for the next 100 years because of the inescapable damage which can occur as a result of mining. So, I think we must bring in the whole question of economic growth. Whether we do this rationally because we can see the problems ahead or because we are forced to do so is of little interest to mother nature as the result will be the establishment of a new kind of equilibrium; and in the latter case of course the human being may not become part of the equation.

I suggest that it is far more sensible to take a rational look at this question. It is quite clear that this economic growth cannot continue *ad infinitum* on this earth because our resources are finite and because when we produce goods we do pollute. Although nature has a remarkable facility for receiving pollutants and for processing them, nevertheless there is a point which is being reached in some parts of the world, although fortunately not in Australia, where the receiver of the pollutants, whether it be a river, a lake, or even the Mediterranean Sea—a fairly big body of water—no longer can handle the volume of pollutants and therefore gives up the struggle. So, quite clearly, if we are rational people we must examine the entire gospel of economic growth because our resources are finite and because the capacity of the earth to receive pollutants also is finite.

I mentioned earlier the social problems of cities. Of course, they cannot be quantified. In the last few hundred years, I suppose, we have had an obsession with quantification. We have adopted the philosophy of, "If you can measure it, it is important; if you cannot measure it it is therefore less important." Quite clearly, we are beginning to emerge from this obsession. We are beginning to realise that there are certain things which cannot be measured but which nevertheless are important.

Unfortunately, we have no means of quantifying many of the social amenities or "disamenities" which may occur in our society, but that should not mean that because we cannot quantify them we should therefore ignore them. I should like to cite an example which is apposite to Australia at present when referring to the subject of economic growth. I refer to minerals. Minerals, of course, are a capital asset and are exhaustible. A family which gets into hard times because of, say, unemployment, and is faced with a steep decline in its standard of living may decide to sell the family heirlooms in order to buy food. That is quite sensible, but if in doing so the person concerned regards the proceeds from the sale of capital assets as being indistinguishable from income earned from renewable resources—in other words, if in an account-

ing sense he regards the \$500 he has drawn from his savings account in the same way as he regards the \$500 he earns over a month—that is bad accounting. It is incompetent and irresponsible accounting. This is why I believe some of our national accounting has been irresponsible. We have tended to equate exhaustible resources with the income received from, say, wheat. Clearly, they are quite different because one is renewable and the other is not. Therefore it is very important that we should look at this entire question of growth because our minerals will not go on forever.

Another parameter to be considered is the energy flow through society. This is quite an alarming factor and is closely related to pollution and the utilisation of resources. It has been suggested by statisticians—figures seem to bear this out—that the rate of energy flow is increasing twice as fast as the rate of population increase. I should like to use Western Australia as an example of the way that energy flow is increasing. In 1966 in this State we used 1 684 kw-hours per head. In 1969, three years later, we used 2 112 kw-hours per head. This indicates that not only are there more people in the world but also that each person is making a greater demand upon the environment.

That is not very conclusive proof of itself. Obviously one could look at all kinds of rates of consumption and prove a point. I do not intend to do so because this information has been documented in many books. I refer members particularly to the works of Missan who has written a great deal on this subject. I have given one example, but I know members will find it is borne out many times.

One of the problems with capitalist societies and the so-called communist societies like the Soviet Union is that they are materialistic and have equated human welfare with the rate of consumption or with a standard of living which is usually measured in terms of the number of material goods one has. I think that what we need is a new index for a standard of living which is not materialistic but consists of well-being. It could not be measured in the same way, but it would still be possible to turn people's minds away from this obsession with material goods and make them realise that some who have no material goods are, nevertheless, to be envied in many ways.

I will not attempt to say that we will get a new quantifiable index but one could get an index which would be just as valuable. Many people throughout history have believed that material possessions are not important and many philosophers have not placed a great deal of emphasis on them. The Father of the Christian doctrine was such a person; but the majority of us have measured ourselves against others by regarding material possessions.

However, we will be forced to retreat from that stand because of the problem I have already mentioned; that is, the finite nature of the earth and consequently the lack of resources.

One of the problems affecting growth in the city is traffic. Once again we come upon the same kind of phenomenon with energy flow as we saw exemplified with the use of kilowatt hours per head. Regarding the number of motor vehicles per head of population, in 1961 there was one motor vehicle for every 3.6 persons. Today the figure is one motor vehicle for every 2.2 persons. Of course, that trend will not continue indefinitely because I do not think the stage will be reached where every person will own two or three vehicles. But other factors will continue. For instance, once the wants of people are fulfilled in regard to a motor vehicle and virtually everyone has one, then each person will demand some other material possession such as a yacht, swimming pool, and so on. That clearly cannot go on for ever, so that is another example of the way in which not only are there more people, but each person is making greater demands on the environment.

It is suggested that by 1980 the traffic will be three times greater than it is now. One of the problems with traffic is that the greater the provision is made for motor vehicles, the greater the demand will be. If at present a person can drive to Perth in an hour from his home which is 40 kilometres away then, if we build freeways, in 20 years' time a person will be able to drive in an hour from his home which is 60 kilometres away. Consequently people will do this and as a result the build-up of traffic close to the city will be tremendous and no road system can cater for such a situation.

It is no good saying that we should go to the United States to study how the authorities there cope because quite clearly the cities there have done most to build up their freeway system. Freeways are fouling up and this is one of the problems faced with a vast increase of traffic resulting from the better roads and a greater radius of accessibility. It is not possible to keep ahead of the traffic. In fact it may be cheaper to provide free transport than to try to carry on attempting to keep ahead of traffic by constructing freeways.

Traffic volumes have been tremendously underestimated as can be proved by a reference to the various reports which have been commissioned for Perth. For instance it was stated in the Stephenson-Hepburn report that traffic of a certain density would be reached by 1980. In actual fact traffic of that magnitude was reached in 1962. So in 1955 it was stated that traffic of a certain magnitude would be reached in 25 years, but that magnitude was reached in only seven years.

Urban studies have suggested that there should be one kilometre of freeway for every 6 000 inhabitants and two kilometres of major arterial roads to every kilometre of freeway. Those studies have been made in many cities throughout the world and it is a fairly reasonable assumption to make. If that is so my calculations, which are not always correct, reveal that we should have at this stage, to keep up with that kind of standard, 120 kilometres of freeway. I asked the Minister for Traffic a question and yesterday he was able to tell me that we have only 7.85 kilometres of freeway. If we should have 120 kilometres in the metropolitan region for our population then we are a long way behind.

With regard to sewerage, once again, as a result of questions I was able to ask in the House, I ascertained that in 1961, 51 per cent of the residences in the metropolitan region were sewered while in 1965—four years later—the figure had dropped to 43.6 per cent, and in 1973 it had dropped still further to 39 per cent. This is just one of the very big problems associated with the growth of cities.

I would like to mention briefly one aspect of city life; that is, the social aspect and the increase of violence. It has been suggested by the United States National Commission on Violence which presented its report in 1969 that violence increased proportionately as a city grew. Consequently some clever person has coined the word "dystopia" which is the opposite to "Utopia".

Melbourne is an example of how the rate of violence grows as the city grows. Since 1960 crimes of violence have increased 250 per cent. In the same period the population increased only 25 per cent. Indeed, the Victorian Government was so concerned that, as most members would know, it appointed a commission to investigate the question of violence.

Dr Paul Wilson, a criminologist who is attaining an international reputation as such, has done some work on this subject. He is attached to the Queensland University, and what concerns him is not just the increasing violence, but the increasing motiveless assaults. I am referring to the assault for which there is no apparent motive. Someone is beaten up in the street by a person who is not a relative, or someone who might have some reason to dislike him. It is a purely motiveless assault and many times such assaults are carried out by gangs. Another factor which has been proved is that there is an increase of such assaults by people under the age of 21.

This is part of the phenomenon of alienation. In a small community where people are related to one another, they feel they belong to the community and therefore they love it I suppose and want to protect it. They have a sense of belonging to it. However, as cities become larger it is very difficult for people to feel they belong or

are related to the people they meet on the streets and therefore they become depersonalised. Once that occurs—and we saw it happen in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s, and in other countries—and a person realises that the other person is different, it is easy to go one extra step and decide that it does not matter very much whether the other person is kicked in the head or killed.

The question of alienation and not belonging is one of the big problems associated with big cities. New York is a classic example. In that city there is a murder every 14 hours, five violent assaults each hour, and something like 50 000 drug addicts who are mainly people calling for help because they feel there is not much point in life and they do not belong to anything or anyone. There are also approximately 70 000 young people leaving school early every year, and most of them wander around unemployed and unemployable. The advice is often given to new teachers, "Don't worry too much about what you teach the kids; just try to keep them apart so they don't kill one another." A term has been devised for a huge city such as New York. I think it is an ugly word—perhaps as ugly as huge cities are. The term is "megapolis".

I believe we should pause and wonder whether bigger is better; whether we should congratulate ourselves when the State's population reaches 1 million, 2 million, or 3 million; and whether we should congratulate ourselves as the population of the city climbs. I suggest a study be made of this problem, drawing upon the best people available—and we have some very good people in this sphere—to examine where the whole metropolitan region should go and is going.

Another matter I raise is the establishment of a land use authority. It is quite clear to me that such an authority is desirable. New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia have legislation along these lines. New South Wales has a Planning and Environment Commission; Victoria has a Land Conservation Act and a Town and Country Planning Act; and South Australia has a Town Planning and Development Act.

Mr Rushton: You do not think the MRPA has any relation to this question? You do not think the MRPA is adequate for what you propose?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Is the Minister referring to the metropolitan region?

Mr Rushton: Are you talking about land use?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: A land use authority would be State-wide. The MRPA is not State-wide.

Mr Rushton: Are you suggesting such an authority should cover the whole State?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Yes. Land use is now decided by a hotchpotch of bodies, and very often the decision is made unilaterally by either the Lands Department, the Mines Department, the Forests Department, the Department of Agriculture, the National Parks Board, the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board, the Department of Fisheries and Fauna, the Department of Industrial Development, or the Main Roads Department. One could go on.

Mr Rushton: On top of that, there is a town planning scheme for each area, and the Town Planning Board.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The Minister is talking about town planning schemes in different areas.

Mr Rushton: The Town Planning Board deals with subdivisions, but perhaps it does not go quite as far as you would like.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I suggest an authority which would have oversight of State forests, mining, and land use. An agricultural problem may develop when a farmer clears his land and as a result salinity in the Wellington Dam may increase. There may be a salinity problem in the Mundaring Weir which affects domestic water supplies.

There are also many conflicting claims for land use. If the order of land use is decided carefully, one type of use can follow the other; but if the order is reversed the second type of use may not be able to follow. For example, it is difficult to turn land over to agriculture after mining has taken place on it. There have been new trends in land usage over the past few decades, and considerable changes which would never have been considered previously.

I wonder what lies ahead. I wonder whether the leasing of light land would have taken place in the 1960s had there been a land use authority which could have looked at the situation from the point of view of the whole State, not just from an agricultural point of view. I do not think any one department should have the power to determine the use of land. The philosophy and rationale of the Mines Department does not necessarily suit the long-term interests of the State and every person in it.

Another matter which causes conflict in land use is the profit motive. Sometimes the profit motive will not be in the best interests of the State. It may be that the State's balance of payments will be assisted over the next 10 years by greater production of wheat; but that might lead to an increase in the salt problem, which is one of the big problems facing the State and about which very little is being done. It is a serious problem which should be tackled.

Mr Sibson: It is being tackled.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: But I do not think it is being tackled adequately. I do not think the Department of Agriculture claims that it is, either.

Mr McPharlin: The department has been working on it for some years.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: That is so, but the Minister will agree it is a matter of great concern.

Mr McPharlin: I agree.

Mr Mensaros: Give us some details and concrete suggestions, if you have better ideas than the experts have. We will use them.

Mr Jamieson: That is typical of his knowledge.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Sometimes the experts need help from legislators, and I suggest one way to help the experts would be to include salt-affected land in the provisions of the Soil Conservation Act. It would strengthen considerably the muscles of the Commissioner for Soil Conservation.

Mr McPharlin: The commissioner already has extensive powers under the Act.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: He has no power in relation to salt-affected land as such. It is true that very often erosion problems will arise in connection with salt-affected land, when the commissioner will come in under the erosion umbrella. Nevertheless, I think the Act could well be amended to include salt-affected land, which would be of great assistance to the commissioner and would give him greater power.

We must look at the whole question of land tenure. I do not think it is good enough for a person to be able to clear land, whether it be freehold or leasehold, when it might create a salt problem on the land of farmers lower down the profile. The whole question must be looked at very carefully, and I would expect a Government which includes the Country Party to give it a great deal of attention.

The matter of land use inventories has been mentioned in the report of the Committee of Inquiry into the National Estate. The full report of the committee is not yet available but I have had a look at the preliminary recommendations. The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Hope, quite clearly believes that land use inventories should be made throughout Australia so that at least we have an idea of the resources at our disposal. The Australian Conservation Foundation, headed by Sir Garfield Barwick, has made a similar recommendation.

The land use authority should be widely representative of the people in the community, even though the authority might therefore become rather large and find it necessary to work through an extensive committee system. Primary and second-

ary industry should be represented, as should certain Government departments, public groups such as the Conservation Council of Western Australia, academics, and so on.

I know that many people in Western Australia are seriously considering the question of a land use authority, and I suggest the Government should examine the possibilities in this regard.

I would like now to spend some time on coastal conservation, a subject which has been referred to in the newspapers a great deal lately. Perhaps the breeding of fish has not been receiving the attention it deserves; and, of course, this is one reason that the coast should be conserved because a large number of our fish breed in the shallow waters along the coast.

Another problem is related to recreation on the coast, and particularly to the use of recreation vehicles. I previously asked the Minister for Police if he would examine the matter of providing some control over recreation vehicles. My reasons at the time were those relating to safety, because there is no control at all over this pastime. However, the reason I raise it now is that damage is being done to flora in the coastal areas by these vehicles.

Mr Sibson: What do you think should be done?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I think areas should be made available, but that the recreation should be controlled.

The SPEAKER: The member for Morley has five minutes.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Is that all? I am amazed. Thank you, Mr Speaker. Perhaps I had better discuss that matter with the honourable member later on.

Mr O'Connor: Didn't you preface your remarks by saying that you would not be talking for long?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Yes, I did say I would be about 10 minutes, but time has slipped away. The question of the erosion of the coast is a serious one. As members would know, we have two kinds of erosion cycles: the offshore-onshore cycle and the up-and-down cycle. The up-and-down the coast erosion is affected by the building of groynes. However, I want to place particular emphasis upon the offshore-onshore erosion because, as members would know, the foredunes are vitally important to the coast.

These foredunes are stabilised by the growth of flora, and the use of recreation vehicles on the dunes can cause a tremendous amount of damage to the flora. We have seen what has occurred at Mandurah, and we will see more of this damage occurring because the foredunes protect the other dunes. They are also a reservoir for sand. In the winter sand is taken away and very often forms a bar further

out which when it builds up enough causes the waves to break further out and, therefore, protects the land. During the summer months there is a reverse movement. The beach tends to become built up and the sand tends to go back to the dunes, especially if there is vegetation on the dunes because vegetation catches the sand. So a reservoir of sand is formed for the next winter. In this way we see there is a beautiful equilibrium in nature which we destroy when we build on the foredunes.

I think building on the foredunes has caused about 90 per cent of the problem in Mandurah or anywhere else where this erosion has occurred. I feel we should take a firm stand on this.

I hope the Government—and the Minister for Local Government in particular—will make a statesmanlike decision with regard to the Whitfords nodes. I have become very interested in this area, and I think the Wanneroo Shire Council deserves the greatest credit for the stand it has taken on the issue of development west of the highway. As I said, I would hope the Minister for Local Government will show himself at his statesmanlike best and arrange a transfer or swapping of land so that the Whitfords nodes will not be built upon. If they are built upon we will experience the same problem that we are experiencing on other parts of the coast.

Mr Rushton: Have you studied the background to this?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Yes, I have spent quite a deal of time on it. As I said, I am very impressed with the Wanneroo Shire Council and I am hoping that in the near future we will see the Government taking the step I have suggested.

Mr Rushton: That is contrary to the recommendation of your own previous State Government.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I am well aware of the full details of that. The question of roads parallel to the coast is something we should be careful about. A great deal of work has been done on this, so there is no excuse for ignorance or for building roads parallel and close to the coast.

I had intended to deal with many arguments in detail, but somehow time seems to have disappeared. I emphasise that as far as I am concerned I will applaud the Government if it comes up with a sound ecological decision regarding the Whitfords nodes. I hope that right along our coast we will endeavour not to make the terrible mistakes that have already been made by allowing the foredunes to be built upon and used to the ultimate deprivation of the whole of the coast.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.03 p.m.

MR NANOVICH (Toodyay) [4.03 p.m.]: Mr Speaker and honourable members, I rise for the first time in this Chamber as the member representing the electorate of

Toodyay in this Western Australian Parliament. Firstly, I congratulate you, Sir, on your elevation to the office of Speaker of this House. I am sure, Sir, that the many years of devoted service you have given to this Parliament and to the State in general will assist you in setting a fine example during your term as Speaker of this Assembly.

I also congratulate the member for Kalamunda on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. Further, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Premier, his Deputy, and his Ministers on their appointment, together with the Leader of the Opposition, his deputy, and other newly-elected members. In addition I offer my special thanks to the Clerks and officers of this House and I express my appreciation to past members for the services they have rendered to their respective electorates.

When I was elected as a member of this Assembly it was not with the ambition that I should become the best member of Parliament. However, I do not have any ambition to be placed in the position of someone being able to say that I am the worst member. I have been elected by the people to work for them and for the two years and eight months that remain of the term for which I have been elected I will work hard for the welfare and benefit of my electors and the State of Western Australia in general.

People throughout all walks of life generally aim at achieving the ideal, but sometimes this is extremely difficult. Nevertheless, I think all of us try to do our best. Sometimes we may nearly reach the ideal and so become satisfied.

My intention today is to speak broadly on matters affecting my electorate which embraces Wanneroo, Upper Swan, Herne Hill, Bullsbrook, Chittering, Bindoon, Muchea, Wannamal, Toodyay, Gidgegannup, and Chidlow. From the southern boundary the electorate extends some 70 miles to the north and 53 miles east to the town of Toodyay.

As I continue to travel through my electorate and become acquainted with the problems with which it is faced, I sincerely hope and trust that during my term as its representative I will be able to work to the benefit of the people residing within my electorate so that they may, with confidence, return me to office for another term of three years.

Starting with the southern section, which is Wanneroo, I could say that I know more about Wanneroo than the remainder of the Toodyay electorate. Nevertheless I have not wasted any time in trying to ascertain the problems that beset those who reside in other parts of the district. Wanneroo covers some 306 square miles. From the southern boundary to the northern boundary is a distance of 39

miles, and from the eastern boundary to the western boundary is a distance of eight miles. The southern part of the shire is rapidly developing into an urban sprawl, and it is also found that development is spreading along the coast northwards.

Today, in the Shire of Wanneroo, there are some 11 districts and five or six townships, but many more are in the course of development. One of the local industries is vegetable growing. Another is chicken and poultry production. If I may, I will draw the attention of members to vegetable production in this area. Without boasting, I can say that some of the best vegetables in the world are produced in this coastal strip. I know there are other vegetable producing centres in this State, but within this coastal strip vegetables of all types are produced during 12 months of the year. I would point out, of course, that it has available to it a good water supply which is a most important factor in the production of first-class vegetables which are consumed not only by the people of the State and the Commonwealth in general, but also through export trade, by people overseas.

On many occasions it has been said that products from Western Australia, and particularly those that are grown within this region, are among the finest in the world. Therefore I believe every endeavour should be made to encourage even greater production of these perishables.

In speaking of the poultry and chicken industry, I would point out that this industry, within my electorate, has grown enormously in the past decade. I think I can say that the production of chickens and poultry within the Wanneroo area would be the most concentrated compared to any other area in this State. This fact must be recognised by Governments so that every endeavour shall be taken to encourage greater production of these lines.

The nursery industry is also flourishing within the district of Wanneroo. I can recall when, only eight or nine years ago, there was only one nursery in Wanneroo, but today nurseries are rapidly being established throughout the whole district. Further, those who are establishing them have shown no desire to keep close to the metropolitan area. They have developed these retail nurseries in good soil with the advantage of a good water supply, and thus first-class production of plants is assured.

Within the Shire of Wanneroo is also a limited number of vineyards and wine-making establishments. For a number of years within this district vineyards have existed and have produced an excellent product. However, today the vineyards are producing less and less in view of the limited profit that is being derived from the industry.

The district of Wanneroo also contains a number of quarries which produce building stone and aggregate for the construction of roads not only locally but throughout the rest of the State. These quarries employ many men. Sheep and beef are also produced to a limited degree, but all these industries are most important to the Wanneroo district, because the people employed in them are among those who are the backbone of Western Australia.

I continue my speech by referring to the development of the urban section of the Wanneroo Shire which, six years ago, employed approximately 20 people apart from those employed in administration and on the outside staff. Today the shire employs approximately 300 people. Six years ago its revenue amounted to \$300 000, but today its revenue exceeds \$4 million. This gives members some indication of how the shire has expanded, and this is an area which represents a large portion of my electorate and contains the major part of the population.

I have no doubt that the people living in this area will become beset with many problems in the future, but I hope that steps will be taken to ensure that they do not reach any magnitude. I am sure we all agree that at all times prevention is better than cure. It is certainly my intention to strive to achieve many improvements and benefits for my constituents, and among such improvements I would include regional centres.

In the southern section of the Wanneroo district there is an area of approximately 120 hectares which has been designated open space under the metropolitan region town planning scheme. The land is still owned by the State Housing Commission, having been resumed many years ago. It will be my aim to have that land set aside for recreational purposes. A few years ago approaches were made to the Government by the local authority, in conjunction with the City of Stirling, in an effort to have the land vested in the Crown or the local authority so that it could be developed as a major recreational area to provide training venues for sporting organisations, educational facilities, and lecture halls, for both the young and the old.

I think the trend today is to provide only for the young but we have to remember that we are getting on in years ourselves and that some provision must be made so that we can enjoy some comfort in the years to come. The development of such a centre would benefit people living north of the river. I know that it is difficult to acquire land for such purposes but the Government of the day should give every consideration to proposals put forward by a local authority which is prepared to go almost to the limit in order to provide for

future needs. I am a great believer in planning for the future, but not for the next 100 years.

The present-day society should not have to suffer in order to provide for future generations. There should be a compromise and balance so that all generations can enjoy the facilities which are provided.

It is my intention, at an early date, in conjunction with both the local authorities concerned, to approach the Government with regard to that piece of land at Wanneroo. I am sure many people will derive enjoyment from facilities in that area if the opportunity is afforded them.

I will now comment further on the coastal strip referred to by the member for Morley, known as the nodes—not toads, but nodes. I am sure members are aware of the meaning of "node". In this case it concerns an area of land which has been cut off by the West Coast Highway and stretches from Sorrento to Mullaloo Beach. The area of the land is approximately 70 hectares, of which 30 hectares are still owned by the developer.

The original concept was to develop all the land on the west side of the West Coast Highway. Although a large proportion of the land has been vested in the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, it is felt that the remaining area should also be vested in the Crown for future recreational development. Recreational land should be utilised to the best advantage of all people concerned. I intend to approach the Government with a proposal to exchange land with the developer so that the coastal strip can be retained for future generations. It is estimated that by 1980 approximately 125 000 people will reside in that region. The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority recently announced its intention to set aside some 1 600 hectares which will stretch north from Lake Coolbellup to Lake Joondalup and Burns Beach Road.

The intention is sound but when recreational areas are set aside it is important that no burden should be placed on the shoulders of the present landowners. The present owners would have purchased the land in good faith on which to build homes and from which, perhaps, to derive a living. If the Government accepts the recommendation of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority it will be my intention to see that those who live in the area and those who produce vegetables, poultry, and grapes are either given an opportunity to move to an alternative site of equal value, or be compensated fully for the work they have done on their properties.

Urban development is extending to the Yanchep and Two Rocks area, where the Bond Corporation has embarked on a plan of massive development and expenditure.

I am sure that many people will eventually appreciate the type of development which is now taking place there. Towards the coastline there is the area of Mullaloo which, for some years, has been classed as a holiday settlement. Perhaps it was a holiday settlement a decade ago but the money now being spent on homes in the Mullaloo area is producing a locality which would be a credit to any community, and also a credit to the State of Western Australia.

However, the area to which I have referred is the only pocket of urban development which is not served with reticulated water. As a result of a deputation, only yesterday, to the State Government, the local authority, and the responsible department, every endeavour will be made to supply water at the earliest possible date.

The population explosion within the region has meant that the schools are overcrowded and the children do not receive the standard of education to which they are entitled. It was not thought that the population expansion would be so great in such a short time but the attendance at the Wanneroo school is already 900 children and by the fourth term, next year, the attendance will exceed 1 000 children. It is my opinion that the children are not receiving enough attention and the number of schools in the area should be increased.

I have recently read a report concerning hospitals. I agree that if everybody decided he did not want to be sick we would require maternity hospitals only! I was appalled to read in the report that only one hospital was envisaged and that was west of Joondalup. It was approaching the planning stage. There is no plan for any additional hospitals for many years. However, by 1980 we expect a population of 125 000 people within this region and, therefore, every endeavour must be made to speed up the provision of facilities such as hospitals.

As I said earlier, I support the principle of planning but I do not support planning for 100 years ahead. I reiterate that today's society should not go short in order to provide for future generations. However, every endeavour must be made to expedite development, and more than one hospital should be planned for the region.

I will now refer to decentralisation. Just north of the Wanneroo boundary, which is a portion of my electorate, there are the settlements of Bullsbrook, Chittering, Muchea, Bindoon, and Wannamal. They are all small townships but they are most important because they provide a good background to the economy of the State. The RAAF station at Pearce is also important to the State, and to Australia in general. Encouragement must be given to the people who live in those areas.

People purchase land with the idea of working it in order to have something to hand down to future generations, and this is most important. Such facilities as schools of higher grades should be available to people who experience difficulties in providing higher standards of education for their children. The physical effort necessary by the parents of these children to get them to school is too great to be sustained. Many parents are having to board their children. The children living in the Bullsbrook area cannot go beyond third year at the high school. Of course, the parents would like to see a senior high school provided. It is certainly required in this area because many children are travelling up to 96 miles a day in an endeavour to obtain a better education.

It is appalling that the people living within these catchment areas are suffering so many disadvantages. Everything is directed and generated towards the city. It is felt that perhaps some of the city people could compromise also. We frequently talk about decentralisation, and there would be nothing wrong with children from the Swan area travelling by bus to Pearce or Bullsbrook for secondary education. This would be a much safer and more comfortable route to travel than the present routes travelled by children from the outlying districts. Every endeavour must be made to see that these benefits are forthcoming for children in the outer areas. I feel that at present the State is suffering a loss of talent because of the lack of higher education in the country.

I would like to speak now of the Swan Valley and Herne Hill area which is noted for its vineyards. A few small businesses operate within this area, as well as a brick manufacturer on its fringe. Other activities in the area include stud farmers, dairying, and light engineering works—all most important to our State.

We have heard much talk about the character of the valley. What is more important—the character of an area or the people living in it? I feel it is the people. I referred earlier to the vineyards in the area, but I point out that winegrowing returns a small margin of profit only. The grapes are harvested only once a year, and the wine is made at this time. Many of the vignerons work in other occupations as well in order to help to develop their properties over a number of years.

After many years of hard work to develop his property, a vigneron may wish to retire. He does not want to leave the area, so he applies to subdivide his land so that he may keep his house and a few acres. However, the invariable reply is that he cannot do this because it will upset the character of the valley.

There is much work to be done during the season in the vineyards, and many times these properties become family concerns. If no family members are available

to do the work, salaries must be paid and the margin of profit is reduced even more. Ultimately this will destroy the character of the valley because the vignerons will give up their vineyards and we will find them turned into horse-training facilities—the valley will no longer be productive. When proposals are put forward to enable farming and industry of this type to continue, every consideration must be given to those concerned.

Many of the farmers feel that the area of reticulated water could be enlarged. I know this can be achieved with contributory schemes.

It is most important that we continue to encourage the productivity of the vineyards, and I know that some new vineyards are being established on the outer fringes of the valley. We know that we cannot stand in the way of development, but every consideration should be given to these people who have developed the vineyards in the valley.

I would like now to turn to the area of Toodyay, including the small townships of Gidgegannup and Chidlow. When we think of Toodyay we immediately think of a lovely, lush farming area, but wine grapes are grown also. A small abattoir was operating in the area until recently, and I hope that after approaches to and negotiations with the departments concerned, the abattoir will commence operations again.

Toodyay has rather a small population, but the shire has worked very hard over the past few years in an endeavour to have it declared a tourist area. The old gaol is of historical interest, and we should make every endeavour to assist the local authority to achieve its aims.

Even when one family leaves Toodyay, it causes consternation amongst the businesses within the township, and therefore we must endeavour to encourage more people to move into the area. Subdivisions have been approved over recent years, and people buying these properties feel they can make a go of them. An important factor which is depriving the people of Toodyay of advantages is the lack of a good, quick transport system. Toodyay is situated in such a position that a transport system could be utilised on an everyday basis. Such a system would serve the needs of these people.

It is felt that it is not hopeless to encourage industry to the area, and endeavours should be made to this end. A boy or girl leaving school has to look for work in the city or perhaps at Northam unless he or she works on the family property. Northam is not a great distance away, but when people go there to work it offsets the balance required for a place like Toodyay.

The families in the area are also disadvantaged because the older children have to board away from home to achieve an education.

I have covered broadly the needs and requirements of my electorate, and I have also drawn attention to its beneficial activities. I will now digress a little to talk about local government. I had the privilege of being involved with local government for a period of some 12 years. We all tend to use local government, and particularly when one is a member of the State Parliament one often says, "Consult your shire clerk or your shire president." Local government is of tremendous importance in our daily lives.

What are the responsibilities of local government? It is said that local authorities build roads, check septic tanks, pass building plans, and control fly-breeding spots in rural and urban areas and that this is their sole responsibility. This idea is quite incorrect. Local government plays an important part in our everyday lives. Many of the benefits flowing from State Government decisions come to the people through local government.

Many qualified officers are employed in local government, but then responsibility is taken away from these people. Applications are made to Government departments for decisions in many matters which are well within the scope of the qualified officers working in local government.

Let us look for a moment at planning—a most important factor in the development of our State as well as for its residents and future residents. Planning is also important to businesses and urban development. Qualified people in local government prepare comprehensive town planning schemes. These schemes are then accepted by the Government and legislation is passed and they become law. I believe that such legislation should be administered by the local authority responsible for the original preparation. Qualified people in local government should make decisions about subdivisions within the original scheme. Instead the local authorities must seek approval from the Town Planning Board. I am not criticising the competence of this board, but I feel we should have more confidence in the people employed by local authorities. Once a comprehensive scheme is adopted and becomes law, town planning should divorce itself from the development completely. More responsibility should be given to local government rather than taken from it.

Building, engineering, gardening, traffic, and health, are all linked with local government. Government departments serve the needs of the ratepayers but they sometimes overlook the efforts of local government and its importance to the people of the community. Refuse is a major problem today, and during the short period I have been in the House, I have heard members refer to the problem associated with the disposal of waste.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has three minutes to go.

Mr NANOVICH: Have I been talking as long as that, Mr Speaker? I feel there should be an all-out effort to assist local authorities in their endeavours to secure better means of contact, better facilities and better liaison in order that they might communicate better with the people through their efforts and the responsibilities they have placed on them.

I feel we should endeavour to eliminate certain approvals which at the moment must be sought from the Government departments, because the local authorities themselves have experts who can carry out efficiently the duties in question.

I now wish to talk about the developments in housing as these relate to private enterprise and the State Housing Commission. I feel this constitutes a great problem and there is certainly a need for improvement in development by this Government department—and now, of course, I refer to the State Housing Commission.

The commission is faced with a difficult task but I do feel that any development it might carry out could be upgraded and planned more efficiently than is the case today. We find that in numbers of cases we have hundreds of people who are housed in homes provided by the SHC and then suddenly problems arise as a result of a lack of community facilities, and so on, which make it necessary to employ full-time social workers to try to resolve problems that have been created.

I must reiterate and say that prevention is better than cure. It is necessary to make an all-out attempt to secure greater co-operation between the Government departments—particularly the State Housing Commission—and the local authorities. Where local authorities are prepared to expend large sums of money to provide in quick time amenities to serve the needs of the people concerned they should be given greater assistance and shown greater recognition and an attempt should be made to eliminate the type of development that is being carried out by the Housing Commission at the moment.

We should look to the future and attempt to discover the best means of housing people; and if the Housing Commission can co-ordinate and plan its developments in conjunction with private enterprise I feel sure we will have better houses and a better environment.

I did not think I had talked for quite so long, but I do hope that members will now have some knowledge of the problems that are apparent in my electorate. I thank you, Mr Speaker, and members of this Chamber for the tolerance that has been shown me in this my first address to Parliament.

MR HARTREY (Boulder-Dundas) [4.49 p.m.]: May I, Mr Speaker, in addressing my remarks to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, say how happy I am to see you elevated to the position

you occupy. I know that from your experience and your genial temperament—of which you have already given us some indication—you will show strict impartiality and tolerance in keeping with the highest traditions of your office.

I would like also to extend to the new members my heartiest congratulations. I welcome them to the club. I would particularly like to congratulate the mover of the motion on which I am now speaking.

The member for Wellington very graciously and very convincingly proposed the motion, part of which I am about to read. It is as follows—

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.

It goes without saying that all of us agree entirely with the first part of the motion which says "we beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign". To say more on that would be as inappropriate as to respond to the toast of the Queen at a public function.

I am afraid, however, there may not be the same degree of unanimity—as appeared fairly obvious last night—in regard to the second part of the motion which states, "and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament".

I ironically suggested last night that His Excellency was not pleased at all; if he were, I can only say he is easily pleased! On the other hand, however, I did call last night for a degree of fairness in debate, even if not impartiality, in this House, and therefore in that spirit of fairness I will say that the Speech which I am now discussing is like the curate's egg—good in parts. I welcome those parts which I anticipate to be good. I would, however, like to advert to the text of the speech for a moment or two. Quite early in the picture we are told on page 2 that "The economic situation is more critical throughout Australia generally than at any time since World War Two."

I assure the Premier that there is good news as well as bad news; I will give him the bad news first. The poor will undoubtedly get poorer; but the rich will undoubtedly get richer. That will probably console the Premier, because that is the type of economy for which the Liberal Party stands.

In *The West Australian* of Saturday, the 27th July, one sees headlines such as "BHP earnings raised to record \$91.5 million".

Mr Young: Did you say what the return was on invested capital?

Mr HARTREY: On invested capital it goes down to nothing.

Mr Young: It is 6.5 per cent.

Mr HARTREY: I will deal with that later; the honourable member need not worry. He should listen to what I am about to say, it is very interesting.

Mr O'Connor: The start wasn't too good.

Mr HARTREY: Is not the Minister happy? His people are doing very well; the economy is splendid.

Mr Young: I would like them to be doing better than that.

Mr HARTREY: I am sure the honourable member would.

Mr Young: And it would be a lot better for this country and the workers of this country.

Mr HARTREY: I am giving you the good news first, Mr Speaker.

Mr O'Connor: Would you invest your money now?

Mr HARTREY: I am one of those unfortunates who belong to the new poor in company with other members of this Parliament. None of us have made a fortune in the last few months; none of us have shown a profit on the previous year. We are poorer than we were the year before.

Mr McPharlin: The shares are the lowest they have ever been.

Mr HARTREY: Oh yes, of course. There is more good news to come. In the same issue of *The West Australian* to which I have referred we find the heading "CBC has good year"—that is the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited. The subheading shows that the company's dividend was lifted again. The article in the paper states—

The consolidated profit of the group, which includes for the first time a full year's contribution from its 70.5 per cent owned finance subsidiary, rose by 25 per cent to \$10.75 million.

That is very nice indeed. The article continues—

The contribution by Commercial and General Acceptance to the consolidated profit was \$5.8 million compared with \$2.78 million in 1972-73.

In the face of this members opposite have nothing to cry about; they are all right. It is the members on our side who have something to cry about. I am trying to cheer up the members opposite because they say the situation is so critical; that it has never been so critical at any time since World War II. Members opposite should be of good cheer; capital is still flourishing; if the poor get poorer what does it matter to them? Another item in *The West Australian* of Saturday last carries the heading, "Bonus Issue by Mortlock" and states—

Mortlock Bros Ltd will make a one-for-10 bonus share issue after more than doubling net profit in the year to May 31.

The company earned \$276,103 in the latest year compared with \$112,813 previously.

The net profit is more than twice as much.

Mr Young: What is the capital investment?

Mr HARTREY: Whatever it was the net profit has doubled on this occasion, so cheer up mate.

Mr Young: You do not know how bad it was the year before.

Mr HARTREY: Apparently I do not know anything; the honourable member knows it all.

Mr Young: It probably does not suit you to know.

Mr HARTREY: The honourable member, God bless him, is the rising hope of the stern unbending Tories. Having faced this crisis which is said to be the greatest in the economic history of Australia, with good news and bad news—particularly with good news to the Government—I come now to consider another subject about which the Government expresses grave concern, but here I am not prepared to offer the same degree of consolation; in fact, I even asked the Government to do something about the matter.

One of the areas of deepest concern to the Government is housing. We are told the unprecedented rise in interest rates is due to the Commonwealth Government's policies to make money dearer and scarcer. I will not repeat my remarks about that. We also find the following in His Excellency's Speech—

It is urgently necessary—for both humane and economic reasons—that those who find themselves in difficulties under current interest rates, will be enabled to maintain repayments within the same percentage of their wages and salaries agreed upon when they entered into their loan commitments.

Does that mean the Treasurer has invited the working class people of this country to demand higher wages? I ask that because this is the only way to help them. The building societies have raised their interest rates from 7 and 8½ per cent in some instances to 10 per cent. These interest rates are on their way up to 12 per cent and presently they will be 14 per cent.

Are we being invited to demand increased wages so that it will make no difference to the home buyers? I hope so, but I am sure this is not the intention of the Government; it is just a piece of hypocrisy.

I will leave the matter there but I suggest that the Government does at least give this much help to the home buyers, that it tests in the courts of this State and if necessary of the Commonwealth—the High Court of Australia—the question of whether the increased rates imposed

upon home buyers—those who started to buy their homes after the 29th April, 1970, and who have not yet completed the transaction—are legal.

Mr Young: I am not being critical but would not it be better for those who claim it is illegal to take the test case?

Mr HARTREY: Oh, yes. If a person cannot pay his mortgages he will, of course, have tons of money to pay lawyers.

Mr O'Neill: I read that the TLC might do that.

Mr Young: I was only trying to work out something.

Mr HARTREY: I am not impressed; the Government is trying to get out of it. I am going to hazard a statement that these increases are illegal. From what I know about it—I am not setting myself up as a great legal authority, but I am setting myself up as a person who can read the English language and understand the Statutes and who has had 36 years' experience in law—section 18C must be complied with. It is not being complied with and there are consequences resulting from that noncompliance. Let me read section 18C. It states—

Where a society approves an application made to it by a person wishing to obtain an advance from it on the security of a first mortgage over land—

To put it in simple language, it means where a society tells a person that it is going to make an advance to him as a borrower—

—it shall—

(a) within seven days of approving the application; or—

This is most important—

—(b) before requiring the person obtaining the advance to execute such documents as are necessary to obtain the security on which the advance is to be made, whichever is the earlier, cause to be sent by prepaid post to that person at his last known place of residence or business as disclosed in his application, a notice in the prescribed form setting out such particulars as are prescribed concerning the rate of interest that is payable under the proposed advance, the date on which interest commences to accrue, the date on which repayments of principal and interest are to commence, and the amount of any other fees, charges or other expenses paid or to be paid by the person.

That is simple language and it is an Act of Parliament. But the fact that it is simple language and that it is an Act of Parliament is not exactly proof that non-compliance with it brings about invalidity of the contract. One further requirement is that the Act itself must declare any contravention of this section to be an offence and it must prescribe a penalty. But it does just that.

If members look at section 47 they will find that any contravention of this Act is dealt with there. It states—

(1) Any society which or person who—

(a) fails to comply with any of the requirements of this Act within the time or in the manner thereby provided; or

(b) contravenes or fails to comply with any other provision of this Act,

commits an offence. Penalty—\$100.

Under the Interpretation Act the provisions of an Act include the provision of regulations. A regulation is part of an Act under our Interpretation Act. So, if a person does not obey the regulations made under the Act, as long as they are valid regulations, he has contravened the Act. What is the regulation-making power? Section 52 of the Act states—

The Governor may make regulations for any purpose—

This is very important—

—for any purpose for which regulations are contemplated, permitted or required by this Act and in particular, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, for—

(a) prescribing the fees to be paid for the registration, inspection, and the copying or extracting of documents prepared under this Act;

(b) prescribing the form of, and particulars to be included in, documents prepared under or for the purposes of this Act;

That is a direct reference to section 18C. This Act was assented to on the 29th April, 1970, and would not apply to any contract entered into before that date. But it would apply to contracts entered into after that date except that there may be a hiatus between the 29th April, 1970, and the 31st August, 1970, because until the 31st August, 1970, the Government did not follow up its Act of April by prescribing the particulars or the formula. But on the 31st August, 1970, in the *Government Gazette* at page 2309 under the heading of "Building Societies Act" there is the heading, "Schedule. Regulations." There are several new regulations

but only one relates to my argument. I refer to regulation 39 relating to disclosure to borrowing members. It states—

39. For the purposes of section 18C of the Act, the notice required to be sent by any society to a person referred to in that section is a notice in the form of Form No. 27 in the First Schedule to these regulations, in which notice all particulars have been duly completed.

"Completed" means that there is nothing to be added.

Form No. 27 is set out below—

Western Australia.

Building Societies Act, 1920.

NOTICE.

TO:.....
of.....

You are hereby notified that, subject to certain terms and conditions, the Society has approved of the making of an advance to you of the sum of \$.....

Particulars of some of the matters relevant to the advance are set out below:—

The prescribed particulars are as follows—

1. Period over which advance and interest thereon is to be repaid will be years months.
2. Rate of interest payable on the advance will be per centum per annum.

It does not add "perhaps". It continues—

3. Date on which interest commences to be charged is.....19.....
4. The advance is to be repaid by instalments of \$....., payable each calendar month, the first instalment being payable in the month of
5. There will/will not also be payable to the Society, before the due date for the payment of the first monthly instalment, an additional amount or amounts in respect of interest accrued before that date.
6. Particulars and amounts of all other fees, charges and expenses paid or to be paid by you are as follows:—
.....

Last Sunday at Rockingham I heard read a legal opinion from a man whom I greatly respect. I will not mention his name; he might not thank me for it. But he is a QC and attended university at the same time as I did. He obtained higher academic qualifications than I did, and expressed the opinion that I was wrong, the reason being that paragraph 1 of Form No. 27 states—

Period over which advance and interest thereon is to be repaid will be
.....

This subject is not mentioned in, or authorised by, section 18C. There is no doubt about that; he is quite right there. Section 18C states—

... as are prescribed concerning the rate of interest that is payable under the proposed advance, the date on which interest commences to accrue, the date on which repayments of principal and interest are to commence, . . .

It does not refer to the date on which payments are to conclude. However, that does not make any difference to my argument because the section says that the rate of interest to be paid is to be prescribed, and if there is something in the regulations with which one would not have to comply that certainly is not the point, because the very first thing that is mentioned in the section is the second mentioned on the form; namely, the rate of interest. We do not care how long it will take to finish repayments but we do care at what rate interest will be applied. That is the situation.

What is the result of this? I have pointed out from the beginning that we must jump the hurdle of proving that our omission to comply with that regulation is an offence. Members may say, "How do I know they have not complied with it?" I do not know whether building societies have sent out the form but I have not been able to find one solitary person who has received a form. Last Sunday at Rockingham a gentleman told me he thought he had received a form and another said he had his at home. One of them went home and returned with his form, but what he had was his mortgage document. Neither of the gentlemen had received Form No. 27. A man in the cloakroom at the railway station complained to me as I was taking out some baggage that he was in trouble with his mortgage repayments and I asked him whether he had received Form No. 27. He replied, "What is that? I have never heard of it." I explained what it was to him and he said that he had not received such a form. So, I am sure that there have been many instances where the Act was not complied with.

Suppose a man had received a form as prescribed under section 18C which stipulates that interest is to apply at 7 per cent or 8 per cent. How can the lender then increase the rate of interest, when that is not contemplated by the Act of Parliament, which governs him as much as it does the borrower? It is fantastic to imagine that Parliament intended to tell the borrowers that they were going to pay 7 per cent interest on the clear understanding that they were not going to do anything of the sort. All that would do would be to make an Act of Parliament an instrument of fraud. It would give a false sense of security to people. I do not think there

is much argument about the fact that this would make the Act of Parliament an instrument of fraud.

I return to the point raised by my QC friend. Would not the question of how long it would take to pay off a mortgage be one of those questions which would be at least contemplated under the Act? If a person is going to enter into a mortgage to repay money over a certain length of time, would not the length of time itself be something which would need to be at least contemplated under the Act? Section 52 states—

The Governor may make regulations for any purpose for which regulations are contemplated, permitted or required by this Act . . .

It is part of the Act; do not tell me it is not because I had a bitter experience with regulation 4 under the Mines Regulation Act which had the effect of suspending the operation of the entire Act all over Western Australia. I said it was ridiculous and I went to the High Court of Australia to tell them that the power to suspend laws was cut out with James II, and he got pushed off the Throne in 1688. The "pretended power" was denied in the Bill of Rights in 1689. The five judges of the High Court when I made my appeal smiled gently at me and said that this was a valid exercise of the regulation-making power. So, do not tell me that we cannot make a regulation under an Act as wide as this one. The Government may make a regulation for prescribing the form of particulars to be included in documents, so long as the forms are contemplated, permitted, or regulated under the Act. Members cannot tell me that we should not at least contemplate how long a person should keep paying off his mortgage. I think that disposes of that problem.

So, members can see that I have good grounds for saying that these increases are illegal. However, I will give members two more examples. A case was heard in England in 1952 under a regulation which was made in 1947 and dealt with utility goods. In Britain after the war—this also applied in Australia—wartime restrictions were not immediately suspended or abolished and in 1947 there still existed a restriction on the sale of utility goods. The particular regulation read that if a manufacturing firm supplied such goods to any customer not being a retail customer, it had to supply with the goods or as soon as practicable after the goods were delivered an invoice setting out certain particulars about the goods.

A company known as "B & B Viennese Fashions" did not do that. It supplied goods to a nonretail customer and did not send the invoice. The nonretail customer refused to pay for the goods and Viennese Fashions sued the customer for the amount

involved which was, I think, £75. Viennese Fashions succeeded before a county court judge. On appeal to the divisional court, one judge agreed with Viennese Fashions that they were entitled to be paid and the other agreed with the other people that they were not compelled to pay.

When it came to the court of appeal in England, which is the second highest judicial tribunal in the United Kingdom, three judges out of three said that the contract was tainted by illegality because there was a specific failure to comply with the stipulated regulations in the terms thereof.

I have since been informed that this view is changing in judicial circles. Another QC outside this State told me that, and he quoted as an authority the case of *St. John Shipping Corporation v. Joseph Rank Limited*, recorded in 1956. In that case Lord Devlin certainly makes a remarkably good judgment. He handles magnificently the whole question of illegality of contract and the consequences flowing from them. But he expressly approves the decision in *Viennese Fashions v. Losane* and, in addition, he says that contracts which are forbidden and are unenforceable and void include "contracts for the sale of prohibited goods" and "contracts for the sale of goods without accompanying documents when the Act says that accompanying documents must be furnished". That was a direct reference to the *Viennese Fashions* case.

Here we have contracts for the provision of specific documents and either the documents have not been sent out at all—as far as I can find out they have not been—or if they have been they certainly could not contain a clause to the effect that the rate of interest payable shall be 7 per cent per annum or 10 per cent per annum or other such sum as the directors may see fit from time to time to fix; because that is not a prescribed particular. As a prescribed particular rate per cent per annum must be stated. If the form says that a person must pay 7 per cent or some other amount that person is not being told anything. He does not know what he has to pay; and that is where in this case the law is not being complied with.

Mr Thompson: People break their necks to sign them.

Mr HARTREY: They also break their necks to borrow from a pawnbroker at 60 per cent because they are starving. Young married couples having no knowledge at all of commercial transactions have no thought of reading such a document, particularly when it is expressed in all sorts of legal language.

Mr Thompson: When was the last time you told anyone not to sign one?

Mr HARTREY: I will tell the honourable member. A lady wanted to take out a

mortgage with the Bank of New South Wales. Her husband came to me and asked me to sign a certificate to the effect that she fully understood what she was signing. I asked the man where his wife was and he told me she was in the truck outside and did I want to see her. I said, "I think so. If you went to a doctor in Boulder for a certificate to say she was suffering from TB do you think the doctor would want to examine her?" The wife subsequently came in to see me and I asked her whether she had the mortgage papers with her. She then told me that she had signed them the previous day because the bank had said it was a mere formality to get the certificate. I told her it was not a matter of formality to me.

I went to see the bank manager whom I had known for a long time. I wanted to have a piece of him, but he was not there and when I told the accountant, who was a very decent gentleman, what I wanted, he called for the mortgage, tore it into pieces, and threw it into the bin. He said, "Can I do better than that?" I told him he could not and that I was very happy with his action.

I took a form back to my office to explain it to the woman. A couple of clauses were quite atrocious. One was to the effect that notwithstanding anything in any Act of Parliament, and notwithstanding that the mortgagor shall not be in default in the observance or performance of the deed, it shall be lawful for the mortgagee to exchange for any other property, the mortgaged property with or without monetary consideration for equality of exchange.

So it was possible to mortgage a house in Kalgoolie, keep on paying off the interest and principal, and suddenly find that the house owned was not the one in Kalgoolie, but a two-roomed shanty in Bunbury. That was the implication, and I hope that answers the question the honourable member asked.

I told the woman not to sign, but she told me that she was not dishonest and they had received the money and consequently she would sign. I told her she did not have to, because the bank would not do as much for her. However, she was over the age of consent and she was determined to sign what she wanted to.

I then wrote to the bank and stated that I had explained to the woman that clause 28 was unconscionable and that clause 29 was unconstitutional. That was the one which stated that notwithstanding what was in any Act of Parliament, either State or Federal, the mortgagee could not have his rights restricted under the contract. How do members like that? They make their own Acts of Parliament so we can all go home, without a rise. I told the bank that clause 29 was unconstitutional and clause 30 was utterly absurd. That was

the clause dealing with the swapping of the houses. I told the bank that although I had explained all this fully to the lady she was still determined to sign what Macbeth would undoubtedly have called, "this bloody deed!"

I think the Government would be doing a great service to these home buyers with whom it sympathises if it would finance a test case to be brought by any one of the 150 home buyers I have seen so far. They would all be willing to say they had never received Form 27 at all and if we could find one who had, the form certainly would not comply with the Act because it could not. If the form states that the interest rate shall be 7 per cent, it must be 7 per cent. If it says the rate shall be 7 per cent or such other sum as shall be subsequently determined, such a form would not comply with the Act because the Act states that the rate must be indicated. That is my argument anyway, for what it is worth. I do not know that it is worth a great deal, but it might be to the distressed home buyers who are now facing bankruptcy and eviction. When some signed up the rate was 7 per cent and they were paying \$86 a month in interest and principal and now they must pay \$135 a month. Unless the Premier will increase their wages proportionately these people will be in considerable trouble.

I will now leave that subject and devote what little time I have left to another subject. What time do I have left, Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: You have almost 10 minutes.

Mr HARTREY: That will be sufficient to deal with the legislative programme.

The SPEAKER: Eight minutes would be nearer the mark.

Mr HARTREY: I am very disappointed, but I am sure members are not. I strongly approve two aspects of the legislative programme foreshadowed. With reference to the legislation which will be designed to prevent the sale of undivided shares in property, I hope that it will be in such terms as will safeguard the buyer. Actually I do not think there are any terms which would safeguard the buyer. I would eliminate the provision altogether if I had my way. However, as far as the Government intends to go, I am in full agreement.

The Government intends also to amend the Police Act. I do not know what these amendments will comprise, but I would like to make a couple of suggestions which I hope those concerned will keep in mind when they are drafting the amendments. My suggestions deal with sections 65 to 67 which are known as the vagrancy sections. They recently received quite a drubbing from an English judge who said that the

provisions were so archaic and out of touch with modern civilisation that they would be better abolished altogether, and I pass that suggestion on.

The judge commented on the archaic language in which the provisions are couched. Section 65 deals with idle and disorderly persons. Subsection (1) deals with those people without lawful visible means of support. Section 65 reads—

65. Every person who shall commit any of the next following offences shall be deemed an idle and disorderly person within the meaning of this Act, and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six calendar months with or without hard labour:—

- (1) Every person having no visible lawful means of support or insufficient lawful means of support, who being thereto required by any Justice, or who having been duly summoned for such purpose, or brought before any Justice, shall not give a good account of his means of support to the satisfaction of such Justice.

Prima facie, a man who is dead broke without a bean, can be punished. In many cases that is a convenient clause to deal with the real down and outers. At other times, it could be used, and has been used, to deal with poor devils who are just down on their luck. We are not so far from depression times as some may think, despite the good news I have just given about the banks, BHP, Mortlocks, and so forth.

Section 66 deals with rogues and vagabonds and portion of it reads—

66. Every person who shall commit any of the next following offences shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond within the meaning of this Act, and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding twelve calendar months, with or without hard labour:—

- (1) Every person committing any of the offences in the next preceding section mentioned, having been previously convicted as an idle and disorderly person.

A man can also be declared an incorrigible rogue and be sentenced to everlasting damnation in the next world as well as in this, together with 18 months' gaol in the meantime, if he has been previously convicted of vagrancy or, in other words, he has three times been convicted of being down on his luck.

One part of the Act I would suggest should be dealt with is a provision which was inserted some years ago. I am not

quite sure why it was included, but it is very unfair and unreasonable. It is subsection (13) of section 66, which deals with rogues and vagabonds. Subsection (13) reads—

- (13) Any person who is or has been, without lawful excuse, in or upon any premises or the curtilage, whether enclosed or fenced or not, of any premises.

The words "any premises" could mean an unfenced paddock at the back of a house where one exercised a horse. Any person found sleeping on that ground without leave of the owner could be deemed to be a rogue and a vagabond and could be given a year's imprisonment.

Mr O'Connor: Did anyone receive that penalty for that type of offence?

Mr HARTREY: Not to my knowledge. But why introduce stupid penalties which there is no intention of enforcing? I dealt with the case of a young lad who was asked to go to a party. He went to the party. He did not know the people at whose house the party was held, and the fellow who asked him to go to the party did not know them, either. He was pinched, taken down to the police station, fingerprinted, and put in gaol; and I was asked to get him out.

Mr O'Connor: Are you asking for the deletion of that provision?

Mr HARTREY: Yes.

Mr O'Connor: Is a replacement necessary?

Mr HARTREY: I think there is certainly need for a replacement. The matter should be referred to a committee—perhaps a Select Committee of this House—to consider what the alternative should be.

I think I have said enough to give the House some idea that all is not good in the kingdom of Denmark. In the meantime, be of good cheer. The rich are still getting richer, and the poor are still getting poorer.

MR THOMPSON (Kalamunda) [5.32 p.m.] : The words "the member for Kalamunda" sound strange in my ears; it is the first time I have been called that, because there has been a change in the electoral boundaries.

At the outset, Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on having been elected to your very high office in this House. I believe the choice of the House was an extremely appropriate one. In my view, you, Sir, are the most competent person in the House at the present time to fill that high office. You have distinguished yourself in this community. You fought for this country and distinguished yourself in war service. You have gained immortality in the sporting annals of

this State. You are still an active sportsman and, I believe, you are still the champion veteran tennis player of this State. You also excel at indoor sports.

Mr Jamieson: I beg your pardon.

Mr THOMPSON: I am speaking of your ability with a billiard cue.

Mr Jamieson: You frightened him for a minute.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kalamunda.

Mr THOMPSON: I also congratulate the Premier and his Ministers on the positions they hold. I believe the Government will make a great contribution to the welfare of this State. A former Deputy Premier—the present member for Cockburn—made a comment, either just before or just after the election, that this State was on the way to becoming an extremely great State, and the things done in the next decade would probably be as great as those done during the term of the Brand Government. I therefore believe the Ministers of the present Government will make a mark in the history of the State.

I am extremely pleased with the way in which the Ministers are going about their respective jobs. Without wishing to discriminate against the others, I would like to pay a compliment to the Minister for Local Government. He was a very hard-working man in Opposition and he is an equally hard-working Minister. He is making an endeavour to visit many parts of the State and has been to my electorate on a couple of occasions. He has done his job very conscientiously, and I hope other Ministers will be able to visit the various parts of the State as frequently as the Minister for Local Government is now doing.

I would like to make the observation that in the few hours this Parliament has been in session we have had a very high attendance rate by the Ministers—something which was lacking in the previous Parliament, when at times there were only two or three Ministers in the House. I believe the Ministers will be able to keep up the good work they have begun.

I congratulate the new members on both sides of the House. When I look around the Chamber at the faces of the new members, I appreciate the very young average age of the members of this Parliament. It could well be the youngest Parliament in the history of the State.

Mr Jamieson: I doubt that very much. At one stage we used to have Premiers who were in their 30s.

Mr THOMPSON: The honourable member knows more about it than I do but it seemed to me that in the days

gone by it was the fellow who had occupied various offices in the community or had become a shire president who was elected to Parliament at the age of about 60. That may not be the case.

I would like to make particular reference to the new member for Wellington. I congratulate her on being returned. She is a woman of distinction, as she will prove in this House.

I said a while ago that I am now the member for Kalamunda as a result of the redistribution of electoral boundaries. The redistribution indicated clearly the changes taking place in the outer metropolitan region of this city. It is only a few years ago that my seat was represented by a Country Party member who won his seat quite comfortably election after election. There was an historic election in 1962, when Mr Dunn won the seat by finishing one vote in front of a Country Party candidate, and he held the seat comfortably from that time onwards.

I do not think it is the calibre of the people who have been chosen to stand as Country Party candidates in the area that is responsible for the change. There has clearly been a change in the population pattern of the outer metropolitan area. The people living there do not identify so much with the rural areas and they tend to support either the Liberal Party or the Labor Party. This was again evidenced recently in the Federal election, when Mr Don Malsey was deposed as the member for Moore and replaced by a Liberal (Mr John Hyde). I stood as the Liberal candidate for Moore in 1969 and I predicted at that time that the seat would eventually be won by the Liberal Party because of the population change. That is what has happened.

Mr McIver: Do you think Labor preferences had anything to do with it?

Mr THOMPSON: Labor preferences did not elect Mr Hyde because the Labor candidate topped the primary vote, as the honourable member should know. It was Country Party preferences which elected Mr Hyde.

I would like to pay a compliment to the staff of Parliament. We are very well served by the people who are employed to run this place. I believe the whole Parliament operates as a team, and we all have a part to play in that team. The Clerks at the Table right through all the people in Parliament House, including the kitchen and diningroom staff, do a very good job. They are very courteous and attentive to the members.

Another important part of the team of Parliament is the Press, which is the only real link between the Parliament and the people. Members of Parliament do not

always agree with the Press reports. We think that every speech and question we ask in the House should be reported, and when they are reported we think they should be reported differently. However, I believe the Press does an extremely responsible job.

I would like to draw attention to the extremely difficult circumstances under which the Press operates in this place. I do not know how many sections of the media are here from time to time. I have noticed in the last couple of days that the Press gallery has been full to overflowing, with people sitting in seats that have never been occupied before, indicating that a greater number of people from the Press are involved in Parliament at the present time.

The room from which the Press people are required to operate is also full to overflowing. I would like to draw that fact to the attention of the members who serve on the Joint House Committee. Changes are taking place in Parliament House at the present time. The library is being relocated and several other things are going on. I urge the Joint House Committee to look at the situation which prevails in regard to the Press.

It appears to me that, by comparison with the Parliaments of the other States and, indeed, the central Parliament, our Press people here are very inadequately catered for.

Mr Jamieson: Have you compared the party meeting rooms in the other places? We are appallingly served. We are being pushed into a little room in which one can hardly swing a cat.

Mr THOMPSON: That may be so. I am now speaking specifically about the accommodation provided for the Press. I would like the members of the Joint House Committee to take up the matter to see whether some improved services can be made available to the Press. In New South Wales each section of the media is provided with a separate office, and I think that would be a minimum requirement. In that State members of the Press are given greater facility to use the dining room and other services of the House, and a similar situation applies in Canberra where, even though accommodation is quite acute, the Press is given a far greater share of the available space than it is given in our Parliament.

One of the duties which I perform, as a member of Parliament, is to carry the position of patron of the young men's auxiliary of the Spastic Welfare Association. I do not know why I was singled out for that honour. Perhaps the reason is that one of the Spastic Welfare Association institutions was in my electorate; that is, the Hawkevale institution, where the Spastic

Welfare Association has established quite a large complex and is doing a very good job within its limited financial means.

In 1955, a study made in Western Australia indicated that in every 1 000 live births two babies were physically or mentally handicapped or deformed. Figures recently released in America indicate that the incidence of imperfection in human beings in that country is rising. I would suggest if that is what is happening in America then a study in Australia would indicate the same sort of trend.

Cerebral palsy is a most complex disease which covers many facets of disability—mentality, speech, sight, hearing, and other facets as well. Any one of those aspects, or a combination of them, may be involved in a particular case. So it can be seen that this complaint is one which is complex and very difficult to deal with.

There are in this State institutions which are designed to cater for children who are affected in this way, but I do not think we have enough such institutions and facilities. I want to draw attention to an area in which I believe there is a particular need for more to be done. I refer to the young people who are now being treated at some of the institutions in the State and who are adequately catered for at the moment because their parents are still living. However, as these young people grow older their parents pass on and they are left in the community.

At present, apart from "C"-class hospitals and similar institutions, there is nowhere that such people can be accommodated. I must say that accommodation is available at Nadezda in Innaloo, which has 30 beds to cater for these young people up to, I think, the age of 25; but then there is nowhere for them to go. The Home of Peace at present has two of these patients. Unfortunately one of them is mentally defective and is not aware of what is going on around him or her. The other, whilst being physically defective, is mentally alert and active; and I submit that a "C"-class hospital is not the place for persons of that type.

I believe there is a crying need for facilities to cater for these people from birth until death and to provide for them the opportunity to live as comfortably as is possible and to partake of recreation and employment. They should be enabled to lead a life as satisfying as is possible under the circumstances.

I believe there is a need for us to put an end to the *ad hoc* way in which the problem is being dealt with at the moment. There should be an inquiry into the education facilities for these people. A similar inquiry was held in Victoria only last year, I think; but unfortunately I have not been able to obtain a copy of the

report. I would like to read the findings of that inquiry. I urge that a similar inquiry be conducted in this State in order that we may ascertain the areas of need and find ways and means of filling that need.

As an example of the type of problem which exists, I would mention the case of one of my constituents who had a child which was physically quite sound but was obviously mentally disturbed. The child was enrolled at the local school, but his behaviour was quite unruly and the teachers experienced great difficulty in keeping him under control. They did as well as they could under the circumstances, but they could not do anything for the child himself; and certainly the child's behaviour did nothing for the other children in the class to which he was assigned. My constituent approached me in an endeavour to have the child taken to a place adequate to educate him. It took a long time, but eventually he was sent to the Kalamunda primary school which caters for children of this type.

However, I suggest too few of these units are available. Within my electorate that is the only available place for such children and it is being operated in a hall built by the parents and citizens' association to cater for cultural and other activities within the school. That hall, built with the funds of the parents and citizens' association, cannot be released for the purpose for which it was designed and for which the parents raised the money, because it must be used to accommodate children who have specific problems. Although it is handy for those who live in Kalamunda, it creates a problem for the children of people in the foothills area and I believe some must travel considerable distances to take their children to this school for their education.

I said earlier that there is a need for a complex to cater for mentally and physically handicapped people which would look after them from birth until death. Examples of this type of development exist throughout the world. I read recently of such an example in Holland which is known as the Het-Dorp Village, which provides accommodation of the type to which I am referring. Opinion is divided as to whether all the facilities should be provided in the one unit; some suggest that it is socially advantageous for these people to have to travel to a place of employment or recreation because it gives them a change of environment and scenery and helps their social development. Perhaps the answer might be to have a complex with all these facilities situated in the one place; but at least there should be units which can be operated as one institution even though geographically they may be some distance apart.

I understand the unit in Holland to which I have referred offers flat-type accommodation in single and twin units. The single units are for those people who desire to be alone and who are capable of living some part of their lives on their own. Twin units enable others to live together.

I know that the problem is difficult and complex and I suggest it should involve both the State and the Commonwealth Governments, bearing in mind that medical benefit payments are involved. However, I urge the Government and the appropriate Minister to take heed of this problem.

My interest in this subject I am sure has been increased by the experience of the former member for Darling Range, Mr Ken Dunn who has retired from this Parliament. Mr Dunn has a son who is mentally retarded and who requires a fair amount of attention from his father. The boy is growing older and requires constant attention. I have seen at first hand the problems associated with raising a handicapped child and I have discussed with Mr Dunn the problems experienced by him. One of the reasons he retired from parliamentary life was that it was becoming too difficult for his wife to handle their son; another reason was his failing health. Ken Dunn will not live forever and the question he asks himself is, "What will happen to my son when my wife and I pass on?" When one looks around at the possibilities, one cannot help feeling discouraged.

I mentioned earlier the activities of the Minister for Local Government and Town Planning. One of the things in which he has been involved in recent times has been the subject of rural subdivisions. I suggest that in this society today we are all living at a tremendous pace. We seem to be going faster and faster as the days go by. As a matter of fact only recently, after having had a fairly exhausting week, I commented to my wife that one should start to analyse what life is all about. Surely we should be thinking in these days, with our rising affluence, of slowing down a little and perhaps living at a more leisurely pace. I believe that as time goes by there will be a greater realisation that we are living at a very high tempo and there will be those who want to get out of town and acquire a small holding of land and be prepared to commute to the city, in order that we might be able to enjoy a fuller and more relaxed life.

In my electorate, one would imagine that there would be scope for that sort of life but, in fact, there is not. There are very few small holdings of land available and, as these are becoming more popular, when they come on the market they sell at ridiculously high prices. I do not claim that this problem is confined to my electorate; it must be common to many areas. I would hope that the Minister is able to

make provision for the subdivision of larger rural holdings to enable people to buy small farmlet types of development.

One of the problems I envisage is that the experts—the planners—will keep insisting on an extremely high standard of servicing of blocks. In the Kalamunda Shire a few years ago, all that was necessary to get a piece of land rezoned was to be prepared to lay a strip of bitumen road and to provide one or two other minor services. Today the requirement is a kerbed bitumen road of a much greater width than that which applied previously. Developers must provide footpaths. Eventually, they may have to provide street trees, bus shelters, street signs, lighting and other such services. I know there are very good arguments that such should be the case. The advocates argue, "Why should the established ratepayers in the area pay for the servicing of land to be sold to people moving into the area?" There is an argument for that. However, I suggest that in the case of rural subdivisions a realistic approach should be taken to the standard of servicing required.

I believe that people would be willing to accept something less than a kerbed, bitumen road. Indeed, there is one street in my electorate—Croxtan Road—where every now and then, people living along that road present a petition to the council calling upon the council not to seal their road. They want it to remain a gravel road because they know that while it remains a gravel road there will not be a great influx of people to the area. It is a very beautiful part of the shire. It contains blocks of three acres, five acres, and 10 acres, and the people are living a life-style which I believe would and should be enjoyed by many people.

It is my belief that people would be prepared to accept a lower standard of development in order that they could obtain access to the sort of land on which they could build and live in the style in which they wished to live.

I should like to comment on my election to the position of Chairman of Committees. I should like to say how appreciative I am of being elected to this very high post of the Parliament. I consider it to be a great honour and I will do my utmost to be a good Chairman of Committees.

Regardless of whether I prove to be a competent Chairman of Committees, I can assure the House that I will become a fit one, because when I do almost a 100-yard dash from my place in the Chamber to the seat occupied by the Chairman of Committees a few times during the session I will most certainly become fit. After having sat behind the Premier for so long whilst he was Leader of the Opposition and when we were on the other side of the

House, I find it a little strange and a little difficult in my present place in the Chamber, because when a debate is in progress and the "big guns" are firing, the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier often have little exchanges across the Chamber which those members sitting on the back benches find difficult to hear. I therefore impress upon those who sit at the end of the Chamber from where I now stand to speak up, because we who are now occupying the back benches find difficulty in hearing what they say.

Mr Hartrey: We don't want to miss the words of wisdom.

Mr THOMPSON: No, we do not. I am glad the honourable member made that interjection because I want to thank him for his assistance in returning me to this Assembly. It is rather unusual when a Labor member of Parliament goes out of his way to ensure that a Liberal Party member is re-elected. I am sorry to say that in the 1971 State election I just fell over the line. I polled 36.78 per cent of the primary votes and relied heavily on the distribution of preferences. In the last election I gained 54.91 per cent of the primary votes, and one reason was that the member for Boulder-Dundas clearly aligned himself with the people who were running around my electorate pulling down my election signs.

Mr Hartrey: The more signs that were pulled down the more votes you got.

Mr THOMPSON: On the morning after the Press reported that incident I had a call from Mike Marsh, my Labor opponent, a very nice fellow, despite his Labor affiliations. He completely dissociated himself from those people who were responsible for tearing down my election signs. He said that he was quite sure that none of his people were responsible, and so I was rather surprised that, when it reached the point of the police taking action, the person concerned was represented by none other than the member for Boulder-Dundas.

Mr Jamieson: He is a legal man! What is wrong with that? There is a great deal of difference between his legal practice and his other activities. This has been standard practice for a long time; that is, that a lawyer defends his client no matter what he has done.

Mr THOMPSON: It is not very likely that he would come all the way from Boulder-Dundas to defend a person who resides on the fringes of the metropolitan area.

Mr Jamieson: He has gone into the country to defend many members on your side of the house following their being charged for speeding and other offences.

Sir Charles Court: The member for Kalamunda is not complaining; he is thanking the member for Boulder-Dundas.

Mr Jamieson: That is not the point.

Mr THOMPSON: In making my speech today I have jumped around a little, principally because of the interjections from my learned friend.

I now want to make a brief reference to the question of rural subdivision and water catchments adjacent to the metropolitan area.

Mr Jamieson: For a moment I thought you were going to say Watergate, and if you had I was going to say, "I will go home now".

Mr THOMPSON: In the outer metropolitan area water is harvested by two authorities. One is the Metropolitan Water Board which has a policy of preventing development within its catchment area. It has pursued this policy for many years. In some instances the way its policy is implemented is rather harsh on the people who live within the catchment area.

The other authority responsible for harvesting water from the outer metropolitan area is the Country Towns Water Supply which collects water stored in the Mundaring Weir and in the recently-constructed Lower Helena pipehead dam. The policy with regard to the Lower Helena pipehead dam catchment area is causing some disquiet in my electorate. I understand that a few years ago a survey was made into the possibility of harvesting water in the Lower Helena River. It was considered that it may be desirable to clear people off the alienated land in that area. However following the survey it was discovered that the work would cost either £10 million or \$10 million—I am not sure which. Whatever the figure was it was a great deal of money.

As a result the Country Towns Water Supply adopted the attitude that it would allow people to remain in that water catchment area on the understanding that the water harvested from it would be treated. However, the authority, in making an effort to curb the rate of pollution in the water catchment area decided it would not allow any more development and in the past, with the exception of one or two cases in recent months, it has adhered to that policy. As a consequence, a number of people in the area are finding it extremely difficult to comprehend the attitude of the Country Towns Water Supply because it is preventing the development of existing urban land which has not been built on, but it is not prepared to buy back that land. The authority is not allowing subdivision of that land and development thereon.

It is stopping people who, for genuine reasons, want access to building land in the district. One particular area to which I refer is Carilla which is the townsite which serves the Pickering Brook area which, in turn, is a very important fruit-growing region in the metropolitan area. Indeed, it produces 80 per cent of the stone fruits consumed in the metropolitan area and produces 20 per cent of the export apples. If the former Minister for Agriculture were in his seat he would be now jumping up and down at that remark. Also 8 per cent of export pears are produced around Pickering Brook.

So it can be seen that it is extremely important to the State. The people concerned are finding it difficult to get access to building blocks and I urge the Government to give serious consideration to relaxing the policy of the Water Supply Department in areas such as Carilla where, for specific purposes, it is necessary for land to be available. If it is not made available those concerned will be seriously disadvantaged.

I did wish to touch on another subject, but as I desire to deal with it at length, I will leave it until a later date.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Young.

House adjourned at 6.09 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 6th August, 1974

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (13): ON NOTICE

1. INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION

Amendments to Awards

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that Regulation 47 of the Industrial Arbitration Act requires parties who seek amendments to an award to prove service of a notice of motion by obtaining a signature from each named respondent to the award?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that some awards name more than 100 respondents and that considerable inconvenience is occasioned to both the staff of the Industrial Commission and the unions concerned in the processing of these documents?

- (3) Will the Minister make some arrangements of a temporary nature to alleviate this inconvenience and subsequent delay in the amendments to awards pending an amendment to the Regulation?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Western Australian Industrial Commission is taking action to amend the Regulations concerned to alleviate the inconvenience. The amended Regulations will be gazetted as soon as possible.

2.

EDUCATION

Pupils: Transport Costs

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister mindful of the fact that for parents on low income, with two or more school age children, bus fares may cost in excess of \$2.00 per week thereby causing hardship and absences from school?
- (2) (a) Will the Minister give consideration as to how this cost may be reduced for these parents; or
- (b) extend the free bus service now available in most country areas to all school children?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Parents are responsible for a maximum of 50 cents per week for each child travelling to and from school by bus. The Government meets the cost of fares in excess of 50 cents per week and also subsidises students' bus travel outside school hours.
- (2) (a) The current level of assistance is the maximum that can be provided at the present time. The matter will be kept under review and should additional funds become available, consideration will be given to increasing the assistance.
- (b) Answered by (a).

3.

HOUSING

Bunbury

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) How many units have been programmed to be built by the State Housing Commission in Bunbury during 1974-75 for—
 - (a) rental; and
 - (b) purchase?