

let us forget it. It is below us and we cannot see it, but it could erupt again at any time. In 1946, 11 people died of typhoid. The danger is ever-present.

I again ask the Minister to do something about the sewerage, our water assessments, reclamation, and conservation of our water supplies.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Kitney.

House adjourned at 10.33 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 27th August, 1970

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

QUESTIONS (7): ON NOTICE.

1. NATIVES

Housing

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Mines:

(1) (a) How many lots have been reserved for native housing in the following towns—

- (i) Norseman;
- (ii) Coolgardie;
- (iii) Kalgoorlie;
- (iv) Boulder;
- (v) Salmon Gums;
- (vi) Merredin;

(b) what are the reserve numbers, and the lot numbers in the respective towns?

(2) In which of the towns referred to in (1), will houses be erected for natives during the current financial year?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------|---|
| (1) (a) (i) Norseman | | 5 |
| (ii) Coolgardie | | 1 |
| (iii) Kalgoorlie | | 9 |
| (iv) Boulder | | 3 |
| (v) Salmon Gums | | 0 |
| (vi) Merredin | | 0 |

(b) Lot 994, Reserve No. 30263—Norseman.

Lot 1025, Reserve No. 30263—Norseman.

Lot 972, Reserve No. 30263—Norseman.

Lot 611, Reserve No. 30263—Norseman.

Lot 467, Reserve No. 30267—Norseman.

Lot 508, Reserve No. 29928—Coolgardie.

Lot R1343, Reserve No. 29774—Kalgoorlie.

Lot R1131, Reserve No. 29774—Kalgoorlie.

Lot R1237, Reserve No. 29774—Kalgoorlie.

Lot 2199, Reserve No. 29774—Kalgoorlie.

Lot 2650, Reserve No. 29774—Kalgoorlie.

Lot F32, Reserve No. 29774—Kalgoorlie.

Lot 115, Reserve No. 29774—Kalgoorlie.

Lot 120, Reserve No. 29774—Kalgoorlie.

Lot 3018, Reserve No. 29774—Kalgoorlie.

Lot 918—Boulder.

Lot 925—Boulder.

Lot 1337—Boulder.

(2) Subject to finance being available:—

Norseman—1 conventional.

Coolgardie—1 conventional.

Kalgoorlie—5 conventional.

2. EDUCATION

New Schools in Albany District

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE, to the Minister for Mines:

(1) What primary or other schools are planned for the area on the south side of Princess Royal Harbour, Albany?

(2) Between, and fronting what streets, are any such schools proposed to be situated?

(3) When is it likely that they will be—

(a) commenced;

(b) completed?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Little Grove Primary School.

(2) Located south of Frenchman Bay Road, east of O'Connell Street, north of Gordon Street and west of King Street.

(3) (a) and (b) No definite decisions have been made with respect to the establishment of a school on the above site.

3. RAILWAYS

Fettlers at Bodallin

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN, to the Minister for Mines:

When the narrow gauge railway line east of Merredin is discontinued, will the fettlers' gang at Bodallin—

(a) be transferred; and

(b) if so, where?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) and (b) On closure of Bodalin, personnel will be transferred to suitable localities. Standard gauge gangs will be located at Southern Cross and Koolyanobbing.

4. GRAIN ALCOHOL

Process of Extraction

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What is the technical detail and flow sheet associated with the process of extracting alcohol from grain?
- (2) What is the yield of alcohol in relation to a given quantity of grain?
- (3) Are any specific types of grain favoured in the extractive process?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Production of alcohol from grain involves the following steps:—

- (a) the ground grain is cooked to gelatinise the starch content;
- (b) the starch is converted to sugars using enzymes derived from malt or dilute mineral acids;
- (c) the resulting sugar solution obtained, containing 10 to 15 per cent. fermentable sugars, is fermented with yeast which results in conversion of the sugar to alcohol. In this reaction carbon dioxide is evolved and can be recovered;
- (d) the solution containing the alcohol is distilled and eventually a 95 per cent. alcohol is produced;
- (e) this can be converted to anhydrous alcohol in further distillation with benzene.

I have a flow sheet illustrating the process which I will make available to the honourable member. (see Tabled Paper No. 90).

- (2) The yield of alcohol appears to be of the order of 2-2½ gallons per bushel of grain.
- (3) No reliable information is readily available on this aspect. It would be expected that a high starch content would result in a better yield of alcohol. There are a number of factors which would affect the end result as the by-products could play an important part in the final economics. These by-products could vary with different grains.

The flow sheet was tabled.

5. WATER SUPPLIES

Farm Water Advisory Committee

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE, to the Minister for Mines:

Regarding applications to the Farm Water Advisory Committee for finance through the Rural and Industries Bank for Key Dam projects—

- (1) (a) How many applications from within the prescribed area have been received since the inception of the scheme;
- (b) how many of these have been approved;
- (c) how many have been rejected after application of the means test; and
- (d) what number were not proceeded with because of inability to obtain first priority of mortgage?
- (2) During the period of lifted restrictions in drought declared areas—
 - (a) how many applications were received from outside the prescribed boundaries; and
 - (b) how many of these have been approved?
- (3) What is the total amount of money involved in successful applications during 1969-70?
- (4) Has the Committee adequate finance to satisfy all applications received?
- (5) Has the Committee any intention of extending the present boundaries?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) 416.
- (b) 306.
- (c) Five, all considered capable of finding finance from their own resources, without endangering their capacity to carry on.
- (d) 1.
- (2) (a) 82.
- (b) 69.
- (3) \$448,370.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Under consideration.

6.

MILK BOARD

Licensed Vendors

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Further to the answer to my question (11) on the 26th August, 1970, is it intended to consult the licensed milk vendors in whose

districts the 124 shops are located prior to the issue of restricted milkman's licences?

(2) If not, for what reason?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) and (2) It should not be necessary for such consultations. The present position has developed to a large extent through the reluctance of many milkmen to take additional shop trade.

They would be aware of the circumstances and the action taken by the Board to protect the licensees concerned from competition for household trade.

7.

LAND

Taxation Valuations

The Hon. F. R. WHITE, to the Minister for Mines:

Since the answer to question (13) on the 26th August, 1970, states that methods, other than those enunciated in 1907, are being used to determine unimproved capital value for the purpose of assessing State Taxation, would the Minister advise—

- (a) upon whose authority are these other methods being used; and
- (b) where in *Hansard* have these methods been authorised; or propounded by a Minister of the Crown?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) The Commissioner of State Taxation.
- (b) Explanations of methods used in valuing land have been given by Ministers from time to time in answers to questions.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: TENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 26th August, on the following motion by The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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

THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND (North) [2.41 p.m.]: I support the motion and in doing so I want to enter an emphatic protest against the inaction of the Govern-

ment and against the fact that it has been so slow in building roads in the Pilbara district.

I recall that in 1953, the then Leader of the Opposition (The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke) attended a political meeting in Carnarvon and assured the gathering that if elected as Premier he would seal the road from Northampton to Carnarvon—a distance of some 250 to 260 miles. He said he would carry out this work at a rate of no less than 40 miles per annum.

The Premier at that time (Sir Ross McLarty) and the then Minister for Works—who is now Sir David Brand—ridiculed the idea through various media. They said they would not stop at Carnarvon but would go on to Wyndham. They said this 17 years ago and it looks as though it will take another 17 years to complete that stretch of road. Accordingly, on behalf of the people of the Pilbara district—where I understand the roads are in a very bad condition at times—I wish to enter an emphatic protest on this matter.

The other point I wish to raise is the Government's proposed action in regard to the State Shipping Service. From answers to questions I have asked it would seem that the Government proposes to phase out the passenger ships. This would be rather cruel to the people in the north. We find that instead of sponsoring a tourist authority the Government proposes to take away tourism from that area. According to the report of the Coastal Shipping Commission which is on the Table of the House the State ships play a very big and valuable part in connection with activities in the north-west.

I think those two matters need emphasising. The Government should appreciate that although it loses \$6,000,000 a year in relation to the State Shipping Service it also loses \$8,000,000 a year from the operation of the State railways.

I am sure, however, that the Country Party would not allow the Government to do away with the State railways. It certainly would not in my time. The Liberal Party and the Country Party seem to look after their respective interests. The Liberal Party looks after big business and the Country Party takes care of any rural activities that might be affected. In this manner they seem to get on quite well together.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Sometimes.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: In the days when the economy of the State rode on the sheep's back such a policy might have had some weight, but today primary producers are riding increasingly on the back of the taxpayer. The position must be looked at very carefully because there is no doubt that sooner or later the taxpayer will get fed up.

I cannot make out the Government's policy at all. An answer I received to a question I asked indicates that the Government received over \$12,000,000 from royalties on iron ore alone. Yet we find the Government is still crying poverty. I do not know what it does with its money; it must throw it away with both hands, as the Federal Government seems to do.

The strange thing is that in his Budget speech the Treasurer says he intends to give up to \$1,500 a year to individual wool-growers. It does not matter whether they are millionaires or whether they only see their stations at shearing time. They will still be entitled to receive \$1,500 provided the proceeds from wool comprises at least 50 per cent. of their income. Such a tax would favour the big man and cut out the little man. The small farmer who depends on wheat and sheep is likely to be excluded from this benefit because he will be unable to show that wool comprises at least 50 per cent. of his income. I cannot see how this will help the farming industry. I hope that some of our Country Party friends will be able to tell us how this will help the farming community.

I would like to thank Mr. Clive Griffiths who secured the adjournment for giving me this opportunity to speak.

THE HON. CLIVE GRIFFITHS (South-East Metropolitan) [2.46 p.m.]: I wish to support the motion moved by Mr. Syd Thompson on opening day. In doing so I would like at the outset to welcome back Mr. Strickland who has been in ill health. I am pleased indeed to see him back and to know that he is able to take his place in this House and take part in its functions. I would, however, like to take the honourable member to task for the suggestion he made that the Liberal Party represented big business. He implied that the Liberal Party represented big business alone.

I would argue that point because that is not the case at all. The Liberal Party represents all sections of the community, and we pride ourselves on this fact. This is why the people of Western Australia have continued for a long time to ensure that they have a Liberal Party in government. That was not supposed to be part of my speech, because I have a number of other matters I would like to mention. Once again, I might say how delighted I am to see Mr. Strickland back in the House, and I hope his health will continue to improve.

On opening day His Excellency the Governor said, among other things—

The economic repercussions of major developments such as the Robe River Iron Ore Project in the Pilbara; Alcoa's new Alumina Project at Pinjarra; and the proposed Amax Bauxite and Alumina Project in the Kimberleys will be felt throughout the entire State. Developments of this kind will substantially increase the demand for consumer goods and a wide range of services,

and also help Western Australia to maintain its position as a leader in the rate of development in Australia.

He went on to say—

To enable Members of both Houses to see at first hand the full extent of the dramatic developments taking place in the north of the State, a special tour was arranged since we last met, and was undertaken by most Members.

It is in this connection that I would like to pay a tribute to the Government. I feel sure we are all most grateful that the Government made available to members of all parties in both Houses the opportunity of this trip to the north. It was certainly of great benefit.

The trip was arranged and organised by the Minister for the North-West in his usual brilliant manner and I am sure those members who were on the first trip will agree that the progress made in three short years has been tremendous.

Those who were visiting the north for the first time would have been equally impressed by the rate of development and by the work that is being undertaken there. I felt that somebody should mention this fact, and I am surprised that other speakers have not done so during the course of the debate. I certainly learnt a great deal from the trip and, like other members, I appreciated the opportunity to see that part of our State.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I was going to make a speech about it, but now you have spoilt it.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I am sorry about that, but I am quite sure Mr. Wise will still make a fantastic speech.

The Hon. E. C. House: What did you think of Kununurra?

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: Unfortunately I have been asked to watch the clock this afternoon so I am unable to go into the details of any particular place in the north. However, suffice to say that the whole trip was very worth while.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: In any case, interjections are quite out of order.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You didn't think that last night.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I have several huge files with me, and I intend to present what would appear, to me anyway, to be a mixed grill.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: Who is going to be grilled?

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I am certainly not going to deal with all the subjects in these files because I will not have time. The first item with which I wish to deal concerns a reference to the cement dust problem which was rife at this time last year. I want to say that I

was pleased the Minister for Health instigated quick action to overcome the problem. I was receiving numerous calls every week from people affected by the dust and, indeed, I was affected by it myself at my home in South Perth. However, I am pleased to say that it would appear the action organised by the Minister has proved successful and the people who live in that particular part of the metropolitan area are at long last not being so affected. I want to place on record the fact that I am grateful for that.

I was also very pleased to receive an answer to a question I asked yesterday about what was being done with regard to the upgrading of Manning Road. When I made my first speech on the Address-in-Reply in 1965 I mentioned the fact that this road was in a shocking state of repair and that it was designated as an important regional road. I did say at the time that the Stephenson-Hepburn report did not clearly indicate whose responsibility it was to establish and upgrade these important regional roads, or blue roads as they were called on the plan.

Back in 1965 I suggested that the Government ought to accept some responsibility for the design and financing of these roads, and I was pleased to learn, in answer to a question I asked yesterday afternoon—and it is a question I have asked many times during the intervening years—that the Government has accepted the financial responsibility on a 50-50 basis with the local authorities concerned. I was even more delighted to learn that the work is to be commenced during this financial year. I can assure members that the people I represent in that area will also be delighted when they are given this piece of information.

The next subject about which I feel I ought to say a few words is the Youth Council of Western Australia. Again, in 1965, in my first session in Parliament, I made reference to the Youth Council. If members will recall, it had only just been established under an Act passed in 1964. I said at that time that I hoped the council would do certain things. On page 1410 of *Hansard* No. 2 of 1965, I said the following:—

I hope the Youth Council will implement some scheme, through the funds supplied by the Government, for training youth leaders. By this means we will be able to have full-time, paid youth leaders in the various districts and a dedicated person interested in youth work would be able to follow a career as a youth leader. The correct approach to this suggestion is not beyond the realms of possibility, and I hope the Youth Council has it in mind.

I am pleased to say that the Youth Council has done just this, although I am not suggesting it did so because I recommended

it. The council has done this because it is obviously a need in the community. I had realised this over the years as a result of my association with various youth organisations. There is definitely a need for trained people to make a career of looking after youth and organising youth clubs and functions throughout the various districts.

This policy is being implemented more and more each year and I commend the Youth Council for it. However, I intend to be a little critical about other facets of the work being carried out by the council.

Earlier this session I asked some questions in an endeavour to find out how much money has been allocated to the Youth Council each year since its inception, and how much was being allocated to youth clubs and organisations. I move around in my province, as other members do in theirs, and I am closely associated with many youth clubs and organisations. It seems to me that they always obtain their funds from the Youth Council near the end of the financial year—that is, in April, May, or June—and yet the Youth Council itself is allocated the funds during October or November of the previous year.

Many youth organisations are vitally dependent on finance in order to continue their work, but they must submit their applications and then wait seven to nine months before they find out whether they are to receive any money at all. In lots of instances the clubs are not successful, but they do not find this out for so long after they submit their applications that they could well be—and in many instances they are—in dire financial difficulties.

It is interesting to learn that in 1966 the Government gave the Youth Council \$41,000 of which it distributed \$9,700. In 1967 the Government allocated \$91,200 to the council, which distributed \$67,800. In 1968 the council received \$122,000 and distributed \$72,000; while in 1969 it received \$118,000 and distributed \$123,000. In 1970 it was given \$195,000, and distributed \$220,000. This indicates that the council was slow in distributing its finances in the first three years; in other words, it was being allocated more money than it was distributing.

Why that was so I do not know, but it seems to me that the council was getting bogged down somewhere and was not able to distribute the funds as they were received. It certainly did not mean that the organisations did not require funds; because they certainly wanted all the money they could get. However, it appears that for some reason or other the council was not able to distribute the funds allocated to it.

I am pleased that the Government has progressively increased the allocation of funds to the Youth Council. As I said in 1965, when the legislation setting up the

Youth Council was first introduced, the Government ought to be both courageous and generous in its approach to funds for the Youth Council. It is obvious that the Government is generous, and its generosity seems to increase each year, although not sufficient is being allocated to provide the funds necessary to fulfill all the needs of the council.

There are many good organisations of long standing in the community which have done a tremendous amount for the youth of Western Australia. These organisations are held in high esteem by the people of this State. To name just two of them, I would refer to the Y.M.C.A. and the Police and Citizens Federation. I am associated with both of those organisations, as a board member of the Southern Districts Y.M.C.A. and vice-president of the new Kensington Police and Citizens Youth Group. I do not intend to place any emphasis on the work that those two organisations do, merely because I am associated with them, but I simply point out the high regard that the people of Western Australia have for both of those organisations and, indeed, the high regard that members of Parliament have for them.

Because of that it is interesting to read what the Premier had to say on Thursday, the 2nd October, 1969, when introducing the Appropriation Bill (Consolidated Revenue Fund). At page 1219 of *Hansard* the Premier is shown as having said—

An increase of \$77,000 in the grant to the Youth Council of Western Australia to enable the council to increase assistance to organisations responsible for youth activities and in particular to meet requests for grants from the Police and Citizens Federation and the Y.M.C.A.

I would think that statement would give to members of Parliament the impression that the Y.M.C.A. and the Police and Citizens Federation were to get a huge increase in their allocations; and that the Premier, and rightly so, was seeking the concurrence of Parliament in providing the extra \$77,000 for the Youth Council. The \$77,000 was an additional allocation, as the Premier went out of his way to point out, and it would indicate that the additional grant was made because of a request from those two organisations of which I have just made reference.

I asked a question regarding the sum of money that had been allocated to the Y.M.C.A. in the previous year, and I was told that the figure was \$11,915. For this financial year the grant was \$17,120, which was an increase of less than \$6,000. The Police and Citizens Federation received \$8,000-odd in 1969 and \$12,000 in 1970. Therefore, the total increase for the two organisations was in the vicinity of \$10,000. It appears to me that a wrong impression has been created; the impression was that a big percentage of the extra \$77,000 grant

would go to the two organisations to which the Premier referred because of a request from those organisations for additional funds; whereas in fact out of the \$77,000 they received only \$10,000. So much for that point.

The Hon. E. C. House: Before you finish on that point, can you tell me what financial part the Youth Council plays in the Boy Scouts movement?

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I was going to say something about that in a minute.

The Hon. E. C. House: I thought you had finished.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: No, not by a long shot. I have a great deal of material on this matter. However, as the honourable member has raised the subject, perhaps I could talk about the Boy Scouts movement now because it is the next item I have on my file.

The Boy Scouts Association is another organisation of very high repute. At one time or another it has attracted to it almost every boy in the community. I am pleased to say that at one time I was a boy scout, and I believe it is a fantastic organisation. In the past, each year the Government made a certain allocation to the movement and, in addition, made special grants from time to time whenever the association made approaches because of some special project. Over the years the Government has to a point helped the association whenever it has requested assistance.

However, since the coming into operation of the Youth Council, the funds for the Boy Scouts Association have been distributed through the council and not directly by the Government, as was the case previously. As a result, the Boy Scouts movement has not received the same financial assistance as it received in the past; and there is a good reason for that. Under the definitions in the Youth Service Act, a young person is defined as one over the age of 13 years and under the age of 25 years. So members can see that the group covered by the legislation is a very large one.

Investigations I have made indicate to me that 44 per cent. of the boys who take part in the Boy Scouts movement are cubs and, therefore, are under the age of 13 years; 42 per cent. are between 13 and 14 years of age, which means that 86 per cent. of the lads are under 14 years of age and the balance are over 14.

The Hon. R. Thompson: What would be the percentage in the same age groups in the Y.M.C.A. and the Police and Citizens Federation?

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I could not give an accurate answer to that question, but I would say that the percentage under 13 would tend to be greater in the

Boy Scouts, although not very much. I would say there would be more boys over the age of 13 in the Y.M.C.A. and the Police and Citizens Federation than there would be in the Boy Scouts movement, but the difference would not be very great.

Boys tend to drift away from these organisations when they reach the age of 15 or thereabouts. At least, that is the position as far as I know it, but a big number in the Police and Citizens Federation clubs and in the Y.M.C.A. are over 13 years of age, so I do not think the percentages would be exactly the same in those two organisations.

The Hon. R. Thompson: When you work out the allocation of funds the age factor has a big bearing on the position.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: It probably does, yes. I am speaking now mainly from the point of view of the Boy Scouts Association. It is not unreasonable that the Youth Council should take into account the number of boys over 13 years of age and make the allocation to the Boy Scouts Association on that basis. Naturally, the Boy Scouts Association cannot come up with the numbers and its requirements are not met by a long shot; but the association still has the responsibility of looking after the 44 per cent. who are in the cubs, and the major percentage of the other 42 per cent. who are under 14 years of age.

It would seem that one of two things must happen. Either the age limit in the Youth Council's legislation has to be brought down to include these younger people, or the Boy Scouts Association ought to be dealt with on a separate basis, as it used to be. I would like the Minister to bring it to the attention of the Treasurer that these people, through circumstances beyond their control, are being deprived of funds to carry out their work in the community.

The Hon. R. Thompson: In fact, the Boy Scouts Association has received donations this year only for specific projects.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: The association has received \$350 since the 30th June. That is only a drop in the ocean compared with what it needs.

Yesterday I asked some questions about whether the Youth Council had made any allocations since the 30th June. The answer was that only one allocation had been made, and that was to the Boy Scouts Association. I cannot understand that. This money was allocated to the Youth Council prior to the 30th June, 1970, but for some reason it was not made available until after the 30th June. In answer to my question the Minister said that \$6,600 was yet to be allocated to the youth clubs. That money had been received prior to the 30th June, 1970. That

emphasises the point I made earlier, that the council does not seem to be able to allocate the money quickly enough to the people who need it.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I think the Government should be told that since it stopped allocating money to the Boy Scouts Association the membership of that association has dropped by 40 per cent.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I did not know it was as high as that, although I knew the membership had dropped. Forty per cent. is a huge drop.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Parents cannot afford to send their children to scouts now.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: The Youth Council is now headed by Dr. Maxwell Keyes, who took over from Mr. Collins. Dr. Keyes is doing a fantastic job. Perhaps the allocations will now be speeded up somewhat because Dr. Keyes is spending more time at the council and is working out quite a few new ideas. At my invitation he visited the Western Australian Amateur Gymnastics Association. No-one from the Youth Council had ever been out to have a look at the building, although the council had made contributions. I am president of the Western Australian Amateur Gymnastics Association and I was very pleased that Dr. Keyes went out there. He made an allocation of money to the association—about half of what we asked for, but he did give us some money.

The Hon. J. Dolan: You should have asked for twice as much.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: The money was received six or seven months after it had been allocated by the Government. Western Australia is one of the leading States in gymnastics and we have sent representatives to the Olympic Games. The Western Australian Amateur Gymnastics Association is a very good organisation which caters for a tremendous number of boys and girls. The association is sending a team of 27 people to Adelaide this week, which will cost over \$2,000. This money is rather difficult to get but the trip will be an education for the young boys and girls who will represent their State. The finance that we are all competing with one another to get is very short indeed. I think the Government should allocate to the Youth Council twice as much money as it is allocating at present, and twice as quickly.

The Police and Citizens Federation youth club movement—with which I have been associated for so long that I cannot remember—is doing a fantastic job. I spoke a word of warning back in 1965 to the effect that the Youth Council should take care that it does not overlap the work of other organisations.

The police and citizens youth club movement, which caters for thousands of boys and girls, has centres throughout the

State. We find that in several instances the Youth Council has set up right next door to a youth organisation that already exists, instead of setting up a youth club in an area that does not have one. For instance, in Claremont there is a huge police and citizens' youth club—probably the largest in the State—and the Youth Council also set up a youth club in Claremont which is now defunct. It could not survive because the needs of the district were obviously being catered for by the Claremont police and citizens youth club. There should be more discussion between the Youth Council and other organisations.

Superintendent Jim Graham, of the Police and Citizens Federation, has had almost a lifetime of experience in this work and could offer valuable information and assistance to the Youth Council. In my opinion, he ought to be on the council.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Isn't he?

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: No. Nobody from the federation is on the Youth Council. I am not criticising the people who are on the council—they are all obviously very competent and eligible people. However, Superintendent Jim Graham has so much to contribute to organisations which are set up to look after youth that it amazes me that we do not make use of him.

Sergeant Bill Wright is another police officer on this federation. I have known Bill Wright since I went to school and the knowledge he has gained from the excellent work he has performed for youth organisations and similar clubs is extensive. I cannot think of any other person who would have a better all-round knowledge of youth organisations than these two men. Although the Youth Council has never approached these police officers to become members of the council, I think they should at least be asked if they would care to co-operate with the council so that some liaison may be created between this body and the police and citizens organisation I have mentioned. Further, should a vacancy occur on the council I would be pleased to see men such as Mr. Wright and Mr. Graham asked to become members of it.

Recently, the police and citizens youth clubs, in conjunction with the W.A. Amateur Boxing Association, sent a team of 15 or 16 boxers to Singapore. This visit was being made in return for a visit the Singapore people made to Perth not so very long ago. Superintendent Graham accompanied the team. When he returned to Perth he reported to me that the public relations and the feeling of goodwill for Western Australia that had been created among the people of Singapore was tremendous. Next year boxers from Singapore will make another visit to Perth. Apparently the South-East Asian Games will be held at the beginning of next year, and

I understand that Singapore intends to send to Perth some of its gold medal winners at the games to continue this interchange of boxers and other sportsmen between that country and Western Australia.

There are those in the community who frown on boxing as a sport, but some of the closest friendships I have made throughout the Commonwealth were as a result of my association with amateur boxing. I have discovered that most of the people who have had anything to do with amateur boxing are now spending a great deal of their spare time performing excellent work for the welfare of young people, and this occurs not only in this State but also in other countries throughout the world. Some people gain the impression that when two men engage in a boxing match they become enemies.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It is a very ancient sport.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: It is indeed. A tremendous amount of goodwill is generated among people who participate in boxing, and I am pleased to learn that the Police and Citizens Federation, with the assistance of Superintendent Graham, and with the co-operation of the W.A. Amateur Boxing Association, was able to send this team of boxers to Singapore, despite the fact that the cost was extremely great. The money that is being spent by organisations such as this to create and foster goodwill among people of different countries and nationalities is worthy of any support the Government can give. I also understand that on Saturday next the police boys clubs are sending to the north of this State a team of young boxers. We are taking boys from Clontarf and private boxing clubs, together with those from the Police and Citizens Federation to help promote youth clubs and sporting activities in the new developing towns in the northern parts of the State.

I do not have time to read the itinerary to the House, but I can assure members it is a very comprehensive one. This trip is being financed by the Police and Citizens Federation. Naturally the federation hopes to recoup some of the cost by making a charge on those who attend the boxing matches.

At Kensington, in South Perth, the police and citizens youth club has been responsible for the planning of a new youth centre. On completion it will cost in the vicinity of \$200,000, and will cater for all youth south of the river. I am a great believer in young people being asked and encouraged to participate in the financing of their own organisations. It is pleasing to note that this \$200,000-project, which will be commenced in the next few weeks, has to a great extent been financed by the young people themselves. During the past three years about 4,000 boys and girls have participated in walkathons which have been organised by Constable Lavers within

the district, and each year they have contributed in the vicinity of \$15,000 towards the cost of this project. This is indeed active participation by youths themselves in the raising of finance; I think it is a wise policy and only right that they should.

The Government has been generous in its support of the fund created by the Police and Citizens Federation over the years, but it should continue this financial aid. It is not sufficient for the Government to make an allocation of \$20,000 in one year and then cease to care about how the organisation is progressing. The Government is obliged to keep the money coming forward because our youth are continually coming forward. However, I am pleased to see that in this particular district the long-awaited facility which is to be constructed for the benefit of youth will be opened some time next year. When it is completed we hope to cater for 2,000 young people per week.

I am sure all members will agree that the federation is to be commended for having undertaken this project and having the courage to go forward with it. I only hope that it will create a pattern that will be followed in the future by people in other localities.

A couple of weeks ago I was asked by a project company, Merrifield and Stokes, to present some prizes to those competitors who were participating in an art exhibition held at the Thornlie shopping centre. Whilst there I took the opportunity to look at the exhibits that had been contributed by young Western Australians of all ages as competitors in this art exhibition, and I was amazed at the talent shown by them. I also took the opportunity to speak to many of the competitors and obtain their views on what they were doing in this State. They told me they were pleased that Merrifield and Stokes had made available approximately \$500 to enable this exhibition to be held. From what I was told, apparently this was the second biggest art exhibition that had ever been held in Western Australia, and the competitors with whom I spoke were extremely pleased with the encouragement that had been given to them.

I would also like to mention to the House that whilst conversing with them they told me that in other States of Australia travelling scholarships are provided. These scholarships are made available, I believe, by the Governments of New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria.

I put it to the Minister that he should suggest to the Treasurer that these people—bearing in mind the talent that is available and the enthusiasm that is being displayed—ought to be encouraged. I would probably be one of the least qualified to speak on art; however, I was impressed by the standard of the work, by the enthusiasm of the people concerned, and by

the numbers engaged in this work. I suggest that the Government should make available to these people the travelling art scholarships that are made available in the other States; and I also suggest that these scholarships be \$2,000 or \$3,000 per annum to enable the recipients to travel in order to further their knowledge and ability.

In these days we are fast becoming more aware of the fine arts. I do not think it is sufficient that we should rest content with the growth and the fantastic expansion of mineral developments and industries. Culturally we ought to make some progress also. I put it to the Government that consideration be given to introducing in Western Australia a similar type of travelling art scholarship.

Finally, I want to say a few things about the Milk Board. It will be recalled that last year some amendments to the Milk Act were introduced and passed; it will also be recalled that I opposed the amendments, but I did so unsuccessfully. At the time I gave various reasons for my opposition.

However, the situation which has now arisen in the milk vending industry has occurred as a result of the amendments that were passed last year. At the time I pointed out that we would be creating problems by the passing of the amendments. One problem that has been created is this: it has come to my notice that two or three huge supermarkets in or near my electorate are being served their milk requirements by people other than licensed milk vendors for the particular district.

Last week I asked some questions as to whether or not this was the situation. The answer given by the Minister was in great detail. He explained why these things were occurring, and confirmed that they were occurring. I then asked a question to ascertain whether the three instances I mentioned were the only ones that had occurred. In reply the Minister said that there were 124 instances in the metropolitan area of shops being served with milk by people other than those licensed to do so. Of course, the explanation is that this Parliament passed legislation last year which permitted these things to take place. In answer to a part of my question the Minister said—

Prior to subdivision of Melville District, Masters Dairy Ltd. and Sunny West Co-operative Dairies Ltd. held milkman's licenses for that district. After subdivision of Melville District, permission was given by the Board to cover specific shop trade served by Masters Dairy Ltd. and Sunny West Co-operative Dairies Ltd. in Melville Districts No. 88 and No. 103, pending recent legislation passed to enable the Board to issue special milkman's licenses for specific trade

and excluding competition for household trade. The required steps are being taken to implement the amended legislation and issue special milkman's licenses.

So, today I asked the Minister for Mines a question as to whether or not the licensed milkmen for the areas concerned would be consulted prior to the issue of special licenses. In answer the Minister said that this was not necessary, and he went on to explain why it was not necessary.

The Hon. J. Dolan: You are not supporting Mr. Strickland's contention?

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: What was his contention?

The Hon. J. Dolan: That big business comes into these things.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: No, I am not. I have finished with that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He is talking about milk; not the other product.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: It must be borne in mind that the Milk Board is perfectly within its rights in doing these things. It did not come to me as any great shock that it was doing them, because that was what the legislation provided for and I had warned about what could eventuate.

We have no grounds for complaint, except that I would go so far as to say that every member in this House—I could be wrong, and if I am I would like to be corrected—was under the impression that provision was being made for these special milk vendors' licenses to enable the Milk Board to grant licenses so that milk could be delivered to institutions, Government instrumentalities, and other organisations. The legislation says one thing, but I am convinced that every member was under the impression that these special licenses would only be issued by the Milk Board to enable people to deliver milk to Government instrumentalities—Commonwealth and State—to public and private hospitals, or to any school or institution approved by the Minister. I believe that many members of Parliament were under the impression that this was the reason for placing the provision for the issue of special licenses in the legislation.

Indeed, the Minister for Agriculture in another place had something to say in this connection. His comments are recorded on page 3474 of *Hansard*, 1970. He said—

It is necessary that the board be empowered to issue a milk vendor's license restricting the holder to serving a specified trade. This restricted license would permit the servicing of shops or institutions where existing licensees do not elect to supply the trade or tender for contracts.

In view of that statement I do not think it was unreasonable for me to come to the conclusion that the existing licensees would be given the opportunity to say, before the granting of the special licenses, whether or not they wanted to supply the milk. However, in answer to my question today, the Minister said that the existing licensees would not be consulted because that was absolutely unnecessary. It is only unnecessary because the Act says it is unnecessary; but Parliament was under the impression that the existing licensees would be consulted. I believe that Parliament was under the impression that these special licenses would be issued only in respect of the organisations enumerated in the legislation that was passed last session.

It is of no use my grizzling about the situation because I can do nothing about it. I fought tooth and nail to have this provision defeated when the Bill was under discussion, but I was unsuccessful. I just wonder how many times this sort of thing does occur in the course of the introduction of legislation when members are under the impression that legislation will do one thing but it turns out that it is to do something else. I wonder whether or not we are being—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Led up the garden path.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: Yes; led up the garden path. Of course, I understand that the Government, or the Minister, wants to get legislation passed and if members assume something incorrectly, then that is too bad. The purpose of the two Houses is to pass legislation and if anybody presumes from what the Minister says that something is to apply, well, he has to suffer the consequences.

So I want to say I am not very happy with the situation and I do not believe that Parliament intentionally gave the Milk Board authority—without consulting the milk vendors—to establish indiscriminately special licenses to serve shops anywhere in the metropolitan area. The situation with regard to prices, when dealing with shops, can occur to a greater extent than I forecast would probably happen.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You say you are not happy with the situation, and neither are a lot of other people in the South Perth area.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I have not found anybody in the metropolitan area who is happy with the situation. However, the milk vendors are apparently considered to be an insignificant section of the milk industry. They are not consulted in any way whatsoever on alterations to or on any of the functions of milk distribution. I have previously suggested that the milk vendors ought to be represented on the Milk Board, but my suggestions have fallen on deaf ears.

That is the situation and I want to make it perfectly clear that I object strongly to it. I hope the day will arrive when somebody will see the necessity and desirability of allowing those who handle the milk at the end of the line—and those who are responsible for collecting the whole of the money for the milk industry—to have the opportunity to have a say in some of the workings of the milk industry.

I have spoken for a lot longer time than I intended, but I still have a considerable amount of material to place before the House. I even intended to say something about high density housing, but I will save that for a future occasion because I am awaiting the results of a most comprehensive survey carried out by a gentleman at the University. I will have the greatest pleasure in quoting the results of the survey to members in this House.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Will that be in support of the Government?

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I have never supported the Government on that particular issue.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I wanted to hear you say that.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: As a matter of fact, I said previously I would live to see the day when I would be able to say, "I told you so" about high density housing. I have details which would indicate that I could use the expression now. However, in the meantime, I support the motion.

Sitting suspended from 3.44 to 4.02 p.m.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North) [4.02 p.m.]: I am very pleased that at least one speaker in this Chamber made reference, even though fleetingly, to a visit to the north-west arranged by the Minister for the North-West, who is also, of course, the Minister for Industrial Development, to enable members to see this vast and important part of the State. I had intended to mention the matter in not many more words, except to say that I regard those visits as extremely important.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: They are essential.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: For very many years the few members from the north have endeavoured to explain to this House and to another place some of the serious and difficult problems which affect the residents of that area. The region and its history has entered a new era. I believe it is important for all members to understand the region. After all, members of Parliament have a great deal to do with the framing of laws for that part of the State and, therefore, it is imperative that they should understand what the application of those laws will mean.

Those of us from the north are naturally very pleased to see all the development. We feel we have been fortunate to live while history is being made. For example, I can recall the time when 240 people were listed on the Port Hedland electoral roll for the Upper House. That was the number of electors when I first represented the area. I also remember the time when the Roebourne district, as a district, had 528 voters altogether. Members can imagine how gratifying it is to all of us who have lived through this period in the north to see what is happening today. It is particularly gratifying to me because I have represented part of the north, in one House or the other, for 37 years. Now a big portion of the State's revenue comes from that region which was considered by many in the days of which I speak to be a liability.

I intend to touch on only one or two subjects this afternoon. I have made many speeches in one Chamber or the other concerning the Land Act of this State. I had the privilege of being Minister for Lands for quite a long period of time. In addition, I was privileged to be Minister for Agriculture, Minister for the North-West, and to hold and administer a number of other portfolios at different times. However, as Minister for Lands it was my responsibility to amend the Land Act in many particulars and I was privileged to incorporate several important provisions into part VI of that Act which is concerned with pastoral leases.

It is important to say that many reforms have been introduced and generally these have been for the betterment of the pastoral industry. In recent years much comment has been made of the abuse by inconsiderate lessees of our natural heritage; namely, our pastoral lands.

As I am drawing close to singing my swan song in this Chamber, it might not be inappropriate for me to mention a few matters which I consider are extremely important. I feel these matters relate to the need for further amendments to part VI of the Land Act to be introduced as quickly as is practicable.

There is a need for constant revision of our land laws, especially when we realise that the first pastoral leases in this State were granted almost 100 years ago. In some ways we are operating under provisions which applied when the control of the use of land was first adopted in Western Australia.

A great deal of our attractive pastoral lands front or abut our river systems and, particularly, land which has been held for a long time. I refer to holdings in the Murchison, the Gascoyne, the Ashburton, the De Grey, and the Fitzroy areas. In addition, some of our explorer-pioneers took up land in the Roebourne district, as in other districts. However, the mouth of the Ashburton was selected by the Forrest family, as was their right. It is very fine and attractive country and part of it

is still Minderoo Station. They also had land in the Kimberley region which was subject to certain conditions which still obtain today.

In the days when those old families penetrated the remote areas they had to select land which was well endowed by nature. I refer to the provision of water and a supply of edible indigenous vegetation on accessible land. Under great difficulties, families—the Burgess family and many others—transferred their belongings into regions which they satisfactorily developed over the years. However the menfolk and the womenfolk alike suffered many privations from isolation and hardship. In those days it was the lot of women to live in fear of the blacks. I will not dilate on this subject on this occasion, but the chasing of the Hall family in the early part of this century from the station now known as Hamersley and the clearing out of the Durack family from the Dunham River in the Kimberley are now matters of history. Killings of cattle and people occurred in those early days.

In the intervening years improved transport and closer attention to the proper use of the country if it is to be stocked efficiently has made the area attractive for big capital investors in the pastoral industry.

It must be said that over the years there has been a serious denudation of much of the natural forage. Many families of grasses or edible shrubs have disappeared, but the fact remains that the region is still one of the great areas of Australia which is suitable for pastoral occupation.

With regard to the Land Act and its provisions, suffice to say that when we hark back to the days before responsible government and realise that many of the ideas used in the successful establishment of settlement in this far-off region are still in use today, it is obvious that more than a cursory examination of the laws needs to be undertaken. The Land Act of 1933 was the first milestone in an endeavour to bring many of the requirements of our land laws up to date. I had the privilege and responsibility of administering that Act for some years and of amending it on a number of occasions. Many imperfections were found, even after the intense scrutiny that had been given to it prior to the introduction of the voluminous Act of 1933.

Part VI of the Land Act contains all the provisions which deal with the granting and management of pastoral leases. I wish to speak with particular reference to this part of the Act. I repeat that an urgent examination, as soon as practicable, is necessary in the light of the modern needs of the pastoral industry.

It is pertinent to observe that although there has been a considerable area under pastoral occupation nearer the coast, not since 1876—the year in which Warburton

crossed Australia from the overland telegraph line to the Oakover, at the head of the De Grey—has it been possible successfully to settle one station east of the area which was occupied in that year. In addition, not one pastoral station south of Sturt Creek has been occupied for almost 100 years. Consequently those who penetrated into the Gascoyne nearly 100 years ago—I refer to the Gooch's the Wheelock's, and others—knew the sort of country that would carry stock. However, they were governed by the same sort of laws that obtain today. In particular they were governed by the area of land which it was felt they could satisfactorily occupy and use.

The first important point to examine in the Land Act of today is the 1,000,000-acre provision. The area of 1,000,000 acres is specified in the Land Act and this has been a cause of much contention in Parliament and its actual meaning has been greatly misinterpreted outside of Parliament. Although I have been one who has strongly defended the provision on occasions I think it is something that we must look at seriously so far as its application, in its entirety, is concerned.

Some years ago I examined the records of the historians of the State held in the Lands Department in order to see where this 1,000,000-acre provision idea originated, and I found its origin was very obscure. There is no particular reason why 1,000,000 acres was selected as being the limit of land that any person or entity could hold. One could assume that it would be considered, even in these days, to be an area which was perhaps manageable with the use of native labour in so far as the handling of stock is concerned. But if we consider the relationship to stock carrying capacity on a basis appraised by experts—men of experience; station owners themselves—we see how really top heavy and incongruous is the rigidity of the 1,000,000-acre provision.

For example, there are areas of pastoral land at the mouth of the Ashburton and parts of the pastoral region on the De Grey which have been assessed in the past as being capable of carrying one sheep to every six to eight acres—a very high capacity for that country. At the other end of the scale there are areas assessed as having a capacity to carry one sheep on every 60 to 80 acres. Now, if it is reasonable to grant 1,000,000 acres in good country, should that area be the limit in all cases? In one case 500,000 acres would return a fair profit in these days; and opulence to the owners of the lease. However, 2,000,000 acres in a lower capacity region would not be economic under any circumstances. So I suggest that, quite apart from any other aspects, that is an angle for a careful examination to be made into this matter, especially in these days of great demand for land by local and overseas investors.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The opulence of the first owner would depend on the season.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Yes, season and management. Of course, good seasons make good managers, whether it be a farm or a pastoral lease. At the same time—and I am not talking of the middle north, but of the far north—husbandry has not been an outstanding attribute of the leaseholders. I think we have had examples of the abuses of this area by people who have by design—by wilful intent—done their utmost to flout the law and get around the conditions imposed. There are still companies which hold a chain of stations in the Kimberley aggregating to very much more than 1,000,000 acres, simply because of the ability of those companies to declare that each shareholder has not a beneficial interest or equity in more than 1,000,000 acres. Of course, many methods are used to circumvent the intention of the law.

It is not always the intention of the law that matters, and we have heard this afternoon in regard to another most important Act how the intention of Parliament was said to be the very opposite to that which happens when the law is administered, because that is the legal interpretation of what Parliament does. I am often disappointed, after examining a Bill, to be told that it is the responsibility of the draftsman to express what he thinks should be expressed. I do not agree at all with that contention.

Our laws should leave Parliament with the intention of Parliament properly expressed and be interpreted in the way Parliament thought they should be interpreted. Even then we would find that interpretations could differ from our intention. However, in regard to the 1,000,000-acre provision, the first point I make is that even though all of us have defended it at times, and Ministers have been loath to vary the conditions and provisions, it is most important today, with the urgent need for better land use in the farming and pastoral land sense, that we have a serious look at the 1,000,000-acre provision.

I know of cases where companies—say limited liability companies—have only two shareholders with a proper equity in the total property; the rest are dummies. That is something which requires very careful examination now that the Minister is controlling the transference of shares. The shareholding provisions in section 115A of the Land Act, introduced recently, gave the Minister the power to scrutinise all shareholdings prior to giving approval for a transfer. However this does not wholly correct the serious situation which obtains; particularly in the case of wealthy absentee owners treating the law as they have done now for the last half century. They are nominee shareholders, not active

shareholders, and they should be made to prove their *bona fides* and their equity participation. If they cannot do so, they are getting around the law.

I suggest that although the Minister for Lands attempted in good faith a session or two ago to correct the situation, he should study the shareholding interests prior to giving approval for transfer, because much is being done to get around what the Minister thought he was overcoming at the time. We do not want dummy participants. Further, I suggest that the law is very frail on this point and the appropriate section of the Act requires close examination.

Part VI of the Act contains other relatively new sections which are not working out as anticipated, and I refer to the sections dealing with the submission of provisional plans for development projecting into many years to come. That is a most difficult proposition. It is very difficult to plan the development of a farm of, say, 3,000 acres for 10 years hence because of changing circumstances. However, on areas of the size of our pastoral leases it is a significantly more difficult proposition to submit a plan of well planned development within a year of the granting of the lease.

I think much more generosity has to be extended. I suggest it is not within the capacity of the 30 officers in the Lands Department—approaching that number, anyway—now engaged in the examination of those plans for ministerial approval to cope with that task. The provision of plans for long-term development in the desirable economic sense is something I feel should be on a gradual scale.

With regard to company ownership, I am of the mind that the Government should give the utmost consideration to companies such as the A.M.P. Society—a body which could do much more with 1,000,000 acres than could many distant owners with 500,000 acres. That society's interest is in Australia, the people of Australia, and the development of the public estate.

The Hon. E. C. House: They are not restricted to 1,000,000 acres, are they? They are not classed as a company.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: The A.M.P. has to conform to the Land Act and could not control a chain of stations such as those controlled by Vestey's in the north-west.

The Hon. E. C. House: Are you sure you are right?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Yes. I think a body such as that should be given every possible encouragement as against the public companies, some of which have already acquired land in recent times with the use of dummy shareholders. In short, I think the 1,000,000-acre provision requires a thorough scrutiny in the light of

today's knowledge of land use, and also in an endeavour to remove certain strictures that obtain in association with section 115A. We had a classic example recently in the case of Roy Hill Station which has been in the hands of the same respected family for three generations, and the present owners wished to transfer the property to an Eastern States family but were not able to do so.

So I hope that all these things which the Minister would desire to do but cannot do within the present law will be looked into.

Getting back to the point raised by Mr. House by way of interjection, I think he will find that in connection with the Land Act it would be necessary, as it is under the Mining Act, to introduce a special Bill in order to get around the provisions which bind almost all interests in their application—or that is how it is interpreted.

I would like to see the areas of assured rainfall, such as part of the Kimberley, given more attention by the removal of the strictures on development in an agricultural sense. You see, Mr. President, a pastoral lease cannot be used for farming, no matter how well one is circumstanced or situated. One cannot clear and plant 1,500 acres of crop on a 250,000-acre pastoral holding. One can obtain certain permission from the Minister within a certain latitude. I take the view that in the Kimberley, in certain regions, where 1,000,000-acre holdings are permissible and granted, the situation should be looked at from the angle of permitting holders of special leases to use fully the regions with assured rainfall by growing crops ancillary to the existing natural crops. In the lifetime of many in this Chamber the carrying capacity of certain regions of the Kimberley—especially on the river frontages—will, by the use of practical farming methods which would result in a better pastoral usage of the region, be able to carry 10 times the stock carried at present.

The Hon. E. C. House: Would not this accentuate the glut of produce on the market?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: If we were to look at it from that angle we would not endeavour to develop anything. I am speaking of the Kimberley in particular, and the Kimberley area, so far, has not had that bother.

We have American interests there anxious to grow a certain type of meat for export to their country, and I am sure that condition will long remain; the interest being shown in a capital sense and the anxiety to be permitted to use that country will overcome many problems.

But there are a number of practices not permitted under law in relation to the better use of such land, and I think the relevant provisions should be removed

from the Land Act to enable us to have a better pastoral occupation in the areas of productivity.

There are other sections in that part of the Land Act which I think require attention also. I feel that the compulsory development provisions need revision. The Act also contains compulsory stocking provisions. Certain parts of the north—and I will not specify them but I could if necessary—are very much overstocked. Pastoral properties are overstocked and consequently the pastoralists face the position of having to cut the throats of large numbers of sheep because there is no way of disposing of them profitably.

Yet we find there is a provision in the Act which makes it incumbent on pastoral lessees to stock above a certain minimum. Certain action can be taken against them in regard to understocking and overstocking. But there is so much conflict in the outdated expressions in these sections of the Land Act, that I would like to see them scrutinised along with many others that I have mentioned.

We want to meet the needs not only of 1970 but of the future, based on the experiences of the past. In some regions individual families have held areas from the first time a lease was granted; and this was a long time ago. Those who have lived there with their families are occupying land under the best condition of all—the family interest. But the absentee owner can in very few cases show much of which we can be proud as Western Australians.

It would be a very good time to take stock of the entire situation; to revise the whole of that part of the Act to which I have referred. This could be revised by competent people, and we have competent people in this State. We have people who are administering the law and have a great knowledge of its weaknesses, some of which I have mentioned.

I refer, for example, to an entity known as the Pastoral Appraisal Board, which consists of the Surveyor-General, the Director of Agriculture, and two persons appointed by the Governor to hold office on that board for a period of five years. I know Mr. Bill Butcher who has been a member of the board for many years though he now wishes to retire.

By the use of these officers, together with the help of some field officers attached to the pastoral appraisement section, there is an opportunity after an examination for a recommendation to be made to the Government to do something very different from the law as it is framed today.

I think this is something which is urgent and which is national. It is at least a urgent as bringing to this Chamber a fresh agreement in connection with th

development of further mineral deposits; important though they may be. In my view, the matter is of such tremendous importance that it should be attended to as quickly as practicable.

I know I am not circumscribed by time, and though I had several other subjects on which I intended to speak, I think I will discard all but one; and this relates to the Native Welfare Act and its application, particularly in the remote regions of the State.

I wish to deal for a moment or two with the problems associated with assimilation as a policy. I was most interested in the remarks made by Mr. House the other evening, and I feel, no matter what may be stated to the contrary, that one of the worst steps ever taken in this State's history in regard to the treatment of our Aborigines was the step we took when we granted them full liquor rights in many parts of the State.

In many of our north-west towns nowadays, and in many of our pastoral regions, we can see evidence of sadness and despair; we see some of our best stockmen—men who were capable of becoming managers of properties—sitting idle, attracted by the so-called privileges that they have been granted.

I would like any member in this House to ask any prominent pastoralist or any prominent farmer—and there are some in this Chamber—what circumstances obtain in regard to labour and the condition of the people to whom I refer; those who are now congregating in towns away from the places where they have lived their lives quite happily while giving great service to the State.

I think we have intruded into their lives something for which they were not ready; something they were never capable of handling. We were trying to do something in 10 years which has taken 2,000 years so far as the white people are concerned.

The Hon. E. C. House: I do not think they want to be assimilated.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I think most of them resent our intrusion.

The Hon. E. C. House: That is right.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I think we must realise that these wonderful people—and I have very many friends among them—are so proud of their tradition and so anxious to be left alone that in my view there is only one way to prepare them for this great change, and that is to train all those who are capable of being trained; to train those who are part educated now; those who have great educational capability, so that they may be accepted and assimilated.

The Hon. E. C. House: When you talk about education do not you think it is foolish to stress the academic rather than the practical?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I hope the honourable member will allow me to develop my theme. We must all give great regard to the wonderful work that has been done by people in the past—people like Daisy Bates and Sister Kate. If we realise and know what is being done we must also accept with admiration the wonderful work done by the mission stations in the distant areas of the State in helping and training these people.

Without any thought of discriminating against them we must never overlook the fact that in our attempt to help these people we must appreciate that they have been underprivileged ever since the white man occupied this country. We must treat them as backward people, just as we treat our own backward children for whom we have special schools. It is no stigma for a child to be in that category.

As there is provision now through the Native Welfare Department for bursaries and education betterment for those selected by superintendents, I would suggest as a start that 20 boys and 20 girls who have shown some aptitude for education in any subject or on any aspect be directed towards the better understanding of health and hygiene, of nursing, and of infant welfare. In the case of boys we should try to inculcate a better understanding of the responsibilities attaching to privileges or rights which may be granted, because every right and privilege brings with it responsibility.

It is idle to give these people the right to drink, something for which they are ill-prepared, particularly if they do not understand the responsibilities associated with that so-called right. The people concerned have the responsibilities of citizenship just as we have, and if there are opportunities in our schools in the north—and possibly also in the south, though I speak only of the north—to form a nucleus of well-selected, well-trained men and women, who could be the teachers of future generations of their people, we should grasp such opportunity with both hands. Such teachers would be listened to by their own people in areas where white people might be looked at askance, particularly when any endeavour is made to uplift the coloured people.

I am sure we have the material that is necessary. We know from our own experience what a great service these people can give when they realise that they are appreciated and when they have an understanding of our objectives. It is all very well to endeavour to emphasise that the objective is assimilation. Let it be so if we wish, but do not let us precipitate it to a period that makes it wholly impracticable and ends in failure.

I have mentioned the mission stations of all denominations which have done remarkable work, but they do run into a

dead end; and I think the Government must be made to realise that this is not merely a Western Australian problem or a Northern Territory problem; it rests with the whole of Australia. It even rests with the Victorian taxpayer—and there are no natives in Victoria—because these people are of Australia; they belong to it and it to them.

Accordingly, I would like to see the Government make a very serious endeavour to help these people and make a selection from among them through the system of allocating bursaries and education betterment that obtains at the moment. The people concerned will need to be accommodated in places where tuition is given in a practical way, and where they will have continued access to their people.

How different that would be from the system now obtaining! What difficulties are encountered by the people who live on reserves? We can say proudly that we are endeavouring to educate them at State schools. My children are educated along with coloured children, but what a difference there is between the children concerned.

The children of white families return home at night to their parents and discuss matters of the day; they discuss what is happening in the street and what is reported in the newspapers. But what do the underprivileged children do when they go home?

They have no chance of conversing with their parents on subjects they have been taught today or yesterday. Therefore the solution to the problem is not as easy as is expressed by some "do-gooders." In my opinion some "do-gooders" do a lot of harm. What is required is a number of people close to the problem and using the vast source of material available to help along to a better way of life these people who have deep traditional backgrounds.

Although I have rather scantily dealt with the subject on this occasion, I hope to say more about it later in the session. One of our objectives should be to give to our native population, through the education of their own people, the benefit of a better way of life for themselves and their future generations.

THE HON. J. M. THOMSON (South) [4.46 p.m.]: In the short time at my disposal, I wish to contribute to this very important debate before the House because I desire to support the motion which is a message of loyalty to our most gracious Sovereign, and also an expression of thanks to His Excellency for the Speech he presented to Parliament.

That Speech contained many important and interesting aspects of the situation within the State and it also gave an indication of part of the legislative programme for this present session of Parliament.

Among those items was the establishment of a public accounts committee and in this regard I asked a question yesterday and received the answer from the Minister for Mines. My question was—

When the Parliamentary Accounts Committee is established during the current Parliamentary Session, will it consist of members of both Houses?

The reply from the Minister reads—

Members of the Public Accounts Committee will be drawn from the Legislative Assembly.

Now we all know that the Parliament of Western Australia comprises two legislative Chambers, and members of both these Chambers, I venture to suggest, are equally concerned and interested in the expenditure which would be investigated by the public accounts committee. To say the very least, I am surprised at Cabinet's determination that members of the committee shall come only from the Legislative Assembly.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Don't you think we should get the Estimates, too?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I could not agree more with Mr. Ron Thompson. We know a change has occurred in the responsibility of this House and this change was brought about a few years ago by an amendment to the Constitution. I think at the time we mentioned that we should have more and more say and more authority regarding the Estimates than we have now.

I accept the fact that section 46 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act must always prevail. However, in my opinion, the functions of the public accounts committee would in no way infringe the requirements of that section. The members of this House are called upon at the end of each session to consider the Appropriation Bills, and those Bills contain matters which will, in future, have been submitted to and studied by the public accounts committee which would have made recommendations to Cabinet. Surely in no way, therefore, could anyone construe that the Legislative Council would be acting contrary to section 46 of the Constitution Acts Amendment Act.

In my opinion the public accounts committee is of sufficient importance to warrant the inclusion of members of both Houses of Parliament and I hope that in due course this will be done.

Whilst on the subject of committees, I would like to refer to my recent trip to Westminster where I was a delegate from Western Australia at the 19th Seminar of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Discussion at that seminar centred around the procedure of Parliament and the facilities and opportunities for private members to raise matters in Parliament.

Delegates attending the seminar came from India, Bermuda, British Honduras, Canada, Ghana, Gibraltar, Jamaica, Kenya, Mauritius, Malaysia, St. Lucia, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Australia. As members will have realised, South Africa, the West Indies, and Malaysia were represented, and it was very interesting to learn their approach to the responsibility of Parliament and its procedure. Those countries have many problems within the framework of their parliamentary system, some of them being associated with racial integration and the suspicion which still remains in the minds of many of their uninformed citizens. This creates many problems in government of the type we have been privileged to know for many years.

I could not help but be impressed by the significant part played by Standing Committees and Select Committees in the Legislature of Westminster. I will admit that the complexion of the House of Commons is totally different from ours because of the vast numbers in that House. Also the type of legislation introduced from time to time over there is considerably different from that introduced in our Parliament.

Nevertheless, I want to make the point that to enable legislation to be properly and thoroughly discussed, upon the introduction of the second reading of a Bill at Westminster the measure is referred to a committee for consideration. All aspects of it are considered and then the committee reports its recommendations to the Speaker. I maintain that by this method the passage of legislation is not delayed for any length of time, but that Parliamentary functions along the lines at first intended.

How frequently do we find in this House that a message concerning legislation is received at our party meeting and then the legislation is submitted to the House and passed through all stages in a very short time?

The Hon. R. Thompson: That does not stop you debating it.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: That is so.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You do not exercise your right very often.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I appreciate the point the honourable member is making and I will not argue with him. The fact remains that I believe we should make use of committees more than we do. I would not like Mr. Ron Thompson to think that these committees would consist of members from only one party. All parties should be represented in order that Bills might be discussed thoroughly and a report made to the Speaker.

With regard to the opportunity for private members to raise matters in Parliament, I admit that we have this opportunity during the Address-in-Reply debate. However the Address-in-Reply debate is

held at the beginning of the session. I am wondering whether we should not be given an opportunity to raise matters of importance on the adjournment of the House each day. I can see the Minister for Mines is getting a little fidgetty.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You cause me to say that you have had three weeks to make the speech you are now making, but you talk about debating the adjournment of the House.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Does the Minister want to adjourn the debate?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: No. I am saying that you have had three weeks to make your speech but you are talking about speaking on the motion to adjourn the House.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I am wondering how sincere his speech is, to be honest.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I suppose I should be very courteous and say "Thank you" for the compliment just paid me!

These are the matters which a delegate is expected to study while at the seminar, and then, on his return home, he expresses his opinions in the appropriate quarter, which I believe is Parliament. However, if members do not wish to hear what I have to say, I will let the matter rest there.

I believe we could well afford to consider the lack of opportunities members have to raise matters in Parliament. I know we can do this in the form of a motion, but I do not consider that this is the correct procedure. I believe that we should have an opportunity at the conclusion of the day's proceedings, just prior to our departure from this Chamber. However, perhaps this is a matter I could submit to the appropriate authority; that is, the Standing Orders Committee.

Last year, in answer to questions I asked concerning the potential water supplies in the southern portion of the State, I was informed that a total of 34,000,000,000 gallons is available annually from the rivers in the areas surrounding Albany. I asked whether this amount would be sufficient to warrant consideration being given to the establishment of a comprehensive water scheme in the southern portion of the State. To this the Minister replied: "Yes." In view of what we have witnessed over the last two seasons, the question arises as to what we can do with water that at present is not being utilised to the fullest extent. If a comprehensive scheme could be put into operation in that area the water could be conveyed to various parts of the Great Southern districts.

As a matter of fact, it was made quite clear to me by the Minister, in the reply from the Public Works Department, that water could be supplied from Albany north to Tambellup, which area is not served by the comprehensive scheme, and eastward to the Gairdner River-Jerramungup area.

I think this matter should receive the consideration of the Government in the near future. I understand that a blueprint has been drawn up by the Public Works Department for such a scheme to be implemented, and I trust, in view of the situation that confronts the Government today, it will see fit to divert its attention in that direction with a view to making the scheme a reality.

The other matter to which I wish to refer relates to the supply of milk to the metropolitan area from the Albany, Denmark, and Mt. Barker areas. As members know, I have asked questions on this point, and it is a matter of concern that the 67 producers in the south coast region to which I have just referred are still denied the right to supply milk to the metropolitan area. While we have a surplus in the treatment plant at Albany of over 55,000 gallons of milk, it is ironical to find that new areas in the south-west part of the State are being brought in to supply the metropolitan area with milk. I refer particularly to Capel where 42 more producers have been included and on the 1st February next year I would venture to suggest that approximately 40 more producers in the Busselton area will be included.

These suppliers, along with other licensed producers from those areas, will be able to supply milk to the metropolitan area. We in the Albany district have from time to time made representations to the Milk Board for the opportunity to supply milk to the metropolitan area, in company with the producers in the south-west areas of the State, but our requests have been refused, and there is a great deal of resentment about it in the Albany district.

I think it is high time we looked at our Milk Act to see what can be done to overcome the problem that apparently exists so far as the Milk Board is concerned. I would say that the provisions of the Victorian and New South Wales Acts, under which the milk of all producers in those States comes under the one authority, are worthy of being incorporated in our legislation. In order that the whole industry may be treated fairly and equitably, I think all milk produced throughout the State should come under the control of the board. It is a matter that I would earnestly recommend to the Minister's attention.

The Hon. N. McNeill: If the board is the authority that is stopping this milk from coming to Perth, what difference would it make to vest all the milk in the State in the board?

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Do you think there is too much monopoly control under the Milk Act?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I think the present situation is entirely unsatisfactory and if we had a provision in our Milk Act to the effect that all milk produced in the

State should come under the control of the board, or be vested in the board, the situation that applies at Albany today would not exist. The producers at Albany and the other areas I mentioned, would be on an equal footing with producers throughout the rest of the State.

I know some people believe that vesting milk in one central authority is not desirable, or is something to be resisted. However, because there is an element of resistance, it does not mean that we should not proceed with such a scheme. In the interests of the industry generally I think such steps should be taken.

I can see that my time is getting short and I understand it is the desire, there being no more speakers on this debate, for the Minister to reply to members' comments this evening.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: May I tell you something? I now have insufficient time to do that so you can carry on for as long as you like.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I am sorry.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I do not want to cut you short.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I appreciate the Minister's courtesy and his sentiments. However, I have made my contribution to the debate and, in company with other members, I hope the motion will be agreed to. I support it.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines).

House adjourned at 5.07 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 27th August, 1970

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

QUESTIONS (37): ON NOTICE

1 and 2. *These questions were postponed.*

3.

EDUCATION

Preschool Training

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is he in a position to supply the Commonwealth and State Government contributions to preschool training in Western Australia for the years 1958-59, 1964-65, and 1969-70?
- (2) Has there been a recent review of the formula for Government financial assistance to the Kindergarten Association of Western Australia (Inc.)?