

prise by depending upon their own resources for housing themselves. Instead of the Perth City Council evicting these people from their substandard houses, it should let them stay there until the permanent homes have been completed. Some of the dwellings under construction there are stump-high and some are plate-high, with the roof timbers now being put up. But these people have a genuine and earnest desire to house themselves in permanent structures and have no desire to continue to live in these substandard houses. If a spirit of Christian charity and a broader outlook were displayed by the Perth City Council, these people would turn out to be, as they are now, excellent citizens and have houses that are worthy of the district in which they are now living. I support the motion.

On motion by the Minister for Agriculture, debate adjourned.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

As to Concluding Address-in-reply Debate.

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT: Before moving the adjournment of the House, I wish to ask members to get their contributions to this debate ready so that we can finish the debate on the Address-in-reply, if possible, some time next week. I realise there are a number of speakers who desire to address the House, and as the debate in another place will finish very soon, and we have some legislative matter to introduce here, it would expedite the business of this House if members would be prepared to speak during next week.

House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

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Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 30th August, 1951.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.

EDUCATION.

(a) *As to School Accommodation, Bayswater.*

Mr. J. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Is he aware—

(a) of the very serious overcrowded conditions existing at the Bayswater State School;

- (b) that four classrooms have an attendance of 60 children in each and two others have an attendance of 58 and 56, respectively, in each?

(2) As this is a very unsatisfactory condition of affairs to all concerned, will he, when satisfied that the facts are as stated, take immediate action to provide extra classroom accommodation?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The latest staff return, dated the 6th July, showed that the school had nine classrooms and 10 classes, one of which was conducted in the school assembly hall. There was one class with an enrolment of 62, two with 60, four between 50 and 60, and three below 50.

An additional assistant was appointed early in August and the head teacher instructed to form an additional class-group to be housed in a local hall, so as to ensure that no class is larger than between 50 and 60.

(2) Recommendations have been made for increasing the accommodation by the addition of two classrooms, and the matter is now under consideration.

- (b) *As to School Building, Belmont.*

Mr. GRIFFITH asked the Minister for Education:

Can he indicate when it is intended to commence building operations on the school on the land held by the Education Department at the corner of Acton Avenue and Campbell-st., Belmont?

The MINISTER replied:

The Architectural Branch of the Public Works Department was asked on the 18th June last to prepare a design and cost estimate for a five-roomed school on the land referred to.

MINER'S PHTHISIS FUND.

As to Increase of Payments.

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

(1) Were payments to beneficiaries under the Miner's Phthisis Fund increased when pension rates generally were raised in 1948?

(2) If not, why not?

(3) Were there any other types of pensions not included in the increases made?

(4) If so, which?

(5) Is it proposed to include payments under the Miner's Phthisis Fund in the general increases which have been announced?

(6) If not, why not?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) No.

(2) Payments to beneficiaries under the Miner's Phthisis Act were fixed by regulation under the Act as follows:—"Half the ruling rate of pay in the district for the class of work in which a man was engaged

when prohibited from employment in the mines, plus an allowance for dependants (£1 per week for wife and 8s. 6d. per week for each child under 16 years of age), the maximum payment not to exceed the basic wage in the district at the time the man was prohibited."

The minimum amount received by any male beneficiary under this Act is £2 9s. per week, while widows receive £2 per week.

(3) and (4) The pensions which were increased related only to those payable to ex-Government employees.

(5) No.

(6) For reasons given in (2).

HEALTH.

(a) As to New Australian Doctors for Regional Areas.

Mr. STYANTS asked the Minister for Health:

(1) How many new Australian medical practitioners are employed under the regional registration system of the Medical Act?

(2) Where are they employed?

(3) How many other new Australians are going through the probationary period prior to being posted to "regional areas"?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) There are eight alien doctors registered under the provisions for regional registration in the Medical Act, 1894-1950.

(2) Meekatharra-Wiluna Region (1); Wooroloo (1); Claremont Hospital for Insane (3); Pathological Department, Royal Perth Hospital (1); Pathological Department, Fremantle Hospital (1); North-West Region (1).

(3) At this date there are three undergoing probationary period of at least three months.

(b) As to Examinations for Inspectors.

Mr. STYANTS asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Is it correct that results from examinations held in Western Australia for health inspectors have to be forwarded to the Royal Sanitary Institute in London, which has the final say regarding the issue of certificates?

(2) If this is true, are any special benefits conferred by the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute which could not be provided by a certificate issued by a local examining board?

(3) Will the Government take the necessary action to have these certificates of competency issued locally?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes, but the Royal Sanitary Institute in London invariably accepts the results of the examiners in this State.

(2) Yes. The certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute is recognised throughout the world as being of a very high standard.

(3) No. This is considered to be unnecessary, as the present arrangements are very satisfactory.

AGRICULTURE.

As to Lime-Super. Mixture as Fertiliser.

Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What experiments involving the mixing of lime and superphosphate has the Department of Agriculture concluded?

(2) What was the object of the experiment or experiments?

(3) What conclusions were drawn?

(4) What, briefly, was the nature and previous history of the land?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied:

(1) Numerous experiments involving the mixing of lime and superphosphate conducted at research stations and on private properties have been concluded during the past 20 years.

(2) These experiments were designed to determine whether the addition of lime to superphosphate was beneficial or detrimental to crop or pasture yields.

(3) It was concluded that with cereals no benefit could be obtained from the use of lime-superphosphate mixtures and that in some instances grain yields might even be reduced.

With pastures, it was concluded that on the areas included in the experiments, the mixture was neither beneficial nor harmful.

Results of some of the experiments have been reported in the Journals of the Department of Agriculture of June, 1943, and June, 1945.

(4) The experiments were conducted on areas ranging from light scrub plain soils to heavy forest soils. Some sites were on land almost immediately following clearing, whereas others were on land with a relatively long history of previous cultivation and manuring with superphosphate.

POTASH.

As to State Supply.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE asked the Minister for Supply and Shipping:

(1) Is potash freely available in Western Australia at the present time?

(2) If not, what is the extent of the shortage based upon the State's requirements?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) There is no shortage at present. The companies are able to meet all present demands. They have sufficient to last until October, when a further shipment of supplies is expected.

(2) Answered by (1).

HOUSING.

(a) As to Uncompleted Homes, Baker's Hill.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) When was any work last carried out on the two uncompleted Commonwealth-State rental homes at Baker's Hill?

(2) What was the reason for the cessation of work on these houses?

(3) When is work likely to be resumed upon them?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Last report from supervisor indicating progress dated 13/4/51, when job was 37½ per cent. complete.

(2) Supervisor's subsequent reports indicate contractor waiting for tiles.

(3) When tiles received. Inquiries are being made by the Commission regarding the delay and steps will be taken to expedite.

(b) As to Production of File.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE (without notice) asked the Minister for Housing:

Will he give me an opportunity, one day next week, to peruse the file dealing with the uncompleted houses at Baker's Hill.

The MINISTER replied:

I shall be pleased to bring the file up with me, and the hon. member can peruse it.

GREENOUGH RIVER.

As to Construction of Bridge.

Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister for Works:

When does he anticipate that work will be commenced on the construction of the bridge over the Greenough River?

The MINISTER replied:

Work will commence on the site in October next.

RAILWAYS.

(a) As to "W" Class Engines and Fire Hazard.

Mr. NALDER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) In view of the reported statement already made by some train crews that the new "W" class locomotives are first-class flame throwers, and will be a veritable fire menace in our country districts, will he give the House the assurance that

immediate steps will be taken to have them fitted with an efficient spark arrester?

(2) In view of the disastrous fires caused by locomotives on the Great Southern lines last year, will he give consideration to cancelling heavily laden goods trains on the few days in early summer when the fire hazard forecast is dangerous?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied:

(1) The "W" Class locomotives are fitted with the master mechanic spark arrester which is generally accepted as the most effective means of minimising the emission of sparks from locomotives. When these engines were first fitted, it was found that owing to loose fitting screens, there was a loss of efficiency. This defect has now been remedied and as an additional precaution double screens are also being fitted.

(2) It is not practicable in all cases to cancel trains at short notice, but when the fire hazard forecast is dangerous, special precautions are, and will be, taken to prevent fires, including, where possible, a reduction of train loads or the cancellation of non-urgent trains.

(b) *As to Alternative Route for Chord Line.*

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

As it is rumoured that resumption of land on the Bassendean side of the proposed Welshpool-Bassendean chord line is about to be gazetted, will he have the question of the alternative route proposed by the Bassendean Road Board submitted to Mr. D. W. Brisbane as an independent engineer to adjudicate and enable him to bring in a finding at the same time as he reports his findings on the Belmont section of the line now in dispute with the Belmont Road Board?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied:

Gazettal of these resumptions is being held up pending a discussion of the points at issue between the representatives of the Bassendean Road Board and the Commission in a few days time.

It is not proposed to enlist the services of an independent engineer.

(c) *As to State Battery Connection, Kalgoorlie.*

Mr. McCULLOCH asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

Will he ascertain from the responsible Minister when it is the intention of the department to reply to a communication addressed to the Minister for Mines by the member for Hannans, relative to the request for the installation of a spur-line into the Kalgoorlie State Battery?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING replied:

The proposal is under examination by the Railway Department and a reply will be furnished as soon as possible after the Railway Commission's report has been received.

(d) *As to Warning Lights, Chapple-st. Crossing, Kalgoorlie.*

Mr. McCULLOCH asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

Will he take the necessary action to have warning lights installed at Chapple-st. railway crossing, Kalgoorlie?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied:

Chapple-st. is amongst a number of crossings listed for warning lights, as and when materials become available. Delivery of the apparatus is slow and uncertain.

CEMENT.

As to Production.

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

What quantity of cement was produced each month, respectively, since the 1st January, 1951?

The MINISTER replied:

Cement produced by Swan Portland Cement Company in W.A. since the 1st January, 1951:—

January, 1951 (no production from the 1st January, 1951, to the 17th January, 1951—factory closed for annual holidays), 3,230 tons; February, 1951, 6,150 tons; March, 1951, 7,760 tons; April, 1951, 7,300 tons; May, 1951, 7,870 tons; June, 1951, 6,400 tons; July, 1951, 6,600 tons.

BETTING.

As to Interpretation of "Obstruction" Law.

Mr. STYANTS asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Is there an interpretation of the law referring to obstruction of traffic in Collie different from that operating in Kalgoorlie?

(2) Is the reason that no prosecutions for this offence have taken place in Collie that the police have instructions in the matter, or is it dereliction of duty on the part of the police?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) No alteration in policy has been made to that prevailing during the term of office of the Government headed by Hon. F. J. S. Wise, and in my opinion there is no dereliction of duty on the part of the police.

CAVE HOUSE.*As to Allocation of Accommodation.*

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) What is the system of allocating accommodation at Cave House, Yallingup?

(2) What qualifications entitle applicants to preference?

(3) Who considers the applications and makes the allocations?

(4) Are accompanying children an advantage or disadvantage to an applicant's prospects of being granted accommodation?

(5) Is it a fact that guests with children are given accommodation in the old part of the building, whilst those without are given it in the new?

(6) Do certain favoured people get accommodation time after time, whilst other people are regularly excluded?

(7) Since and including 1945, have any bookings been made for the Christmas-New Year and Easter holiday periods, respectively, more than twice to any individual?

(8) If so, who are they, and how many times each?

(9) As Cave House is publicly-owned, is any special consideration given to workers and their families?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) Applications are invited through the Press at three- or four-monthly periods. All applications are treated as being received on the same date. From the applicants, selection is made with the object of maximum utilisation of accommodation.

(2) No qualifications.

(3) A senior officer of the Western Australian Government Tourist Bureau and the manager of Cave House under the direction of the general manager of the State Hotels Department.

(4) There is no discrimination against applicants with children.

(5) Yes. Children are accommodated at reduced rates in the bungalow and parents generally prefer to be near their children at night. Other than sleeping, the new part of the house is available to all guests, including children.

(6) Flexibility of dates of certain applicants outside the peak periods and their willingness to accept cancellations at extremely short notice has resulted in more than one allocation being made to them since 1946.

(7) The first postwar years for which accommodation was allocated by the bureau dates from the Christmas-New Year period 1946-47. An examination of the booking charts kept by the Tourist Bureau reveals that in a few cases people have been accommodated more than twice during the Christmas-New Year and Easter holiday periods respectively.

(8) Christmas-New Year: Mr. and Mrs. E. Nulsen, 5 times; Mr. and Mrs. W. Wyatt, 3. Easter: Air Commodore and Mrs. Brownell, 3; Miss B. Ford, 3; Mr. and Mrs. J. Rossiter, 3. These figures include Christmas-New Year, 1951-52.

(9) Applicants are not asked to state their occupations.

STATE BRICK WORKS.*As to Impending Inquiry.*

Hon. J. T. TONKIN (without notice) asked the Premier:

(1) Has the Government yet decided on a magistrate to conduct the inquiry into the incident at the State Brick Works?

(2) If so, when is it expected that the inquiry will commence?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) Yes, the Government has decided upon a magistrate to conduct the inquiry.

(2) The magistrate will be given the powers of a Royal Commissioner. This will have to go through Executive Council—I should say one day next week—and the magistrate can then decide on the date when he will start the inquiry.

PRICES CONTROL.*As to Alleged Breaches by W.A. Brick Coy.*

Hon. J. T. TONKIN (without notice) asked the Attorney General:

(1) Are any prosecutions pending against the W.A. Brick Coy., Orange Grove, for breaches of the prices regulations?

(2) If the answer is in the negative, what is the reason for the inaction?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL replied:

(1) and (2) I am speaking only from memory, but as far as I can recollect, there are prosecutions pending against the party concerned.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.*Eleventh Day—Conclusion.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. BRADY (Guildford-Midland) [4.47]: At the outset of my contribution to the debate, I would like to say that I regret the passing of the late Sir James Mitchell who was a great friend of the Guildford-Midland electorate and who, just a few weeks before his demise, was presented by the Guildford-Midland people with a token of esteem and appreciation for his many years of service. I also express my sympathy to the relatives of our departed members, Messrs. Mann, Tuckey, Fox and Shearn, who were members either of this House or of the Legislative Council. I met them all on occasions, and like other members, regret their passing.

The debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply gives me a chance to bring before the Government a number of matters affecting the Guildford-Midland electorate which I would otherwise probably not be able to do. One is not always able to get to a Minister and remain with him for a sufficient time, in the ordinary period of every-day work, to bring all one's problems before him, so on this debate one can take the opportunity to deal with such matters in the House. Several questions affecting the Midland district are urgent, some more so than others.

I shall deal with what I consider the most urgent problem first, and that is the proposal to construct the new chord line over the Belmont bridge into the marshalling yards at Bassendean. Even in the last 10 minutes this problem has presented a new phase, due to the reply which the Minister, representing the Minister for Railways, gave to a question I asked. You will remember, Sir, that the Bill to authorise the construction of the Welshpool-Bassendean line was brought down in the dying hours of last session, and I, on behalf of my electorate, protested strongly, because I and the local governing bodies concerned did not have sufficient time to weigh the pros and cons and deal with them adequately.

On that occasion I posed a number of questions to the Minister for Education, who was representing the Minister for Railways, and I think both the Minister for Education and the Premier gave me, as member for the district, an assurance that every consideration would be given to proposals to alter the line. That can be done under, I think, Section 96 of the Public Works Act. Because of what was said in reply to a question during the last 10 minutes by the Minister representing the Minister for Railways, I want to quote an extract from last year's "Hansard." The reply I received today, in answer to my question, was most unsatisfactory. This question is very important in the view of the Bassendean Road Board. It is so important that that board has decided to write to each of the 80 State members of Parliament. Accompanying the letters will be sketches of the board's proposals as opposed to those which the Chief Civil Engineer has put before the Minister for Railways.

During last session the Minister for Education, representing the Minister for Railways, after stating that Section 96 of the Public Works Act could be used for the purpose said—

Therefore the position in regard to the Bassendean marshalling yards is that they could be constructed under the Public Works Act and the Eastern Railway Act; and this legislation does not expressly authorise their construction in any particular place. Section 96 of the Public Works Act provides that a railway may be deviated a mile

on either side of the route shown, and the Welshpool-Bassendean Railway Bill is subject to that provision. It would, therefore, be possible to deviate the route by that distance. So I suggest that those who wish to make representations in regard to alterations in the proposed route of the line and site of the marshalling yards, will be perfectly at liberty to do so after the Bill is passed.

The member for Canning interjected—
To whom—

The Minister for Education went on—

To the Railway Department and the Minister. I say on behalf of the Government that those representations, if made by responsible bodies or members of Parliament, will receive consideration, because it is obvious that if some equally suitable and safe alternative can be found within one mile of the proposed route, or within one mile of the eastern railway—dealing now with the marshalling yards—it could be accepted. Therefore, I believe that members, even those who have some difficulties in regard to the measure—which I fully appreciate but to which I cannot subscribe in the main, at any rate—would do well to allow it to go on the statute book, and accept the assurance that investigation of their representations, and those of any local bodies they may introduce, will certainly receive the fullest consideration.

The Minister said that our representations would receive the fullest consideration! I am most disappointed to learn, in reply to my question, that the Minister does not propose to enlist the services of an independent engineer. How can the matter be given the fullest consideration if the only person who is to consider the representations of myself and the Bassendean Road Board is the engineer who put up these proposals to the Minister for Railways?

Since the Act was passed last year, a number of conferences have been held with the Minister for Railways and the Chief Civil Engineer. Also, the Bassendean Road Board has made representations and I, in turn, have made special efforts to get something done. All we ask is that an independent engineer be given the opportunity to see whether the proposals of the Bassendean Road Board are better than those put up by the Chief Civil Engineer. While Mr. D. W. Brisbane is considering the proposals put forward by the Belmont Park Road Board, he could easily go into the proposals submitted by the Bassendean Road Board.

Things are coming to a pretty pass if this matter is to take on a party political aspect. It would appear that because the Minister for Canning is a supporter of the Government, and has made representations to the Minister for Railways—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member means the member for Canning and not the Minister for Canning.

Mr. BRADY: Yes. The hon. member has made representations to the Minister for Railways to get him out of a tight squeeze. Mr. Brisbane, an independent engineer, has been appointed to examine the proposals of the Belmont Park Road Board as against those of the Chief Civil Engineer. Because the member for Middle Swan and I are Labour representatives, we are not given the same consideration.

In my opinion, the Bassendean Road Board has a better case than that put forward by the Belmont Park Road Board. Yet, the member for Middle Swan and I are to be denied our reasonable requests. I believe the Minister representing the Minister for Railways misrepresented the position when he asked us to permit the Bill to go on to the statute book and said he would give any representations the fullest consideration. The position is that we have been appealing from Caesar to Caesar, especially over the last 12 months, and we have got nowhere. The fact remains that the Chief Civil Engineer has put up proposals and I understand that at the public meeting held at Bassendean he said he would stand or fall by them.

I do not expect the Chief Civil Engineer to go back on his proposals, but if the Government is to be impartial in its government of this country and fair to the local governing bodies, it must give consideration to the request of the Bassendean Road Board that an independent engineer be appointed to examine the suggestion that the board has submitted. The scheme of the Bassendean Road Board will be submitted in black and white to every State member of Parliament and I hope that as a consequence—after members examine the sketches submitted and the proposals put up by the board—we shall be able to convince the Government that an independent engineer should be appointed.

Another aspect of this matter has cropped up since last session. I understand the issue of loan moneys is to be tightened up and that all State Governments have been asked to curtail loan expenditure. As the construction of the Bassendean-Welshpool line is to be paid from loan funds, the Bassendean Road Board has a practical idea to save a sum of £100,000. If the board's scheme is accepted, approximately 1½ miles of line can be saved. In view of the shortage of steel throughout Australia, and particularly in view of the international situation, the Government would not be doing its duty to the country or the community if it did not give serious consideration to the proposal.

I do not want to go into details on this question, but I intend to read an extract from "The West Australian" of the 23rd August, which sets out some of the objections the road board has to the present

proposals submitted by the Chief Civil Engineer. I will leave it at that and trust that all members, when they receive the circulars I have referred to, will give the matter deep consideration. The extract reads—

Nine objections to the proposed route of the Bassendean-Welshpool chord railway line were made at a meeting of the Bassendean Road Board last night when an alternative route was discussed by the board.

The board considered that instead of the chord line cutting through a residential area, the present Belmont railway line could be used from the Swan River bridge to a spot near the Whatley siding by the construction of a short curve connecting the line with the existing Perth-Bassendean line. The curve it was said, would interfere with few private properties and would save railway, road and bridge construction costs as well as resumption and compensation payments.

In this case there are about 25 houses to be pulled down. If the proposals of the board were accepted that could be avoided. The article continues—

The main objections to the proposed line were that it would cut through one of the main residential areas of the Bassendean district and land on which at least 160 houses could be built. The board further objected to the proposed route because of the high cost of constructing a line from the Belmont railway bridge to the marshalling yards at Bassendean.

That was a point I made in my earlier remarks, namely, that 1½ miles of line could be saved. As we are to curtail loan expenditure, this is an excellent method of doing so. My idea is that if it is necessary to resume that land, then there is no need for the line to be put through immediately because it could be done in 10 or 20 years time. To resume the land now and proceed with the construction of the line in the next two or three years is absolutely absurd.

That is a point to which the independent engineer could give serious consideration. The proposal of the board should be examined and if it is found to be better than the one put up by the railway engineer then the land could be resumed. To continue with the board's objections, as set out in the report in "The West Australian"—

The board further objected to the proposed route because of the high cost of constructing a line from the Belmont railway bridge to the marshalling yards at Bassendean. Heavy expense, it was said, would also be incurred by the installation of heavier and wider roads to give heavy traffic access to the bridges to be built in conjunction with the proposed chord line.

Three objections to the proposed line were based on its interfering with existing road and transport systems. Members of the board agreed that the present road transport system would be "completely disorganised"—

Completely disorganised in the Bassendean area! At a later stage I am going to have something to say in connection with the traffic over that road in the vicinity of the Cresco super. works. I think members will realise that the Bassendean Road Board is making a very worth-while and timely objection. To continue—

Members of the board agreed that the present road transport system would be "completely disorganised" because most of the roads in the west ward would be interfered with in some way. Four roads, it was said, would be cut in half and made "dead-ends." In addition, it was considered that the main bus service between Perth and Bassendean would have to be allocated a new route, because Shackleton-st. would not be provided with a road bridge.

The board's final objection was that no commonsense reason had been given why the route it had suggested should not be agreed to in preference to that proposed by the Railway Department.

I will close on that particular note and leave it at that. As member for the district the latest I have heard in connection with this matter—and I heard it only about 20 minutes ago—is that next Thursday it is proposed to have a conference in the office of the Minister for Railways to consider the subject further.

I do not think all the conferences in the world will be of any avail. We cannot expect the chief engineer who is standing behind the proposal, to say that it is not worth while. I appeal to the Government—and all its members are here—to give the Bassendean Road Board the same consideration as it has given to the people of Belmont. I believe if that were done, the people of Bassendean would accept the position, and nothing more would be heard of the matter. All they want is a fair go and that this matter should not be made a subject of party politics.

As I have already said, the Address-in-reply debate gives me the opportunity to ventilate a few matters which I would not otherwise be able to bring up. I am getting very worried about the sewerage position in Midvale, in the Midland Junction area generally and in the Bassendean district. Hundreds of houses have been built in these areas and there is no sewerage system available to them. I could deal with the past history of these areas where over the years various Ministers have said that sewerage was something that was going to be pushed on with there, that it would be provided for in the Estimates, and that

sewerage would be installed in the Midvale, Bassendean and Midland Junction areas. I would now like to quote a letter which the Minister for Works despatched recently to the Midland Junction Municipal Council dated the 12th June, 1951, as follows:—

I am now in receipt of a further report on the advisability of extending the deep sewerage system to the Midvale area. The Under Secretary for Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage (Mr. Hutchinson) has brought to my notice facts concerning a discussion which took place between representatives of your council and himself on the 26th April.

Since that time the department has taken out up-to-date figures regarding the estimated cost of the proposal. It is considered now that it would cost £77,265 to sewer the 337 lots in the area at a charge of £230 per lot. Annual charges on this outlay will exceed £4,600 and revenue from such a small area will, unfortunately, show an annual deficiency of £3,646.

Further to previous advices regarding this matter, I wish to point out that there is at the present time a degree of tightening up—

This is the important part of the letter.—

in connection with our loan expenditure and no further consideration can be given to the sewerage of Midvale until the amount of loan moneys to become available to the State during 1951-52 is known.

The Minister is making a reasonable approach to this matter as he sees it, but I would like to quote something I said in the House in 1949-50 when speaking on the Estimates. I was pointing out the lack of amenities and the lack of necessary social facilities in our area and I said—

When I made my maiden speech in the House last year I referred to many of the difficulties these people—

I was referring to the people in my electorate—

were experiencing and I did it deliberately because I felt that while revenue was buoyant the industrialists were entitled to some consideration in connection with amenities which, as I say, are very short in that area. I am fearful that with the decrease in the price of wheat and other primary products the Government will say, "We agree with the member for Guildford-Midland but we have not the revenue." The Government is handling the revenue now and will do so for the next 12 months.

The very thing I expected is coming to pass. The areas of North Bassendean, Bassendean West, Midvale and Midland

Junction are crying out for sewerage. I feel the Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department should have attacked some of these problems before those in other parts of the metropolitan area were dealt with. I would like to point out the reason for this.

In Midvale particularly the subsoil is clayey and is quite different from most of the subsoils found around the metropolitan area. It will not absorb water. The result is that today both storm-water and domestic waste from the homes lie in the backyards, along the sides of houses and in the front streets and is causing grave concern to the health authorities in the Midland Junction area. It is also causing grave concern to workers and their wives, and it is quite likely that an epidemic of some type will break out before long, because there are 200 houses without sewerage and the ordinary sanitary service is not sufficient.

In the sandy areas around South Perth, Rivervale, Belmont and Subiaco septic tank systems can probably be installed. This has been advocated for the people in the Midvale, Midland Junction and Bassendean areas, but septic tanks are not suitable for these districts. The water and waste lie on the surface and I feel sure that there will be an epidemic or an outbreak of some disease because of the fact that we have no sewerage scheme in those areas. It is also envisaged that another 500 or 600 houses will be built in the Midland Junction and Darling Range areas in the near future by the Railway Department and the Housing Commission. I say, therefore, that everything points with justification to the necessity of the Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department pushing on without delay with sewerage in these areas, even though the immediate position is such that the scheme will not be a satisfactory revenue producer.

But these additional houses will pay capital cost and other sinking fund charges that are required and at the same time stave off an outbreak of disease which, when it does occur, will cost the Government many thousands of pounds. So I would take this opportunity of appealing to the Minister for Works and other members of the Government for a little sympathy to be shown when money is required to be spent in the Midvale and Bassendean areas.

The Premier: Money is not refused for sewerage. The whole difficulty is to keep up with it and to get the necessary materials.

Mr. BRADY: I agree with the Premier, but the Sewerage and Drainage Department is pushing on with the installation of sewerage in areas which are not so urgently in need of it as is my district because of the special circumstances I have mentioned. In sandy soils septic

tank systems and french drains can be installed which will meet the case. But in the Midland Junction area there is a special difficulty because of the clayey soil. There is a prospect of another 500 or 600 houses being built there; there are 150 houses built by the Housing Commission; and there have also been many houses standing there for a considerable number of years. And this should justify the installation of sewerage in those areas. I do not want to flog this matter unduly but I would like to pass on these suggestions to the Minister and the Government in the hope that, in their own interests and in the interests of the State, something should be done.

The matter of schooling also requires special and urgent attention. For many years the Midland-Guildford electorate has been promised a high school. In 1941 we were given the promise that a high school would be built. I understand there is a minute, which was put on the file in 1945, setting out that the next high school would be built at Midland Junction. We have no high school yet, and the necessity for it is now three times greater than it was when it was first promised. I would like to impress upon the Government that a high school is long overdue for the Guildford-Midland electorate. In addition to the residents in 1941, we have a further 4,000 or 5,000 people. Every school in the Guildford-Midland area is overcrowded and we have now reached the stage when the Technical School has outgrown its usefulness. Teachers are endeavouring to give the children technical education today, in 1951, with equipment and facilities which were installed in 1908.

The Premier: Surely it has not outlived its usefulness.

Mr. BRADY: It has, because the children are scattered all over the place and there is no adequate accommodation for them to have drawing classes and so on. The Technical School is most unsatisfactorily situated; it is near the institute; there is dust, and the children have to cross the railway lines to get to the school. Generally speaking, it is most unsatisfactory. The Minister for Education visited this area early this year or late last year and he saw the children in the drawing classes housed in the Masonic Hall about three-quarters of a mile from the Technical School and about half a mile from the main school. They should be in the main building, and this would facilitate rather than hamper their education.

I understand that none of the teachers is satisfied with the existing facilities, and they declare that children should be receiving education which they are not obtaining because of the inadequate provisions made for imparting it. I heard the headmaster say at a meeting that

certain classes could not be given the technical education they required because rooms and facilities were not available. We have reached the stage where, because of procrastination by Governments, a high school and a technical school are required simultaneously in my electorate. Over the years, technical schools and high schools have been built in other districts, but such facilities are not available in the main industrial centre of Western Australia, which should have received them first. I do not know whether party politics or political pull on the part of certain people has been responsible.

The Premier: No.

Mr. BRADY: The electorate has been definitely neglected and the State will reap the harvest in a few years' time. We shall be clamouring for technicians and tradesmen, and the cry will then be raised that such people should have been trained in 1951. The time is coming when the Government should consider the establishment of a high school and a technical school at Midland Junction.

The Premier: The Guildford-Midland electorate is like many other parts of the State. Its population is growing rapidly and the needs of the people are increasing correspondingly.

Mr. BRADY: I am glad the Premier appreciates that our needs are increasing. But I want to point out that Midland Junction is becoming the most important industrial centre in Western Australia. Years ago, many people referred to it as the future Birmingham of Western Australia. Everything points to its deserving that title because of the heavy industries that are being established around it. It is no good, however, building up potentials if we have not apprentices and tradesmen and facilities for them to obtain the necessary education.

Why should apprentices have to travel from the Midland Junction workshops to the Perth Technical College to receive instruction? Time, money and energy are wasted, and the facilities provided at the Technical College, which is 11 miles from the main industrial centre, should be located at Midland Junction. The more one goes into the matter, the more one sees the folly of children having to come to the metropolitan area for training. It would appear that the Government is building up everything in the centre of Perth rather than engaging in decentralisation and obviating the congestion which is so evident in the metropolis. The capital is already overcrowded and on Saturdays people cannot get within two miles of the Post Office with their cars. Generally speaking, a policy of decentralisation is badly needed.

Housing continues to be a problem in my area, especially with railwaymen. I made an effort recently to obtain some

information concerning the houses that are to be made available by the Railway Department in the Greenmount-Midvale area. Here are the questions I asked—

(1) When will a commencement be made on the building of houses at Greenmount or Midvale for use of railway employees?

(2) Is it intended to give preference in allocation to loco. and traffic employees working on shift work? or

(3) Will all sections of railway employees be invited to apply for new homes?

The replies I received were as follows:—

(1) Building is contingent upon arrival of prefabricated and precut houses from oversea contractors. No definite date of shipment has yet been received.

(2) The bulk of the houses will be allocated to Midland Junction workshops employees.

(3) Applications from other employees will be considered in the allotment of the balance.

I want to emphasise that the bulk of the houses will be allocated to Midland Junction workshops employees. There are, however, certain sections of railway employees who should receive special consideration, namely, traffic and loco. men. Those employees have to work round the clock. They are called upon to work at all hours of the day and night and have to make their way home in the dark at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning and go into all sorts of places to try to obtain some rest.

In the last two months, loco. men driving engines worth from £40,000 to £50,000 hauling trains worth anything from £600,000 to £700,000, have told me they have taken up residence in hotels, some in Midland Junction and some in other areas; and in the midst of all the noises that occur in such places, they have to try to secure some sleep. Some of the men are single, and I want members to realise the effect upon single men of living in such conditions. Certain of them are strong-willed but others are weak and easily succumb to the temptation to drink. Unless traffic and loco. employees have the right to houses, along with workshops employees, who are mostly on day shift, the Government will be inviting a certain amount of disaster. I therefore appeal to the Government to give some semblance of equal consideration to loco. and traffic men and workshops employees when allocations of homes are being made.

There is another housing problem of a different kind at Midland Junction, and it affects apprentices. I understand that the Railway Department employs between 450 and 480 apprentices, and they are having a very bad time in trying to secure accom-

modation; so much so that the welfare committee desires the Government to take over a house or a flat or a delicensed hotel in which to house some of them. The position is that apprentices receive only a percentage of the basic wage. Some of them come to the metropolitan area from districts as far away as Bunbury, Geraldton, Albany and Kalgoorlie, and they receive a wage of about £2 9s. 3d. per week. On the other hand, they have to pay as much as £3 10s. for board, which means that they need to call on their parents to subsidise them while they are living away from home, and the parents endeavour to obtain board for them as cheap as possible.

In these days, few people can be found who want to house, feed and do washing for healthy youths for as little as £2 a week, which is as much as some of them can afford to pay. The consequence is that they find themselves in questionable quarters and are often led astray. The welfare committee feels that if the Railway Department provided a suitable house for apprentices to live in, they would be able to receive the attention they require, and the burden which is thrown upon many parents in the country would be lightened. These apprentices receive somewhat unreasonable treatment. While other sections of the community have enjoyed prosperity in the last five or six years, these young folk have not received the consideration to which they are entitled.

I understand that the system of paying apprentices has not changed for nearly two decades. Their earnings are based on percentages of the basic wage. For successive years they receive 25, 30, 40, 65 and 80 per cent. of that wage, and a young man of 19 or 20 years of age, and in his fifth year, receives only £8 7s., which is not as much as the basic wage, although he may be doing the work of a skilled tradesman. The other apprentices to whom I have been referring receive a very small pay while they are learning the trade, insufficient in many cases to meet the cost of board and lodging; and the fact that apprentices receive only percentages of the basic wage imposes a burden on the family man in the country and is likely to discourage him from advising his sons to enter apprenticeships in the metropolitan area.

Surely youths in the country are as much entitled to be apprenticed as are those in the city. Why should a man in Bunbury or Geraldton or Kalgoorlie who sends his son to the Midland Junction workshops have to subsidise the lad because he is not receiving a reasonable wage? In the first year, the apprentice receives £2 9s. per week, which is 25 per cent. of the basic wage. In his second year, he receives £2 19s.; but neither sum is sufficient to pay for board and lodging, let alone the washing of clothes. I appeal to the Government, therefore, to have some regard for the unfair position that has

been created whereby everybody is enjoying the prosperity of these times, except apprentices. It would not hurt the Government to make a gesture to them by increasing the wage by five per cent. at least. These apprentices, it must be remembered, are our future tradesmen and citizens.

These young people are faced with other difficulties. The cost of entertainment has increased considerably, and the young man of today has to pay a lot more for amusement than was the case a few years ago. I know because I happen to be president of a metropolitan cricket club and the fee for joining such a club, or some other sporting body, is rather excessive. This has a tendency to drive young men elsewhere for amusement, and they find their way to places like billiard-rooms, S.P. shops and the like, where they do not receive the right sort of education. The Government would be doing something valuable for those apprentices if it provided facilities for them at the workshops and railway depots, where they could spend their time profitably when denied the opportunity of joining suitable sporting organisations because their pocket money is not sufficient to enable them to do so.

I wish now to refer to the matter of level crossings. Despite the toll taken of pedestrians and motor vehicles at level crossings, the Minister for Railways does not appear to be tackling the problem with the initiative that it warrants. He is doing quite a good job in certain respects, but not in this one. Nearly every other week we read of a vehicle being knocked over and people being killed because there are no warning signals at level crossings. In my electorate in the last 12 months, another two or three electors have passed to the Great Beyond because of inadequate level crossing warnings. In the Guildford-Midland electorate, between Bellevue and the Cresco super. works, there are no less than 11 level crossings and of that number there are only two that are equipped with warning signals.

As I have previously mentioned in this House, there is one crossing at Bassendean where there is a particularly large volume of vehicular and passenger traffic because over that crossing must pass all the vehicles that are carting superphosphate and other commodities. Heavy trucks cart the raw materials into the works and similar vehicles bring the finished product back over that crossing, yet it is still without a warning signal. I refer there to the crossing over the railway at Bassendean just below the station.

It is time that the Government saw fit to arrange with those who hold the patents for the warning signals to have the apparatus made in Western Australia. If the apparatus cannot be turned out in the Midland Junction workshops, the Government should hand a contract over to private manufacturers in order to have the

work done. There is absolutely no reason why, in our present stage of modern civilisation, there should be in this State some hundreds of level crossings still without adequate warning signals. I hope some member of the Government will realise that such warning devices at level crossings are vitally necessary, and I trust we will not have to wait until we are faced with the position where some relative of a Minister or of a member of Parliament is involved in a fatal accident before steps are taken to remedy the position. My sympathy goes out to those people in our community who have within recent years suffered the misfortune of losing some relative in a fatal level crossing accident.

I will deal next with the administration of the State Electricity Commission, as that question is causing considerable concern in my electorate. People there are beginning to wonder just whither the State Electricity Commission is going. As I said on a previous occasion in this House, the charges for electricity and gas have already been raised twice within a comparatively short time, and there are prospects of still a further increase in the near future. When the State Electricity Commission was set up and the many electricity administrations in and around the metropolitan area were amalgamated into one, I visualised that there would be a tendency for electricity charges to come down rather than increase, but that has not been the experience. Why that is so I fail to understand.

There appeared recently in "The West Australian" a graph which showed that, in comparison with the cost of living figures, electricity charges had not risen excessively and that, in fact, they had not kept pace with the rise in the cost of living. In round figures, the graph showed that the cost of living had risen by about 140 per cent. in the period dealt with, whereas electricity and gas charges had risen by only 87 per cent. However, I do not think that is any real argument at all in support of the increased charges.

I feel that there is maladministration somewhere in the department and to justify that statement I will quote two or three cases. A man told me the other day—I think he would be quite willing to put it in writing—that when he wanted to install a power unit in his house, in spite of the fact that his home was already equipped with domestic electric light, no less than five inspectors from the Electricity Commission visited his premises in order to put a power point in. He still had not the power on up till a week ago, when he spoke to me.

In the street in which I live there was an electric light which was pulled out by three employees of the Electricity Commission one day. The residents in that street protested over a period and it was ultimately decided by the Commission that the light should be put back. Eventually,

when it was reinstalled, it was placed about two chains further down the street from where it had originally been. The residents were still dissatisfied and eventually made another protest, upon which it was decided by the Commission to put the light back in its original place.

I regard that instance as a classic, and I hope the Minister in charge of the Electricity and Gas Department is listening. The Electricity Commission altered the situation of that light three times and it is now back where it was originally. Surely there is someone in the Commission who is capable of preventing repetitions of that kind of stupidity. In my opinion that light, to which I have referred, has cost something in the vicinity of £100 up to date.

The Minister for Works: Have you made any complaint to the Commission or any inquiries from them direct?

Mr. BRADY: I am making the statement here in Parliament and am relating facts which cannot be gainsaid. Possibly the Minister for Lands can verify what I have said.

The Minister for Works: Give me the name of the street and the situation of that lamp.

Mr. BRADY: The position of that lamp was faulted three times and it is now back where it came from in the first place. I have heard a rumour that the head of the Electricity Commission is building up around him a number of little pannikin bosses, and that they are all likely to get increased wages. In that way he will secure his own position and the community at large will have to pay for it all. I cannot verify that statement, but I have heard rumours to that effect. If that is to be the position, I assure the House that I will keep on the ball from now on until the matter has been cleared up. I will not stand idly by and see that kind of situation built up in our midst, because it was my belief that the idea of bringing all the electricity supply units in the metropolitan area under a single control was that such action would result in lower and not increased charges to the consumer.

I come now to the building materials position which, unfortunately, remains acute. Many firms supplying building materials are today making people put down deposits six or nine months before they are likely to receive the goods they have ordered. Despite the fact that they have paid down substantial sums in advance, people are sometimes asked, on receipt of the materials, to pay a higher price for them. In my view that is an imposition. If a firm which supplies building materials can make 50 or 60 people pay in a substantial amount of money for materials that they hope to receive later, it can then work on other people's money without dipping into its own finance at all.

Instead of allowing the people who have paid in those sums anything from 2½ to 4½ per cent. interest on their money during the time it is held by the firm, the fact is that, in many cases, when the time arrives at which the people had been led to believe they could expect delivery of their goods, they are told, "We are sorry we cannot supply you at the promised time, but there is now a further lag of from three to six months." Such firms talk of a shortage of labour, but I will quote the case which a man reported to me recently.

A new Australian wanted to buy tiles with which to roof his own house. He was capable of doing the work and was prepared to take the risk that the tiles might not be properly put on and that the roof might leak. But he was not allowed to purchase them because the firm from which he tried to obtain them insisted that its own tradesmen should fix the tiles. A lot of these alleged tradesmen are merely lads who have not served any apprenticeship. No one can deny that they are very agile and are capable of doing their work reasonably rapidly, but there are many people who would be glad, if they could obtain the tiles, to put the roofs on their houses for themselves. Were they able to do that, it would reduce the cost of their dwellings and enable them to use labour at week-ends which, in turn, would help solve the housing problem of those concerned.

The Minister for Works: Not according to today's publicity.

Mr. BRADY: There are about ten new Australians building in the Bellevue area in my electorate and they are all prepared to put the tiles on the roofs of their own houses. I know it is said that the supplying firms have good reason for their action, because sometimes private home builders make a botch of the job of tiling, but I can take members to a house in my electorate built by an approved contractor—I understand such contractors have to sit for an examination and, if they are successful, receive the hallmark of approval—where they can see for themselves that the roof has a deep belly in it.

Is it thought that new Australians or any other people who are not fully fledged contractors, could make a worse job of it than that? I am of the opinion that the situation at present existing is being abused by the firms supplying tiles, just as it is by others from whom people must obtain their building materials. The private home builder is told that plasterboard is not available to him because it must be fixed by tradesmen in the employ of the firm supplying it. There, again, the tradesmen concerned are only semi-skilled men and there is no real need for the restriction.

It is time the Government asked the firms supplying building materials to relax a little and give to those people, who

cannot afford to pay £3,000 for a dwelling, an opportunity of doing some of the work for themselves, so that they may in that way reduce the overall cost. The whole of the building setup today is becoming so specialised that if things continue along the present lines it will not be long before a man will not be allowed to blow his own nose unless there is some specialist there to hold the handkerchief for him!

I come now to the final question with which I desire to deal tonight. The privately-run buses in the Bassendean area are giving the public a simply shocking service. I have had a great many complaints about these private bus operators and, for the benefit of the Minister for Works, I may state that I have sent on to the Transport Board a complaint about the fact that buses are being cut out without notice and are running late or not at all. Some buses are picking up people for the Bayswater-Maylands area and are leaving behind the Bassendean people who have to wait for hours, high and dry. When those buses have reached Bayswater they run into the Bassendean area empty while people are waiting in Perth in queues for transport.

I hope the Minister for Transport will continue the operation of the Government buses that are now running to Bayswater and I would like to see the service continued on to Bassendean in greater numbers than at present. While going home from the House last night I passed through Bayswater at about 11 p.m. and noticed there a bus waiting to return to Perth. I take it that it had been waiting there for some time in order to keep to its schedule, but I cannot see why Government buses, instead of being held up at Bayswater, could not run through to Bassendean.

Mr. Graham: That would interfere with the private bus services, of course.

Mr. BRADY: But they are not giving the service they are supposed to render to the public and are, in fact, most unsatisfactory. I have for a long time held the view that Government-controlled motor buses should be run in that area in order to give the people the service to which they are entitled. There are other matters with which I would like to deal but in the circumstances I will defer anything I have to say on those questions until I have the opportunity of speaking on the Estimates.

The Address-in-reply debate is practically the only opportunity that the private member has of bringing before the House and the Government the many matters affecting his own electorate. Last year, when speaking to the debate on the Address-in-reply, I referred to the area I represent as "the Cinderella electorate of the State" and I still feel that way about it though I realise that there may be special circumstances applying to the Guildford-Midland electorate. As I say, there may

have been special reasons why it has been neglected. I hope that the Government will take notice of what I have said about the lack of amenities and social facilities in my area. I would impress on the Government the need to do something to relieve the position that exists in the electorate I represent. I thank the House for the attentive hearing it has afforded me.

MR. CORNELL (Mt. Marshall) [5.45]: I desire to add a few observations to the debate on the Address-in-reply and I can assure the House that my speech will be as short as the time it takes a mushroom to arrive. I would like to add my condolences to those expressed by members to the relatives of the deceased members of this House and another place whose deaths have occurred since we last met. The late Mr. Shearn and the late Mr. Fox, during the short period I have been in the House, were well known to me and I valued their friendship keenly. The other two gentlemen in another place were contemporaries of my father and through his association I also developed a keen friendship with them and their passing is to be regretted.

The passing, too, of the late Sir James Mitchell is a matter of deep regret, occurring as it did so soon after his well-earned retirement. However, he has left an everlasting memorial to his memory, and I think this State will remember what he did in assisting to mould it.

Since we last met there has been a spate of birthday honours conferred; I do not know whether the Government believes they are cheaper by the dozen, but there have been quite a few bestowed on citizens in this State and many of them are well-deserved. To the recipients I offer my heartiest congratulations. The birthday honour conferred, not by this Government, but by the Commonwealth Government on Sir Arthur Fadden leads me to agree with the Sydney "Bulletin" when it said that there will be a lot of farmers who will take some convincing that the wool grab was worth the knighthood.

I wish also to offer my congratulations to Mr. Frank Wise on his appointment as Administrator of the Northern Territory. I feel sure that with his tropical knowledge he will perform his duties with great ability, which we all know he possesses. I am also sure that the Premier is greatly relieved and pleased at his appointment—but perhaps for another reason. The previous speaker, the member for Guildford-Midland, stated that his electorate was the Cinderella electorate of the State, but in that honour I believe there would be a photo finish of about 30 of us in the running.

However, I suppose we all appreciate the fact that our electorates need plenty to be done for them. If the Government would only remove all the emus and grasshoppers from the north-eastern portion of my electorate and the Minister for Works could wave the magic wand and pump

water from Cunderdin to Minnivale, my difficulties would be greatly eased, but I know that cannot be done. While I am on my feet I would ask the Minister for Works to make a public statement on the progress, if any, that has been made to implement the comprehensive scheme so far as it affects the Wyalcatchem, Koorda, Mukinbudin and Bencubbin areas.

Nothing appears to have been done and whilst appreciating the difficulties of obtaining the necessary materials, I feel sure that a little more possibly could be done and a little more consideration might be given to the question of honouring the promises that have been made to the people in those areas. The road board in my electorate wrote to me recently and pointed out this fact, although it is quite evident without drawing my attention to it, but it also drew attention to the further fact that the member for Roe seemed to be singularly fortunate in getting water as far as Bruce Rock. The water has not reached there yet but the expectations seem to be very good. The road board wanted to know what the member for Roe had that I had not!

Mr. Perkins: He wants a lot more yet, though.

Mr. CORNELL: However, I wish the Minister for Works would lend a willing hand and assist me in that regard. Perhaps I should offer my apologies to the member for Cottesloe. If I have offended him in any way I willingly offer my apologies. I admit it must be galling for him to strive for 12 or 15 months to hit the headlines and then hit them in the wrong way, but if I have caused him any discomfort or offended his sensibilities I am particularly sorry.

Hon. A. H. Panton: You look it!

Mr. CORNELL: It was farthest from my thoughts when I slipped in the question that I did following on his. I naturally thought that he would have accepted it in that spirit. However, it must be apparent that the article in the "Daily News," plus a little needling at the week-end by some of his cronies, must have caused him considerable apprehension with the result that he upbraided me in the House the other day. It is just as well my hide is as thick as his is thin, otherwise I might also have taken offence at what he said. I am really sorry. The member for Cottesloe got up with a worried look on his face; a strained, wandering, unbalanced look and poured out the troubled depths of his soul to the House and unburdened himself in no small measure. I thought my remarks might get the hon. member into the House.

Mr. Hutchinson: Just how long did that take you to compose?

Mr. CORNELL: It is not original; nothing I say is original. He referred to me as the "funny man" of the House.

Mr. Hutchinson: "Would-be funny man."

Mr. CORNELL: No, that was an after-thought. It was sponsored by the member for Leederville. I daresay the hon. member for Cottesloe audited it and found it correct. The hon. member referred to me as the "funny man" of the House. Seeing that he has bestowed that title on me, I thank him very much for doing so, but I would say that the mantle of "funny man" passed from my shoulders with the same speed with which it was bestowed upon the hon. member's shoulders because, if he could only have seen himself as we saw him, I am sure he would have agreed that he deserved the title which he was so quick to bestow on me.

I cannot remember the word he used. It is pronounced like a Russian singer who has swallowed a screw. It is "brobdignagian." The member for Melville was most helpful in this matter. So seeing that the member for Cottesloe has dipped into "Gulliver's Travels" for his perorations I think I will do the same. In reply, I will say that beside his efforts, mine were lilliputian.

Mr. Hutchinson: Inspiration again!

Mr. CORNELL: The hon. member stood there with that ponderous look and accused me of something which I really never intended. I would say that if he is as thin-skinned as all that, then his political future is not a particularly bright one. As the member for Leederville informed him, the first 15 years are the worst.

Hon. A. H. Panton: By one who knows!

Mr. CORNELL: There is one thing about the Address-in-reply debate and that is we certainly have many subjects aired in the House. For instance, we had the earthiness of a play from the member for Cottesloe, the saltiness of the earth from the member for Roe, a little *tete-a-tete* across the Chamber in the spirit of dog eat dog by the member for Canning and the member for Middle Swan—and I suppose it is all for the good and edification of the House.

Mr. J. Hegney: And the welfare of the country.

Mr. CORNELL: Seeing that the member for Cottesloe objects to the bestowal of the title of "Under Secretary for Public Morals," and in view of his interest in the earthiness of plays, perhaps the Premier could arrange for him to be appointed to the position of "Decontroller of Soiled Conversation." The member for Cottesloe fell into the trap of asking in this House a question which was prepared and put up by someone else.

Mr. Hutchinson: That is not so.

Mr. CORNELL: It was prepared by one of his constituents and, as often happens in a case such as this, the reaction has not been particularly favourable. During my short stay in the House I have learned to treat the matter of asking questions on behalf of individuals outside with a good

deal of caution, because it generally has a boomerang effect and can do one a good deal of harm. Whether the play is "earthy" or whether it has an educational value is purely a matter of opinion. If it has done nothing else, it has assured its unquestioned success in the country, and the humble souls of the rural areas are packing the halls.

Mr. Hutchinson: I said that was an unfortunate corollary.

Mr. CORNELL: I understand the member for Northam is going to see it on Saturday.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Wrong night! Tomorrow night.

Mr. CORNELL: I am sure the member for Northam will be in a position after he has seen the play to give us his opinion whether it is fit for consumption in the outback areas.

Hon. A. H. Panton: He will probably want an encore!

Mr. Hutchinson: You are again misconstruing the point—

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: George!

Mr. Hutchinson: Yes, to keep it on a conversational level.

Mr. CORNELL: It is a moot point whether the fact that it has been sponsored by the Adult Education Board shows that it is necessarily presented to the public as an educational play. The member for Cottesloe admits that it is well acted and he says that the manner in which it is acted accentuates the emphasis on marital infidelity. The fact is that it is well acted by amateurs. To interpolate, the late Will Rogers said, "Amateur acting is the lowest form of art." He said, "To be a ham was bad enough, but to be a ham without anything is deplorable."

There is a good deal of interest in the repertory movement in country districts, and the fact that the play is well acted will provide country people with that aspect of theatricals which is most necessary. I do not think for a moment that the Adult Education Board presented it merely in the guise of education. After all, the Adult Education Board has all sections of the public to consider, and the fact that this play might be considered a little "salty" by one small section of the community is no reason why it should be condemned. Incidentally, I think the member for Cottesloe condemned it anyhow. However, there are many people who wallow in bed of a Sunday morning reading the "Mirror" and other week-end newspapers which, I think, more than emphasise marital infidelity. I do not remember having seen the member for Cottesloe rise in his place and advocate the suppression of the "Mirror," the suppression of which would probably be far more worth while than the suggested suppression of the play.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: The "Mirror" is produced for profit by private enterprise.

Mr. CORNELL: Seeing that the member for Cottesloe has his teeth into the Press at the moment, it might suit him to advocate the suppression of such newspapers as the "Mirror," which are of doubtful value to the community.

Mr. Hutchinson: Do you suggest that the Adult Education Board is right in sponsoring a play such as "Clutterbuck"?

Mr. CORNELL: I would not say it was wrong in sponsoring it. I take it that the Adult Education Board does not exist merely to cater for the narrow outlook of a few. It is there to cater for the vast majority of people and, as far as I can see, the vast majority of the people appear to agree that the play "Clutterbuck" is not the monstrous production that some would have us believe it is.

Mr. Hutchinson: I did not insinuate that it was a monstrous production. I merely queried the sponsorship of the board.

Mr. CORNELL: On that point we agree to differ. The adjectives used by the member for Cottesloe were so involved that I would not care to say what he stated. I take it that he claims the play should be taken out of circulation.

Mr. Hutchinson: Only that the Adult Education Board should withdraw its sponsorship.

Mr. CORNELL: I think the matter of who sponsors the play is begging the question. The play is earthy, whether it is sponsored by the Adult Education Board or by Mr. C. C. Perkins. In conclusion, I would like to say that it is no more earthy than some of the radio programmes we hear.

MR. HOAR (Warren) [6.3]: I think it is fitting that members, as they have done in the past week, should pay a tribute to our late Governor, Sir James Mitchell. He was undoubtedly one of the most outstanding men in this State's history, and has probably contributed more to the State's development than anyone else. But I think if the Government really wanted to pay this great man a compliment it should have appointed in his stead another Western Australian, or at any rate an Australian.

Mr. May: Hear, hear.

Mr. HOAR: It is perfectly true, and I know members recognise the fact, that we are no longer a colony of Great Britain, dependent on her in every way. We are in fact a nation in our own right, and I and many others on this side of the House feel that as this nation has developed over the years, so have its citizens. To such an extent have we developed that there are amongst us many men qualified to uphold the dignity of the King in this country. I think the Government made a mistake in not making the selection from among us.

I am not speaking disparagingly of the Governor-designate, but I think we should always recognise that this country has a dignity of its own and that it is fully capable of taking its place in world affairs. That has been proved at conferences on foreign matters oversea, and we should give every opportunity to our citizens to hold the highest honour in the land.

During the debate on the Supply Bill, I took an opportunity to say quite a lot about the butterfat situation as it prevailed at that time. Amongst other things, I accused the Government of having done nothing very much about it over the last two years. Other speakers took part in the debate, but they proved nothing in any shape or form as to what the Government had done during that time. The member for Blackwood took me to task and stated that, when I was moving my motion for an inquiry into the wholemilk industry, I refused to accept a suggestion that the inquiry should cover the industry as a whole, thus including the dairy farming section.

He said my action showed that I was not very much concerned about the producer of butterfat. I suppose that every branch of the Farmers' Union in my electorate would give the lie to that instantly and without any shadow of doubt. It was just as silly for the member for Blackwood to make a statement of that sort as it would be for me to accuse him of having no interest in the industry. Of course, I know that he is interested in it.

My appeal to the Government on the wholemilk question involved such issues that I thought it would be wrong to extend the scope of the inquiry in any way, but as I personally told the hon. member, if he cared to move for an inquiry into the whole industry, I would be his strongest supporter. As the months of last session went by, no move was made by the member for Blackwood or the Government to have an inquiry into the wholemilk industry or into the dairying industry proper, and as a result, I did, as the hon. member said, suggest at the close of the session that the Government should give some thought to extending the scope to include all the problems associated with the dairying industry. That is how the position arose. Apart from that, the member for Blackwood did not show in any particular just what the Government had done over the last two years in connection with the situation in which the dairy farmers find themselves.

Mr. Bovell: It was the Western Australian Government that took very strong action in regard to butterfat.

Mr. HOAR: Recently?

Mr. May: By loading the consumers.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: What has the Government done and when did it do it?

Mr. Bovell: The Government of this State certainly led the way.

Mr. HOAR: When the member for Vasse was speaking during a previous debate, he said that, although he had warned the Government repeatedly over the last two years, nothing very much had been done. Only during the last few weeks has the Government made an attempt to do anything, and I consider that my statement on the Supply Bill that the Government needed the impetus and kick occasioned by the threat of direct action on the part of the dairy farmers throughout the South-West before it would make a move, was correct. I believe that the member for Vasse would agree with me on that point.

The Premier: I am sure he would not.

Mr. HOAR: I do not know whether the Premier has ascertained what is in the hon. member's thoughts.

Mr. Bovell: I am quite convinced that the Government's action was not the result of a threat on the part of the dairy farmers.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: What action has the Government taken?

The Premier: It has taken action in regard to the price of butter.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: When do the dairy farmers get this price?

The Premier: You will be told in the next day or two.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: You have done nothing yet.

The Premier: Action has been taken.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: When?

The Premier: You will know in the next day or two.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: Secret action.

The Premier: There is nothing secret about it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HOAR: The Deputy Premier also spoke on the situation, but side-stepped the issue very nicely inasmuch as he also did not tell us what the Government had done over the last two years. He did say that the Commonwealth proposal was expected immediately and that six months before he had had a conversation with the Minister for Agriculture on this very matter. He also referred to the difficulties of unilateral action and said that, under Section 92 of the Constitution, it might encourage the dumping of butter into the States offering higher prices, and he laid the blame for the condition of the butterfat industry on the formula that the Labour Party had adopted in 1947. He also said that in our agreement with Great Britain for 10 years, there was a rise or fall in price of only $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and that this had a bearing on the local price.

All of that, to some extent, is true, but it does not answer the question. It is idle for the Deputy Premier to attempt to blame the previous Labour Government for the situation that exists in the industry throughout Australia. The formula was drawn up, not only by the Commonwealth

Government, but also with the assistance of dairy farmers. They were entirely in accord, and the agreement with Great Britain providing for a rise or fall of only $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was a fair proposition at the time and was accepted by the dairy farmers generally.

No one could imagine that such a rise in prices and such an inflationary trend would occur throughout Australia to unbalance the purchasing power of the income of dairy farmers. Nobody could foresee that that would happen, and it is quite unfair for anyone to attempt to blame the previous Government for the unhappy circumstances existing today. As a matter of fact, if there is any party that is at all responsible for the chaotic conditions attending economic values and purchasing power within Australia, it is the Liberal Party.

The Premier: Do not mix your party politics with your butter.

Mr. HOAR: We can detect a political trend during the last two years in that the Government has placated its own members, influential and powerful members, to whom it looks every three years for funds to fight its election campaigns, by decontrolling certain articles, knowing full well that the prices of those articles would rise. As a result of placating specialised groups in every possible way and because of the inflationary trend, the production costs of the dairy farmers throughout Australia have soared tremendously, and unless Government action is taken quickly to enable them to receive higher incomes, they will be placed in the position of having to bear all the inflationary costs, some of which to some extent have been politically caused, with deflated incomes. That is what has caused the trouble right through the dairying industry in the South-West. The Deputy Premier offered no solution of the problem, and I say the fact that some agreement about price is imminent is not the main solution at all.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. HOAR: I was saying that the present imminent rise in the price of butterfat, whilst important, does not solve the real problem facing the dairying industry today. In the opinion of those who have had a lifetime's experience in dairying, the real problem is lack of development of the holdings. A large proportion of the dairy farmers in this State are down to the 20 to 25 cow basis. Because of that, and due to the terrific costs which they must bear, their incomes are brought below the basic wage. If we could imagine a situation where it was possible, through pasture improvement, and development generally, for a farm to carry 35 to 40 cows, instead of 20 to 25, the income of the dairy farmer would be sufficient to meet his present costs of development and his bank com-

mitments, and to keep his family in the enjoyment of a standard of living to which they are entitled.

The Premier: You would favour building up the holdings in your area so that they could carry 35 to 40 cows.

Mr. HOAR: Yes. Whenever this subject has been raised in the House, and reference has been made to the drift from the industry, the Premier or someone else has interjected that probably the real trouble today, and the reason why dairy farmers are leaving the land in such large numbers, is to be found in the high price for avenues of primary production. That is the official version, as a matter of fact, as set out in the report presented to us for the year 1950—

The number of dairy cattle at the 31st March, 1950, was 129,363, which is 3,763 less than in the previous year. The decline is almost certainly due to the high prices for meat, and, in the areas along the Great Southern railway, also by competition from wool-growing.

Whilst that is an undeniable fact, I say it only affects the dairy farmer who is in a big way; the man with 200 to 300 acres of pasture, and more. He is the only one able to take advantage of a change in production.

The average dairy farmer is on a pasturage of 80 acres and is lucky if he has that much. As a result, he could not, even if he wanted to, take advantage of the high prices offered, because he has not sufficient carrying capacity. Therefore we have to evolve a scheme to enable the dairy farmer with about 80 acres of pasturage to increase his holding or carrying capacity. Any Government that does not face this proposition is not worthy of the name. The Deputy Premier, when attempting to reply to me in the debate on the Supply Bill, gave no reason to show that the Government had done anything at all, and yet he did deny my statement that, in my opinion, the Government had been lacking in attention to the industry over the last two years. He also suggested that there was nothing further the Government could have done, to assist the dairying industry. Well, here is something the Government could have done, without referring at all to the price of butterfat.

Instead of making machinery available to Rocky Gully and other places, as the Government did, it could have transferred the machinery to the heavy timber belt in the lower South-West, and that would have had the effect of increasing the pasturage of many farms there, from 80 to 150 acres. If that had been done, the dairying industry would not be in its present parlous condition. The Government, however, decided on a plan of land settlement because at the election of 1947 it had promised the people to do so. In those days it pointed the finger of scorn at the then Labour Government, and said it had done nothing

about land settlement. It said, "Give us the job to do, and we will get on with it." The people gave this Government the job, and in order to honour the promise it had made, it had to open up areas of country and settle people on land which, in my opinion, should not have been opened up for at least another 10 or 15 years.

The Premier: Where is that?

Mr. HOAR: The Rocky Gully area, and through the Great Southern generally, excluding the wheatbelt. I am referring to country that can be used for dairying. Had the Government decided to take advantage of the previous Government's analysis of the position in regard to the areas I have mentioned, and said, "This is something for future development. The urgent necessity is to get machinery into the heavy timber country that is already settled," we would have a dairying industry today worthy of the name. It is of no use the Government's telling me it has done all it could for the dairying industry over the last two years. As a matter of fact, it has shut its eyes completely to the drift from the dairy farms.

The Premier: Have we not been doing something in your own electorate, at Walpole and through that way?

Mr. HOAR: Yes, at Walpole. Some four years ago a scheme was evolved by the present Minister for Lands, or at least he started the scheme in a practical way and therefore got the credit for it, but it was something that had been thought out by the previous Labour Government, some years before. The Walpole dairy farmers at that time were in a far worse plight than were the dairy farmers generally. They were so far behind in development, by comparison with other sections of the industry, that it was difficult to find a farm there with 30 acres cleared and under pasture. So, something had to be done.

Mr. Ackland: Is not this Government improving the position today?

Mr. HOAR: I am just saying that the Government, so far as the practical application of ideas presented to it by a previous Administration is concerned, has done something in Walpole. It has definitely attempted to bring the farmer in that district up to the standard generally enjoyed under the soldiers' settlement scheme, of which I wholly approve. Whilst that has been happening, nothing whatsoever has been done for the rest of the industry—or those members comprising 90 per cent. of it, who are trying to get a living out of 80 acres of pasture. The argument today about price is not the real problem facing the dairying industry at all. That is a matter of expediency to give the dairy farmer something to live on. It does not matter whether we are farmers or not; we must agree that the dairy

farmer has had to suffer all the costs of an inflated economy without any suitable recompense.

Mr. Ackland: But you say the whole of that is the responsibility of this Government in the last four years?

Mr. HOAR: I say that conditions generally have had something to do with it—oversea conditions, as well as local conditions—but it was the responsibility of this Government to have attempted to do something over the last two years; and it did not do so.

Mr. Ackland: It is doing it now.

Mr. HOAR: When the Government received a threat of direct action from the dairy farmers it did something.

Mr. Ackland: The matter was in the Press three or four months ago.

Mr. HOAR: As long as it was not in the Press that carries some of the hon. member's hammer and sickle emblems, it is all right.

The Minister for Lands: We are producing more butter today than ever before.

Mr. HOAR: I do not know whether the Premier realises the fact, but in the South-West Land Division, excluding the area devoted to wheat and sheep, there are no less than 3,600,000 acres of alienated land, only 1,300,000 acres of which are being farmed. The other 2,300,000 acres are being held alienated from the Crown and are not being put to any useful purpose at all. A great proportion of that unused acreage is represented by farmers who are in a small way, with from 20 to 25 cows, and the only reason why they cannot carry more stock is because they have never had sufficient machinery or enough finance to equip them for further development.

Earlier this year the Premier made a statement concerning a £300,000 scheme for dairy farm improvement. The idea behind that scheme is that each farmer on application shall receive, if approved, a loan of £250 for the purpose of clearing up areas already partly established. That scheme, as at present drawn up, will fail. In the Manjimup area, which is a fairly large district, I understand that approximately 40 or 50 per cent. of the farmers are clients of the Rural and Industries Bank. I made inquiries at the head office of that bank today and learnt that, in spite of this scheme having been fully advertised, only one farmer in that area has so far applied for assistance under the scheme.

In all sincerity, the Premier thought he was doing something for the farmer by means of this scheme, but he did not pay due regard to speeches that have been made in this House in the past or to the advice that must have been tendered to him by the dairy section of the Farmers' Union with regard to the proper allocation of costs for the development of heavily-timbered areas. Just before the tea sus-

pension I referred to the fact that I advocated last year an inquiry into the whole of this industry, but the Government never showed any interest either in that matter or in the question of wholemilk.

Had the Government then instituted an inquiry into the dairying industry it would have found itself almost forced to come to the same conclusions as did the committee that was appointed by the dairying section of the Farmers' Union early this year. The members of that organisation were so disgusted at the lack of official action in this most important matter, in the face of the continuing drift from the industry, that they instituted an inquiry that should have been appointed by the Government.

The result of that inquiry is well worthy of consideration by the Government and I think some small extracts from the report are well worth quoting in order to indicate to members who are not sufficiently versed in the ways of the dairy-farmer just what the plight of the industry is, in the opinion of those men best qualified to judge. Portion of the report of that committee reads as follows:—

The committee found that in the areas visited the conditions were extremely unsatisfactory. Houses were too frequently below standard, and amenities were generally insufficient. Holidays were practically unknown. Many milking sheds were not up to date. Farm buildings were usually inadequate, and sometimes non-existent. Pig pasture runs were not in use, and pigs were frequently kept in deplorable conditions. Pastures were generally insufficient in area, and often lacking in quality. Proper pasture subdivision was rarely noted. On part-cleared land bracken remained a permanent problem. The quality of the hay was frequently inferior owing to lack of machinery to treat at the right time. Calves, in many instances, could not be reared owing to lack of necessary pasture. This is considered to be an economic waste. The general level of net income was deplorably low. Labour is generally confined to the family, and settlers are forced to call upon their wives and children if they are to survive.

The committee is of the opinion that these conditions are not the fault of the settlers. They arise in the final analysis from lack of finance. The land in these areas is extremely expensive to develop, and such development is beyond the means of individual settlers. Without further finance development is within a definable limit, and that limit has been practically reached.

The committee is convinced that immediate steps must be taken to improve these conditions, and to make them such as to give a reasonable

expectation of prosperity to existing settlers, to retain their sons in the industry, and to encourage the expansion of butterfat production by the settlement of additional land. It believes that, unless such steps are taken at once, the industry may decline to the point almost of extinction.

The committee thoroughly examined the cost of clearing land and laying down pasture in the various districts. It found that the cost of clearing karri land was prohibitive, but that in most cases there was sufficient of the lighter jarrah and red gum country to make a proper area of totally cleared land practicable. It established the average cost of clearing and laying down to pasture of an acre of land as under:—

To clear totally, land already part cleared	£ 5
To clear and lay down to pasture ringbarked land with re-growth	15
To clear and lay down to pasture new green timber land	25

These figures include necessary fencing, and allow for the fact that the expenditure would not show appreciable returns for three years.

The committee therefore recommends:—

That the betterment of conditions in the butterfat industry should become the concern of the whole Union.

That strong effort should be made to obtain an immediate rise in the price of butterfat by at least 33 per cent., and to ensure that bacon prices be kept in relation to production costs. This is considered sufficient only if production costs remain stable. A price increase would be a temporary palliative only in cases where farms are not sufficiently developed to constitute an economic unit.

That every farm should consist of at least 200 acres of land, of which 150 acres should be in pasture. To reduce wastage of time referred to above 40 acres of the partly cleared land should be brought to total clearing, and 20 acres of new timber land should be totally cleared and laid down to pasture. The balance of clearing and laying down of pasture would be done progressively.

That this clearing should be done by up to date machinery, and that the cost should be borne, in the first instance, by the Government, and that repayment should be made on the terms set out hereunder. That the

settler should repay a maximum of £5 per acre on total clearing of land partly cleared, and of £10 per acre on re-growth or new timber land. These amounts, with interest, to constitute the total liability of the settler in this regard. The advance to be interest free for three years, and to be repaid by ten annual instalments commencing in the sixth year. The work to be done by private contract or by the Government at the settler's option.

That report, which represents the considered judgment of well qualified men, gives the reason why there is only one applicant at present from Manjimup for the Government's £250 farm scheme. This is something that has not been given due consideration by this Government. As the Premier knows, a large portion of our karri country in the South-West has already been settled and occupied by dairy farmers. This report states, in the opinion of the committee, that the clearing of such land is prohibitive. If that is the case, then something must be done for those settlers who are already in this karri country and cannot afford further to develop their holdings.

This £250 loan scheme is just a continuation of the present debt structure. It does not share the responsibility of repayment because the settler must find the whole lot, whereas, as a matter of actual fact, the clearing of this heavily-timbered country is a national responsibility and not the responsibility of individual settlers. This must be realised if we want to get full value out of the land. Therefore, there should be a scheme, not necessarily identical with the one outlined in the report, but a similar one, couched in language that will enable the dairy farmer to pay a fair portion of the cost of development and the country as a whole to share the balance.

If this idea is not appreciated to the full and acted upon, then a continuation of this loan money will just hang a bigger millstone around the farmers' necks. If this principle is not appreciated, it will not only affect this generation, but also the next two or three generations to come, and will have the effect of driving men off the land.

The Premier: Are we not assisting them to bring about greater production?

Mr. HOAR: But the Premier does not give proper recognition to the fact that a portion of this heavy expenditure in development should be a national responsibility. The Premier will not get the co-operation of the dairy farmers, in a scheme such as this, until such time as he gives due consideration either to the report I have read out or to the

report of an inquiry which he himself should institute. If an inquiry is instituted he will be able finally to understand, once and for all, just exactly what the dairy farmers—especially the smaller ones—must face in an endeavour to get a living. The Government has had an opportunity to do something over the last two years, but it has done nothing. Therefore I was perfectly justified in making the statement I did, when speaking to the Supply Bill.

Even on the question of superphosphate there was an opportunity, within the last 12 months, for the Government to assist the dairy farmer, but the Government failed to do anything. I remember last year, when the Commonwealth Government removed the subsidy on superphosphate. At that time a certain number of farmers had not received their full quota and the very fact that the subsidy was withdrawn caused these farmers to pay the new price. Therefore, they were penalised in relation to the farmers who had received the whole of their quota. Naturally the dairy farmers kicked up a row about it and requested the assistance of this Government. The Government provided that assistance and approached the Commonwealth Government with a strong protest. This was because it was a Commonwealth responsibility and not a State responsibility.

But a similar position with respect to the dairy farmers was created by this Government only this year, when railway freights for superphosphate were increased. The Dairy Farmers' Union appealed to the Government to make some allowance for the men who had not yet received their full quotas. The union said that in its opinion the men who had not received their full quotas should not be compelled to pay the increased freight charges. The Government, which is supposed to be a friend to the farmers, knocked the union back cold.

The Premier: There were others in it besides the dairy farmers. You cannot raise railway freights without somebody having to suffer as a result of the increases.

Mr. HOAR: It does not make any difference whether they are dairy farmers or any other farmers, when the system of distribution is on a quota basis. The person who had not received all of his quota—and therefore was not so fortunately situated as others who had—should not have been penalised to the extent that this Government penalised him. The Government had an opportunity to show some friendliness towards the man on the land, but it did not do so. Therefore any person who criticises this Government about its lack of interest in the farmers over the last two years is fully justified. This criticism comes not only from the Labour section of the community. I can quote the

scathing attack on the State Government made by a politically disinterested party in the person of Mr. D. Norton, who is the Western Australian representative and president of the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation. There are 1½ columns in the newspaper showing what he had to say about the question. I have a letter from the West Manjimup branch of the Farmers' Union and its members want to know if the State Government was correctly advised about the serious state into which the dairying industry was and is being allowed to drift, and, if so, why was nothing done about it? They also want to know why, if the Government was correctly advised, the officer concerned has not been sacked instead of being given a jaunt overseas.

The Premier: What officer?

Mr. HOAR: I suppose they refer to Mr. Cullity, but I do not know.

Mr. Marshall: The Premier was overseas, too, you know.

The Premier: I think that any reasonable dairyman will admit that Mr. Cullity has done a good job for the industry. He is a very conscientious and hard-working officer.

Mr. HOAR: I agree. I think he is, but I am reading a portion of the letter which only goes to show the amount of dissatisfaction that exists in the dairying industry today. It is no good the Premier, or the Deputy Premier telling me that over the last two years or more this Government has done anything for the farmer, because if it had done anything we would not get all this criticism about the Government which we have received over the last few months.

The Premier: If you are ever in the Government you will notice that you get plenty of criticism.

Mr. HOAR: This letter from the Manjimup area is not referring to the price of butter at all; it refers to the lack of a proper developmental plan being drawn up by the Government.

The Premier: We have a Land Settlement Board and we have a practical farmer on it who is from the dairying district. You know who it is.

Mr. HOAR: Yes. It is a board with a lot of nails in it.

The Premier: No, it is a board of three good practical men.

Mr. HOAR: That may be so, but as we are having a friendly talk, will the Premier tell me whether this board has recommended, to this Government any action over the last two years?

The Premier: Yes, it recommended action in regard to the proposal to help dairy farmers to clear more land and bring more area under pasture.

Mr. HOAR: Then from that recommendation has been evolved this £250 farm scheme, without any further thought as to who should bear the whole of the cost.

The Premier: We are helping the farmer. Surely it is reasonable to ask him to bear the cost.

Mr. HOAR: He will bear the cost all right. The Premier knows as well as I do that in the old days it cost £50 an acre to clear this heavily timbered country in the South-West and the dairy farmer could not get sufficient for his butterfat to pay for that development. The cost of clearing has been considerably reduced but the dairy farmer is still there and bearing the burden of previous clearing costs. That is why he should be specially assisted and if the Premier persists with this loan scheme—which is a loan scheme in its entirety and therefore a 100 per cent. debt—then he will not obtain much support. I tell him in a friendly way to get the co-operation of the dairy farmers and endeavour to evolve some better method of assistance.

The Premier: I think we are assisting him to step up his production.

Mr. HOAR: It would do the Premier good to read the report, portion of which I have quoted.

The Premier: I have read that report.

The Attorney General: That would not be a very unbiased report, would it?

The Premier: It is a good report. I agree with the hon. member on that point because it was written by practical men.

Mr. HOAR: It is much more unbiased than the price structure of this State.

The Premier: I sent the report on to the chairman of the Land Settlement Board for consideration. I have just received the board's comments on it.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Is this a private party or a public brawl?

Mr. HOAR: I sincerely hope the Premier will pay due regard to some of the things I have said this evening.

The Premier: I can assure you that I will.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: And take no notice of the Attorney General.

Mr. HOAR: In my opinion the salvation of the dairying industry depends on a different line of thought and action than that which we have seen up to date.

MR. OWEN (Darling Range) [8.0]: I join with others who have expressed regret at the passing of the two late members of this Assembly and tender my sympathy to their relatives. They were both gentlemen who left their mark in the debates of this Chamber and they are a definite loss to the State.

I also join with other members in expressing regret at the passing of our late Governor, Sir James Mitchell. Sir James left his mark not only in this House but throughout the country because of his policy of developing agriculture in this State. If there was anything that was most outstanding in the late Sir James Mitchell, it was his unbounded faith in Western Australia and its primary production potentialities. While I mourn the passing of one who was so well loved by the people, I consider we can be proud of the memory that he was one who lived a long and useful life and assisted greatly in the progress of the State. During the last eight or ten years I have listened many times to Sir James Mitchell when opening agricultural shows and other public functions, and almost invariably he got round to the subject of agricultural production and the need for increased production of foodstuffs. At present, his policy is forcibly brought home to us when we realise that it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that Australia will require to import some foodstuffs in the not distant future.

The big task before us today is to increase practically all kinds of foodstuffs not only to support our increasing population but also to provide food for the Mother Land and foreign countries. To do that, of course, we cannot extend areas a great deal because during the last 20 or 30 years most of the country which is suitable for agriculture has been, to some extent, opened up. The great task now is to develop it more intensively than has been done in the past. If that is taken in hand, we can achieve quite a lot to keep down the cost of production and yet still further increase the produce of the land.

One of the main factors in increasing the carrying capacity of most of our agricultural lands is the need for further research into agricultural methods. The member for Warren has just been telling us the need for increasing the holding areas. Undoubtedly that is necessary, but if the carrying capacity of the land already in production were increased, production could be stepped up more cheaply. The member for Blackwood had quite a lot to say about the benefits that could accrue from the use of lime, and has quoted the experience of Mr. Eric Farleigh along those lines. There are very strong possibilities that the use of lime, particularly in conjunction with superphosphate, in our heavier rainfall areas, could do quite a lot to increase the carrying capacity of the land. Mr. H. A. J. Pitman, who was at one time the plant pathologist in this State, and who is now in Victoria, has carried out a good deal of work in that State on the use of basic phosphates. I understand he went to the extent of patenting his ideas and then made a present of the patent rights to the nation.

There is no doubt that in some of the heavier rainfall districts, and particularly in some classes of soil, the use of lime could greatly increase production. The Agricultural Department is doing valuable work in soil research and the officer in charge of plant nutrition, Dr. Dunne, has performed a lot of work, as did his predecessor and Dr. Teakle before him. Dr. Teakle made a great deal of research into plant nutrition and soil analysis, and he, in a general way, stated that most of the agricultural soils in Western Australia would not benefit from the application of lime. I feel he arrived at that conclusion because most of his work was done in the drier wheatbelt areas of our State.

I know that in certain parts of the South-West the soils are comparatively acid. They are of a low PH, which is a technical term for denoting the degree of acidity. In some of the fruitgrowing areas in particular and also in some of the districts in the hills, years ago the average soil PH was only slightly low and even neutral. Over the years, with the heavy application of artificial manures, particularly sulphate of ammonia, and with the growing of heavy green manure crops, the soil acidity has increased considerably. It was not many months ago that an officer of the C.S.I.R.O. took soil samples in the hills districts and found that some of them were of very high acidity. He said that heavy applications of lime would assist in making use of the plant nutrients that were present.

Without making a sweeping statement that lime would help all the land in the South-West, I feel that in many instances it would be of great advantage. On many occasions I have stressed the need for further agricultural research, and I believe the Government recognises that need. I am pleased to say that this Government, as did its predecessor, has encouraged research. Any research work is of a long-term nature, and a lot of manpower is required to carry it through, but unfortunately we have not the trained personnel that are essential. Everything should be done to encourage training for research work. At our University there is the Institute of Agricultural Science which is doing an excellent job in training our future agricultural scientists. But there is further need for greater financial assistance in that direction. I feel it would be a very nice gesture if a number of the present primary producers—some of whom are receiving very good returns for their products—would consider the matter of making some donation towards a research fund to train more scientific workers. If that were done there could be scholarships awarded to those who wish to take up the study of agricultural science.

Because of the late Sir James Mitchell's keen interest in agriculture it would perhaps be a fitting gesture if a fund could be established for that purpose and called, "The Sir James Mitchell Fund." If one were inaugurated, I think there would be quite a few of the primary producers, and others with the necessary finance to spare, who would be glad to donate funds for this purpose and so advance our agricultural science works.

During the past week or so considerable mention has been made of town planning, together with references to the Town Planning Commissioner in this State. I feel that town planning must be rather an abstract science and one not readily understood by all of us. To judge from the remarks of the visiting town planner, Professor Holford, our Town Planning Board is doing very good work and our Town Planning Commissioner is quite outstanding in his qualifications. From my personal knowledge of the Commissioner I realise that he has considerable knowledge in that direction, but he also has a great ability to pick an argument and is sometimes very forthright in his statements.

Hon. A. H. Panton: It takes two to get into an argument.

Mr. OWEN: I have found that out. I feel sure something could be done to explain a little of what the Town Planning Commissioner has in mind for our fair City of Perth and for the towns in Western Australia generally. There seems to be no overall or master plan for the development of Perth.

The Chief Secretary: Nevertheless one exists.

Mr. OWEN: It may, but when we see factories springing up here, there and everywhere, it makes one wonder whether they are being constructed according to a plan.

The Chief Secretary: The initial responsibility is with the local authority.

Mr. OWEN: That may be so. But perhaps the town planner could give us some direction. We see factories springing up in the Welshpool area, the Belmont area, in South Guildford, Midland Junction, Bassendean, Maylands, West Perth, Subiaco; in fact, we see them springing up in practically every suburb.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Except Leederville.

Mr. OWEN: I have not heard of any great factory development in Nedlands, South Perth, Peppermint Grove or any such areas. I do feel that if the plan to develop Perth were made known, these factories could be placed in their proper position in that overall plan.

The Chief Secretary: There are industrial concessions. You have probably ascertained that they fall into these concessions. You have probably made inquiries about that.

Mr. OWEN: I do not doubt that. But these factories seem to be springing up and I know there has been quite a lot of severe criticism of the building of factories in those particular areas where no such undertakings existed before.

Hon. A. H. Panton: The trouble is that the town planners are unable to agree.

Mr. OWEN: It may be that, but, as I have mentioned before, town planning appears to be a very abstract science and one must await developments to see how the plans fit.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Just as the Lord Mayor often disagrees with the member for West Perth!

Mr. OWEN: When praising our Town Planning Commissioner, in his observations on our fair City of Perth, Professor Holford mentioned that three steps towards proper development lay, first of all, in an urban fence. By that he meant that for perfect planning we set a limit to the size of a city by figuratively placing a fence around it and develop inside that fence before proceeding to develop outside it. No doubt that has quite a lot of merit. But if this were pursued to the limit, it would mean that when a street was laid out the blocks there would have to be taken up and developed before the next street would be opened up; and thus we would gradually extend section by section.

But it seems that if there is a plan to establish an urban fence, it should be made known to the public so that they will know on which side of the fence they are. In connection with that, the present town planner has been, of course, opposed to the subdivision of areas in the outer metropolitan districts, as we might call them, using the argument that there is plenty of land already taken up and subdivided close to Perth and that therefore there is no necessity to subdivide further out.

The Chief Secretary: He is fighting against the very big cost of taking amenities to the far out areas.

Mr. OWEN: That is so. I have had a few arguments with the gentleman myself and he has informed me of that on many occasions. Recently I had occasion to dispute a decision by the Town Planning Board on that very matter. It concerned the subdivision of a 10-acre area into acre blocks, and although the local authority bylaw specified they could be subdivided into half-acre blocks, the board would not agree to the subdivision. The argument just put forward by the Minister in control of that department falls down a little when I mention that that 10-acre area was a corner block, on one side of which was established a very good bus service, and alongside which ran electric lines. It was within a quarter of a mile of the school and a quarter of a mile from the public hall. It is also in a district that is rapidly developing.

I will say that finally the Minister did favour the appeal and that subdivision has taken place. I understand the blocks have been sold, even though the price may have been a little high. But in regard to the building of an urban fence around the city, I am a little concerned with many of the areas in the Darling Range electorate—areas which are growing rapidly—and with the second necessity towards proper development mentioned by Professor Holford, that is proper transport. With that proper transport I feel there are many areas where subdivision could take place with advantage with a view to development and without unduly extending the public facilities which are already established in those districts.

The third step towards proper development as laid down by Professor Holford was one of unpopular control. These schemes must be controlled and controls in general are unpopular, but I think that in making the statement, he was probably referring to the control of subdivisions. I feel that there is a tendency in some departments to build up the system of control to what is often referred to as bureaucratic control, but when the term "bureaucratic control" was queried by the gentleman concerned, I said that in his case it was more like autocratic control. If we had a little more publicity as to what the Commissioner has in mind for the development of Perth and suburbs, we would have a better understanding of the position and could probably give considerable help in that direction.

What appears to cut right across the idea of building an urban fence is the policy of the State Housing Commission in taking up a huge area of land on the Wanneroo-rd. and having it subdivided. There are many other localities that are better served by transport, electricity and water supply, and seemingly one Government department does not see eye to eye with another Government department.

Referring again to control, a little incident occurred in my electorate affecting the infant health centre. One cannot mention these health centres without thinking of Dr. Stang, who has done a wonderful job in organising and building them up. There are, as the Minister for Health informed us the other night, many infant health centres throughout the State and I believe they are serving a wonderful use. Most of them are being managed by local committees, but a few of them are run by local governing bodies. In my opinion, the local committees should be encouraged. They are in the main composed of people who are enthusiastic and keen on helping to develop these centres. Dr. Stang is very enthusiastic about their development, but I feel that, although she undoubtedly has

the right to control these centres, she could exercise her control with a little more tolerance towards the committees.

These committees work long hours and all hours in organising functions to help their centres and, while it is true that the Government pays the nurse's salary and the travelling expenses of the clinic and the Lotteries Commission gives considerable financial help, the big burden rests upon the committees. Therefore they should be encouraged, and governmental control should be exercised with a great deal of tolerance.

Recently one committee in the Darling Range area has not seen eye to eye with the Health Department, and particularly with Dr. Stang, over the matter of running the centre. The committee devoted a lot of time to organising the work of the centre and purchasing a car and recently in erecting a building not only for the clinic but also quarters to house the nurse. Of course, this is not the only centre that has done that. In this instance, the committee went ahead and, with monetary assistance from one or two, and a bequest from a former member of this House and help from the Lotteries Commission, built a centre at a cost of over £2,000. The committee went to a great deal of trouble to provide quarters for the nurse and she is quite happy to be there.

To help finance the scheme, the committee, no doubt in its ignorance of the award, asked the nurse to pay a certain amount of rent. The rent, as compared with what is paid by nurses in other centres, may appear to be unduly high, but although the value of the nurse's flat has been assessed by an outside source as something like three guineas a week, the committee felt that 30s. or 35s. a week would be a fair thing and the nurse was quite ready to pay that amount. Unfortunately, this cut across the general practice that such nurses should be charged not more than a nominal sum of 10s. a week. The departmental attitude was that the rent should be reduced to 10s., in spite of the fact that the arbitration award had fixed 12s. 10d., the idea being that 10s. was near enough. The committee was incensed at the action of the department in reducing the amount of the rent.

I know that the Minister is very sympathetic towards this centre, but the local committee, perhaps not having been as diplomatic as it might have been and Dr. Stang not being overstrong in diplomacy, there has been considerable friction. I hope that the trouble can be ironed out and that the centre may be permitted to be carried on by the local committee, which has done such good work to help the cause.

Another matter that has come to the forefront of late is that of the number of fatalities and traffic accidents in and around the metropolitan area. Something

drastic must be done to prevent the unwarranted loss of life that is resulting and, incidentally, the overcrowding of hospitals. No doubt there are many factors contributing to the high accident rate, amongst them being the increase in the number of cars on the road, the ignorance of many drivers of the traffic regulations, lack of road courtesy and the narrowness of roads. If we are to overcome the problem, these factors must receive urgent attention.

The question of the narrowness of roads is one which I believe the local authorities and the Main Roads Department should have in mind. They have an extensive programme of road widening in hand, or projected. One locality where there have been a number of accidents and where there is a possibility of many more is that section of the Great Eastern Highway which goes over the hill at Greenmount. The road, 20 years ago, was excellent and adequate for the traffic at the time, but during and since the last war there has been a big increase in heavy road transport, so that there is a terrific amount of traffic on it now.

Because of the hilly nature of the country that it traverses, and the comparatively narrow width of the road, something should be done about it. Also, with the advent of the semi-trailer trucks which are being used for wheat and super. carting, and which when going up a hill travel slowly, and when descending with a heavy load have to rely to a great extent on their gears and engines for safety—a number of these trucks have got out of control—I feel that section of the road should be given a high priority so that it might be widened in the near future.

Mr. Graham: What about one-way traffic, by using the old road on the way up, perhaps?

Mr. OWEN: That is done to some extent, but that suggestion would necessitate the re-surfacing of the old section because it is in rather rough condition now.

Mr. Graham: I think that would be easier than widening the present road.

Mr. OWEN: What I would advocate, apart from using the old road as a detour, or widening the existing one, would be to give immediate attention to the widening of the road at the bus stops. On the section to which I am referring, there are five or six bus stops where there is no provision for the bus to pull off the bitumen surface. While the bus is stopped, and the passengers are boarding or alighting, the width of the roadway is reduced by approximately 50 per cent. If the road surface were widened at these particular points, to allow the buses to pull off the road, the traffic problem would be considerably eased.

It would be particularly beneficial if a heavily-laden wheat truck were to get out of control, because it would allow such a truck to pass the bus without colliding

with it. If an accident, such as I have suggested, did occur, I fear the loss of life would be appalling. I would ask the Minister in charge of the Main Roads Department to give consideration to the project of widening the particular sections of the road of which I have made mention, to allow buses to pull off while passengers are boarding or alighting.

I wish now to deal with a matter of some urgency, and that is the supply of fruitcases before the next apple, pear and stone-fruit seasons. At present, considerable quantities of cases are being used for the marketing of the citrus crop, but they are small compared with what will be required for the apple and pear crop and, in a lesser way, the stone-fruit crop. I know the Forests Department and the State Saw Mills have plans for increasing the output of cases, but I would stress the urgency of the matter so that a reserve may be built up for next season.

The last apple crop was handled, but only just handled, because at times the growers had no reserves of cases, so that they led a more or less hand-to-mouth existence, and just got through. This time last year there were quite a few thousand dozen cases on hand, whereas at the present moment the reserve is practically nil. The Forests Department could help the fruitcase position by extending a little more leniency to the small mills cutting cases outside of the main timber areas.

I know of several mills in the Darling Range electorate that are paying a greater royalty for third-rate timber than the big companies are paying for first-class timber in other areas. If these mills were allowed to cut some better quality timber, there would be less waste of manpower than there is at present. Also we had the spectacle of a case-mill in the Lesmurdie area cutting cases, many of which were carted to fruitgrowers in the Chittering area. At the same time, there was a truck carting logs from the Chittering district past the Lesmurdie mill to one in the Roleystone area. There does seem to be quite a lot of manpower, and motor-power too, being wasted. However, the position has been overcome for the present, at least, by the Forests Department granting a permit for the mill at Roleystone to cut inferior logs nearer home. I feel that if the Forests Department could be a little more lenient in the matter of cutting rights for the case mills it could overcome a very difficult situation.

I spoke at some length last session on the question of water conservation, which I think will play an increasingly important part in our agricultural areas. In this regard there is one matter which I think deserves mention. I refer to the Helena River. In late years when the draw on Mundaring Weir has been heavier than usual—particularly now that the storage capacity of that weir has been increased to an extent where it may over-

flow only once in every 15 or 20 years—and in view of the development of agriculture and horticulture along almost the entire length of Piesse's Brook, the volume of water coming down the Helena River, has been restricted, especially during the summer months.

The Helena River, in fact, almost invariably ceases to flow round about Christmas time and in the lower reaches, in the vicinity of Helena Valley, the river bed becomes dry or at most a chain of pools which, by the end of the season, become stagnant. This has resulted in many complaints from people in the Bushmead area and as far down as South Guildford, due to the restricted flow of water in the river. I advocate the building of a weir for water storage purposes across the Helena River somewhere below its junction with Piesse's Brook. I understand that years ago the Water Supply Department had a survey made of that area.

There is a reserve there, usually referred to as the water supply reserve, and it seems to be in an admirable position for the building of a weir at a relatively low cost. I am not advocating the building of a weir to impound enormous quantities of water, but simply to hold perhaps, a few hundred millions of gallons. That water could then be used during the summer months to ensure that the river continued flowing, in order to overcome the stagnant condition of the pools that are formed and to keep the river bed clean. It would also be of considerable help to settlers in the vicinity of Helena Valley and graziers in the Bushmead area.

The water could be used for stock purposes and, to a limited extent, for the irrigation of small truck crops in that area. I would like the Minister to give consideration to what I have said in this regard. The member for Middle Swan made mention of a "Cinderella electorate." Most members probably feel that the areas they represent are neglected. There are always many problems requiring attention and we look to the Government for help in solving them.

Mr. Marshall: Have a talk with your colleague on your right. He seems to get everything he wants out of the Government.

Mr. OWEN: There are problems of water supply, electricity supplies, road making, and so on, and there are many such matters that are urgent in the Darling Range area. However, I am grateful to the Minister for Works for having had put in hand the work of completing the service tank at Kalamunda. We are eagerly looking forward to the construction of the pipe line from Mundaring Weir and the reticulation of the town of Kalamunda itself. I trust the department will do everything possible to implement that scheme in the near future. I wish also

to express my thanks to the departments which have during the last year carried out works in my area in regard to water supplies, road construction and the erection of school buildings. There are still a number of very urgent matters that must be attended to in my electorate and I sincerely hope the departments concerned will give them the priority they deserve.

MR. NIMMO (Wembley Beaches) [8.46]: I desire to endorse the remarks of the Premier with reference to our late Governor, Sir James Mitchell, and our two late friends and colleagues, Mr. Tom Fox and Mr. Harry Shearn. It is a very old saying that once a man has passed away he is soon forgotten, but I believe that the late Sir James Mitchell will be remembered for many a long year. He was a great friend of the children of this State and they will never forget him. I am sure, also, that the two late members of this House will be remembered, for many years to come, by those of us who remain.

Before the recent war the Workers' Homes Act was an excellent piece of legislation and I am pleased to see that Cabinet has brought it back into operation. I have one or two suggestions to make to the Minister for Housing in this regard. Only returned men are eligible for war service homes, but we are today faced with the position of the young married man who could not go to the war. The Workers' Homes Act will, I believe, be the means of helping those young men who are not eligible for war service homes.

Under that Act a man cannot apply for assistance if he earns more than £750 per annum. To my mind, that sum could be increased, because most good tradesmen today are paid, including overtime, a lot more than that. I had one case brought under my notice, and I am sure there are many others. There is one other aspect to which I would like to draw the Minister's attention and that concerns a young applicant who has only a block of land worth probably £150. That is his only asset and on that block of land he wants to build his own house. I suggest to the Minister that short-term loans be made available to this type of applicant to enable him to build his own home.

I have a case which recently came to my notice. This man is a carpenter and his only asset is the block of land which he owns. He is prepared to build his own house but he cannot go on with the job because he has not sufficient capital to buy the necessary materials. Under the Workers' Homes Act as it stands, as soon as an applicant gets material on the job and a certain amount of work done, he can obtain finance. But the difficulty, for these young chaps, is to get the necessary material to start. Therefore, I hope that the Minister can do something in this

regard and that short-term loans can be made available to help these young fellows.

Mr. J. Hegney: They are about to increase interest rates again.

Mr. Graham: They are only interested in the big fellow, spec. builders and the like.

Mr. Yates: They are concerned with all of them.

Mr. Graham: They have no concern at all for the little chap.

Mr. Yates: Yes, they have.

Mr. Graham: I have seen no evidence of it.

Mr. Yates: There is plenty of evidence of it.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: Where can the little chaps get their bricks?

Mr. NIMMO: Whether the Government is concerned with the big man or the small man does not interest me. I am interested in everybody in my electorate and I try to help every one of them—

Mr. Yates: Hear, hear!

Mr. NIMMO: —whether he be black, white or any other colour.

Mr. Griffith: What does the member for East Perth think of that?

Mr. Graham: You have to overcome the Government to do it.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Since when has the small man been able to pay £2,000 for a house?

Mr. NIMMO: I hope the Government can see its way clear to make one or two alterations to the Workers' Homes Act. If that is done, I am sure we shall be able to further help a lot of young chaps who are now on the waiting list for houses. The member for Guildford-Midland mentioned the question of drainage. I sympathise with him because I have a problem in North Wembley. This is an area from Harbourne-st., bordering on Johnson-st., Dodd-st. and Herdsman's Lake. A number of houses have been built on this area and unfortunately the water level is only two or three feet below the surface. During the last three or four years we have not had a really wet winter but I can remember a time, only four years ago, when the whole area was almost under water.

Mr. J. Hegney: Metropolitan members have had to put up with worse than that in the last four years.

Mr. NIMMO: This area has been surveyed but it will be at least a couple of years before the department gets on to the job. Some time ago I investigated the possibilities of draining some of the water into Herdsman's Lake. Unfortunately, my suggestion did not have a very good reception and the answer given was that the department concerned did not want any more water in the lake.

Mr. J. Hegney: They say it is below sea level.

Mr. NIMMO: The remarks of the member for Middle Swan have put some ideas into my head and I believe that the lake could be used for the benefit of the people in the district. There is a bellgrade drain which comes down near the old Scarborough Beach-rd. a few chains from Herdman's Lake, and from there the drain goes into a lock. One cannot see the lock from the road but I believe its sides could be built up and it could be used for storing water for summer use. A number of people who reside on the edge of the lake are supplied with water from that drain. At present, the overflow is run off into the centre of the lake which has practically become a bog all the year round. If one walks across the lake—which is possible in the dry season—one can feel the ground moving, and the little shrubs move about as one passes them.

Mr. J. Hegney: You are talking about a mirage.

Mr. NIMMO: If the walls of this bellgrade drain were built up, more water could be conserved and used to supply the people on the outer edges of the lake. All types of vegetables can be grown on the land around the edges of the lake, and it is a wonderful area for sweet potatoes. Many people have made large sums of money in that way. In the electorate of the member for Leederville there is a pumping station, and portion of the piping from that station runs through his area and the balance runs through mine.

Mr. May: Who has the bigger percentage of it?

Mr. NIMMO: I think I have, worse luck! For some time trouble has been caused both by that pumping station and the one in Jolimont, but I am pleased to say that much of the trouble seems to have been overcome. There is one other matter I wish to bring to the notice of members, and that concerns the St. John Ambulance Association. All members know the value of that organisation to this State.

Mr. May: What would we do without it?

Mr. NIMMO: Unfortunately, the association at present is having financial troubles.

Hon. A. H. Panton: No wonder, with all the chasing about they are doing and all the accidents that are occurring.

Mr. NIMMO: This organisation is voluntary, and the work it does both in the city and country areas is absolutely amazing. Approximately 40 per cent. of the calls answered by St. John Ambulance men are never paid for. I suppose that a certain proportion of that 40 per cent. cannot afford to pay. However, there may be a large percentage that could afford to do so. One reason that comes to my mind is that a great proportion of that 40 per cent. must think the St. John Ambulance Association provides a social service. If the organisation sends out an officer to these people they have assisted and they do not pay, not a thing can be done about

it. In fact, the St. John Ambulance Association has sent out men to interview these people, but they have not met with any success.

I appeal to every member in this House and to every member of the community to assist this organisation in its work. What would happen if the Government were forced to take over the activities of the St. John Ambulance Association? What would happen to those voluntary services which are rendered in the country by many people? For example, what about the owners of private garages who give their services voluntarily without any payment except reimbursement for the petrol they use? If the Government did take over the association's work, would we get the same service that we have had in the past? I hope the Premier will see his way clear to do something to assist this organisation.

The Premier: We have recently increased the grant to it.

Mr. NIMMO: Under the last grant, £1,000 was given to the St. John Ambulance Association, which, of necessity, must maintain its ambulances to 100 per cent. efficiency. If a driver answered a call and the engine of his ambulance failed him, what would happen? The effects of such a happening are too serious to contemplate. I therefore appeal to the Premier to assist this wonderful organisation as I am sure he will when he gets a full statement from it.

The Premier: As a matter of fact, we are having a look at its position now.

Mr. NIMMO: I have also heard a lot about traffic during the debate. In the Eastern States, and particularly in Tasmania, main highways are constructed for through traffic. If a driver from a side street enters the main highway without stopping he is subject to a traffic charge. If we could apply the same method in our city and suburbs, I think it would prove to be a great advantage and would tend to lessen the number of accidents.

Only the other evening I saw a motorcyclist from a side street shooting across a main highway at a speed of anything up to 35 miles an hour. In my opinion, he was looking for wings! We have also heard several remarks about ragtime drivers. Whilst in Melbourne I was in a car with a friend on one occasion and we passed across a main highway. Presently a car pulled up alongside us and asked my friend to pull to the side of the road. A policeman got out of the car and said to my friend, "Going across that street you should have done so and so. In future, try and think of the regulations."

I remarked to this friend of mine, after we had continued on our way, "What a wonderful gesture on the part of that traffic policeman to approach you and give you advice without bullying you." Twelve months later I was talking to the same man and I asked him if he remembered

the occasion and he said, "I will never forget it; that policeman was a fine fellow." I consider that if we had more patrol cars travelling around advising people on the traffic regulations the drivers would not be so lackadaisical.

No doubt, when a person has been fined for some breach of the traffic regulations he will do the same thing again; but I think that if a person is politely advised of his breach, more notice would be taken of it. I have heard a good deal about the pollution of the river. I am becoming a little worried because a great number of the school children in my area swim in the river. Could not the Premier do something to take these children to the ocean rivers to teach them swimming instead of taking them to the river beaches, about the pollution of which I have heard so much?

The Premier: What do you mean by ocean rivers?

Mr. NIMMO: I mean the ocean.

Mr. J. Hegney: How about Fremantle?

Mr. NIMMO: No, not Fremantle. I am referring to Wembley Beach. As I understand there are three or four more speakers to address the House I will conclude my remarks.

MR. MAY (Collie) [9.71]: Mr. Speaker—

The Premier: I thought the hon. member had decided not to speak.

Mr. MAY: I do not know whether the Premier has given a sigh of relief or a sigh of surprise at my rising to my feet.

The Premier: Surprise!

Mr. MAY: I venture to say that those members who have spent many years in this Chamber and who were called here at the opening of this session could not but feel that there was a very familiar face missing on that occasion. I refer, of course, to the late Sir James Mitchell and I join with other speakers of this Chamber in saying that I greatly regret his passing. The same remarks apply to some extent to the late Mr. Shearn and the late Mr. Fox.

I have not occupied a seat in this Chamber for a very long period, but during that time I learned to respect Mr. Shearn very highly. He was most approachable and he and I became firm friends and on many occasions he took me home after the conclusion of proceedings in this Chamber. We will certainly miss the late Mr. Fox's breezy style and his good nature and banter. At all times he was most earnest in his desire to do something for those who were unable to do anything for themselves.

In my opinion, the State, in general, can expect another good season. At present there is every indication that primary production will be as good, if not better, than that achieved during the preceding year. That is something for which we should be extremely thankful for it will be of advantage to all who reside in this State.

During the course of the debate on the Address-in-reply some things have been said as to the defence of this country and the British Commonwealth as a whole. I do not take second place to anybody when it comes to being prepared for war, or fighting one where necessary. I would like to say here that my family did its fair share in providing manpower for the second World War. Whilst I agree that as a nation we must always be prepared, I am very concerned with the fact that up to date every speaker in this Chamber—at least on the opposite side of the House—has been in favour of preparation for war and for warfare.

The Premier: Did you say for warfare?

Mr. MAY: If those selfsame people, and others who hold those views, would only put some of that energy and a little consideration into negotiations for peace, I think it would be much more to our advantage.

The Premier: Nobody has advocated war, surely!

Mr. MAY: It is tantamount to that; they anticipate war, at any rate. I think we should be prepared, and let it rest at that. In the meantime we could put our energies into the peaceful settlement of disputes that arise and which eventually are the cause of war. In any case, I do not intend to get into a discussion on that subject.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Weirdly enough, the peace settlement now in progress between the United States and Russia would be economically disastrous to the world.

Mr. MAY: This is the root cause of war. This State is enjoying, and has enjoyed over many years, industrial peace, and I think we are very fortunate to have men in control of industry in Western Australia who are big enough and have the capacity to guide any possible industrial disputes through the right channels. At times I do not think that is fully appreciated, and from time to time we find leaders of the industrial movement subjected to much undeserved criticism. In fact, this has occurred during the course of debates in this House over the last two or three weeks. I think we should make every endeavour to ensure that the industrial situation in this State continues as peacefully as it has done and, wherever possible, we should try to improve the position.

At the present time there is a great reorganisation scheme going on in Collie with regard to the railways. It is a three-year job, I understand, and a very big one, too. I am glad to say that up to date they must be running to schedule. But there are between 700 and 1,000 railway workers in and around Collie. They have to handle the heavy traffic, at least since the war—and enormous traffic it has been—and I think they are entitled to some consideration. I sincerely hope, therefore,

that in conjunction with this reorganisation scheme that is going on at present, the Government will agree to include in that scheme a railway institute for the railway workers at Collie. It is something that is badly needed and I feel sure if one were provided it would have a great effect on the men working on the railway system in that district.

The Premier: You must be building up a good amenities fund in Collie. Cannot you do something with that?

Mr. MAY: With regard to the Premier's interjection about an amenities fund, I want to assure him that the money is being very wisely spent indeed. By no stretch of imagination, however, can it be used to build a railway institute. I do not think it was ever intended for that. Some 16 weeks ago, a commencement was made to open a coal mine at Muja and, from within 13 weeks of its coming into service, it has been producing 30 tons of coal a day. That was not done by a lot of men but by one good manager and about a dozen men.

From the knowledge I have of the requirements of coal production in this State at the present time, I think the manager, Mr. Ken Davies, and his gang of men ought to be publicly commended for the energy and effort they put into opening up that mine. I had the privilege of going down that mine last Saturday morning, and I feel sure that if any member had been with me he would have appreciated the efforts being made by these men to keep up the production of coal. I do not intend to speak about coal generally tonight because I will have something to say about it when the Estimates are considered.

With the opening of that new mine, however, it is unfortunate that somebody has to suffer. A new railway will be required—and I understand the area has already been surveyed and the railway is to be built—to connect the siding with the mine. This, however, will pass through the property of a man named Griggs, in fact, the railway will cut off most of his pasture and, in effect, will almost make the place uninhabitable. That man has a wife and three children and has gradually worked his place up; he carries 50 head of stock and he has now arrived at the stage where he is too old to think of developing virgin country.

At the present moment his prospects in regard to the alteration of his pastures are pretty grim. I am sorry the Minister for Works is not in the House but I would like to say that when this railway and road are being constructed there will be machinery on the site for that purpose; there will be bulldozers and so on. Instead of the usual compensation that is paid to people whose property has been resumed, I am going to suggest that while the machinery is in that locality a certain

amount of the country should be bulldozed for this man to replace that area which has been taken from him on account of the opening of this mine.

The Premier: He will have to be compensated, will he not?

Mr. MAY: I am suggesting the best method of compensating him. The man is not in a position to undertake clearing at present-day costs, but if the Government will agree to its machinery, while there, being used to bulldoze a certain amount of virgin country, it will give him a chance to replace what will be taken from him for the new line and road. The best of his pasture will be taken, and it is only fair that some consideration should be shown to him. In any event I intend to put this proposal to the Minister for Works and the Minister for Railways.

The Wellington Weir is to be increased in height and that will have the effect of automatically altering the water-level. When that occurs, there are some settlers who will be without a road. A portion of the road that connects the settlers with Collie will be submerged by the new water level, and my suggestion is that while the surveyors are in the district, they should survey a new road to give the settlers communication with Collie. That proposal has been submitted by me, and I hope it will receive favourable consideration from the Minister.

Last evening the member for Moore covered a good deal of ground in dealing with the production of wheat in this State. His remarks were quite interesting and I agree with much of what he said. I am disappointed, however, that not one member on the Government side has spoken in support of the small farmer. I am referring to the man who works his own property and I wish to point out some of the disabilities that confront him. I had hoped that the member for Moore, in making his survey, would have mentioned the case of these men.

Letters have appeared in the Press setting out the manner in which Federal policy is affecting them, and I have gone to some pains to work out how a man running his own property, say, a small wheat and sheep farm, is affected. Seldom can a man working his own property cultivate more than 400 acres. If I am wrong in that, the member for Moore may correct me. Usually he would run 500 or 600 sheep.

Mr. Ackland: He is in a very much better position than the big man.

Mr. MAY: Members will be able to judge of that when I have quoted the figures. For his wheat and wool, he should receive about £3,000, but he does not get it. First of all he has to stand

up to the compulsory 20 per cent. deduction for taxation on his wool return, which amounts to nearly £600. He does not see that money or get the use of it. He is not given even the satisfaction of receiving it and paying it out again immediately; it is simply taken. On top of that he is charged seven and a half per cent. for the J.O. scheme, representing a little more than £100.

Mr. Ackland: He will get that back.

Mr. MAY: From what I have read in the Press, if he does get it back, it will reach him only in dribs and drabs, according to Sir Arthur Fadden. That brings the charges against him to £400. He still has to find money to put in the next crop and meet the expenses of the farm and maintain himself and his family for 12 months, which brings him down to about £1,100. But it is not as good as that, even. He receives only about 6s. 7d. a bushel for the first advance on his wheat and has to wait for the balance.

Prior to last season, the second advance from the wheat pools was 2s. a bushel. This year, under the guise of the wheat not having been sold and of there being no money in kitty, the amount has been reduced 50 per cent. and he receives only 1s. That makes his position still worse. Thus the small farmer working his own property, on account of the money held back and taken from him, has been forced to go to the Associated Banks for accommodation in order to provide for next year's super.

I may be told that the farmer could give a lien over his next year's crop, but that is not the thing. If the farmer has anything from £1,000 to £1,500 due to him, why should he have to go to the Associated Banks for accommodation and pay interest? Of course, the Commonwealth authorities could help him but, in my opinion, they are purposely holding back his money to help themselves. Certainly they are not helping the poor farmer. I was disappointed that practical farmers on the Government side of the House have not said something in support of the poor farmer.

Mr. Ackland: It would be very much better for the State if they were all farmers of that size.

Mr. MAY: Although the big farmer seemingly pays a lot by way of taxation, things work out more to his advantage. The big wool man does not trouble about the deductions because he is on a sweet thing. Any number of them have wool cheques up to £40,000. If I were getting £40,000 a year for wool, I would not squeal. I was bitterly disappointed that nothing was said to point out the position of the man who has battled to develop a new holding and then comes up against this sort of thing. I have always regarded

the member for Moore pretty highly, but he would have advanced himself in my estimation if he had put forward the case of the small farmer instead of talking about the millions that he mentioned in which the small farmer does not participate.

Mr. Graham: He is more interested in the hammer and sickle.

Mr. MAY: I intend, when the Estimates are under consideration, to say something on the coal industry and the district I represent. However, I would say now that the present is an anxious time with regard to the output of coal. I know that those in control, and the State consumers, are having a worrying time, not because of any industrial trouble—the men are working full time—but because of other factors which I shall most likely enumerate during the debate on the Estimates.

HON. J. B. SLEEMAN (Fremantle) [9.32]: I would not have worried about speaking on the Address-in-reply had it not been for one or two things that have occurred during the last few days. Firstly, I resent the provocative action of the Government in seeing that another 26 summonses were issued in Fremantle against dock, rivers and harbour workers. If the Government is looking for trouble it is going the right way about it. It is six weeks since these men stopped work, so why the necessity to issue another 26 summonses?

The Minister for Lands: Ask the Industrial Registrar.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I know the Industrial Registrar and I have a lot of admiration for him. He is a man of good sound commonsense, and I am satisfied that if he did not get a good big push from someone, these summonses would not have been served.

The Minister for Lands: He is carrying out the law.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: If the present Government had been in power a few years ago, I would have been in the same position. At that time we had to make a protest, and we stopped a group of workers from Fremantle to Midland Junction—and we made a good job of it. We had to handle shop girls who were not militant, or industrially-minded. I was proud of those people. They all stopped work, and we marched to Parliament House and told the old gentlemen at the other end—and Hon. A. H. Panton was amongst them at the time—what we thought. They said, "We are not frightened of your Government." The result was that the shop workers had a win.

If it had not been for me and several others leading the crowd to Parliament House and telling members what we thought of them, those people would not have got what they did receive. I am pleased to say that I led those people here,

and I spoke to those who were inside for the ones who were outside, while tonight I am on the inside speaking on behalf of the people outside. I will never stop protesting against provocative actions such as are going on at Fremantle. A similar Government to the present one provoked the waterside workers some years ago because they refused to load flour to go into German hands. The waterside workers said, "No," and a big strike occurred, and it lasted for some time. Ask Sir Hal Colebatch what eventually happened! He was glad to withdraw his police from the Fremantle wharves. I appeal to the Government tonight not to provoke these men too much.

The Minister for Lands: Were you there?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Yes.

The Minister for Lands: I do not think you were.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I was. The Minister ran like the devil, too.

The Minister for Lands: I did not see you.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I remember a boy picking up a little bolt and as a constable charged, the boy threw the bolt and hit him so that he rolled off his horse. The last I saw of the Minister he was going across the overhead bridge. He never stopped running because he thought he might stop a bolt, too.

The Minister for Lands: You were not there; you were up at the Goldfields.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: You brought this on yourself.

The Minister for Lands: I like your little stories.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: The member for Leederville was there. He, Alec McCallum and a couple of others were the men in charge, and he can bear me out, if he likes to tell the truth.

Hon. A. H. Panton: I do not think either of you were there.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I hope the Government will see a bit of reason, and not go on provoking these men, because they will not be provoked forever. Just call off the dogs for a while, and give them a chance. The member for Collie said he was very interested in what the member for Moore had to say last night, but the part of the speech that I listened to was, I thought, uninteresting because at that stage the hon. member promised us certain things, but he did not come up to scratch. He told us he was going to explain what the hammer and sickle on an election advertisement meant, but he forgot to do so; he sat down before he did it. He said he had no reason to apologise to Mr. Webb, or prove that he was a "commo." I think he had a lot to apologise for because he knew the advertisement was libellous before he published it.

Mr. Grayden: It is not libellous at all.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Counsel told those who published it that it was libellous.

Mr. Grayden: Then use the process of law.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Deny that counsel said it was libellous.

Mr. Grayden: Counsel said nothing of the sort.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Still they went on with it, because they thought in an election there would be no trouble.

Mr. Grayden: That is not libellous.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! We cannot have two speakers at once.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I do not mind him; he is only chicken feed. This advertisement means that Mr. Webb is a communist. The hammer and sickle stand for communism, and this is a picture of Mr. Webb, and he is meant to be represented as a communist.

Mr. Marshall: And he is blocked in red.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Yes. The member for Moore said that he was a communist, but now the hon. member comes here and says he has nothing to apologise for. If a man had the principle of a cockroach he would apologise. I think it is only fair, if one makes a mistake, to say so. I remember the other night that the member for Melville made a statement which he later found to be incorrect. He rose in his place, subsequently, like a little man and said to the Government, "I have made a mistake and I admit it." The member for Moore, however, is not going to do that. He is going to blacken this man and do what he can against him. He said, "Commos vote for the Labour Party." I want to tell him that the L.C.L. votes for the commos.

The Premier: Not too many will believe you.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: The Premier can believe me or not, but if he says that is not right, he is telling a lie. He knows, and so does everyone else, that at the last Fremantle election Sleeman was placed four and Healy was placed three. Let the Premier deny that. The L.C.L. has more time for the commos than for Sleeman. The commos have no time for Sleeman and I am sure this Government has not, either. This is a good reason why you, Mr. Speaker, should work for a "No" vote, and should yourself vote "No" in the forthcoming referendum. I hope you will do your best to see that the "No" vote is carried, because if we have men like the member for Moore with sufficient authority, they will declare anyone to be a communist. I do not think members on this side of the House would have much chance if the member for Moore had the right to declare them communists.

Mr. Styants: We would all have our weight put up.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I know that you, Mr. Speaker, have a good opinion of the Opposition in this House, and I hope, therefore, that you will do all you possibly can to see that the "No" vote is carried at the referendum. In the course of his speech, the member for Moore stated that Mr. Webb had said that the gloves were off, but I do not think the member for Moore understands the meaning of that saying. He would have liked to have the gloves on so that he could conceal a couple of horseshoes in them, and because he did not have the gloves on, he put in his big No. 10's instead. He put the boots in when he found he could not hide horseshoes in his gloves. In fact, Mr. Webb said, "This is a fight to the finish—a fair fight." The member for Moore complained that Labour had put out a pamphlet showing the Prime Minister having a drink with the Russians in Canberra. There was nothing wrong with that. It was quite truthful and what the photograph showed was a fact.

Mr. Grayden: But what was its purpose?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: The Prime Minister had said that he would cut the throat of every commo. in the country and that he would ban them for ever; but he was apparently quite pleased to be in the company of the little Russian boys and drink their cocktails.

Mr. Graham: Vodka!

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I think they had some cocktails there, too. That pamphlet was published only to show that Mr. Menzies does not hate the commos. as much as he would have people believe. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, when Billy Hughes was Prime Minister of this country. You will recall what the Government was going to do to the U.W.W., as they were called, before they became known as "commos." An election was fought on the issue of Tom Walsh. They said they would deport Tom Walsh and Johansen as soon as the election was over, if they won it, and the people believed that Tom Walsh was as disloyal as he was said to be, but within a few months of the election that same Tom Walsh was working for the other side as one of their organisers. The truth was that they never intended to deport him but only to use him in fighting the election. That is another reason, Mr. Speaker, why you should be on our side in the referendum.

The Premier: I hope a lot more will see the error of their ways, as Tom Walsh did.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: No, they are awake to the Premier now. He will not put anything over them in future.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: The Speaker could have been declared in 1931, when he was advocating Douglas Credit.

The Attorney General: Perhaps that would have been all right, too.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I think I have said enough about the member for Moore. If there was any goodness in him at all or if he had the principles of a cockroach, he would withdraw what he said about Mr. Webb and would tell him that he had never believed Mr. Webb to be a commo. and had not intended to insinuate it. He cannot get over the fact that he was told by counsel that the pamphlet was libellous.

The Premier: The member for Moore is a man known, by all who know him well, to be a man of the highest principles.

The Minister for Lands: What are the principles of a cockroach?

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: They drag on the ground most of the time, at all events.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I am sure that, if the Premier put his name to a pamphlet like that and then found it to be a lie, he would say he had made a genuine mistake and would apologise for it. With all his political bias against us, I believe the Premier would still do the right thing. In similar circumstances, he would have said, "I have made a mistake. Mr. Webb is not a communist, never was and never will be."

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: The Premier apologised a couple of years ago for all the lies he told about us in 1947.

The Premier: Lies!

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Perhaps it was the Deputy Premier.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Fremantle was promised a high school many years ago, and when I heard the member for Guildford-Midland mention a high school tonight, I thought I would remind the Government of that promise made so long ago.

The Premier: We had better do something about a hospital for Fremantle before we build a high school there.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I will deal with that later on. Ever since 1929 we have been chasing Liberal, Labour and every other sort of Government, but have still not got our high school.

Mr. Grayden: What about the days when the late Mr. Collier was Premier?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: On the 3rd July, 1929, according to a statement which I quoted in this House last session, the late Hon. J. M. Drew, M.L.C. said—

Mr. Sleeman was one of eight members who spoke in support of the proposal, and the Minister's reply was reported in "The West Australian" the following day. According to the report, Mr. Drew said that the request for a high school at Fremantle had his complete sympathy. He realised that the establishment of a Fremantle

high school could not long be delayed, and for that reason he had refrained from making additions to the central schools. Whether the new school could be financed at present was a matter beyond the control of himself or the Treasurer. However, Fremantle had waited patiently for a long time, and he would do his best. He had had frequent requests from country districts, and in all his replies he had given them clearly to understand that the next high school must be at Fremantle. He could promise nothing immediately except his vigorous support. He would interview the Treasurer as soon as possible, and he trusted he would have no difficulty in getting his sanction to the placing of a sufficient amount of money on the Estimates to make a start with the buildings.

So I trust that the Minister for Education is listening and that when the next high school is built, it will be erected at Fremantle.

The Premier: Why did you not bring that matter to the notice of the member for Melville when he was Minister for Education?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I have been honest about it and have told the House that I have chased Governments of all political colours in an endeavour to have this high school built, but without success. Six months after the promise, to which I have referred, Geraldton got a high school.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: I think the present Government has Narrogin next on the list.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I will deal next with our forgotten men. I mentioned this subject last year and am surprised that the Attorney General has done nothing for them. I refer to the men at present incarcerated at Fremantle. There are many of them who could be let out without being a danger to the community. They are not criminals at all but, if they remain in their present surroundings, they may become criminals. In Canada there is legislation under which such men can be released on the understanding that if any one of them should commit a further crime, he has to serve the additional sentence for that crime as well as the balance of the former sentence. I understand that only 2 per cent. of those men ever return to gaol after being released.

I intended to introduce a Bill last year to make a similar provision in our law, until I discovered that it already exists in our Criminal Code. I appealed last year to the Attorney General and asked him to release some of these men. Fifty per cent. of them could well be let out. There is much talk of the shortage of men and

materials at the present time and we could well release some of these men and put them to useful work instead of allowing them to languish in gaol. The man who is a danger to the public must, of course, be kept under restraint, but there are many men in Fremantle Gaol who are not criminals at all.

The Premier: To what class of person do you refer?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: If the Premier likes to give me the job of going through the gaol and classifying all the inmates, I will be happy enough to do it because I want to help these people. I do not want the dangerous men to be let out, but there are other people who are serving sentences because of some fairly trivial offences. Section 705 of the Criminal Code states—

In any case in which the Governor is authorised, on behalf of His Majesty, to extend the Royal Mercy to an offender under sentence of imprisonment with or without hard labour, he may extend mercy upon condition of the offender entering into a recognizance conditioned to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for a period from the date of the sentence equal to the term of the sentence or for any less period. Upon complaint being made on oath before any Justice of any breach of the condition of the recognizance, such Justice may issue his warrant for the apprehension of the offender, and for his detention in custody until he can be brought before a Justice to be dealt with hereunder, and any Justice, on such offender being brought before him, may, on due proof of such breach, declare the recognizance forfeited, and commit the offender to prison to serve, as under the sentence aforesaid, any unexpired balance of the term of such sentence, which, for this purpose, shall be deemed to be revived.

That has been in the Criminal Code for many years. It was not put there for pleasure, but for the purpose of allowing people to be paroled if His Excellency thought it wise so to do.

According to a report from Canada, only 2 per cent. of those on parole ever return to the gaol. Therefore, it is up to us to do something about it. I can see the Minister for Education looking very interested and I hope he will do something about this matter. Many of these people are not dangerous and if they were permitted to go out on parole would become useful members of society.

Mr. Graham: The Attorney General would be the obstacle.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Yes, he would be, and I am sure we would get more justice from the Minister for Education.

Mr. Graham: I agree.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: You would certainly get more justice from the Minister for Education.

Mr. Styants: You would get more of the milk of human kindness.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: An American President once said that what was wanted in the community was honesty, courage and commonsense. I am sure that the Attorney General is honest, but I doubt whether he has the necessary courage to do something about this matter. He is frightened to say, "I will let Bill Jones out." I say, "Let Bill Jones out and anybody else who is in gaol because of some trivial offence." What the Attorney General needs is a little more courage and more commonsense because there are many of these people who could be safely let out on parole. Maybe the Attorney General is frightened that the Premier will rebuke him if he attempts to put this section of the Criminal Code into operation.

The Premier: I want him to exercise his own judgment.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I know that the Attorney General is a hard man because he has the name for it in the community. A clergyman once said to me, "Sleeman, these men are very hard. They would not let a man out for even two days." This clergyman was referring to the present Government. He told me that the previous Minister for Justice, the member for Eyre, was very decent and would give every assistance where possible.

It is a pity that the Attorney General could not act more on the lines of the previous Minister for Justice. I repeat that this section was not put in the Criminal Code for fun. It is there to be used. What is the point in putting anything in an Act if we do not intend to give effect to it? I know the Minister for Health has many humanitarian ways and I trust that she will endeavour to do something for these people who are wasting their lives and languishing in gaol when they could be let out and so become useful citizens.

The Attorney General: Do you not think that the judges are the proper people to consider sentences?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I do not think a judge is the person to let these people out. That is not done in Canada or even in Queensland and New South Wales. It is not as if the Attorney General did not have a precedent to follow; a precedent has already been established. If he was the first person in the world to try out this scheme, I could realise his position. But, what is he frightened of? Why does he not show a little initiative and follow some of the other countries. I repeat, in Canada only 2 per cent. of people out on parole have been returned to gaol. What is the danger? What is there to be frightened about?

The Attorney General: I respect the decisions of the judges. They are the people to approve of paroles.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: It is not done by judges in Canada. Judges merely sentence these offenders and it is up to the Attorney General to let them out on parole if they can become useful members of society. Why does not the Attorney General say, "Jones, I am going to let you out on parole. If you come back you will have to complete this sentence as well as the sentence you will be given for your other misdemeanour."

Statistics have shown that less than 2 per cent. of the people on parole are returned to gaol. The member for South Fremantle has just whispered in my ear that there are a couple of chaps in Fremantle gaol who have been sentenced for pilfering on the wharves. They call it stealing on the Goldfields, but when a visitor comes to the opening of Parliament and takes a cup and saucer it is called souveniring. Yet, it is all the same thing.

The Premier: They ought to be locked up for it.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: The nice people who come to the opening of Parliament sometimes get down on cups and saucers. That is stealing in the same way as a man on the wharves taking a handful of chocolates from a broken box. The people who come to Parliament House get away with it but not the people down there. On the Goldfields it is called plain, straight-out "stealing," and not "unlawful possession."

The Premier: No man has been locked up for stealing a handful of chocolates.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: The member for South Fremantle tells me that one of his chaps received a sentence of 18 months for a very trivial offence.

Hon. E. Nulsen: The Attorney General has the prerogative but he will not exercise it.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I am sorry that the member for Eyre is not still the Minister for Justice, because, as the clergyman said, this Government is very hard.

Mr. Bovell: Only cruel to be kind.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: That clergyman told me that although one man had only a few months of his sentence to complete, there was very little chance of his being allowed out because the Government was very hard.

The Premier: Was that clergyman talking about us?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Yes, he was talking about the Premier's Government. I now come to the question of S.P. betting. It is no good letting things go on as they are at the moment. The position is absolutely ridiculous. Men are fined for obstructing the traffic and that is merely

an excuse. People are not charged for obstructing the traffic outside Nicholson's box office when they are lining up in a queue from 11 o'clock at night until 10 o'clock in the morning. These people have their rugs and coats with them and they sit there, on frequent occasions, all night.

Mr. Marshall: And what about the picture shows every evening?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Yes, nothing is done about them. To charge a man, who is having a bet, with obstruction is absolutely ridiculous. Why should not a man living in Pinjarra have a bet?

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: He does.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Why should not that man be permitted to bet? Why should he have to go out to the Belmont racecourse or any other racecourse to place his bet? Is there any moral difference between a man having a bet at Pinjarra or a man having a bet on the racecourse at Belmont?

Mr. Marshall: There is a bigger risk at Pinjarra.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: If a bookmaker betting on the racecourse is charged, he is fined a shilling. The Premier remembers the case I have in mind where a common informer went out to one of our racecourses and afterwards laid a charge against a bookmaker. When that bookmaker was brought before the magistrate he was fined a shilling. The magistrate said that he had to fine him because the charge had been laid. Unless I go out to the racecourse then I do not bet but I cannot see any reason why the man at Pinjarra should have to come up to the metropolitan area, and go to a racecourse merely to have a bet. There are many people who like to have bets on the races, but they do not want to go out to the course. I stayed a week-end in Adelaide some time ago, when bookmakers were registered. Commissioner Lean placed a car and an inspector at my disposal, and said, "Look, Sleeman. You are in charge of this car. You can go where you like, see what you like and afterwards say what you like."

Mr. Yates: How long ago was this?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I cannot say off-hand but it was sometime after the bookmakers were registered.

Mr. Yates: After they became licensed?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Yes. I had heard a lot about the women and the prams and the little children.

The Minister for Health: They saw the error of their ways there.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I will talk to the Minister for Health directly.

Mr. Marshall: The Minister should keep quiet; she should know better than to interject.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I said, "Where are all these children and the prams I have heard so much about?" The bookmakers said, "Mr. Sleeman, we do not want women here. They are a nuisance in the betting shops and should not be here, and if we do not bet with them they do not return." The only betting shop in which I saw two or three women was in West Adelaide, which I understand is the poorer section of the city. I think the member for Northam will back me up on that. Apart from that one example, all the others were very well conducted.

The Inspector of Police said to me, "Would you like to see the place where the Press stated that betting was being conducted in a stable?" We went to this certain spot where the betting shop was supposed to be, and although it was certainly a stable it was well fitted out and good enough to be a residence. However, the Press when criticising S.P. betting, said that the punters were even betting in a stable. If that was supposed to be a stable, then I would like to have it for a home because it was a lovely place.

Now the Minister for Health said something about betting. I would like to know how she has got on in Subiaco as a result of her prayers. I understand the Minister wrote to the minister's fraternal after she had said that any Government could stop betting. She said that the Government was making something out of it and that any Government could stop it if it wanted to. What does she do to stop it? She writes to the clergy and suggests that it be stopped by prayer. I therefore suggest to her that she should get down on her knees every Saturday afternoon and pray for the punters to stop their betting.

The Minister for Health: My prayers will produce more than anything you can do.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I hope the Government will do something about the matter because it is ridiculous to carry on in the way we are. We will never stop it. One of the policemen in Adelaide said, "I would rather leave the Force if I had to go through it all again. I have had the S.P. bookmakers down on the footpath when they have had conversation lollies in their mouths which they used to bet with and I have tried to get those lollies out of their mouths. They have also used small cards for betting and as soon as the police arrive they put them in their mouths and try to swallow them. As a result, I have had to get them down on the footpath to remove the cards from their mouths."

He also said, "Come round here and I will show you something." He said, "Do you see that window up there on the second storey?" I said, "Yes," and he said, "That place has been run as an S.P. betting shop for two years and the police could never catch those who were running it. They had barbed wire entanglements

round the building and when the police eventually got into it they found only a lavatory and nothing else." He said, "Do you see that lane there? At the time we raided the place we had a big policeman standing there and when other officers went up to the second storey the bookmakers dropped their books out of the window but unfortunately our big policeman caught them instead of the man who was supposed to have been there. That place was run for years and we could not catch the operators until that big policeman caught the books."

In Adelaide they told me that policemen would rather retire from the Force than have to go through that performance again. Two or three attempts have been made to have these S.P. betting shops licensed. I do not consider there is any harm in that form of betting so long as it is not carried out to excess. There is no harm in having a bet on a racehorse. Housey-housey has become quite a common game. It is played in homes, and on board ship many housey-housey parties are conducted. In my opinion that game is the worst I know of from the profit point of view. It is possible for a punter to break a bookmaker, especially one who is in a small way, but no man can break housey-housey. It is only a matter of playing long enough at the game before housey gets the lot. Many will not countenance housey-housey but I suppose most members of this House have played the game and thought nothing of it. A clergyman told me—

Mr. J. Hegney: You seem to have conversations with a great many clergymen.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Yes, I know quite a number. The clergyman I am about to mention, the Rev. Eric Nye, did wonderful work during the depression, and I take my hat off to him. On one occasion he said to me, "When the Labour Party was running White City you had sweat wheels operating there, and as I thought they were wrong I complained about them and had them stopped. A few weeks later clergymen of other churches wrote to me and asked me to have housey-housey stopped. I told them that if they wanted that game stopped they should take steps to stop it themselves." He saw no harm in housey-housey because during the war he watched many soldiers playing it. I also see no harm in it, but from the punters point of view it is the worst game in the world because one can never break it. The Government should do something about S.P. betting and certainly give greater consideration to it than it has in the past.

I see that S.P. bookmakers are now being committed to gaol. Instead of releasing those that are already in gaol they are going to commit more. They are not criminals. The leading bookmakers at Belmont are committing a crime in exactly the same way as the

poorest S.P. bookmaker in the street. We are shutting our eyes to the activities of the bookmakers on the racecourse, but we say to the S.P. bookmakers, "We will put you inside if you appear in this court again."

Mr. Marshall: What about the clubs that license the bookmakers?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: That is so. I hope that I will not have to mention this matter again before something is done about it because I consider the Government and Cabinet should ascertain if something cannot be done to stop these men appearing before the court week after week on charges of obstruction.

MR. MANN (Avon Valley) [10.8]: The hour is late and I do not intend to speak for very long but if members want me to speak for two hours I will do so. They can either have a long or short speech according to their desires. I want to touch on the question of the appointment of a new Governor for Western Australia. I would like to know what action was taken, if any, for the retirement of the late Sir James Mitchell. This wonderful old man was appointed by the party occupying the Opposition benches. It seems strange that his retirement should take place prior to the visit of the Royal Family. I would like to know if the Premier had anything to do with the retirement of that grand old person.

I understand that the appointment of all Governors, Lieut.-Governors and Governor-Generals of Australia are made by either the Cabinets of the States or of the Commonwealth and approved by His Majesty's Government. Was the position, in regard to the retirement of Sir James Mitchell, that he was not fit to walk with Kings? If it was so, it is a disgrace to the people of Western Australia. I suppose there was no man in this State with a greater vision than that of our late Governor. He was described by the late Philip Collier as a man who was as big as Lord Forrest.

Members know that he sat in this House as Premier and had the courage to do what he had to do for the welfare of the State, especially at Premiers' Conferences. After his defeat at the elections he was appointed to the high position of Lieut.-Governor. I feel that many in this State consider that if the late Sir James Mitchell was dismissed—and he claimed, before his death, that he had been dismissed—or if he was retired because he was not fit to walk with Kings—

The Premier: He was not dismissed!

Mr. MANN: The statement of Sir James Mitchell was that he still felt quite fit to do his work but that he had been retired. But he had not retired. The people in the country areas where Sir James had lived thought he was a marvellous person. I am very glad that a man from overseas has been appointed to the position as it

will help to draw the ties of Empire closer together. However, I would like to have seen the late Sir James Mitchell spend his last few years as Governor.

I would like to touch, too, on the question of honours. The recommendations for the next honours list will be made very shortly. This Government, however, has the peculiar idea that the politicians are the salt of the earth. The public certainly do not think so. Honours have been granted to Ministers and other politicians including one in our midst who has been created a Dame. However, there are many people outside politics who are more entitled to knighthoods, etc., than those of us who are in politics. I refer now to Mr. Taylor who, with the help of the member for Northam, was responsible for the Fremantle power scheme, which is probably the best in the whole of Australia.

This Government claims to be a rural government and yet I cannot understand why some of the biggest men from the rural areas have not had honours bestowed on them. They have done much for Western Australia in the building up of stud stock and if anybody deserved recognition it is William Padbury. He is a man now well on in years who has spent many thousands of pounds on stock purchased from all over the world in order to build up the Guernsey and Jersey herds here.

Mr. Ackland: What about Ted Lefroy?

Mr. MANN: Yes, he is another one. These are the men who have given more to the State than ever any of the politicians have. It is tragic to think that these men who have done so much should remain anonymous and unsung. If anyone deserves recognition for being a politician, it is the member for Northam; and he should get something higher than a knighthood.

The Premier: We will consider that, too.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Leave me out of this.

Mr. MANN: I think that every farmer has had more than he wants of controls. We have had controls on butter, eggs, apples and heaven knows what else, and the farmers of Australia have lost a great deal under the control of wheat. I am delighted, therefore, that the woolgrowers will brook no interference.

Mr. Ackland: Wise men!

Mr. MANN: They are wise men. I discussed with the Prime Minister of New Zealand his policy of wool control. Being a democratic country, which is so different from the Commonwealth, the authorities there considered as there would be an extra £70,000,000 compared with the figure for last year, it would be wise to freeze 33 1-3 per cent., which the woolgrowers agreed to. Legislation was accordingly passed by Parliament. I feel that if the woolgrowers of Australia had been approached, they, too, would have been willing to adopt the New Zealand

principle, with the result that £200,000,000 would have been frozen, thus helping the economy of Australia. But the Commonwealth Government decided to tax in advance, which created much hostility in the woolgrowing industry. The price, however, may fall; and that is the tendency today. I think Australia has lost a unique opportunity. I am not going to speak long.

The reason for my speaking is that when the Royal Commission on forestry was sitting I was astounded to hear that the Minister for Forests had given evidence to this effect—

I want to make it clear that the people, through the Government, must have more control of the case-milling industry than they have today.

It is the first time in the history of this State where a Minister has given evidence before a Royal Commission. That is one matter I wish to raise. The other, and more serious, question is that of the Liberal and Country League. I will now read from the "West Australians' Annual" at page 74. It reads as follows:—

The L.C.L. is the only truly all-State Party—

The report then goes on to say—

The L.C.L. was formed at Beverley on the 30th March, 1949, at a public meeting convened by the delegates of the local branches of the C.D.L. and Liberal Party. It was formed to provide a united front against the forces of socialism in this State—one strong organisation for all those citizens in every walk of life, in the city and in the country, who are prepared to unite and work to preserve our ancient liberties and maintain the integrity of our parliamentary institution.

As the first parliamentary member of this Liberal and Country League, I claim that the party to which I belong was formed to defeat socialism and I would like to know the Premier's views. The Liberal Party and the Country Party in this House were formed into one party for those who believe in true liberalism or true democracy, and I would like to know what the Premier feels about it when the Minister for Housing says that if possible he must have more control of the timber-milling industry than he has today. He said that in his evidence. I claim that if we are to believe in the true sincerity of the parties that have been returned to the Parliament of this State at this time—

Mr. Graham: What about starting another party?

Mr. MANN: I helped to create the Liberal and Country League, but the organisation itself is apparently of one mind and the parliamentary party of another. The constitution of the Liberal and Country League of Western Australia contains the following:—

- (d) To foster and encourage individual initiative and private enterprise and to oppose the socialisation of production, industry, distribution and exchange as a national policy.
- (e) To oppose Government entry into commercial and industrial activities and to advocate the gradual withdrawal by the Government from all trading and industrial concerns and thus encourage private enterprise.

I claim that if that is the true policy of the Government, the matter needs a lot of consideration. The party is there by virtue of the organisation behind it. The Labour Party could not exist without the organisation behind it.

Mr. Graham: Your party has St. George's Terrace behind it.

Mr. MANN: No such thing! It is an organisation representative of the whole of Western Australia and its members subscribe to those planks of the constitution. Is the Premier satisfied that his Minister for Housing should have the right to tell a Royal Commissioner that he wants more power over the timber industry?

Mr. May: I suppose he has seen the light.

Mr. MANN: If he has, then he should no longer be sitting on this side of the House. Let us be honest! There is too much political kite-flying in this country. It is clear what the Government party stands for and, if this is permitted, the basis of democracy will be gone. This sort of thing would lead to the socialisation of everything; and if that happened, it would not be long before everything was communised.

I rose chiefly to make this protest to the Premier. If he is going to allow this sort of thing to happen, it will be an indication that he has deserted Liberalism. It is unthinkable that a Minister should be permitted to go before a Royal Commissioner and tell him what he wants when that runs counter to what the Government professes to stand for. The member for Melville asked for a full inquiry into the brick position, but that inquiry has been limited to an investigation of a certain episode connected with the State Brick Works. I hold that every man is entitled to his own religious and political beliefs, but a man is merely a humbug if he professes one thing and does the opposite. We can at least say for Labour members that they carry out the policy of their party, and if we believe in Liberalism, we should be loyal to our principles.

I hope that the Premier will make a reply and will tell the House whether he agrees with the policy indicated by the Minister for Housing or whether he does not. There are two parties supporting the Government and they profess to have a fraternal feeling for each other. Both of them are opposed to any form of socialism.

If they approve of any move to socialise the timber industry, the Government should get out.

Mr. Graham: We will give you a hand in that direction.

Mr. MANN: No doubt the hon. member would. Some members on this side of the House believe in true Liberalism. The foundation on which that belief rests was approved at a meeting of 600 people who assembled at Beverley from Geraldton in the north to Bunbury in the south. They agreed to a policy of opposition to socialism in all its forms and that is the policy the Government should carry out. What I am concerned about is this: Does the present Government believe in socialism or does it believe in true democracy?

Question put and passed; the Address adopted.

BILLS (13)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Law Reform (Common Employment).
- 2, Prices Control Act Amendment (Continuance).
- 3, Trustees Act Amendment.
Introduced by the Attorney General.
- 4, Public Buildings Act (Validation of Payments).
- 5, Public Buildings Act Repeal.
Introduced by the Premier.
- 6, Main Roads Act (Funds Appropriation).
- 7, Country Towns Sewerage Act Amendment.
- 8, Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act Amendment.
Introduced by the Minister for Works.
- 9, Bunbury (Roman Catholic Old Cemetery) Lands Revestment.
- 10, Rural and Industries Bank Act Amendment.
- 11, Pig Industry Compensation Act Amendment.
Introduced by the Minister for Lands.
- 12, Increase of Rent (War Restrictions) Act Amendment and Continuance.
Introduced by the Chief Secretary.
- 13, Building Operations and Building Materials Control Act Amendment and Continuance.
Introduced by the Minister for Housing.

House adjourned at 10.35 p.m.