

I would like more time to study it. With all due respect to the honourable member who introduced the Bill—I realise he has done so on behalf of a member in another place—I feel we should all give more consideration to the matter. I would be quite prepared to carry on tonight, but I do not think it would be a reasonable suggestion. However, we must take our responsibilities seriously, and we should all be satisfied we do understand this legislation. I, for one, do not. If the Bill is dealt with now, I would have to continue to oppose it until I was completely satisfied.

This is not the right time of this part of the session to introduce a Bill such as this one. I am rather surprised at the number of members on the Government side who supported this measure. Perhaps they were aware of its contents previously. However, according to the comments made by Mr. Ron Thompson, he was not fully aware of all the implications. In view of what I have said, I suggest to Mr. Ferry that he moves to report progress.

The Hon. F. R. WHITE: Unlike Mr. Medcalf I have studied this Bill and the amendments made in 1966 in conjunction with this amendment and the Act. I am quite satisfied that difficulties could arise if the advisory board failed to make a report to the Minister because the Minister does not have the power to request such a report.

At this point of time, I feel it may be desirable to adopt Mr. Medcalf's suggestion and report progress, so that every member can study all the implications of this Bill.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: In all the circumstances of the debate that has so far ensued on this Bill, it is apparent to me that many members are a little unsure of the implications of the measure. In view of the late hour of this particular sitting, I believe it would be prudent for me to move to report progress.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by The Hon. V. J. Ferry.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Assembly's Message

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [6.42 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until a date to be fixed by the President.

Before resuming my seat, I would like to apologise to the Leader of the Opposition for the unfortunate event that occurred this morning. I regret the things I said and I hope the House will accept that I did not think quickly enough. I did not mean to say the things I said and I regret them very much.

I thank members for their help and I thank the Leader of the Opposition very much for all he has done during this session of Parliament.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.43 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Friday, the 2nd June, 1972

The SPEAKER (Mr. Norton) took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and read prayers.

MINING REGISTRAR'S OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE

Southern Cross: Petition

MR. BROWN (Merredin-Yilgarn) [11.05 a.m.]: I wish to present a petition from the Royal W.A. Historical Society which reads as follows:—

To the Hon. the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled:

We, the undersigned, urge you to consider our request that the proposed Mining Registrar's Office and Court House be constructed on a new site and the old building preserved for the use of the Southern Cross Branch of the Historical Society.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable House will give this matter urgent consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

I have certified that this petition is in conformity with Standing Orders and it contains 433 signatures.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

KWINANA-BALGA POWER LINE

Dual Route: Motion

Debate resumed, from the 12th April, on the following motion by Mr. Thompson:—

That this House deplores the decision of the Government to adopt a dual route for the 330kV Kwinana-Balga power line resulting in environmental desecration and personal hardship to a greater number of people than would lines installed along one route. We ask that the Government

reconsider the decision after a report is made by Environmental Protection Authority and that, in any event, they adhere to the clear recommendation of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority not to construct the lines through, or near, the Guildford Grammar School.

MR. MAY (Clontarf—Minister for Electricity) [11.07 a.m.]: This motion, which was moved by the member for Darling Range, has been on the notice paper for some considerable time. It is my intention to reply to it in detail. The matter has been publicly debated on many occasions and I feel it is time the State Electricity Commission was allowed to get down to business, because survey work, which is so essential for ensuring that the transmission lines are erected by 1975, is being retarded.

Mr. Thompson: How is it being retarded?

Mr. MAY: A great deal of what the member for Darling Range said in his motion is repetition and my reply, of necessity, must be repetitive. I propose to deal with the various aspects of his motion in the order in which he raised them; but, before doing so, I wish to make a general statement by way of preface.

I consider that where the honourable member has ventured his opinions on technical matters, he has cast reflections on the technical ability and the integrity of purpose of the State Electricity Commission and its officers. The State Electricity Commission exists to serve the community. Its proposals for these power lines are for that and no other purpose.

The Government has gone to considerable lengths to inform itself on this matter. In technical areas it has accepted the guidance of its officers and it is satisfied it has been correctly and honestly advised.

In other areas, such as aesthetics, and environmental and social aspects, a great deal of time has been spent by individual members of the Government, including the Premier, the respective Ministers, and members of Cabinet who have personally inspected the proposed routes at critical points—in some instances, on more than one occasion. Representatives of the shires and the Guildford Grammar School Council have been met by the previous Minister and myself, the chairman, and the general manager of the commission as requested by those bodies. Hence, the matter has been dealt with exhaustively by technical and nontechnical people, as appropriate.

I know that several commission officers spent some time with the member for Darling Range in an endeavour to explain to his satisfaction certain technical aspects which he had raised in the House on a

previous occasion. It was believed that the honourable member was satisfied. Indeed, he declared his satisfaction to those present but now he has reopened the subject and reddeclared the decision as being ridiculous.

I now deal with the points in the order in which they appear in the honourable member's speech. He avers that splitting the lines to follow two routes will have greater impact than if both lines were to be in one reserve. It can be categorically stated to the contrary that a single line of towers will have much less visual impact and effect on the terrain in any one place than a double line of towers. From the point of view of residents in the vicinity or a visitor or casual observer, the single line would be preferable.

The SPEAKER: There is too much audible conversation.

Mr. MAY: The history of events recited by the honourable member in the next part of his motion is generally agreed, although some statements such as that the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority thought the lines would be a complete eyesore, do not appear to be supported. Also there is a quibble as to whether the line is on the foothills or not. The point is that rightly or wrongly, the line in front of the hills has become popularly—possibly one might say unpopularly—known as the "foothills" line and the other as the "escarpment" line.

There is little comment which can be made on these remarks of the honourable member, except to say that he is inconsistently keen to accept the M.R.P.A.'s casual recommendation in connection with Guildford Grammar School, but not its considered recommendation for the foothills route which was made after exhaustive study of the problem as the authority saw it, in full knowledge that the route would site a double row of towers very close to the green belt which the authority had been instrumental in planning and reserving.

The member for Darling Range makes much of the outcry against the foothills route. It is agreed that there was an outcry from residents and others objecting to the foothills route. There was also protest about the route then under consideration between officers of the State Electricity Commission and the various shires. This objection was muted, no doubt, by the vehemence of the other protests, in the belief that the foothills route was the most likely to be chosen. These objections were mainly from conservationist groups and departmentally from forests and water supply people.

It is not correct to say that the major concern of the M.R.P.A. was that the pylons should not break the skyline over the escarpment. The authority pointed out that the foothills route would avoid

a great deal of clearing, it would be shorter and hence, in its opinion, much cheaper. While a shorter route would result in cheaper line construction costs, the overall cost would probably be as high as or higher than the alternative because of the very high cost of land resumption which would have been necessary. Whether the M.R.P.A. or the S.E.C. were right on the score of costs is not important at this stage, but the authority's recommendation was not made on the one point of aesthetics, as claimed by the honourable member.

The member for Darling Range said, "At a public meeting held in January, 1971, I was virtually in the hot seat because at the time the decision on the route of the line would have to be made by the Government of the party to which I belonged and of which I was a candidate in the coming election." He has obviously been concerned with the impact of this work which is to serve the whole community, from the point of view of its effect on his electoral chances.

I think it is irrelevant as to what undertaking the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party gave the honourable member on the matter or on the reference to the environmental authority.

It is interesting to note, although the Leader of the Country Party in the previous Government was the Minister for Electricity, there is no mention that the member for Darling Range had any discussion with the previous Minister for Electricity. He made no mention of the fact that the Leader of the Country Party had given him an assurance.

Mr. Jamieson: The Leader of the Country Party was the Minister for Electricity, that is why.

Mr. MAY: The present Government was not satisfied with the legislative position left by the previous Government and has now attended to that matter. That decision was the responsibility of the present Government and no apology is made for its accepting that responsibility. I will comment later on the reference which was made by the Government to the Director of Environmental Protection seeking his advice while the legislation was pending. As the honourable member has said, the State Electricity Commission said it would survey and cost both routes and take other aspects into account. This was done.

He then recounts the effects of rumours as to the location of the lines on property owners. It is a regrettable fact that, where projects such as this involving land and homes are concerned, there can be uncertainties as to whether a certain property is to be affected or not and to the extent of such effects. People have been brought into the picture as much as possible and many land and property owners on the routes have been served with notices as required by the Act, telling them of intention to enter and survey.

Sir David Brand: I do not like to interrupt the Minister, but I have been thinking and I remember that we discussed this matter in Cabinet. We made an announcement that it would be referred to the environmental authority as we had anticipated. This was not done without the knowledge of the Minister.

Mr. MAY: No announcement was ever made that it would be referred to the environmental authority.

Mr. Court: There was a public meeting about it.

Mr. MAY: Until such surveys are completed, it is impossible to be precise as to the effect on a particular property. Indeed, adjustments made to mitigate hardship on one owner can adversely affect another. The member for Dale will appreciate this particular point.

This is one reason the commission has strenuously sought to avoid housing areas wherever possible. Senior officers of the commission have always been willing to talk personally to property owners, either in the office or at the owner's home, to explain the project and the effect on the particular property. Many people have had their uncertainties and fears allayed in this way.

At the present time approximately 20 miles of the lines have been accurately surveyed and the owners over this distance know exactly the extent of the effect on their properties. The honourable member said that a considered reply by the previous Minister had indicated that two lines properly installed on a common reserve would provide the necessary security. He contrasts this with the commission's view that two separated routes are necessary for security of supply, and implies a lack of consistency. This is a case where the technical aspects have not been properly understood and a statement has been improperly lifted out of context.

What was said was that two lines properly constructed in the same clearing would not be vulnerable to simultaneous outage from the same event, and the event under discussion was lightning. Because of the manner in which the question was raised, it did not emerge that lines in the same relatively narrow clearing would, however constructed, be subject to simultaneous outage by bushfires or other interference. The risk under discussion at the time was only that of lightning, as the honourable member should have remembered.

The route originally under discussion between the commission's staff and officers of the various shires very largely traversed already cleared valleys which themselves would have provided the separation and freedom from risk of bushfires which is essential.

Mr. Thompson: Before you go on, could I just ask you why it was that the commission previously agreed to both lines along the one reserve but when the M.R.P.A. became involved they came back and said that for technical reasons the line must be split. Were they technically incorrect originally?

Mr. MAY: The commission looked at the situation after considering all the information passed on to it by the various shires and ratepayers. All its decisions are subject to further investigation if sufficient evidence is presented to warrant it. The commission always does this and it is doing it at the moment in the member for Dale's area.

Mr. Thompson: It intended to run both lines along a common reserve and this was investigated for a number of years. A model was constructed of how the line would pass from Bickley Valley to Helena Valley—so it was not just a casual recommendation. The matter had been looked into.

Mr. Jamieson: That was technically unsound, and this was proved in Adelaide.

Mr. MAY: However, when the aesthetic and environmental aspects of this particular route were further examined, it was decided that separation into two routes would be necessary to meet both these features and the technical requirement of safety and reliability.

An incident in South Australia on Sunday, the 9th April, as reported in the South Australian and Western Australian Press, indicates the vulnerability of transmission lines which are close together to outage from the same event.

Incidentally, I was in Adelaide when this fire took place. In this case, the bushfire in the Adelaide hills caused a major blackout in Adelaide itself because two parallel lines were simultaneously affected. It is this possibility the commission is seeking to avoid by separation of the lines.

The honourable member next mentions the minor amendments which have been made to the routes. When it was said that the escarpment route was the most easterly and the foothills route the most westerly that could be taken, it was not intended to convey that minor amendments would not be possible as the surveys developed. It is hoped that the honourable member did not intend any criticism of the actions taken.

Mr. Thompson: Not at all.

Mr. MAY: The member for Darling Range then proceeded to discourse on the prospects of duplication of the low-tower section of the foothills route by either a second row of towers or cables. The technical and physical facts given by him are not disputed and are indeed consistent

with the information given by the commission. However, when the member for Darling Range ventures into interpretation of these facts, a note of caution must be sounded. Duplication of the line by erection of a parallel set of towers in the same clearing is one way of meeting the future need to upgrade the capacity of the line, always remembering that the second set of conductors would not in fact be a second line in the electrical sense.

It is agreed that present technology and cost does not permit the use of underground cables for this section of the line.

However, it is surely not unfair for the prospect to be raised, as it would be a very bold or foolish man who entirely discounted the possibility of a technological breakthrough in the next 10 to 15 years when it is recognised that leading cable-making firms are working on these problems and considerable research is being applied to the use of super-conducting materials and the application of the science of cryogenics.

The member for Darling Range also referred to what he considered to be a prejudging of the case to have been presented by the Shire of Kalamunda. This must be considered in context with the fact that there had been several meetings of representatives of the Kalamunda Shire and their views were already known. Hence it was most unlikely that their submissions could introduce new issues likely to change materially the decision which had been taken. I believe the quoted remark to have been fair comment and not indicative of an intention to be prejudicial to their interests. In fact, alterations were made which met some of the shire's objections and while these were minor in respect of physical deviation, they were of importance to the shire. It was of satisfaction to the shire that its representation was sympathetically and genuinely received.

I have in my possession a letter from the shire indicating it was satisfied we had met its representatives and had made such deviations as were satisfactory to the shire members.

Mr. Thompson: My speech also indicates much the same, because I did state that what is now proposed was considerably better than the original proposal.

Mr. MAY: The concession made was principally because it was desired to avoid the housing development and it was a side but important benefit that this also permitted the avoidance of the Maida Vale Primary School and the golf course. I think the member for Darling Range may recall that I indicated some time ago that during the course of several inspections we made around the foothills area there was a sign up in the trees about half a mile from where the lines were to go.

Mr. Thompson: They were not accurately spaced, but the line, originally, was to have been placed 200 or 300 feet away on the contour level which is considerably further east than where they were to be placed.

Mr. MAY: We have pointed out to the honourable member why we changed the route. It is difficult to give a set route until a survey has been made. Once the survey has taken place we then settle on a particular route.

Mr. Thompson: They were fairly accurate at that time, you know.

Mr. MAY: At that time?

Mr. Thompson: Yes.

Mr. MAY: I will return to the point where I mentioned that we would avoid the Maida Vale Primary School and the golf course. This was in fact arranged and the people in the area—and I think the Hawkevale Council—were quite happy we were able to help them in this respect.

Much has been said of the need for submission of the proposed route to the Environmental Protection Authority. I have already commented on the fact that the Government desired to establish the Environmental Protection Authority with adequate legislative power, but at the same time this situation had not been reached. There were, however, several discussions with Dr. O'Brien and he accompanied at least one of the parties which inspected the main portions of the route. Dr. O'Brien was again consulted before Cabinet considered the recommendation it had received from the State Electricity Commission.

It is on record, of course, that Dr. O'Brien recommended the escarpment route first, to be followed by a second line, preferably parallel to the first. Unfortunately, this timing and method would not have been acceptable in the technical sense, as one row of towers, even strung on both sides, would only be equivalent, electrically, to one line and as such would not provide the necessary security. Similarly, two rows of towers in the one clearing would expose both lines to the risk of simultaneous outage from bushfires, as mentioned before.

These incompatibilities were recognised by Dr. O'Brien's Minister who, after discussion, agreed with the commission's recommendation and Cabinet's confirmation of it. It must also be realised that, apart from a technical disability, the proposal by Dr. O'Brien would have been more costly.

The concern expressed by the member for Darling Range on behalf of the Guildford Grammar School could be shared by all having regard for preservation of features of aesthetic and historic value, if

these features were in danger. It is submitted that this is not the case. The line will be an appreciable distance from the school chapel and the existing buildings. It will cross at a position where the flood plains approach almost to the road. The plans submitted to the commission by the school architects indicate playing fields and ornamental lakes in the vicinity of the line which closely follows the route recommended by the architects.

We met the Swan-Guildford Shire representatives, the ratepayers, and the representatives of the S.E.C. on one occasion and it was suggested by the shire that we look at an alternative route; one that would cross the Great Eastern Highway, the railway line, and deviate a little further to the east in order to allow the Guildford Grammar School to have a greater area.

Mr. Nalder: They suggested an alternative route?

Mr. May: Yes, this was suggested by the Swan-Guildford Shire.

Mr. Thompson: It was not suggested by the Guildford Grammar School.

Mr. MAY: No, the Guildford Grammar School suggested a further alternative route which was further east where it would cross another residential area and would go past the Governor Stirling High School, with a pylon located just outside the historic Woodbridge home. This was the third alternative route suggested by the Guildford Grammar School which, incidentally, would still have passed through the school grounds.

This route was not acceptable to the Government, because it meant demolishing homes in which elderly people have lived all their lives. The Government would have been obliged to demolish those homes or resume the land for the purpose of putting the line through. The second alternative route suggested by the Swan-Guildford Shire was to cross the railway line practically at the same point as the proposed route, but instead of going across the low-lying land it would have been deviated slightly to the east. In the opinion of the Swan-Guildford Shire this was a good compromise and I said that if we could reach agreement with the Guildford Grammar School we would be prepared, as a Government, to deviate the power lines as suggested. The shire representatives had a meeting with the representatives of the Guildford Grammar School and all of those who attended that meeting said that as far as they were concerned they were quite happy that the State Electricity Commission had bent over backwards to please the Guildford Grammar School, and that this alternative was the only one that was satisfactory.

We had numerous discussions with them and they still feel that we have gone as far as we can go in trying to please everybody.

Mr. Lewis: Still keeping clear of the school?

Mr. MAY: Yes, and also keeping clear of the historic Woodbridge home. Only 5 per cent. of the 180 acres which comprise the Guildford Grammar School would be affected by the easement of this line.

Mr. Thompson: Are you aware of any houses anywhere on the route which will be demolished?

Mr. MAY: Whenever possible we will resume houses like those in the Armadale-Kelmscott-Gosnells area. One particular house we have resumed will be used as an office and construction area until the line is completed.

Mr. Thompson: The point is that some people are to have their homes demolished. Their age does not matter.

Mr. MAY: But not in a concentrated area. The Guildford district is a concentrated built-up area.

Mr. Thompson: The thing is that some people are being put out.

Mr. MAY: Is it not a far better proposition for the line to go through an area in which no-one will be affected at all? The route will not affect Guildford people at all.

Mr. Thompson: It has been stated that it will.

Mr. MAY: It has been said that the line will interfere with the flying of kites and toy aeroplanes. If the honourable member considers the Leeuwin training centre he will realise the power lines there go right over the top of the football ground and the dormitories and the previous Government told those concerned at Leeuwin that if they were worried at all during the following 12 months to two years the matter would be reconsidered.

Mr. Gayfer: Are kites flown outside this House?

Mr. MAY: I can assure members that they have been over this particular issue!

The line will not adversely affect the use of the land for the purposes the school has in mind and in support of this I have already mentioned the playing fields at Leeuwin which are crossed by a high voltage transmission line on towers, and for which full concurrence of the Commonwealth and naval authorities was forthcoming.

I cannot understand the honourable member's reference to the division of the school by Great Eastern Highway. Presumably the school authorities chose to build on both sides of the highway in the knowledge of any disability which it would present.

Mr. Thompson: I wish the member for Swan was here now.

Mr. MAY: Certainly the transmission line will not divide the school physically and there will be no restriction of activity, traffic, or movement of people under or along the line. Buildings for accommodation of people would not be permitted underneath for a limited distance each side of the centre line, but minor unoccupied buildings such as greenhouses and the like would be permitted.

I have commented earlier on the relevance and weight of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's preference that Guildford Grammar School be avoided, and it should now be pointed out that its plans supporting its foothills route proposal do not give any alternative and show the line passing through the school grounds as proposed by the commission.

The honourable member can be assured that the commission has sought strenuously to find an alternative to crossing the Guildford Grammar School grounds, but could do this only by purchase and demolition of a considerable number of houses. The rail reserve from Bellevue to Swan View was also examined and found unsuitable. There has been no lack of application to this problem by the commission's engineers.

The honourable member mentioned the proposed power station north of the city and asks for this to be taken into consideration. Surely he saw sufficient of the commission's computerised load flow and other studies when he visited the commission's office by invitation so that these things could be explained, to realise that such consideration is fundamental to the commission's planning. It is a reflection on the commission and its staff to imply that these matters would not be given the fullest attention and I can only hope that he did not have that intention.

Mr. Thompson: Could I say that when I went down to see the commission's officers I was convinced that a number of things I believed were entirely wrong. From then I dropped my opinion that lines of 132kV would do the job. In no way do I reflect on the ability of the engineers of the commission.

Mr. MAY: The honourable member's opinions in this technical matter are in the nature of an intrusion into an area in which he is not competent to speak; and I accept the explanation he has just given.

The Government will develop a northern power station when it is necessary and, more importantly, when there is an adequate supply of suitable fuel at the right price. Such a station would not reduce in any way the need for the lines under discussion.

The honourable member then referred to supposed individual engineers' viewpoints that one line of towers strung on both sides would not be all that impracticable. I do not know what these rather qualified viewpoints mean. For simplicity I will state the official viewpoint which has the weight of acceptance of responsibility behind it.

One row of towers strung on one side as one line would not provide the duplication necessary for security. One row of towers strung on both sides as two lines is considered electrically only as secure as one line from lightning, bushfires, and other risks.

Two rows of towers strung on one or both sides and in the same clearing are considered as two separate lines in respect of lightning risk, but as one line in respect of risk of outage caused by bushfires. Two rows of towers in two routes strung on one or both sides as required by capacity, provide maximum security from all risks.

I regret that the time of this House has been taken up with this long comment on the member for Darling Range's motion, but it has been necessary to dispose of point by point as raised.

In conclusion, I would like to say we are endeavouring to be flexible about the route this transmission line will follow. At present, from the southern terminal we are up to the Armadale area and we are having talks with the Armadale-Kelmscott-Gosnells people with a view to resolving some problems there. From the northern terminal the survey is approximately to the Guildford Grammar School and it is essential that the survey teams get on with the work as quickly as possible to ensure the lines are completed by 1975.

It is a difficult project involving \$20,000,000, and if any further delays occur the costs will be increased, and we would certainly be unable to get the lines through on time.

Concerning the power lines themselves, I have been overseas and interstate, and only yesterday I was speaking to the member for Northam who indicated what he saw when he was in Germany and the United Kingdom. It is unfortunate that these lines are everywhere at present. I do not say it is right.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! There is too much talking.

Mr. MAY: However, it is not technically or economically possible to put them underground at this stage. Obviously this will come eventually. We are fortunate in Western Australia that we have very few power lines traversing our countryside, and I sincerely trust that this line from the southern terminal through Armadale-

Kelmscott-Gosnells, along the foothills to the northern terminal, will cater for the situation for many years to come.

Mr. Thompson: Will you acknowledge that after I went to see the commission's officers following the announcement of the first decision, I did not enter into any public debate or controversy until the decision was announced by you? That was a fact.

Mr. MAY: I am not aware of it, but I will not refute what the honourable member says. However, I will say one thing: During the whole time I have been engaged in this matter, I have not received a single deputation from the member for Darling Range.

Mr. Thompson: I presented one to the previous Minister.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Moiler.

LAND AGENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 12th April.

MR. T. D. EVANS (Kalgoorlie—Attorney-General) [11.39 a.m.]: This Bill was introduced by the member for Vasse. Before dealing specifically with the measure I feel it is desirable to mention that the principal Act, which was No. 9 of 1922, was last reprinted in 1964. When one looks at the amendments which have been effected since 1964, and one seeks and reasonably succeeds in writing them into the last reprint, one can well imagine the legislation appears as if it has been somewhat mangled in a washing machine. I give an undertaking to the House that after determination has been made on this measure the Act will again be reprinted. I am sure it will then be in a more easily readable form for those who have recourse to it.

On the surface this Act, perhaps, would not have a great deal of public appeal. However, it is one of extreme importance because public policy is concerned so much with the operation of the Act and the philosophy within its provisions.

One of the principal objects of an Act of this type is to improve the standard of qualifications of land agents. Hence, since 1964 steps have been taken to preserve the interests of the public and to ensure that standards of land agents, so far as qualifications are concerned, are clearly defined and, indeed, maintained.

Any proposed amendments which are presented to Parliament for consideration should be viewed with care and examined to ensure that they meet the philosophy behind this Act. If such proposed amendments are found to be contrary to the policy of the Act then I am sure they will be rejected by Parliament.

The member for Vasse, in introducing this Bill, has highlighted a case which, I understand, concerns one individual person. A provision in the Act appears to be inflexible, or is lacking in sufficient flexibility to meet the situation which exists in the case discovered by the honourable member.

It is true that Parliament does not always look kindly upon legislation which is brought forward to serve the interests of one individual person even though it may be said that whilst in the instant case only one individual is suffering from an apparent inadequacy, it could well be that others are affected and it becomes a question of determining the issue on its merits rather than looking at it in relation to a particular individual.

Having said that, I have come to the conclusion that I could not recommend to the Government the support of the Bill in its present form. Whilst it could well be that there was some merit in the case of the individual the member for Vasse has in mind, it is the view of the committee which administers this Act that the proposed amendment, in the form presented to this Chamber, could react against the philosophy of the Statute and make it possible for persons less worthy to seek and obtain registration as land agents.

However, I am pleased to be able to indicate that the member for Vasse has given notice of a proposed amendment to his Bill. The amendment will, in effect, eliminate the nature of the original measure and convert it into something of a different type. In other words, if I could be forgiven for using the expression, it will become a horse of a different colour.

I indicate I am prepared to support the Bill at the second reading stage, but let it be clearly understood that my support is to enable the member for Vasse to move his proposed amendment. I would not like it to be considered that by supporting the Bill at the second reading stage I am supporting the provisions which now appear in the Bill.

I do not feel it is incumbent upon me to explain the effect of the proposed amendment. I am sure the member for Vasse will do that and I am sure he will do it adequately. For that reason I content myself by indicating that the Government will support the second reading of the Bill for the reasons outlined.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [11.46 a.m.]: May I say I am delighted to hear the statement made by the Attorney-General. He has taken a most reasonable attitude to the amendment put forward by the member for Vasse, and as a consequence the Bill will at least pass in this House. If it is also passed in another place it will rectify a glaring anomaly which exists in the present legislation.

Mr. Hartrey: Hear, hear!

Mr. GRAYDEN: The member for Vasse introduced this Bill mainly because of the situation in which a firm in his electorate found itself. The firm of Killerby's has been in business for 57 years and it has been responsible for a tremendous amount of real estate business. In actual fact, approximately 40 per cent. of its business is in real estate. Anyone who has observed the advertisements in *The West Australian*, in respect of country real estate, would have seen that Killerby's is responsible for a huge proportion of the advertisements which are inserted.

The firm was placed in the position where one of its employees, who was registered as a land agent, died. Under the provisions of the Act the firm could not continue to operate and that was an extraordinary situation. Killerby's has been in existence for 57 years but was placed in the position of not being able to operate simply because one individual who held the license died.

The member for Vasse has introduced this Bill to overcome that situation which does not apply merely to the firm mentioned. I understand it also applies to 14 or 15 other firms of which we are aware and which are affected in exactly the same way.

When this Bill was first suggested by the member for Vasse, a person in my electorate came to me and pointed out that he was in partnership with his father. He had been working in the business for several years and was actually taking a course to qualify as an estate agent. He said that if his father died it would mean he would simply go out of business because the Act made no provision for an occurrence of that kind. Very shortly after that representation to me the father did die.

I understand the man is married and has children, and he also has a home. He was in partnership with his father who held the license, but the father died. Is that man to go out of business simply because there is no provision in the Act for such a situation? Under the Act as it stands he would have to go out of business.

In those circumstances I welcome the Bill which has been introduced by the member for Vasse. The amendment foreshadowed, which appears on the notice paper, will cover the situation I have mentioned. The Minister will be able to make a decision on such a situation and will be able to direct that licenses be issued to individuals.

The letter I received from Mr. O'Neil, the individual I mentioned, was to this effect—

I am in partnership with my father, who is the licensee on behalf of the partnership, and at present if anything should happen to him, I am left without a license to operate, even

though I have worked with him for the last six years and in partnership for the last 2½ years. With the proposed amendment it is to cover companies only and not partnerships. At present I am studying for the necessary qualifications, but I want something that will give me the security until I can obtain the qualifications. Therefore, I would like to see the word partnerships appear in the proposed amendments.

The member for Vasse has now indicated that he wishes to amend the Bill. The amendment he proposes is all-embracing and will cover a situation such as that described in the letter I have quoted.

It has been suggested that if the person who holds the license dies the firm can employ someone to "dummy" for it. I think that is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. "Dumming" takes place in respect of builders, and I do not think this is the solution to the problem. If a partnership or firm brings in another person in these circumstances, that person becomes acquainted with all sorts of confidential information, and he can then leave the firm and take that information away with him. I support the Bill and I am sure it will overcome the anomalies to which reference has been made.

MR. MENSAROS (Floreat) [11.52 a.m.]: I am glad the Attorney-General indicated that the Government supported this proposed amendment. I agree with him that there may be cause for some misgivings about legislation which refers to one individual case. Even so, there has previously been such legislation, and I think this Bill should be considered on its merits. This legislation will not apply to one individual case only, although it might have been initiated for that reason. As the member for South Perth said, there have been many such cases, and indeed one came to my notice about the time this legislation was introduced.

A licensed estate agent lost his license simply because the renewal notice did not reach him. These licenses are renewed in the same way as driving licenses are renewed. A notice is sent out and one returns it with the requisite fee. In the case about which I am speaking, through some mishap the renewal notice did not reach the person concerned. He was prepared to make a statutory declaration that no person in his office had received such a renewal notice. There is no onus on the court to send out a renewal notice, and this person therefore lost his license. He wished to license salesmen in his office and when he asked for a license for that purpose it turned out that he was not licensed and had worked for a year without a license. Perhaps it may be said there was a degree of negligence in not attending to

the matter properly, but if renewal notices were sent out as a matter of routine people would not have to make notes in their diaries.

I understand the proposed amendment will apply not only to firms which have individuals acting for them but also to individual people, and that it will give the Minister discretion to decide whether or not the case has merit.

The Attorney-General is not here to advise me but I believe the amendment will apply retrospectively. In the case I mentioned the license was lost more than a year ago. The person concerned applied for another license but his application was refused because, according to the Statute, he could not be granted another one. If this Bill is passed, I hope the Attorney-General will give consideration to this case. I cannot see why such a person as I mentioned should not be able to apply for another license.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [11.56 a.m.]: I wish to support the Bill. The Attorney-General said the member for Vasse was moving this amendment to cover a particular case. I would like to advise the Attorney-General that I have been surprised at the number of cases to which this amendment will apply, where the position could be very serious if the person holding the license died. I rise simply to say the Bill does not cover one particular case and I regard it as a worth-while amendment.

MR. BLAIKIE (Vasse) [11.57 a.m.]: I thank those members who have taken part in the debate on my Bill to amend the Land Agents Act, and I thank the Attorney-General for his comments and his indication of support for my amendment in the Committee stage.

Quite frankly, six or eight months ago I knew very little about the Land Agents Act. I agree with the Attorney-General that it is a very sloppy and loose Act and I was pleased to hear him say that in the next session of Parliament it would be amended. I have found many other glaring anomalies in the Act.

I think it is essential to realise why the Act was formulated in the first instance. I believe it was intended to provide a safeguard for the public, protection for the real estate industry, and some form of ethical code for the industry. We all know that the industry has gone a long way and, by and large, it has done a reasonable job.

My amendment was certainly brought forward because of an individual case which occurred in my electorate. The company concerned was Killerby's of Busseton. The holder of the license died on the 8th June last year, and at the time of his death the company found itself unable to obtain a license under the Act as it existed.

The Bill amends section 4(2b) (iii) of the Principal Act, which states—

a company declared by the Minister on the recommendation of the Committee to be a company in relation to which this subsection applies.

There was an avenue for the Land Agents Supervisory Committee of Australia to grant a license to the company concerned to continue its operations. However, subsequent appeals made to that committee were not successful, and eventually an appeal was made to the Attorney-General. I will not read out the letter written to me by the Attorney-General on behalf of Killerby's on the 21st September; suffice to say that in the last line of his letter he said that there is no action he can take to assist.

I feel a miscarriage of the basic intention of the Act has occurred. I would mention that Killerby's has operated since 1915. As far as I can ascertain from the research I have undertaken the company has been a member of the Real Estate Institute since 1941, and in checking through the records of the institute I could find no instance of any person or persons discrediting or questioning the ability or professional conduct of the company. I believe that a company which has operated for that period without any complaints against it has a tremendous record of which it may be justifiably proud.

I was confronted with the situation of one of my constituents having a problem which could not be overcome, and the only solution was to seek permission of the House to introduce this Bill. I realise that it is a dangerous practice to have legislation introduced by private members; however, since the Bill has been before the House I have been approached on numerous occasions by firms which have said that the Act does not cater for their problems. I have no doubt that other members have also been approached in this regard. For this reason I propose to move an amendment during the Committee stage.

I would like to thank the member for South Perth for the contribution he made and the assistance he has given me. I also thank the member for Floreat and the member for Narrogin. With those few words I thank the House and ask members to support the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. A. R. Tonkin) in the Chair; Mr. Blaikie in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Section 4 amended—

Mr. BLAIKIE: I seek the indulgence of the Committee, because it is my intention to ask members to vote against the clause

as printed as I intend to move to have the proposal in my name on the notice paper inserted in its place. I also seek the indulgence of the Attorney-General. As a result of the late stage at which this measure is being debated, and realising that time is limited, I would ask the Attorney-General to request the Legislative Council to debate the Bill today. I appreciate this may be difficult; however, if the Bill is not introduced into the Legislative Council today it may be held over until August.

Mr. T. D. EVANS: This Bill has already passed the other House of the Legislature.

Mr. Williams: No, it was introduced here by the member for Vasse.

Mr. T. D. EVANS: In that event I would agree with the member for Vasse that the Committee should vote against clause 2. I will undertake to have the proposed amendment moved in another place.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr. A. R. Tonkin): I think we are wasting too much time. I understand the member for Vasse has suggested to the Committee that it vote against this clause. I suggest that is not what he wants. I am being lenient in this regard.

Mr. T. D. EVANS: In the light of your remarks, Mr. Deputy Chairman, I would recommend to the Committee that it vote for the clause as printed. The amendment will then be made in another place.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Blaikie, and transmitted to the Council.

COCKBURN SOUND DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan: Motion

Debate resumed, from the 19th April, on the following motion by Mr. Rushton:—

That in the opinion of this House, in view of the evidence given to the Commonwealth Standing Committee on public works at the recent public hearings in Perth about the Navy's plans for Garden Island, the obvious advanced stage of the Navy's research work and the magnitude of the project, and the anticipated early Commonwealth decisions following the Committee's report, there should be a top level study—with independent specialist consultants if need be—to produce a master plan for the integrated development of Cockburn Sound and all of the shire council areas immediately involved, especially as estimates

of at least \$150 million of Fremantle Port Authority installations alone are in contemplation.

In considering this plan, it is important to have regard for the fact that the future of some of the towns and particularly Rockingham is at the crossroads. Therefore this master plan needs to have regard to such things as:—

- (a) the future of towns like Rockingham which involve close association with developments in Cockburn Sound;
- (b) Point Peron reserve;
- (c) the future of beaches;
- (d) the future of Kwinana Beach and township;
- (e) provision for industry generally;
- (f) Fremantle Port Authority installations including container and LASH ship berths;
- (g) Naval facilities;
- (h) provision for a major commercial dry dock, ship survey, building and repair facilities jointly with or independent of Navy facilities; and
- (i) transport facilities.

MR. TAYLOR (Cockburn—Minister for Labour) [12.09 p.m.]: This motion normally would have been replied to by the Minister for Development and Decentralisation, who had prepared an answer. However, as a result of the timetabling and the fact that the motion has come before the House on the last day of this part of the session when that Minister is required to be elsewhere, he has asked me to comment in reply to the member for Dale.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! There is too much talking.

Mr. Fletcher: Hear, hear!

Mr. **TAYLOR**: The honourable member in his motion calls for a top level study to produce a master plan for the integrated development of Cockburn Sound and the associated local authority areas involved in view of the evidence given to the Commonwealth Standing Committee on Public Works.

He introduces his speech by paying acknowledgment to the Leader of the Opposition (Sir David Brand) for being the catalyst which induced BP to establish an oil refinery at Kwinana and thus to set off the large industrial complex that exists there at the present time. To set the record straight, the honourable member should perhaps be reminded that the BP agreement of 1953 was initiated and

brought to fulfilment by the Labor Government under the premiership of The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke. Likewise the B.H.P. agreement of 1955 which established the iron and steel industry in Western Australia was also initiated by the same Labor Government. Thereafter the comments by the member for Dale are remarkable for a number of other oversights.

Although, in speaking to his motion, the honourable member referred to the existence of a 1972 report and recommendation by the interdepartmental committee for the development of Cockburn Sound and Kwinana, for the most part he overlooks the contents of that report and bases his remarks on the 1962 report by the same committee, the 1966 report on development of the outer harbour by the Fremantle Port Authority, and a publicity booklet on Kwinana distributed by the Department of Development and Decentralisation. In fact, the 1972 study is a top level study at the highest standard of professional competence available in Western Australia.

The interdepartmental committee, then known as the Premier's committee for the development of Cockburn Sound and Kwinana, and now called the Cockburn Sound and Kwinana Development Committee, consists of—

Town Planning Commissioner (Chairman).

Under-Secretary for Works.

General Manager, Fremantle Port Authority.

Surveyor-General.

Deputy Co-ordinator, Department of Development and Decentralisation.

Deputy Under-Treasurer.

Commissioner of Main Roads.

Commissioner of Railways.

Chief Engineer, Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board.

This committee therefore comprises the nine top men employed by the Government in their respective spheres who are able to bring together their specialised ability, experience, and knowledge to seek answers for the emerging problems at Kwinana. The committee was appointed by the previous Government, and the present Government has seen fit to maintain the committee for the same purpose, with the recent addition of the Director of Environmental Protection. Steps have also been taken to ensure that the Commissioner of Public Health is now consulted by the committee on matters where air pollution might be of concern, and the Director of Fisheries and Fauna as regards liquid effluents.

At the time of the 1972 report the Director of Environmental Protection was not a formal member of the committee but the report was referred to this officer by the Government, and his comments were

taken into due consideration by the Government in endorsing the report in question. The administrative procedure now being taken to implement the 20 recommendations made in the report, includes measures to ensure that certain suggestions by the Director of Environmental Protection are not overlooked.

As the situation now stands, the Government has a comprehensive report on the outlines of development for Cockburn Sound and Kwinana. The report does not pretend to solve in detail all the day-to-day problems that will undoubtedly occur, but it does lay down a blueprint for guiding the overall shape of development that is bound to occur in the orderly development of the maritime and industrial resources of the Perth metropolitan region.

The member for Dale suggests that independent specialist consultants should be engaged to review the situation generally. However, no matter whom those may be, it is extremely unlikely that their conclusions on overall policy could be any different from those already expressed, which are based on actual facts of the situation, and firm requirements for the future. As regards more detailed planning at the project level, there can be little doubt that local experts with their years of cumulative experience and long history of inter-departmental co-ordination are better suited to provide working plans at a local level than experts brought in from elsewhere with no local knowledge of the engineering and human problems involved.

The member for Dale clearly states that his action in moving the motion was taken on his own initiative and not on behalf of the local authorities concerned. This can well be believed, as the three local authorities concerned, as well as the Government itself, have already accepted the report in question. It is therefore not quite clear why the honourable member has acted at all, as the proposal which he suggests of outlining a master policy plan for the development of the area has just been completed by a group of professional people who are as top level as it is possible to assemble.

As the honourable member has said, the Kwinana complex is of tremendous importance to Western Australia and this is one reason that the interdepartmental committee of senior officers conducts a continuous examination of existing and proposed development, and from time to time advises the Government of any changes in plan or principle that are considered necessary for the orderly development of the waterfront and associated land areas.

Turning in detail to other parts of the speech by the member for Dale, there are a number of comments which lead to the belief that the honourable member may not be very well informed on both existing and proposed development at Kwinana

generally. His comment as regards the employment of 12,000 people in the steel industry by 1973 is not understood. The agreement entered into with B.H.P. by the previous Government provides for the provision before the 31st December, 1978, of a "mini" steel works only with an output of 330,000 tons of steel a year. At the most optimistic estimate an establishment of this kind might employ 4,000 or 5,000 people.

The member for Dale next refers to Co-operative Bulk Handling where he states that—

... proposals relating to the terminal are under challenge as a result of certain moves that are taking place at this very time.

The nature of the "challenge" is not made clear by the honourable member. Suffice it to say C.B.H. was allocated its present site in the past on the recommendation of the same committee, which made provisions for buffer spaces around the wheat terminal both to the south, east, and north.

This buffer area had a twofold purpose. First bearing in mind that the bulk storage and handling of grain can create a certain amount of dust, it was proposed that the activities of C.B.H. itself should give no offence.

Mr. Gayfer: You realise that C.B.H. has spent a great deal of money on dust prevention.

Mr. TAYLOR: I recall a comment by the honourable member about two years ago when he spoke about the dust nuisance. At the same time, bearing in mind the need to protect C.B.H. from external dust nuisance caused by others, the buffer zone was created sufficiently wide to give that company reasonable protection.

On the north a minimum five-chain reserve was recommended to screen the C.B.H. operations and to provide for access generally.

Mr. Gayfer: You are aware that C.B.H. has planted all the trees and grass there.

Mr. TAYLOR: Indeed, the honourable member has made the interjection and it is on record. The committee still recommends that such a reserve should be maintained and that no industry should be allowed to encroach on it. Even though such industries as develop may wish to use the jetty that will shortly be built to serve C.B.H., it is the intention that communication shall be by tunnel or closed conveyor belt system via the buffer reserve, with industry still keeping its distance from C.B.H.

No industry is yet in sight which could make joint use of the jetty. However, it was the opinion of the committee that in the event of another alumina refinery being established in the vicinity of Perth, shipment of the bulk product from Kwinana

might be called for. In this event the committee was of the opinion that if bulk storage and shipment of alumina from Kwinana should become a fact, then facilities for bulk storage and shipment would for several reasons best be located south towards C.B.H. rather than to the north.

Mr. Gayfer: But you must not put it over the jetty, otherwise you will ruin it.

Mr. TAYLOR: There are complications. It is generally recognised this is the only industry on the site which requires access out of that area.

Mr. Rushton: Would you give me some clarification as to who initiated the BP refinery? You mentioned it was a previous Premier (Mr. Hawke).

Mr. TAYLOR: That was the statement I made.

Mr. Rushton: That is not factual.

Mr. TAYLOR: The honourable member will have the opportunity to reply to my comments.

Mr. Court: To put the record straight, Sir Russell Dumas and Sir David Brand negotiated for the BP refinery—a most remarkable industrial development that triggered off the Kwinana industrial complex.

Mr. TAYLOR: It is a matter of fact that the Labor Government initiated the project and subsequently the Liberal-Country Party Government completed the negotiations. Credit should be given where credit is due. It should be shared, and not all taken by one party.

Mr. Court: We had the same situation then as exists now, where there was a change of Government after projects had been initiated, and they were completed by the incoming Government.

Mr. TAYLOR: To continue with what I was saying, this is not to say that the bulk shipment of alumina or any other product needs be a nuisance.

It is now the practice for the establishment of major industries at Kwinana to be subject to specific agreements, ratified by Parliament, with comprehensive clauses covering all aspects of atmospheric and liquid effluent. This was the case with the proposed Pacminex operation, and will, no doubt, be the case with other large enterprises in the future, wherein until a company can satisfy the Government, on the advice of its air pollution and environmental experts, that no undue nuisance is likely to arise, it is unlikely that the company will be given permission to proceed.

In such case by virtue of the watchdog activities of the Kwinana committee, and in any case by the statutory authority of the Air Pollution Control Council, it is improbable that any industry will be per-

mitted to develop in the environs of C.B.H. which could adversely affect that organisation.

Mr. Gayfer: And by Parliament.

Mr. TAYLOR: Another point which should perhaps be set right is the continuous reference by the member for Dale to a work force of 80,000 in the Kwinana area. The source of the honourable member's statistics is undoubtedly page 3 of an excellent little booklet *Kwinana—Western Australia's Industrial Heart 1971*. However, this estimate of the work force as regards the foreseeable future is unfortunately somewhat overstated.

Mr. Rushton: What about the corridor plan?

Mr. TAYLOR: In 1955 when Professor Stephenson first prepared his plan for the development of the Perth metropolitan region, he predicted an ultimate work force of 54,000 people in the Kwinana industrial complex. Since then, with the advent of mechanisation, the emerging popularity of other industrial areas, and the design realities of the amount of land that will be required for roads, railways and storage, the employment potential of Kwinana has been steadily downgraded. It is now thought that about 50,000 people will be ultimately employed in the area when every acre of land is fully developed.

Mr. Rushton: Are you saying the corridor plan has been changed?

Mr. TAYLOR: The fears and hopes entertained by the honourable member on the urban requirements to meet a work force of 80,000 in the Kwinana area are therefore somewhat overstated.

Mr. Rushton: That has changed in one year.

Mr. TAYLOR: The honourable member also expresses concern at the extent of the dredging and reclamation that will be necessary to create adequate port facilities at Point Peron. The present Government is not unaware of the political unpopularity that this type of activity may induce. The previous Government was faced with the same situation. However, in accepting the 1966 report of the Fremantle Port Authority for the establishment of major shipping facilities on the outer harbour it had to accept the inevitable. The present plan is almost identical in contour with no alternative to dredging and reclamation if the proper shipping needs of Western Australia are to be met.

Mr. Rushton: That is not accurate either.

Mr. TAYLOR: Circumstances have proved that both the last Government and the present Government see eye to eye on this necessity. However, in order that the dredging and reclamation work will impinge as little as possible on the natural environment of Cockburn Sound, the Fremantle Port Authority has commissioned a continuous hydrographic and ecological

survey. The Commonwealth Government is also party to a parallel survey which is closely integrated with State activities.

Most importantly the honourable member misunderstands the position completely as regards the displacement of homes and other established interests at Kwinana beach. Briefly the position is that under present legal zoning codes the whole of the Kwinana beach area is zoned for industry. It was first set aside for industry in 1955 when there were little more than a few shacks in the area. Since then, in spite of industrial zoning, people have built homes despite the inevitable. As things stand at the moment there is nothing to stop a blacksmith's shop being built next to a house or, for that matter, the building of a used car junk yard.

Nor is there anything to stop a stockpile of pig iron for export also being established adjacent to the same house, with all the attendant disabilities of noise, vibration, smoke and traffic congestion.

Mr. Rushton: Would you explain why your figures which were announced to the public on Kwinana Beach Road and the Minister's answer to me differ?

Mr. TAYLOR: May I continue?

Mr. Rushton: I would like an answer.

Mr. TAYLOR: Because the situation is legal the householder is in a difficult situation in selling his property unless it is required by private industry. And now to answer the honourable member's interjection: On the other hand the 1972 plan provides the certainty that all the land in question will finally be taken over by the Government and that the owners will be fully compensated as the time arises.

Mr. Rushton: Would you qualify that? I was referring to compensation.

Mr. TAYLOR: I do not think the earlier remarks I made apply to this point. The Government will take over all the land. The plan recommends that all vacant land be acquired forthwith, either by outright purchase or by way of exchange for other land in a better situation. Owners therefore no longer need fear industrial depreciation and a shrinking market.

The plan also recommends that in cases of immediate hardship existing houses also be taken over by purchase or by negotiation or on an adjustment basis with the State Housing Commission. That is the recommendation made by the committee.

The remainder of the homes will be left in occupation in the sure knowledge that as port industrial requirements expand full compensation will be paid, together with the assistance for finding new premises.

Faced with the alternative of very depressed values by the otherwise uncontrolled legal activities of industry, home owners are definitely better off under the 1972 plan than they would be in other circumstances.

Finally a word with respect to beaches and open space. The 1972 plan is explicit in this respect. As regards the necessary excisions from Point Peron, the report delineates the necessary area in detail. These are identical with those adopted by the previous Government, and are an absolute minimum commensurate with the requirements for road and rail approaches and commercial services to serve a port of international standing.

Mr. Rushton: That is not so.

Mr. TAYLOR: I repeat: As regards the necessary excisions from Point Peron, the report delineates the necessary areas in detail. These are identical with those adopted by the previous Government, and are an absolute minimum commensurate with the requirements for road and rail approaches, and commercial services to serve a port of international standing.

Thereafter the limitations of the encroachment of the port on the Rockingham beach front are spelt out, with port development absolutely precluded from the waterfront or beaches facing any land at present zoned for urban purposes. In fact the western end of the Rockingham beach waterfront land is recommended for yachting activities rather than for port activities, with the port authority actually providing some of the shelter for these activities.

Mr. Rushton: What about the future?

Mr. TAYLOR: Further northward the report precludes any waterfront development in front of any urban land to the absolute limit of Governor Road where existing housing ends. Thereafter between Governor Road and the CSBP fertiliser works, still further to the north, there are a number of recognised beach recreation reserves and "A"-class reserves. These reserves are expressly excluded in the report from industrial usage. The honourable member need therefore have no fears that the integrity of any reserve will be undermined in any way beyond the necessary excision from Point Peron for access, as found equally necessary by the previous Government.

To summarise, it would appear that the honourable member is either unaware of, or has overlooked, the fact that a very great deal of serious planning has already gone into the preparation of a master plan to guide the future development of Cockburn Sound and Kwinana. The committee which was set up by the previous Government for this purpose has carried on under the present Government, and its most recent report was actually commissioned by the last Government. In these circumstances there appears to be little to support the motion for a further outlined study.

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 10th May.

MR. TAYLOR (Cockburn—Minister for Labour) (12.28 p.m.): It appears to be my day. I would like to make some comment on the Bill before us which was introduced in another place and was passed by that House.

The Minister who is responsible for local government legislation—the Minister for Local Government—has indicated to me his views on the matter and I propose to place these before the House.

The Bill before us proposes to amend section 12(6) by deleting most of paragraph (i) which requires that in every case where a municipality seeks to be united with another, or seeks the severance of portion of another district and the annexation of the portion to its district, if the municipalities directly affected are unable to agree on the terms of the amalgamation or severance, the Minister shall refer the question to the commission for its consideration and report. It is also intended to insert in paragraph (k) the requirement that the commission shall consult the municipalities which would be affected by the exercise of the power, before making its report.

It is already provided in paragraph (j) that the commission shall afford each municipality and other persons directly affected by the matter before the commission for consideration the opportunity to be heard thereon, and it is difficult to understand what different result will be achieved by the requirement that the Boundaries Commission shall consult the municipalities as distinct from giving them the opportunity to be heard thereon.

It is proposed to add a new subsection (7) (a) to require that the power shall not be exercised by the Governor as recommended by the Minister for the amalgamation, abolition, or alteration of boundaries of municipal districts as recommended by the commission until the recommendation is laid before each House of Parliament.

Either House of Parliament may pass a resolution rejecting the proposed recommendation. The Minister is precluded from presenting a recommendation to the Governor until it has been laid before either House of Parliament and is subject to rejection or has been rejected.

In the opinion of this department the proposal contained in the Bill is a reflection on the capacity of the Boundaries Commission objectively to arrive at a decision in respect of the matter referred to it. It is already a requirement of subsection (6) that where municipal councils

do not agree to a proposal it must be referred to the commission. The commission recommends to the Minister on the basis of evidence submitted to it and it is still the prerogative of the Minister to determine whether the recommendation is submitted to the Governor.

The honourable member, in submitting the second reading, stated that he disliked the tendency in regard to local government to regard the size of a municipality as a test of its value. It is not proposed to enter into argument as to the merits or demerits of small or large municipalities; suffice it to say that the trend throughout the world is for a reduction of the number of municipal districts. However, it is believed that generalisation on this question is not desirable and that each particular proposal submitted to the Boundaries Commission should be examined in the light of the particular circumstances pertaining to the case.

In the metropolitan area of the Perth region, there are no fewer than 26 municipal districts and in the State of Western Australia there are 140, with over 1,300 councillors involved. It is generally recognised that it is desirable that this number should be reduced and a report of an assessment committee which inquired into aspects of local government in 1968 recommended that the number of councils should be reduced to 89. The proposal contained in the Bill that each recommendation in respect of boundary changes should be submitted to Parliament would have the effect of introducing political antagonism into a subject which is not in reality a basis for a political difference. It could be expected if this amendment were passed that difficulty would be experienced in obtaining the services of persons qualified and willing to act as a member of the Boundaries Commission under such conditions.

In the speech by the honourable member he refers to the act of uniting municipal districts, "merely on the recommendation of the Local Government Boundaries Commission" and implies that such recommendations are not the result of proper investigation and examination. There has never been an instance of such a recommendation having been made by the Boundaries Commission without the municipality concerned having been given the opportunity to present its views on the question. The honourable member referred to a municipality being destroyed by breaking it up and distributing remnants to other local authorities.

There is no question of a destruction of municipal government in any area of Western Australia. The whole of the State is covered and will be covered by municipal government and any changes will be a result of recommendations made with the objective of producing the most viable,

economic, and desirable unit of local government, taking into consideration all relevant factors. Dealing *seriatim* with the proposals contained in clause 2 of the Bill the following comment is submitted:—

Paragraph (a): The proposed deletion of portion of paragraph (i) of subsection (6) is not recommended because this paragraph has in the past ensured that not only the municipalities concerned, but all persons directly affected by a question before the commission have the opportunity to be heard thereon. This section indeed at present gives greater scope for submission to be made to the commission than is proposed in the Bill.

Paragraph (b): The proposed addition to paragraph (k) of subsection (6) that the commission shall consult the municipalities which would be affected by the exercise of the power before making its report is a requirement which is already contained in paragraph (j).

Paragraph (c): This paragraph proposes to amend paragraph (ka) and is consequential upon the proposed new subsection (7).

Paragraph (d): This proposal adds a new subsection (7) requiring the Minister before presenting a recommendation to the Governor in respect of boundaries of municipal districts to lay the recommendation before each House of Parliament and enables either House of Parliament to reject the proposed recommendation within 14 sitting days after the proposed recommendation has been laid before it. The Minister is precluded from presenting a recommendation to the Governor when it has been rejected or is liable to rejection.

As stated earlier, this proposal would make the subject of boundary revision, which most thinking people agree is eminently desirable, the subject of political controversy, and for this reason it is opposed. Should this Bill be passed, it is unlikely that many changes in the present structure of municipal districts in this State will ever take place, however desirable, and the ridiculous situation of having a district as small as .4 of a square mile in area will be perpetuated. I oppose the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. W. A. Manning.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will leave the Chair until 3.00 p.m.

Sitting suspended from 12.35 to 3.00 p.m.

QUESTIONS (26): ON NOTICE

WATER SUPPLIES

Tambellup Town Dam

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is he aware that there is both salt encroachment and prickly poison on the water catchment area for the Tambellup town dam?
- (2) Can he inform me what steps will be taken to combat both these problems?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) There have been no reports of salt encroachments or prickly poison on the water catchment area of the Tambellup dam.
- (2) The matter will be investigated and steps taken to combat both these problems if investigations confirm that they exist.

2. COURTHOUSE AND POLICE STATION

Tambellup

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

What is the present position regarding the construction of a new courthouse and police station at Tambellup—buildings that have been promised for some years?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

Subject to funds being available, construction will commence during 1972-73.

3. SOUTH-EASTERN ROAD

Meekatharra

Mr. COYNE, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Referring to my question 3, 18th April, 1972 on the upgrading and extension of the south eastern road to link up the uranium development at Yeelirrie with Meekatharra, would he indicate if any action has been taken to accede to this request?
- (2) (a) If so, would he give details of this desirable objective and how it will be achieved;
- (b) if (1) is "None" what prospect of assistance to the Meekatharra Shire is envisaged?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) and (2) On the 12th May the Main Roads Department wrote to the Meekatharra Shire Council informing them that their application for road funds was refused.

4. WATER SUPPLIES

Rottnest Island

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What consideration has been given to increasing the water catchment area and the storage capacity on Rottnest Island?
- (2) Would this not be more economical than—
 - (a) building a pipeline from the mainland; or
 - (b) purchasing water from the mainland?

Mr. JAMIESON (for Mr. H. D. Evans) replied:

- (1) The Rottnest Island Board has given the fullest consideration to this question. However, large areas of bitumen situated on the elevated points of the island are considered most unsightly and detract from the environmental aspect. There is already 18 acres of catchment in the Thomson Bay area.
- (2) (a) and (b) Yes, but if the Geordie Bay settlement is proceeded with the area of catchment would need to be doubled, and then further increased with the establishment of other settlement areas on the Island.

5. HOUSING

Redcliffe: Belmont Flats

Mr. BRYCE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) With regard to State Housing premises referred to as the "Belmont flats" in the Copeland Drive area of Redcliffe—
 - (a) how many flats have already been demolished;
 - (b) when is it intended to demolish the remaining flats?
- (2) Does the commission propose to erect high rise flats in this area?
- (3) If not, how does the commission propose to develop the area?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) No flats have been demolished, but 170 removed and re-erected in other areas.
- (2) and (3) As a consequence of a meeting between the Commissioners of the State Housing Commission and Councillors of the Belmont Shire Council a study has been made as to how the area might be redeveloped. This was reviewed by the commissioners at a meeting on 1st June, 1972, and it would appear that it is not an economic proposition to undertake a redevelopment for some

years to come in view of the large contribution of funds which would have to be made to extend sewerage services to the area.

The redevelopment proposal would include medium density accommodation. High rise development is not possible in this area nor was it contemplated because of height restrictions imposed by proximity to the airport.

6. STAMP DUTY ON RECEIPTS

Refunds and Relinquishments

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) How many applications have been lodged for refund of receipt tax?
- (2) What is the total sum involved?
- (3) How many persons have relinquished their claim to a refund?
- (4) (a) What is the total sum relinquished;
 - (b) is this money now to be made available for charitable purposes;
 - (c) how is this charitable purposes fund to be administered in the matter of allocations?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) 9,570 applications were received by 5 p.m. on 31st May, 1972.
- (2) This will not be known until all claims have been checked and processed.
- (3) Nine persons have notified their relinquishment of their claims but it is known that there are others with legitimate claims which have not been lodged.
- (4) (a) This will not be known until the claims have been checked.
 - (b) Not at present.
 - (c) By means of trustees to be appointed.

7. ALUMINA REFINERY AT PINJARRA

Second Unit

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) Is he in a position to give any indication as to when the establishment of the second unit at the Pinjarra Alumina Refinery can be expected?
- (2) What is the overall situation as regards the production and sale of alumina from Western Australia?

Mr. MAY (for Mr. Graham) replied:

- (1) Expansion of the refinery will depend on the international marketing position for alumina. At this stage no firm date for commissioning of the second unit can be given.

- (2) Currently two refineries are in operation with a total capacity of 1.67 million tons a year. Expansion of production to in excess of eight million tons per annum from the widespread resources in Western Australia is envisaged by companies with agreements or negotiating agreements with the State. The timing of installation of increased or new capacity must depend on the international marketing situation.

8. WATER SUPPLIES

Dwellingup

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What steps are being undertaken to overcome the ever-increasing water shortage in Dwellingup?
- (2) Is it considered that Dwellingup will have an increased water supply for next summer?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Action is in course to acquire land on which is located an additional source of water.
- (2) Provided land acquisition is finalised.

9. FISHING

Oyster Industry

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) What research has been done into the production of commercial oysters in Western Australia?
- (2) Does he consider that an oyster industry in Western Australia could become a viable proposition?

Mr. BICKERTON (for Mr. Davies) replied:

- (1) Not by the department. However several private companies are undertaking tests with a view to commercial productions. The department is giving assistance where appropriate.
- (2) Tentatively yes, the success of rearing Western Australian oysters will depend upon obtaining regular spat falls. To date this has not been achieved.

10. ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATIONS

Prevention

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Does he support the Commissioner of Police's recently published concern for unofficial demonstrations?
- (2) Will the police take steps to prevent future unofficial demonstration marches be they organised by

the moratorium movement, the Trades and Labor Council or anybody else?

- (3) How does he or the police intend to prevent possible loss of life as was experienced recently by the obstruction of an ambulance by one of these demonstration marches?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, when they are unlawful.
- (3) By attendance in sufficient numbers by the Police, who, I am confident, will use the same firmness, restraint and commonsense in controlling the situation as they did on the occasion referred to.

11. PRISONS

Draft Resister: Release

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

Who has the jurisdiction to release a draft resister from gaol to address a demonstration or for any other purpose in conflict with his incarceration?

Mr. MAY replied:

The Chief Secretary.

12. EDUCATION

School Bus Services

Mr. LEWIS, to the Minister for Education:

Since the beginning of 1971—

- (a) how many contract school bus services have been terminated because of insufficient number of children;
- (b) how many of the services as in (a) have been converted to subsidised services;
- (c) in how many services has a smaller bus been required of the contractor because of reduced numbers?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (a) 8.
- (b) 3 converted to subsidised services.
3 amalgamated with other routes.
2 ceased entirely.
- (c) On present numbers, it is estimated that in 74 services a smaller bus would be more appropriate. When buses on these services are due for replacement smaller buses may be substituted.

13. SHOPPING HOURS

Extension

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) In view of the importance of the tourist industry to the State, what assistance other than through the Tourist Development Authority does the Government provide to the local authorities of country holiday resorts?
- (2) Does he consider that more flexible shopping hours particularly at weekends and holidays would prove a tourist attraction to some of our coastal holiday resorts?
- (3) Is he aware that Queensland and the Northern Territory have successfully adopted staggered shopping hours for a number of years?
- (4) Will he give some consideration to adopting the same policy in Western Australia, and, if not why not?

Mr. MAY (for Mr. Taylor) replied:

- (1) Government departments co-operate with local authorities throughout Western Australia in the planning, design and construction of services, facilities and amenities of benefit to tourism.
- (2) No. It is expected that a tourist resort would depend on attractions of more intrinsic value than extended trading hours. Exempted shops such as restaurants, cafes, delicatessens and other providers of immediate needs for tourists are already allowed to trade without restrictions.
- (3) Shopping hours in Queensland are fixed by the Full Bench of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission and are related to particular areas mentioned in various orders. I am not aware of the trading hours applying in the Northern Territory, but in the north of Western Australia, shops are exempted from controlled trading hours.
- (4) Policy is dictated by local conditions which are constantly under review by the Retail Trade Advisory and Control Committee established under the Factories and Shops Act. Applications for extended trading hours to meet special conditions or for celebrations are regularly being submitted to the committee.

14. KWINANA-BALGA POWER LINE

Route: Armadale-Kelmscott District

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Have the shires of Armadale-Kelmscott and Gosnells now indicated to him their decision on his amended proposals presented to them at a recent joint deputation to discuss the 330kV transmission route between the shires?
- (2) Will he advise me of any points of difference now remaining?
- (3) Will he now assure me the dual 330kV transmission route through Armadale and Kelmscott will be sited on the Allen Road alignment?
- (4) For the peace of mind of residents will he let me have a copy of the now proposed and accepted route plan for installation of the power lines on the boundary of the two shires?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) Yes, both shires have written giving their decisions. For the information of the member the letter from the Armadale-Kelmscott Shire was received today.
- (2) Points of difference now remaining between the Shires of Armadale-Kelmscott and Gosnells are: The Shire of Gosnells has agreed with the proposal tabled at the discussion.
The Shire of Armadale-Kelmscott does not agree and requests that the lines be displaced in a north-westerly direction with the pylons located in the Allen Road Reserve.
- (3) The dual route in the section under discussion will be sited generally in accordance with the proposal tabled at the meeting, and the variation suggested by the Shire of Armadale-Kelmscott is being investigated.
- (4) A further plan will not be available until agreement is reached.

15. GERALDTON MEAT EXPORTS

Cattle from Midland

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it a fact that Geraldton Meat Exports have to purchase cattle from Midland to maintain their production?
- (2) Has this been the usual practice for this company since its inception?

- (3) Is this abattoir receiving sufficient sheep numbers from the immediate area to maintain basic tallies?

(4) If not, has this been the case since the company commenced operations?

(5) From what areas are sheep proposed to supplement local supplies?

Mr. JAMIESON (for Mr. H. D. Evans) replied:

(1) The Geraldton Meat Exports management state that this is not so. The only cattle required from Midland this year were to meet the quality demands of the domestic market in Geraldton when local supplies due to seasonal conditions were not forthcoming.

(2) No.

(3) Seasonal conditions between April-July make it difficult to obtain sufficient numbers of sheep of the desired quality for slaughter. This is the case this season. Otherwise local supplies are sufficient to maintain basic tallies.

(4) Yes. It is a seasonal factor common to most years and most abattoirs in this State.

(5) The company is looking for sheep to supplement local supplies during this period, (April-July, 1972) from the pastoral areas to the north and east of Geraldton.

16. ALUMINA REFINERY

Alwest: Establishment

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

(1) What stage have negotiations reached between Alwest and the Government?

(2) Has it yet been decided where the company will establish its proposed refinery; if so, where?

(3) If not, when is a decision likely to be made?

Mr. MAY (for Mr. Graham) replied:

(1) Negotiations between the Government and the company have progressed to the stage where the company is now re-examining its estimates in the light of the market situation, and proceeding with discussions with potential participants.

(2) No decision has been made on the siting of the refinery.

(3) I am hopeful that a decision will be made shortly.

17.

HOUSING

Withers Park: Report

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Housing:

(1) Has a report been received from the study group which he appointed earlier this year to inquire into the costs, etc., of State Housing Commission housing in Withers Park, Bunbury?

(2) If so, what are the recommendations or comments of the group, and would he table a copy of their report?

(3) If not, when does he expect this study to be completed, and would he provide me with a copy of same when available?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

(1) No.

(2) and (3) I am currently writing to the member on this matter.

18.

MOTIONS

Seconding

Mr. COURT, to the Speaker:

Would he be prepared to convene a meeting of the Standing Orders Committee to consider the general question of the seconding of motions with a view to providing that Mr. Speaker call for a second and thus avoid the misunderstandings and unsatisfactory situations that have developed on at least two occasions over the last 12 months?

The SPEAKER replied:

A meeting of the Standing Orders Committee will be convened in the near future for the consideration of other matters previously raised.

This matter will then be raised and the Standing Orders amended if the committee so decides and the House so desires.

The misunderstanding and unsatisfactory situation referred to is as a result of lack of knowledge by members of the requirements of the Standing Orders and in the failure of members generally to call the Speaker when rising to speak.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Could I seek your advice on this, Mr. Speaker? The statement you have made may be treated largely as a ruling, and I think some points need to be clarified. I think this clarification should appear in the record in conjunction with the reply you have just given.

I would like to seek some way of dealing with this matter so that the House may be quite clear

regarding the situation which has arisen. I think the only way I can do that is to move to disagree with your ruling, and then after one or two members have spoken, withdraw my motion.

Mr. T. D. Evans: This is question time.

The SPEAKER: Order! I gave an answer to a question, and not a ruling. I was asked a question as to whether I would refer the matter to the Standing Orders Committee, and I answered that question.

19. TOURISM

Asian Visitors

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Does he consider that Asian tourists could be an important feature of the Western Australian tourist industry?
- (2) What action has been taken to attract Asian tourists to Western Australia?
- (3) To what extent is Western Australia being visited by Asian tourists?

Mr. MAY (for Mr. Taylor) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Promotional activity designed to attract Asian tourists to Western Australia has been intensified during the past twelve months.

In June, 1971, the Director of the Tourist Development Authority participated in the first Australian travel trade mission to Japan. This was the first assessment of the Japanese tourist potential by the authority and information and experience gained on that occasion has formed the basis of the authority's future marketing plan in this region.

In October, 1971, the Tourist Development Authority was invited to give a presentation on Western Australia as a tourist destination to the Pacific Area Travel Association in Hong Kong. A 75 minute audio-visual presentation was presented to 130 members of the Hong Kong travel industry.

The director also visited Thailand and Singapore and had discussions with all sections of the travel industry in those countries.

In February last year with the director, I attended the Pacific Area Travel Association annual conference, and discussed the tourist potential of Western Australia with a very wide section of the travel industry of Asia. Valuable contacts were developed that

will assist us greatly in our future promotional programmes in this region.

Next Tuesday, the director of the authority leaves for Japan to participate in a series of travel trade seminars to be held in six of the major cities being conducted in association with the tourist departments of South Australia and the Northern Territory with the co-operation of the Australian Tourist Commission and Cathay Pacific Airways.

Audio-visual presentations will be made in Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Hiroshima, Kagoshima and Kobe and will feature the tourist attractions of Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Special promotional literature has been printed in Japanese to support this programme and a copy of the latest authority brochure printed in Japanese will be tabled.

- (3) Asian visitors to Western Australia in 1970 totalled 4,939. This figure is 11% of the total Asian tourist traffic to Australia and, apart from New South Wales is the highest percentage of any other State.

Details of Asian visitors for 1970 by country of origin are:—

Japan	487
Hong Kong	511
Malaysia/Singapore ..	2,523
Ceylon, India, Pakistan	515
Philippines	51
Thailand	191
Other ..	661
Total	4,939

The papers were tabled.

20. TOURISM

Loans to Hotels

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) The 1971 report of the Tourist Development Authority states that loans totalling \$431,000 had been made to six hotels for accommodation improvements. In which towns are these hotels situated?
- (2) How many applications were made for financial assistance to improve hotel or motel accommodation?
- (3) Are guest houses or similar forms of accommodation eligible for Tourist Development Authority assistance?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr. MAY (for Mr. Taylor) replied:

- (1) Busselton, Eucla, Margaret River, Northam, Ravensthorpe and Roebourne.
- (2) Twelve.
- (3) No.
- (4) The Tourist Act, 1959-1970, provides for loans for the improvement of hotel accommodation but the provisions do not apply to guest houses or similar establishments.

21. HIGH SCHOOLS

Swan Electorate

Mr. MOILER, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the research and planning branch of his department further considered the advisability of developing a high school on the Education Department land bounded by Morrison, Weld, Salisbury and Marlboro Roads, Swan View?
- (2) Has the research and planning branch of his department considered the advisability of developing a high school in any location east of Governor Stirling and west of Eastern Hills High School?
- (3) Has the upgrading of the Kalamunda high school to a senior high school status reduced the total number of students at present attending Governor Stirling Senior High School to a number below that which attended Governor Stirling in 1971?
- (4) How many students resident at Swanleigh Hostel attend—
 - (a) Hampton High School;
 - (b) Governor Stirling Senior High School?
- (5) What was the total enrolment for Governor Stirling Senior High School for the years 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971?
- (6) What is the present enrolment for Governor Stirling Senior High School?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No, but a reduction is predicted for 1973.
- (4) (a) 330.
(b) Nil.
- (5) Enrolments as at February—

1968	1,436.
1969	1,453.
1970	1,435.
1971	1,509.
- (6) 1,549 at February, 1972.

22. FRUIT-FLY CONTROL

Conference

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Does he intend calling a conference of all interested parties on methods to be used, control and responsibility of the future control of fruit fly in Western Australia?

Mr. JAMIESON (for Mr. H. D. Evans) replied:

Consideration is now being given to the effect of the defeat of the legislation designed to facilitate community schemes and these considerations will include any appropriate discussions.

23. HOSPITAL

Dalwallinu

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Health:

As plans have been prepared for the building of a new hospital at Dalwallinu to serve a very large area, will he advise—

- (a) what priority has been given to this project;
- (b) when it is anticipated that tenders will be called;
- (c) the anticipated completion period after letting the contract?

Mr. BICKERTON (for Mr. Davies) replied:

- (a) It has a very high priority.
- (b) As soon as funds are available. A decision must await the approved loan allocation for 1972-73, usually determined in August.
- (c) Approximately 15 months.

24. COCKBURN SOUND

Port Developments

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Will he please explain and equate the difference between the announced timetable for the Fremantle Port Authority development for Cockburn Sound based on the recently tabled Premier's committee report and the Town Planning Department official's reported statement in *The West Australian* of 20th May that the Kwinana Beach housing area would probably not be needed for industrial use for about 15 years?
- (2) Does this mean the area south of Office Road will be used for stockpile and port authority development purposes before the homes are purchased?

- (3) What part does the Fremantle Port Authority expect to take in acquiring the residences and vacant blocks in the area recommended in the report to be zoned for port facilities?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) The report in *The West Australian* of 20th May was abridged. What was said by a representative of the Town Planning Department was that up to 15 years could be envisaged before the houses were acquired unless there was some prior demand for shipping which at this point in time could not be specified.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) This has not yet been determined in detail. A conference is scheduled for 3rd July, 1972 between all of the responsible departments concerned to evolve policy for implementation of the question of land acquisition and other matters included in the report tabled recently in Parliament—Rationalisation of Waterfront Development, Cockburn Sound.

25. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS: MOTOR VEHICLES

Minister for Mines

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many motor vehicles are operated by each department under his control?
- (2) What is the type and make of these vehicles in each department?
- (3) Will he detail—
- (a) the method of purchase of motor vehicles since 30th April, 1971, whether by—
- (i) tender;
- (ii) lease; or
- (iii) any other means;
- (b) the total cost; and
- (c) the number of vehicles involved,
- for each department?

Mr. MAY replied:

This information is still being compiled, and on completion will be forwarded to the member for Vasse.

26. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS: MOTOR VEHICLES

Minister for Works

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) How many motor vehicles are operated by each department under his control?

- (2) What is the type and make of these vehicles in each department?
- (3) Will he detail—
- (a) the method of purchase of motor vehicles since 30th April, 1971, whether by—
- (i) tender;
- (ii) lease; or
- (iii) any other means;
- (b) the total cost; and
- (c) the number of vehicles involved,
- for each department?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

I seek permission to table the answer.

The reply was tabled.

QUESTIONS (12): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. ABATTOIRS

Trades and Labor Council and Farmers: Negotiations

Mr. COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) What is the latest position in negotiations between the Government and U.F.G.A.-T.L.C. about the \$23,000,000 abattoir project?
- (2) If studies by the Department of Development and Decentralisation are not complete, when will they be completed?
- (3) (a) Do negotiations still cover Boyup Brook, Geraldton, and Northam as abattoir location?
- (b) If not, what are the locations currently under consideration?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

In reply to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, or should I add *pro tempore*—

- (1) Talks are still being held.
- (2) Studies have been completed.
- (3) (a) Yes.
- (b) Answered by (a).

2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Director: Absence from State

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Acting Minister for Environmental Protection:

- (1) Is the Director of the Environmental Protection Authority (Dr. Brian O'Brien) at present overseas?
- (2) How long will he be away?
- (3) Where has he gone and for what reason?
- (4) Is some other person acting as director and, if so, who is that person?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 1st June, 1972, to 28th June, 1972, inclusive.
- (3) To Stockholm as a member of the Australian delegation to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.
- (4) No, but the Environmental Protection Authority is still active and is meeting regularly.

3. ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE

Clerical Assistance

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has there been any assessment made by his department in relation to the need for increased clerical assistance to secondary schools in connection with the system of Achievement Certificates?
- (2) Would he consider increasing the number of clerical assistants in secondary schools—
 - (a) generally;
 - (b) in connection with the present system of Achievement Certificates;
 - (c) in connection with an anticipated extension of Achievement Certificates to 4th and 5th years?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) and (b) This matter is constantly under review and increases are made when necessary.
- (c) This will be considered at the appropriate time.

4. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Rockingham-Kwinana Area

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

Adverting to my question 5 on the 14th September, 1971, regarding employment in the Rockingham and Kwinana Shires, when he assured me "there is no lack of initiatives and action directed towards increasing the Brant Government's achievements"—

- (1) Will he advise me the initiatives taken, and the resulting achievements in attracting and establishing labour-intensive industries in these shires, and the increased employment in these areas since the 1st March, 1971?

- (2) Apart from the urgent health needs for the Rockingham-Kwinana hospital, will the Government give this project top priority and immediate approval to alleviate the unemployment in these local areas for building tradesmen and workmen?

Mr. MAY (for Mr. Graham) replied:

- (1) The Government has mounted an active campaign to attract industry to the Rockingham-Kwinana area. The principal initiatives taken have been—

Acceleration of the development of new light industrial areas at Dixon Road, Rockingham, and the Kwinana small industries subdivision at the junction of Rockingham Road and Mandurah Road, where the first factory was recently completed and will open shortly.

Acquisition and planning of a site for a major abattoir complex at Baldavis. Negotiations are proceeding for the allocation of land for the construction of the first abattoir.

Negotiations with and assistance to tenderers for the construction of a large marine drilling rig for deep sea drilling off the north-west coastal shelf. The Government has indicated its willingness to assist in a number of ways, including a construction site for the successful tenderer.

Continued negotiations with clothing manufacturers for the establishment of factories to employ women. Two factories are now in production and, between them, employing about 55 persons.

- (2) The honourable member was informed, in reply to his question 26 to the Minister for Health on the 30th May, of the latest position in regard to the decision to construct the Rockingham-Kwinana hospital. Even if this project is given top priority, it is unlikely that planning could be completed and tenders called for before January, which means that very little construction could be carried out in the 1972-73 financial year. It is not looked upon as a means of alleviating the immediate unemployment situation.

5. ABATTOIRS

*Trades and Labor Council and Farmers:
Method of Finance*

Mr. COURT, to the Attorney-General:

- (1) Has he or departments under his portfolios made any studies or inquiries about U.F.G.A. incorporation and the U.F.G.A.-T.L.C. methods of seeking to raise funds and conduct operations for a major abattoirs project since he last answered questions from me on this subject?
- (2) If not, why have not studies been made in view of the nature of previous questions?
- (3) Is he satisfied U.F.G.A. is properly incorporated and carrying on within the terms of the appropriate Statutes?
- (4) Is he satisfied U.F.G.A.-T.L.C. are seeking to raise funds for the abattoirs project within the terms of the appropriate Statutes?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

In answer to the question from one who is destined for higher things as a member of the Opposition—

- (1) A certificate of the Attorney-General that the United Farmers & Graziers' Association is an institution to which the facilities given by the Associations Incorporated Act should be extended was issued on the 22nd May, 1972, to enable incorporation to proceed.

No inquiries have been made into the methods of seeking to raise money and conduct operations.

- (2) It has not been considered necessary to conduct any inquiries. Information has been received that all persons who have subscribed in the terms of the "prospectus" have been admitted as members of U.F.G.A. and the moneys have been paid to that body.
- (3) U.F.G.A. is not incorporated, but the necessary certificate to enable incorporation has been granted by me.
- (4) I am unaware of any statutory breach committed by U.F.G.A. in the raising of funds.

6. ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Services, and Financial Assistance
Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Premier:

- (1) How many ambulances are operated in Western Australia by the St. John Ambulance Association, both road and air?
- (2) Has the Government been approached by the association for financial assistance, and, if so, from which areas of the State?
- (3) What has been the amount of assistance granted to—
 - (a) road, and
 - (b) air ambulance services in each year since 1970?
- (4) In order to maintain the necessary high standard of emergency service and care of acutely ill persons, does the Government intend to make any additional financial assistance available to the St. John Ambulance Association, and would he give details of such assistance?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) 191 road ambulances. Where necessary, aircraft of the Royal Flying Doctor Service are used to transport patients.
- (2) Government financial assistance to the St. John Ambulance Association is channelled through its headquarters and is not paid directed to subcentres. An annual application is made by the association for this assistance.
- (3) Amounts paid to the association in recent years are—

1969-70	\$194,344
1970-71	\$246,222
1971-72	\$257,054 to date.
- (4) An application by the association for additional aid in this current financial year is currently under consideration.

7.

HOUSING

Redcliffe: Belmont Flats

Mr. BRYCE, to the Minister for Housing:

Further to question 5 in my name on today's notice paper, since the Minister has drawn a very fine line of demarcation between "demolish" and "remove" would he inform me when it is intended to remove the remaining flats, referred to as the Belmont Flats?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

I will supply the information to the honourable member in writing.

8. SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Second Part of Session: Commencement

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Premier:

Perhaps I should not be asking a question without notice on the last day I occupy this seat but I feel quite sure the Premier would not mind replying to me.

Firstly, when will the session resume; and, secondly, is there any substance in the rumour that there might be another short session between now and August?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

I would be delighted to oblige the Leader of the Opposition with an answer to his question. However, I am a little surprised that a man of his experience should be considering a rumour.

Sir David Brand: My experience is that one should!

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I can say quite definitely that is not the intention of the Government to call Parliament together earlier than the first week in August. I believe the actual date, without making it firm, will be the 1st August because that happens to be a Tuesday.

Sir David Brand: And my birthday.

9. PRISONS

Gary Cook: Tuition Fees.

Mr. COURT, to the Premier:

The Minister for Labour informed me yesterday that he would supply some information regarding Gary Cook. I am wondering if in his absence, the information has been made available to one of his colleagues?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

I regret I have to advise the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that I had no knowledge of this undertaking, and I have no knowledge of any arrangements which might have been made.

10. ABATTOIRS

*Trades and Labor Council and Farmers:
Geraldton*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Premier:

In view of the fact that the Geraldton Meat Export Works have periodic problems with regard to the supply of a sufficient number of sheep for slaughtering, does the Government still believe that a T.L.C.-U.F.G.A. abattoir for sheep is a proposition worthy of investigation for that area?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

Obviously, the question is one which should be directed to the Minister for Agriculture. I shall refer the question to him and ask that a reply in writing be supplied to the honourable member.

11. NAVAL BASE AT COCKBURN SOUND

Housing for Personnel

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Housing:

Adverting to my question 31 on the 1st June—

- (1) Does his refusal to agree to the Navy homes being built at Rockingham, as preferred by the Navy Department, mean he, his Government, and the commission, put temporary material gain ahead of the Navy personnel's comfort, convenience, and economy?
- (2) Will he please explain what justification there is for not readily agreeing to obviate the necessity for Navy personnel travelling an extra 14 miles to and from work, as against the commission's temporary material gain?
- (3) Does this lack of consideration for the Navy personnel and their families imply he and the commission consider these people are second-rate citizens to be pushed around?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Negotiations are taking place between the State and the Commonwealth to clarify this matter.
- (3) Certainly not.

12.

MOTIONS

Seconding

Mr. W. A. MANNING, to the Speaker: You will realise, Mr. Speaker, that it is impossible to give any notice of this question, and still less possible to put it on the notice paper. I trust you will accept it.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: Not unless the member for Narrogin is in a hurry.

The SPEAKER: I would remind the member for Narrogin that questions to the Speaker are to be on subjects relating to administration.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: That is correct, but I will not have an opportunity to put my question on a notice paper.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: As an ex-Chairman of Committees the honourable member should know better than that.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: My first question is: If a motion which requires a seconder has not been seconded, is it properly before the House?

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: What do you think?

The SPEAKER: The Standing Orders are only a guide to the Speaker. The House makes the final decisions.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: If such a motion is not properly before the House why was debate on my motion for a Select Committee allowed to commence by calling on the Attorney-General who was permitted to complete his speech?

The SPEAKER: This is a matter for Standing Orders; it is not a matter for question time.

Sitting suspended from 3.40 to 4.30 p.m.

MOTOR VEHICLE (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council with an amendment.

Council's Amendment: In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. A. R. Tonkin) in the Chair; Mr. T. D. Evans (Attorney-General) in charge of the Bill.

The amendment made by the Council was as follows:—

Clause 9, page 6, line 19—Delete subclause (c) and substitute a new subclause as follows:—

(c) by deleting the passage "before the Tribunal," in lines one and two of subsection (3) and substituting the passage "making a claim for damages, in respect of the death of or bodily injury to a person caused by or arising out of the use of a motor vehicle against the owner or driver of the vehicle or against the Trust which proceedings have been entered for trial".

Mr. T. D. EVANS: This amendment is, in essence, the same amendment proposed by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition when the Bill was under consideration here. Having regard for the circumstances prevailing at the time, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition refrained from pressing this amendment as I gave an undertaking the Government would be prepared to accept it in another place. I therefore move—

That the amendment made by the Council be agreed to.

Mr. COURT: I thank the Attorney-General for his remarks. For the sake of the record, I wonder whether he would comment regarding the additional words which have been added in another place. As I understand it the amendment discussed in this Chamber did not include the words "which proceedings have been entered for trial." I gather that they have been included to avoid a situation where there is a matter in argument with the trust and which has not been entered for trial but someone is trying to cause the production of the certificates prematurely. Am I correct?

Mr. T. D. EVANS: Yes.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Report

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

BILLS (4): RETURNED

1. District Court of Western Australia Act Amendment Bill.
2. Iron Ore (Hamersley Range) Agreement Act Amendment Bill.
3. Iron Ore (Wittenoom) Agreement Bill.
4. Iron Ore (Mount Bruce) Agreement Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

Sitting suspended from 4.40 to 5.55 p.m.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

Council's Amendments: In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. A. R. Tonkin) in the Chair; Mr. Jamieson (Minister for Water Supplies) in charge of the Bill.

The amendments made by the Council were as follows:—

No. 1.

Clause 6, page 3, line 13—Add after the word "sustained" the passage "or within such further period as the Minister may allow".

No. 2.

Clause 7, page 4, lines 1 to 4—Delete subsection (3) of proposed new section 57E and substitute the following—

(3) (a) Before presenting a recommendation to the Governor pursuant to the provisions of this

section the Board shall cause the proposed recommendation to be laid before each House of Parliament.

(b) Either House of Parliament may pass a resolution rejecting the proposed recommendation, of which resolution notice has been given within fourteen sitting days of such House after the proposed recommendation has been laid before it, whether or not the fourteen days or some of them occur in the same session of Parliament or during the same Parliament as that in which the proposed recommendation is laid before the House.

(c) The Board shall not present to the Governor a recommendation pursuant to the provisions of this section which—

- (i) has not been laid before each House of Parliament;
- (ii) is before either House of Parliament and is subject to rejection; or
- (iii) has been rejected.

Mr. JAMIESON: I move—

That amendment No. 1 made by the Council be agreed to.

When the Bill left this House a time was specified during which an appeal could be made to the Minister. However, it is thought that this specific time might be restrictive in certain circumstances. The amendment made by the Council does not seem unreasonable and I suggest that it be accepted.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Mr. JAMIESON: I move—

That amendment No. 2 made by the Council be agreed to.

This amendment is somewhat different from the previous one. We dealt at some length with this matter which relates to the laying on the Table of the House recommendations which are to be made to the Governor.

The Legislative Council considers that the proposals should be approved by, or run the gauntlet of, both Chambers before they are submitted to the Governor. I see no great difficulty with this provision although there could be occasions when it would be necessary to proclaim an area because of pollution.

I would like to add that even after I have rehashed the unfortunate statement which appeared in *The Sunday Times* some time ago, members in another place are still quoting it as a basis for their cases.

Once a statement is made, it does not matter how or where it is denied or who denies it; it is always accepted that the

original statement was more correct than the denial. That having been the case, and to placate those who think action might be taken to the detriment of the public, it is felt by the other place that this is a greater safeguard.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Report

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

IRON ORE (RHODES RIDGE) AGREEMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Message

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the further amendment made by the Assembly to the Council's amendment.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Retirement of Sir David Brand

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [6.03 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, in view of the time, I was wondering whether you would permit me to make a few remarks on the occasion of the pending retirement of the Leader of the Opposition. I had intended to do this when I moved the motion for the adjournment but, looking at the clock, that will be extremely difficult, and I wanted, if possible, to avoid bringing members back after the tea suspension.

The SPEAKER: Permission is granted.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I personally regret that the health of the Leader of the Opposition has been such as to bring about what is obviously a premature retirement from the responsible position he holds.

I remember when Sir David first came into the Parliament. I have very good reason to remember it because the previous member for Greenough was a man named Newton who was away in the Air Force, and it was owing to Newton's vote, cast in England, that I received my first ministerial appointment. Unfortunately, Newton was killed and was never able to take his seat. Sir David came in as the member for Greenough.

I have watched Sir David's career since he has been in the House. I have always had a fondness for him for some reason or another. Perhaps I cannot say why;

nevertheless it is a fact. Doubtless it is due to the personal qualities he possesses. With the exception of one occasion—to which I do not intend to make any further reference—we have always been on the friendliest terms.

In his play *As You Like It*, Shakespeare said—

All the world's a stage,

And all the men and women merely players:

They have their exits and their entrances;

And one man in his time plays many parts . . .

That is very true. Sir David has played many parts in his time, and, I would say, all with credit to himself and satisfaction to those whom he has served.

He was not long in the position of Leader of the Opposition—a mere two years, I think. Previously he had been addressing himself to responsibilities as a Minister, and he was subsequently elevated to the position of leader of his party in Government. He has filled that position with credit to himself and, doubtless, with satisfaction to his party; otherwise he would never have retained the position for such a long period.

During his time as Premier the State made unprecedented growth. It was exciting for anyone to be the head of the Government in such circumstances and at such a time. People who saw Perth 10 or 12 years ago and who have come back since can scarcely recognise the skyline. That is indicative of the State's expansion and growth, and it must have been a tremendous satisfaction to Sir David and his Ministers and supporters to have been in the positions they held during the time of such buoyancy and growth.

Having had a record term of office, Sir David has made a niche for himself in history and one of which the members of his family and his friends will be proud. So he lays down the cares of office. There are cares attached to the job as Leader of the Opposition—and I speak from experience—just as there are cares attached to being the Premier of the State.

Sir David takes with him in his retirement from this job the goodwill and appreciation of very many people for the way in which he has conducted himself as Premier of the State and Leader of the Opposition. I know I express the wish of everybody when I say I hope his health will improve and that he will be long spared to enjoy the fruits of his labour and the plaudits of those who have been associated with him.

[Applause.]

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [6.08 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, for us this is something of a sad occasion because our leader, who has our absolute affection, regard, and trust, has decided to retire from this position. If I may, I would like to record in this Chamber a few comments on behalf of my colleagues. We will, of course, be saying something of a more personal nature at a function we have arranged, as would be expected, but there are some matters directly related to the work and career of Sir David Brand which I believe should be recorded here.

Australia is a young and developing country—a fairly rugged country. It is quite different from the old world. I believe in the short history of Australia we have thrown up some quite remarkable men. The most remarkable thing about them is that they have often been men of very humble beginnings who have not had the benefit of a higher academic education. But they have had the great virtues of wisdom and common sense which are so important in the development of a young country. In times of war and peace, Australia, and Western Australia particularly, has thrown up some very fine men.

Sir David Brand has been one of the finest of these men. I speak as one who has worked in partnership with him for a long period in Opposition, in Government, and now in Opposition again.

I have dealt with many people in the business world, in the industrial world, in the commercial world, and in the financial world; but I have never found anyone with a better capacity than Sir David has to grasp a situation, whether it be human, industrial, or regarding a matter of development. I have never met anyone who could grasp a situation as quickly and as effectively as he can. Probably I have seen more of this side of him than most. I think it is fair enough to record in this place that on the occasions when I have found it necessary to go to him with schemes—at times only ideas and sometimes only “dreams”—I have found that he is one of the few people who is able to absorb the concept and express a balanced view. The most remarkable thing is that he is able to retain the details of the proposal to a degree of which he is probably not conscious.

In a more facetious vein, I would say that if I went along to him and discussed a scheme with him and then returned six months later with a slight variation of the same scheme he would say, “When you discussed that with me on that Sunday afternoon some time ago I thought it was a little different.” He always put it in a gentle yet firm way and let me know that it was not quite what we discussed in

the first place. Sir David's Ministers appreciated that great attribute, probably without his being aware of it.

Sir David has served his country with great distinction in times of war as well as in times of peace. He is a man who has had the unique experience—which I believe is vital in a young, developing country—of starting from the beginning; he has a humble rural background, and also a mining background—and members will appreciate that he undertook some of the physically hard work involved in mining. He served as a private soldier and as an N.C.O. during the war, which is about the most levelling experience I am aware of—apart from being a member of Parliament.

Subsequently Sir David accepted the responsibility of being a parliamentarian. He was, of course, unique in Australia because he was the first man elected to Parliament as a member of the Liberal Party as reconstituted under Sir Robert Menzies.

I would like to say that we have a tremendous affection and regard for him. We have learned to understand his great capacity and to appreciate his tolerance and patience. I think all those who have been members of a coalition know that a leader is required who understands the problems, not only of the individual but of the respective constituent parts of the coalition.

I want Sir David to know that his colleagues on this side of the House appreciate all that he has done. Naturally we regret that his health has not permitted him to carry on; that is the only factor which has made it necessary for him to retire. Certainly he is not retiring through any lack of affection, support, trust, or confidence on our part.

Sir David has a natural wisdom not given to many people. This is something quite different from the high degree of education some people have. I believe wisdom is something very few people have to the same degree as our leader. Therefore, we are delighted that the Premier has seen fit to speak as he did about Sir David, and we thank him for doing so because he has again emphasised in our minds the fact that our leader is a great man who has left his imprint on this Parliament and on the State. He has conducted himself with dignity in every task he has undertaken.

I would be remiss if I did not refer to the debt that we, and the State, owe to Lady Brand. She has been remarkable in the example she has set. When we were the Ministry she set a remarkable example for the wives of Cabinet Ministers and other women of the State. It has been my privilege to travel a great deal in the course of my ministerial duties, and everywhere I went where Sir David and Lady Brand had been I heard nothing

but enthusiastic praise of them, whether it be in New York, London, on the Continent, or in Japan. Somehow or other they always managed to leave behind an impression of what real Western Australians look like, and how they think and act. I think this is to their tremendous credit and it was certainly a great advantage to the State.

So we would like to record our appreciation and our debt of gratitude to Sir David and Lady Brand for what they have done not only in the parliamentary sphere in this State, but for the State itself and the whole of Australia. We wish them well. We know that Sir David now has a lesser burden than he has had in the past—and in the past he has had a great burden because he always takes life and the problems of other people very seriously indeed. We hope that relieved of some of his burdens he will make a quick recovery and live a long life doing things which are interesting and rewarding to him and Lady Brand.

[Applause.]

MR. NALDER (Katanning) [6.16 p.m.]: I would like to add my remarks to those already made by the Premier and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and to say that it is with very great regret we learned that Sir David feels it necessary to retire from the responsible positions of Leader of the Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition.

Sir David has had a long and distinguished career in politics. He ranks third amongst the members of this Parliament in the number of years he has served the State, coming after the Premier and the Deputy Premier. After his election to Parliament he spent a couple of years as a private member, and then was appointed party whip. It was not long before he became a Minister in the McLarty-Watts Government. He was elected as Leader of the Opposition in 1957, and in 1959 became the Premier of the State.

Many people have questioned me about the secret of the success of his leadership. I could sum it up in this manner: I think he has the touch of the common man. He has always been prepared to come down to earth whenever he is approached by any person. I believe this is the secret of success which has caused Sir David to be held in the highest regard by the people of this State and of the Commonwealth.

During my nine years as Deputy Premier I had the opportunity to get to know Dave as a friend. I found him to be a man who is approachable at any time. On many occasions I found it necessary to phone him at awkward hours of the day and night, and he was always prepared to discuss matters which required immediate attention.

Having been Acting Premier for nearly twelve months during those nine years, I have learned to appreciate the responsibility Sir David held as Premier of this State. I understand how he was required to deal with so many important matters which came his way on so many occasions.

I think another reason for Sir David's success is the fact that he is always prepared to listen to everyone's point of view. I know that members of the present Government would appreciate the problems of Government. They would know that when matters are taken to Cabinet it is necessary to discuss them and make a decision; then perhaps it is necessary to have further discussions and to make further decisions, and so on. Sir David was always prepared to listen attentively and patiently to the contribution of every member. Very rarely during that period did Sir David tell the Cabinet that he would take over and make his own decision. Mind you, Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions when this did occur, it was the best thing that could have happened. Very rarely did Sir David say, "Leave it to me; I will handle it." Sir David has referred to one or two of those occasions himself.

When the previous Government came to office in 1959 it held the reins of Government for the long period of 12 years. It was during that period that Sir David made a very wonderful contribution to the rapid development that took place and is taking place in Western Australia. This development has been mentioned and emphasised by the Premier, and I appreciate his remarks in this regard.

Sir David has made history in being the longest serving Premier to hold that position in Western Australia. We in the Country Party have been very proud, indeed, to be associated with him during all that period. On behalf of the members of the Country Party and the many people throughout the State whom we represent, I join with the Premier, and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, in wishing Sir David and Lady Brand good health and many long years of relaxation and enjoyment in whatever interests they may choose to pursue in the future.

SIR DAVID BRAND (Greenough—Leader of the Opposition) [6.22 p.m.]: Firstly I would like to express my thanks for the gracious words which the Premier has just uttered in regard to myself. In the same way I extend my gratitude to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and to the Leader of the Country Party for their kind words. One cannot help but reflect very seriously on what has been said.

I suppose that on such important occasions one's mind goes back to certain incidents and certain periods of one's life. On this occasion my mind goes back to

the days when I squatted on an upturned bucket to milk a cow in a very dilapidated shed. I did that because it was necessary for us to produce milk and to sell the milk in Mullewa in order that we might buy food. I do not say that with any emotion, but I want to emphasise to those who have said so many kind words about me how humble I feel.

As I have often said to Cabinet members, and no doubt the Ministers of the present Cabinet have heard the same statement, we are just 12 ordinary people from all over the State and from many walks of life who have been elected to Cabinet and given the full responsibility to govern the State.

This is a great State with a wonderful future. It will only remain great if we believe in its future and in the vast opportunities that lie ahead. It will remain great if we are prepared to work and to produce in order that we may be able to enjoy a better way of life. We must recognise ourselves as part of a team that must produce something out of this country, be we unionists or millionaires. We have to produce more and more before we are entitled to ask for more and more.

It is important that in Australia, in Britain, and, in fact, in all democratic countries of the world the people do not make excessive demands, or turn the world into chaos through demanding more and more from the world than is possible to produce. I hope that in Australia in particular there will be an acceptance or a recognition of this axiom: that if we go on demanding and striking for more, it will only end up in a very unfortunate situation for those who can least afford and are least able to stand it.

We are all made differently. I have a certain philosophy; I do not know from where I got it, but it was probably born in me. I think I have just expressed it. How I became the Premier I will never know. Often I had to pinch myself to make me appreciate that I was sitting in the chair of the Premier and the Leader of this House.

I have already said how grateful I am to the Premier and to everyone in this State for their kind expressions. I want them all to know I am very grateful for all the personal help that has been given to me by all those who were in a position to give it. I step down with no ill feeling. I am a little sad at so doing, but nevertheless I recognised the time had come for me to make a decision to step down.

I want to express my gratitude for the knighthood that has been bestowed on me. It is an honour which has been bestowed on me for reasons I do not understand; and initially I found it difficult to live up to the status. However, as time went on it became somewhat natural.

I am grateful for the many letters that I received on that occasion. I am also very grateful for all the letters I have received since I announced my retirement. I read the letters, and read them over again. All I can hope is that I will be able to live up to all that has been said of me.

I am not one of those fortunate persons who are born great; I was fortunate to have greatness thrust upon me. Anybody who is placed in such a position should strive to do his best and as soon as he can, without placing a price on his efforts. That is the key to success.

It was my experience to be the Premier of the State over a period in which many eminent men administered local government. I refer to the recently retired Lord Mayor of Perth (Sir Thomas Wardle) and to his successor (Mr. E. H. Lee-Steere); and also to the recently retired Mayor of Fremantle (Sir Frederick Samson). I sincerely regret not having been able to attend his farewell function. I pay tribute to these really great men who all seem to have faith in the State, a great sense of humour and a determination to do what they can while they can.

In this regard I should also mention the past Mayor of Bunbury who took over the reins of local government and set things going in that part of the State. He has since retired. I trust he will continue to play an important part in the community. To all those gentlemen I wish them well in their retirement from local government.

As we are short of time I conclude by expressing my thanks for the kind and generous words that have been uttered about me. All that I can ask is that we continue to be a friendly and happy group of people. I repeat that the future of this State is great and I believe that development will proceed rapidly—whether it be the bringing of water and gas from the north, or the development of nuclear energy for power. I believe all these developments will come.

Let us battle on and try to achieve the great things to which I have referred, and maintain the good fellowship and understanding which I have always experienced. I went to Sunday school, I went to church, and I was a Boy Scout, and I would like to say to one and all that anyone who has had similar experiences would have no regrets at all, no matter how far, in the course of time, he might fall from "grace" or how many mistakes he might make. One should have faith in one's self and others, and I am not preaching a sermon. These are very important matters, and they are material things which we have to do.

We had an election this morning and it is my great pleasure to say to the members of this House that Mr. Charles Court has been elected Leader of the Liberal Party and, presumably, he will be the Leader of the Opposition in due course. The deputy

leader elect is Mr. Des O'Neill. I am sure the House will receive full co-operation from these two men. They are certainly both men of efficiency, determination, and dedication and men who will, in the fullness of time, prove to be equal to those who went before them. I wish them well in the future.

Coming nearer home, I wish to record my deep appreciation of the co-operation, help, and personal interest of the people of the Greenough electorate. Without their support I could never have become Premier of our State—a privilege which so few people have enjoyed.

Once again, I thank members for their generous remarks and kindly references to my wife and to me.

[Applause.]

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier)
[6.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until a date and hour to be fixed by the Speaker.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.44 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 1st August, 1972

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

BILLS (20): ASSENT

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Bill.
2. State Trading Concerns Act Amendment Bill.
3. West Kambalda Railway Bill.
4. Child Welfare Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).
5. Public Trustee Act Amendment Bill.
6. Wood Distillation and Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry Act Amendment Bill.
7. Iron Ore (Goldsworthy-Nimingarra) Agreement Bill.
8. Community Welfare Bill.
9. Stamp Act Amendment Bill.
10. Hospitals Act Amendment Bill.
11. Town Planning and Development Act Amendment Bill.