

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes—18

Mr Barnett	Mr Harman
Mr Bertram	Mr Hartrey
Mr Bryce	Mr Jamieson
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr T. H. Jones
Mr T. J. Burke	Mr May
Mr Carr	Mr McIver
Mr Davies	Mr Skidmore
Mr H. D. Evans	Mr J. T. Tonkin
Mr T. D. Evans	Mr Moller

(Teller)

Noes—24

Mr Blaikie	Mr Mensaros
Mr David Brand	Mr Nanovich
Mr Clarko	Mr O'Connor
Mr Charles Court	Mr Old
Mr Cowan	Mr O'Neill
Mrs Craig	Mr Ridge
Mr Crane	Mr Shalders
Dr Dadour	Mr Sibson
Mr Grewar	Mr Sodeman
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Stephens
Mr Laurance	Mr Watt
Mr McPharlin	Mr Young

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr A. R. Tonkin	Mr Thompson
Mr Fletcher	Mr Rushton
Mr Bateman	Mr Grayden
Mr Taylor	Mr Coyne

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Young.

*House adjourned at 12.29 a.m.
(Wednesday)*

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 19th March, 1975

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

QUESTIONS (16): ON NOTICE

1. ABORIGINES

Royal Commission Report

The Hon. R. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Has the report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Affairs, tabled in Parliament on the 28th August, 1974, been studied by—
 - (a) the Minister;
 - (b) Cabinet?
- (2) If so, has the Government accepted the report as being of benefit to the Aboriginal Community?
- (3) (a) Have all the Commissioner's recommendations been accepted by the Government;
 - (b) if not, why?
- (4) (a) What recommendations have been accepted;

(b) which are they; and

(c) when will they be implemented?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
 - (b) Copies have been studied by individual Ministers.
- (2) The report is considered to be of benefit to the Aboriginal community.
- (3) (a) No.
 - (b) Quite a number are matters for consideration by the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.
- (4) (a) to (c) Health recommendations in the report—
 - (1) This has been done.
 - (2) This could only be decided by statutory medical and nursing authorities.
 - (3) Some of this has been implemented and is continuing.
 - (4) This system has been in existence for quite some time.
 - (5) This is a Commonwealth matter.
 - (6) We have quite a number of Aboriginal Aides and Nursing Assistants, plus at least one Head Orderly employed. Community Health Services employs over 40 Aborigines as Health Workers and the numbers are being increased.

Education.

In regard to the recommendations of the report concerning education the attached information has been supplied by the Education Department which I now table.

The information was tabled (see paper No. 88).

Housing.

The Hon. Member is aware that any variation in Housing proposals from the Federal Government's policy can only be made after recommendations to the Federal Minister.

Policy was discussed between the Minister for Housing, myself and Senator Cavanagh at a meeting in my office last year and approaches are currently being made to Aboriginal communities to ascertain the various types of housing systems they favour.

2.

ABORIGINES*Hostel: Swan District*

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

Further to the request in my Address-in-Reply speech on the 14th August, 1974, concerning the urgent need for a hostel for homeless Aboriginal people in the Swan district, and the written reply from the Minister for Health dated the 28th August, 1974—

- (a) has action been taken to establish such a hostel; and
- (b) if not, when is it anticipated it will be provided?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) No action has been taken to establish a hostel as suggested by the Hon. Member in the speech.

3.

HOUSING*Port Hedland and Country Areas: Rentals*

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Will the rentals of State Housing Commission houses in towns serviced by the Country Areas Water Supply be reduced as a result of any reduction in rates arising from the application of the amended Country Areas Water Supply Act?
- (2) Specifically, in Port Hedland, where the water rate payable on State Housing Commission homes at 7.5 cents in the \$ on annual values would have been in the order of \$58 until the new Act fixed the maximum at \$20, will the rental be reduced by about 70 cents per week?
- (3) If the answers to (1) and (2) are "No", will the Minister consider introducing an incentive scheme whereby tenants can earn a rebate of rental, equivalent to the savings in rate payment, if they maintain a garden which materially improves the living environment of the allotment and the locality, thus transferring the benefit of the altered basis for rating from the Housing Commission landlord to the good tenant?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) No. Rental operations are being conducted at a loss.
- (2) No. Rentals for North-West housing are already the subject of a special subsidy. In respect of Port Hedland the reduction in the water rate has been offset by an increase in local authority rates.

- (3) No. It has been a long standing requirement of the tenancy agreement that tenants of rental homes maintain a reasonable standard of grounds upkeep at their own expense.

4.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT*Assistance to Decentralised Industry*

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) How many applications have been received by the Department of Industrial Development from businesses located in prescribed country areas seeking relief from Pay-roll Tax under the provisions of the Assistance to Decentralized Industry Act, 1974?
- (2) What is the closing date by which applications may be received for relief during the financial year ending the 30th June, 1975?
- (3) During what period will applications be received for consideration for the financial year ending the 30th June, 1976?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) 268. These refer to applications for relief from payroll tax paid during the financial year ended 30th June, 1974. The closing date for applications is 31st March, 1975.
- (2) Applications for relief from payroll tax paid during the financial year ending 30th June, 1975, will be called during the period 1st July, 1975, to 30th September, 1975.
- (3) 1st July, 1976, to 30th September, 1976.

5.

SIR CHARLES GAIRDNER HOSPITAL*Auxiliary Power Supply*

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What arrangements exist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital for the use of emergency power in the event of a power breakdown?
- (2) Is there an auxiliary power plant, and if so, is it capable of performing the services required of it in respect of emergency use during power breakdowns?
- (3) Did the recent power breakdowns occasion any problem at the hospital?
- (4) Were any operations in progress affected by the recent power breakdowns?
- (5) What action has been taken, or is being taken, to overcome any such problems or the possibility of any such problems?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) Reliant on S.E.C. switching to provide alternative power. Hospital has an emergency battery operated system which lights theatres, stair wells and lift lobbies in main building.
- (2) No.
- (3) Problems were encountered requiring manual operation of respirators and monitors. There was inconvenience and operating theatres were closed for the morning.
- (4) No.
- (5) A 3.4 megawatt auxiliary unit is being installed and when operational in three to four weeks, it will provide satisfactory emergency power. In the meantime, a 30 K.V.A. mobile plant has been borrowed from the Public Works Department and it should be installed today. It will provide essential power to all critical areas pending installation of the 3.4 megawatt unit.

6. IMMIGRATION

Citizenship Ceremony: Comments of Minister

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Justice representing the Premier:

- (1) Can the Minister advise whether the Mayor or any other of the Councillors of the City of Stirling, have registered a protest, either verbal or written, to the Premier complaining of the remarks of the Minister for Immigration concerning the Australian Government policies at a Citizenship Ceremony held on Wednesday, the 12th March, 1975?
- (2) If so, is it the intention of the Government to apologise to the City of Stirling for the Minister's remarks?
- (3) Would the Government assure the House that Ministers of the Crown or Government Members will not use ceremonies of this nature as political forums in future?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) The Town Clerk phoned the Premier and said he was doing so at the request of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, to make a report in respect of the remarks alleged to have been made by the Minister for Immigration at a Citizenship Ceremony on Wednesday, 12th March.

- (2) Based on the information given to him by the Town Clerk, the Premier assumed that the report was being made to him purely by way of information. It did not call for any action by the Premier so far as the City of Stirling was concerned. The Premier undertook to discuss the matter with the Minister for Immigration.

The Premier understands that the Minister concerned has written to the Mayor and Councillors, and that no further action is required by the Premier or the Government.

- (3) It is the policy of the Government that occasions such as Citizenship Ceremonies, should not be used as political forums, and I think it is fair to say that this has generally been the position.

Both the Premier and myself would like to be able to feel that the Honourable Member and his A.L.P. colleagues will adopt the same approach in the future because he would be naive to expect us to accept that there have not been occasions when there has been a use of ceremonies of this nature by the A.L.P. as political forums. We will watch their conduct in future with great interest in view of their protestations on this occasion.

7. *This question was postponed.*

8. MINING

Iron Ore: Deepdale and Robe River

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the article published in *The West Australian* on the 23rd February, 1975, indicating that the Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd. was anticipating the development of its Deepdale iron ore deposits on the Robe River, and that a new townsite would be developed at Deepdale to house the work force?
- (2) Do the terms of the Temporary Reserves held by BHP call for the commencement of development work by a particular date?
- (3) Would the Minister please comment on projected mining development along the Robe River?
- (4) What is the distance between Pannawonica and the new townsite as suggested in the newspaper article?

- (5) Will State policy accept the concept of another new small town with its own separate infrastructure, or will it encourage the use by BHP of the town of Pannawonica used by Cliffs Robe River Iron Associates?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. 31st day of December, 1981.
- (3) Feasibility of mining the Deepdale mesas is being studied by Cliffs WA Mining and BHP. An integrated development with Cliffs and BHP is envisaged.
- (4) The new townsite location referred to in the Press has not been defined, as Company proposals for development of the area have not yet been submitted.
- (5) State policy is to encourage the consolidation of existing communities.

9. INDUSTRIAL GASES

Storage Hazards

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

What are the safety standards required to avoid dangerous hazards, in the storage and sale of steel bottled gases?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

There are no mining regulations for the control of storage and sale of steel bottled gases.

10. STATES' SECRETARIAT

Financial Contribution

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Justice representing the Treasurer:

What is the expected contribution by this State in staff and money to the proposed States' Secretariat for—

- (a) this financial year; and
- (b) the 1975-1976 financial year?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

The details of this are currently being assessed in conjunction with the other States involved.

11. ABATTOIRS

North-West: Suspension of Operations

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the Minister read the report in the *Northern Times* of the 13th March, 1975, which commenced "For the first time since it was built, Broome meatworks will not

be opening this year. The announcement was made on March 5 to maintenance staff and those workers who had already returned to Broome for the season. All workers have been retrenched and executive staff transferred . . . ?

- (2) Has the management of Kimberley Meats Pty. Ltd. advised the Government of its intentions in respect of the Broome works?
- (3) Is it known whether Kimberley Meats Pty. Ltd. will kill in Wyndham this season?
- (4) Is it known whether Derby Meat Processing Co. Ltd. will be opening its Derby killing floor this season?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) and (4) It is understood that the abattoirs at Wyndham and Derby will open this season.

12.

LAND

Availability for Agriculture

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Lands:

Is it planned to release land for selection for farming purposes at—

- (a) Forrestania; or
- (b) any other area suitable for farming?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (a) Not in the immediate future. Marginal land east of the rabbit proof fence has been subject to soil classification but has no road access or assured water supply. Government policy (following recommendations by the Cabinet Subcommittee on land release) provides for the release of land where the soil is suitable, rainfall sufficiently reliable and services already existing.
- (b) Assessment of possible areas for agricultural release is continuing; meanwhile available land within recognised agricultural areas is being offered for selection. This policy should encourage provision of amenities and services where these are lacking and takes account of the financial difficulties of the responsible local and other authorities.

13. PRE-PRIMARY CENTRES

Enrolments and Source of Funds

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

- (1) How many children are enrolled in pre-schools affiliated with the Western Australian Pre-school Board?
- (2) (a) Where are pre-primary centres at present operating; and
(b) how many children are enrolled at each centre?
- (3) (a) At what other centres is it proposed to establish pre-primary centres this year; and
(b) what is the date on which each is respectively expected to open?
- (4) What is the source of funds—
(a) which were used to construct each of the centres referred to in (2) (a); and
(b) for recurrent funds incurred in running each of the centres referred to in (2) (a)?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) 14 451 as of August 1974.
- (2) (a) and (b) North Scarborough Junior Primary School (41 children) and Montrose Primary School (100 children).

- (3) (a) and (b) West Busselton Primary School (planned for 28th March).

Southwell Primary School (planned for 24th April).
Greenbushes Primary School (June).

Balingup Primary School (during the second half of 1975).

Consideration is being given to the establishment of pre-primary centres at the following schools. It is not possible to be specific as to dates of opening—

Koondoola
Spearwood
Bentley
Nulsen
North Lake
East Carnarvon
Queens Park
Jarrahdale
Girrawheen
Beaconsfield
Winterfold

- (4) (a) and (b) A special allocation from the State Treasury.

14. STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Staff: Sick Leave

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Electricity, Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is it the policy of the State Electricity Commission to refuse to give to its wages employees information regarding accumulated sick leave entitlement?
- (2) If so, does the same policy apply to salaried officers?
- (3) If the answer to (1) is "Yes" will the Minister advise the reasons why this policy is adopted by the Commission?
- (4) Does any other department under the Minister's control have a similar policy regarding sick leave?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) I am advised by the General Manager, State Electricity Commission that when the request from the employee for information is for a genuine medical need, all possible assistance is given.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) See (1) above.
- (4) Officers are advised of their sick leave entitlements upon request.

15. HYDEN-NORSEMAN ROAD

Upgrading

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Works:

Is there any plan for upgrading the road from Hyden to Norseman now that there appears to be a nickel deposit of great commercial value at Forrestania?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

No, but the position will be reviewed if a major nickel deposit is developed.

16. FIRE BRIGADES

Storage of Petroleum Products

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Education representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What are the requirements in design, construction and safety operations for the storage of oil, fuel, and other petroleum products, for fire protection and firefighting by the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board under the Fire Brigades Act?
- (2) What part does a local authority take when an oil depot installation is being planned?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) The design, construction and safety operations of oil installations are approved by the Chief Inspector of Explosives through the Flammable Liquids Regulations, 1967 of the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act, 1961. The Chief Inspector consults the Brigade's Fire Prevention Department on requirements for water fire service mains, and any other requirements in the particular circumstances pertaining to fire fighting.

The Fire Brigades Act, 1942-1971 does not mention specific risks such as oil depots.

- (2) The Local Authority is required to approve of the location and proposed structures, buildings or tanks in which flammable liquids or oils are intended to be stored, and the practice is for the Local Authority to liaise with the Chief Inspector of Explosives.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Election

On motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), resolved—

That, in accordance with Standing Order No. 34, the following members be elected to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees for the present Session—The Hons. C. E. Griffiths, R. J. L. Williams and L. D. Elliott.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Election

On motion by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), resolved—

That, in accordance with Standing Order No. 37, the following members be elected for the present Session:

- (a) *Standing Orders*.—The Hons. C. E. Griffiths, R. J. L. Williams and L. D. Elliott;
- (b) *Library*.—The Hons. V. J. Ferry and L. D. Elliott;
- (c) *House*.—The Hons. J. Heitman, C. E. Griffiths, D. K. Dans and R. T. Leeson;
- (d) *Printing*.—The Hons. S. J. Dellar and H. W. Gayfer.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Education), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 18th March, on the following motion by the Hon. I. G. Pratt—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency—

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

THE HON. W. R. WITHERS (North) [4.54 p.m.]: Mr President, you and other members will be aware that last week I returned from a world study tour, granted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, for the purpose of studying remote area development to gain ideas to assist development in remote areas and improve the way of life of those who participate in remote area development.

The ideas and impressions gained on that tour have been recorded. I have also written letters to Ministers and departments at both State and Federal levels and to individuals and industry in cases where I thought it necessary that they be acquainted with some of the ideas I picked up during the trip. The complete report will be sent to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (WA Branch), the Government of Western Australia, and the Prime Minister's Department in Canberra.

The formal report will be in six parts, as follows—

- (1) Foreword and summary
- (2) Places visited
- (3) List of letters sent on specific subject matters
- (4) Photostats of letters as per list
- (5) Daily diary
- (6) Presentation in debate to the Legislative Council (*Hansard* extract).

En route to India I stopped off at Singapore and did some research in the Parliamentary Library there. I also had a meeting with the Australian Trade Commissioner. I wish to thank those who assisted me and offered hospitality, specifically Miss L. Tan, of the Singapore Parliamentary Library, and the Australian Trade Commissioner (Mr Ron Shaw) and his family.

In Madras I had many meetings with Government officers and officials of Tamilnadu. I gained an appreciation of the work of the Tamilnadu Government in endeavouring to house and look after the general welfare of the Harijans, who are socially and economically depressed people. The

Tamilnadu Government had some interesting ideas in regard to assistance to industry. It is endeavouring to obtain industry in Tamilnadu and is offering incentives, among which are a two-year tax-free concession for any foreign industry establishing in that State and electricity concessions for new industries in their development period. I think those are good ideas which we could perhaps consider in the future.

I was impressed by the tourist town of Mahabilipuram, which is centred around some very ancient caves and carvings. The Tamilnadu Government has set up a tourist centre at which stonemasons are trained in the old arts, so that people who visit the town can watch the stonemasons at work. In this way a tourist industry has been developed, while at the same time people are being trained in order to retain the old arts. I consider this is a good idea which could be introduced in Australia, and particularly Western Australia, to enable Aborigines to do much the same kind of work in their own art, and I have written to the Minister for Tourism and others asking them to give consideration to such a promotion.

I would like to thank the people who assisted me in Tamilnadu. They are the Secretary of the Parliamentary Association (Mr Thiru M. Shanmugasubramaniam), the Secretary for Government Social Welfare (Mr D. K. Oza), the Secretary for Government Transport (Mr J. S. Vhango), and the Section Officer of the Legislative Assembly (Mr J. Reginald John). I also extend my thanks to Mr Ramchandrar, Secretary for Government Public Works, Mr M. M. Rajendran, Secretary for Government Housing, and Mr N. Krishnamurthy, Secretary for Government Education.

In New Delhi I had a meeting with His Excellency the High Commissioner. When discussing the irrigation project in Kununurra he advised me of a conversation he had had with Dr Mann of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute at Jodhpur in Rajasthan. Dr Mann had made the comment that it took seven to eight years for irrigation projects to become fully utilised, and that possibly this was caused by the effects of land levelling. I suggest this could possibly be one of the causes of the early problems in our irrigation projects.

I would like to thank the High Commissioner, (His Excellency, Mr B. A. Grant) for the assistance he gave to me, and also Dr and Mrs R. T. Shand for their hospitality and assistance.

In Pakistan I was afforded some very good hospitality, and I also saw some things which surprised me. I visited the Crescent sugar mills and particle board factory in Lyallpur, where chip boards and hardboards are being manufactured from bagasse, which is a by-product of

sugar cane. These are excellent products. I have some samples in the House with me, in case any member cares to look at them later on. At the time I thought possibly our State Government could look at the possibility of setting up a hardboard and chip board factory for local consumption in the north if the sugar industry is ever established at the Ord River. The reason I suggest this is that the high cost of housing in the north is due partly to high freight costs as a result of the lack of locally manufactured building materials. If we can establish a building material factory in conjunction with the sugar industry, not only would this afford a greater measure of employment, but also it would possibly lower the cost of housing in the remote areas of the north.

I later visited the University of Agriculture in Lyallpur, where the vice-chancellor advised me that they have 105 people with Ph.D.'s instructing 3 500 students who are carrying out 800 research projects. The vice-chancellor advised me that the university has students from Britain and America, but not one student from Australia has ever made application to attend. I have advised the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Education of this fact by letter and I have suggested that if degrees awarded at that university are recognised in Australia it might be an idea to notify our students of the availability of the university, because it is in the Punjab region and I believe graduates from it could fill a badly needed role and facility; that is, personnel trained in tropical irrigated agriculture.

This university is very close to the Punjab Agricultural Institute, which is in Lyallpur. This is a very interesting institute. It deals not only with sugar cane, but with cotton and other crops. It has 802 varieties of sugar cane, each with 2 000 seedlings for research, and each one of these varieties has taken eight to 10 years to develop. So it might be worth while if we are to set up a sugar industry in the north to look at what has been done by the people at this institute; because if the Commonwealth is going to insist upon the limitations placed upon bringing in sugar cane from Queensland, which allow only two plant growths per variety, it could take up to six years for us to develop sufficient sugar cane to get the industry established. Possibly we will be able to benefit from some of the information the Punjab Agricultural Institute has already gained.

I also had a very interesting talk with the cotton botanist of the same institute. When he began to question me about the varieties grown in Kununurra I told him that we grow Delta Pine 16 and Stoneville 213. He looked puzzled and asked me what is the rainfall in the Kununurra region. I told him it is 29 inches. He then looked even more puzzled and asked,

"Isn't that a monsoonal region?", and I told him it is. He said, "Good heavens, you can't grow those varieties properly because they will be eaten out by insects."

When one considers that at Kununurra we are following because we have been eaten out by insects, it makes one wonder why we have been growing these American upland varieties.

I would like to say that this research establishment has developed a type of seed which is a hirsute variety. It is suggested that we need a hirsute variety of cotton in Kununurra. That variety is type B557. The cotton botanist (Mr Waheed Sultan) said that variety could be made available to Australia, even though the first release to their own farmers will be made in the present growing season. I have made a recommendation to the Minister that we send two cotton botanists to this institute after requesting permission to do so from the Pakistan Government. I have also suggested that they visit the Cotton Research Institute of Multan, where 500 strains of cotton are retained for research. The director of that establishment (Dr Mahbub Ali, M.Sc.), is quite keen to receive visitors or inquiries.

I ascertained in conversation with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agriculture, Lyallpur, and the directors of both institutes, that no approach whatever has been received from the Australian Federal Government or any of our State Governments for information concerning crops grown under irrigated tropical agriculture. This seems strange to me. I have tried to rationalise why our experts have not made an approach. Possibly it is because they have studied cotton returns per acre and found that in the Punjab the return is about 368 pounds of lint cotton per acre. Of course, that is a low return when compared with the return of 600 to 700 pounds of lint cotton per acre our people have been getting. However, if that is the reason why we have not made approaches, then our experts have forgotten or just do not know that the Punjab returns include every 10 feet by 10 feet area of cotton grown in every back yard, whether or not it be under irrigation and whether or not it be fertilised.

When we look at the returns per acre of those people who grow cotton with the use of modern methods in the Punjab, we find their returns are up around 900-plus pounds of lint per acre; and that, of course, exceeds our returns.

So I would hope the Minister will make recommendations to the Cabinet that two cotton researchers go to this area, and also possibly a man who is investigating the sugar industry in Kununurra should be sent to the area for research.

I found also whilst in Pakistan that the Government affords some assistance to industry. I think the assistance given is very good and it allows the Government and investors to set up very large and very modern plants. The Government offers an annual depreciation for taxation purposes on industrial capital of 40 per cent in the first year, 25 per cent in the second year, and 10 per cent in the ensuing years. Whilst in Pakistan I visited an establishment which had been set up under this system. It was a very large textile mill known as the Colony and Sarhad Textile Mills. It has 75 000 spindles and employs 10 000 people. The management has provided a complete town for its employees, including primary and secondary schools, hospitals, clubs, sporting fields, etc.

I would like to thank all those who assisted me and extended hospitality to me while I was in Pakistan. I refer to our Consul-General, (Mr D. K. W. Fagg); Mr Rashid Ahmad Mussarat; Mr Farooq A. Shaikh; Mr Muhmub H. Shah; and Mr Mohammed Afzal. I also wish to thank Mr Mian Baksh Ilihi, the Managing Director of the Crescent sugar mills, and his General Manager (Mr Qurieshy). I extend thanks also to my host in Lyallpur (Mr Aziz A. Shaikh); Dr Israr-ul-hag, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agriculture of Lyallpur; Mr Waheed Sultan, cotton botanist; and Mr Shahab-ud-din Fasihi, sugar cane specialist. The last two gentlemen are both of the Punjab Agricultural Institute, Lyallpur. I extend my thanks to Mr Khawja A. Wadood, Managing Director of Mawadood Industries; Dr Mahbub Ali, M.Sc., the Director of the Cotton Research Institute of Multan; and also the village headman (Malik Dost Mohammad). My special thanks go to Mr Farooq Ahmad Shaikh who hosted me whilst I was in Karachi.

My visit to Russia was of some interest. At Tashkent I encountered the spontaneous hospitality of the Uzbek people. I met a very hospitable couple in that city who, of their own volition, hosted me for a day and took me around to show off their city and its cultural exhibits, of which they were very proud. While I was there I met with a cotton ginning expert and Mr Autonomov. The Russian people have a cotton ginning system completely different from that used in the west. Their system allows the reuse of gin saws for different stages of ginning. This information has been passed on to the cotton ginner in this State. It may be of interest to him and to members that such a different system of ginning is used in Russia, as compared with that used in the western world.

Whilst in Moscow I experienced the alert medical services for the prevention of epidemics, which are caused by shockingly bad hygiene in Russia.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: I hope you are not tainted.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I would like to point out that hygiene in that country is extremely bad. I am aware that my speech will be sent to some Russian people, but I feel they should be trying to change their system. An example of bad hygiene was seen in the form of a slot machine which dispensed alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks. Only one communal glass was provided, and I observed people with lip sores drinking from the glass and handing it on to the next person, who did not seem to worry.

To counteract the epidemics which would naturally occur in situations like that the Russians have an excellent medical system, which I will describe briefly. I sneezed in the Lenin Museum, and within seconds a female attendant approached me and took me to an infirmary where a nurse took my temperature. They phoned for an interpreter and a doctor. The doctor was in immediate attendance, and she gave me a full medical inspection—and when I say “full” I mean it.

I was advised that I had a slight glandular infection which I did not know about, and I was told I had the beginnings of the gripe, or the flu as we call it. The doctor told me I would be all right within three days. I was given three lots of tablets and sent on my way.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: That is socialist medicine for you.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: Yes, it is also socialist hygiene.

I would like to thank those who assisted me while I was in Russia. They are Nadya Arusakova, Alexander Autonomov, the Vice-Director of Cotton Seeds and Selection Research Institute of the Ordjonikidze region, Damara Sooltanova, the official interpreter, Zoi and Roman, who volunteered their hospitality, and also Sir James Plimsoll, the Australian Ambassador and Miss Irene Carlinenecechure a Soviet guide.

While in London I was fortunate enough with The Hon. Gordon Masters to attend the House of Commons at the time the Prime Minister (Mr Wilson) was presenting the advice on the Common Market Referendum. After this we were hosted at lunch by the Houses of Parliament and I found here that I was a little overawed—as I think most members are when they look at the buildings and the built-in culture of the Mother of Parliaments.

Whilst in London we were lucky enough to be able to visit the *Sunday Times* and to view the production of this magnificent paper. It uses 800 tons of newspaper a day which would stretch for 5 000 miles if it were stretched on end. While we were there the circulation manager did inform us that previously they had some trouble with the producers of the paper in meeting the specifications for their new requirements of light-weight pages which must be of high strength to meet the running needs of the printing machines.

It made me wonder whether or not Kenef could possibly be used for this light-weight paper because it could be of similar fibrous content, and accordingly I have written to the Minister for Agriculture asking whether or not we intend carrying on the production of Kenef in the Ord River scheme because if we were this could be a possible market for light-weight paper which is used in high-running speeds.

I would like to thank all those who offered me hospitality and assistance while in London, particularly The Hon. Graham Page M.P., Mr James Batten, The Hon. G. Masters M.L.C., and Mr and Mrs E. J. Masters and his family who were kind to us while we were there. I would also like to thank Mr Anderson of Western Australia House and his staff, Miss Jane Coverton, His Excellency The Hon. J. L. Armstrong, the High Commissioner in London, Mr Reasbeck, and Mr Jack Fenton, the circulation manager of the *Sunday Times*.

My thanks further go to Mr John Masters and also to Charles and Stephanie Stainsby.

On my trip to Canada I first landed in Ontario where a very well-planned itinerary was waiting for me with the compliments of the Ontario Provincial Government. After many meetings with departmental officers and officials I made some observations, one of which was that mobile homes were available and now more readily acceptable in the Canadian way of life.

It was also pointed out to me that now 20 per cent of the accommodation produced in the United States is made up of mobile homes. I have written to the Minister for Local Government asking whether or not any consideration has been given for the future for the production of mobile homes because, as members are well aware, types of living are changing rapidly and the needs of people require some mobility. Some people are mobile by choice and others because of their job situation. So it may be something we could look at in the future as the Ontario Housing Corporation is looking at the position in Ontario.

While there I found the Ontario Government assists the development of industry in many ways. It offers low interest loans to industry which are below the premium rate of interest. These loans require no capital repayment for the first five years. This seems to me to be a pretty good way to develop and give incentive to industry. Finance is also available for export goods from Ontario and this finance is granted for up to 90 per cent on inventory or finished product.

In an endeavour to assist industry power charges throughout the State never vary more than 5 per cent for industrial use. Accordingly, anybody can

consider industrial development without the thought of local power costs because it is known that these will be much the same anywhere in the State.

I hope the present Government will continue as the previous Governments have in the endeavour to equalise power charges throughout the State and I hope this can be done a lot quicker than it has been done in the past.

A meeting I had, indicated to me that doctors of medicine in the State of Ontario were required to go to the remote areas and live in those areas as part of their training. I have written to our Minister for Health asking whether this could not also be considered in this State. I also found that the State of Ontario provides tertiary adult programmes for tribal management in its Indian bands and Indian projects. I consider at this stage that tertiary training in this field may not be warranted but I do think it is worth while offering training to some of our Aboriginal people who are engaged in tribal and group Aboriginal projects because, as we know, it requires some training to manage anything at all; and I am afraid that any *laissez faire* attitude in management without some form of training is quite often doomed to failure.

While in Ontario I was pleased to learn that all children in remote areas received free education. Their hostel fees are paid and they get three return fares to their homes each year. I am also pleased to see that in my absence this Government has given an additional third fare to the students in the remote areas of the State.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: What would you call a remote area in the places you are talking about?

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: The definition varies but an area is considered to be remote where facilities are not similar to those obtainable in the city and where communication and transport are limited.

I would like to thank the people of Ontario who were so good to me in providing the assistance they did. Particularly would I like to thank Miss Pat Taylor, Executive Officer for the Government of Ontario, Mr Barry Rose, General Manager of the Ontario Housing Corporation, Mr Bill Rathbun, Executive Director of the Communications Division, Ministry of Transport Communications, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, (Mr R. G. Lewis, Q.C.), and the members of the Newfoundland Parliamentary Association. My thanks also go to Mr Peter York, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Tourism, Mr Mel Garland, Executive Director, Division of Industry, and Mr Bill Fowler, Executive Director, Division of Trade.

Further I would like to thank Mr A. J. Herridge, Assistant Deputy Minister of Resources and Recreation, Miss Mary

Mogford, Special Projects Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources, Mr J. C. Farrell, Rural Service Engineer, Ontario Hydro, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (the Hon. Russell D. Rowe, M.P.P.), Mr Emeric Suichies, Director of Regional Planning Branch, Mr Andy Morporgo, Chief Planner, Program Development, Ministry of Treasury, Mr Wilf Welldon, Director, Indian Communities Secretariat, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Miss Mila Lepik, Project Co-ordinator for the Secretariat, the Hon. Alan Grossman, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, Mr G. H. U. (Terk) Bayly, Deputy Provincial Secretary, Mr Bob Simpson, Executive Director, Dr Martin Walmsley, Executive Officers, the Directors of Education, Mr Steve Hutchings of the Ontario Manpower Secretariat and Mr Michel Lagace of the Secretariat of Social Development.

From Ontario I went to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where once again a very well-planned itinerary was awaiting me for which I must thank the Provincial Government. The help and services they offered me can only be described as fantastic; and particularly do I refer to the many charter flights at their expense and the assistance given by the personnel.

While in Manitoba I found some of the Indian people had realised that the projects in which they had engaged did not seem to be their own when they had Caucasian administrators. The Government has endeavoured to bring to the Indian people a feeling of ownership and responsibility by a "Terms and Conditions of Community Development Agreement".

I would like to say the same situation has been set up in the Philippines, and I will deal with this when I reach that section of my itinerary. I found also that the Province of Manitoba offers grants to industry for purposes of decentralisation. Grants are made of up to 30 per cent of capital and up to \$7 000 for every job that is created.

The reason for this is that the Government there has realised and appreciated the problems of urban spread and it is now trying to decentralise industry to get it away from the urban sprawl. I suggest that legislators look at this aspect because unless we consider the decentralisation of industries now and start developing the remote areas we will have similar problems in the future and it will cost us tremendous amounts of Government money to get the industries to remote areas. So we should be thinking about this aspect now when the cost will be less and the returns will be greater. I also found that the Government in question offered to Government employees in remote areas a district allowance which represented \$110 a month as a cost-of-living adjustment.

While visiting Churchill in Manitoba I looked over the prefabrication plant which was established to produce prefabricated housing for the people in the north of Manitoba. It also provides employment for the Indian bands and the Eskimos in that region.

It was found that the Eskimos and the Indians were not used to working 40 hours a week or for periods similar to those which apply in the community in which we have been brought up. To overcome this problem and in an endeavour to introduce the Indians and Eskimos to gainful work it was decided to pay these people by the hour. They would not be expected to work more than an hour if they did not wish to do so. Apparently this has been very successful because now some of the individuals are working in excess of a 40-hour week, because they find that employment is not only enjoyable but it also provides them with the luxuries of civilisation.

I suggest this aspect could also be considered on Aboriginal projects where there is an employer involved. I know this Government has employed this principle in a particular housing settlement project.

Whilst in Churchill I was taken over the rocket research site which is used for the investigation of the aurora borealis—an electromagnetic phenomenon with which some members are familiar. One rocket per day is fired off from this site for the purpose of investigation. I noted two points of interest; firstly, the Americans and the Canadians are rather concerned with the fact that the aurora borealis shields the detection of intercontinental missiles fired over the North Pole. This fact disturbs them, and they are trying to find ways to detect such rockets, if they should ever exist.

I also discovered that the staff at the rocket site were carrying out research on the earth's magnetic field and into extra-terrestrial noise levels. They found there was a direct correlation between extra-terrestrial noises, such as sun spots, and changes in the earth's magnetic field. I was shown a graph which indicated the magnitude of the extra-terrestrial noises as being the same as the change in the earth's magnetic field.

I would like to point out that whilst I was inspecting the prefabrication plant at Churchill I noticed plywood flooring was produced, and this was in common use. That seemed strange to me, because in the area floor boards could be manufactured. I was advised that the people there used plywood floors in the building of houses, because it was cheaper than normal floor boards.

I am pointing out this feature to the Minister for Housing, and it is something which I advocated some years ago. In

fact, I used plywood flooring in my own house at Kununurra. I suggest the use of plywood flooring would lower the cost of housing in the north in three respects. Firstly, the labour cost is lower; secondly, no sanding costs are involved; and, thirdly, in covering the floor with vinyl tiles it is not necessary to lay an underfelt or the like.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Plywood flooring is used quite extensively in Western Australia.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I am not saying this is a new trend, because I have used plywood flooring myself. In my view I think that insufficient use is made of it. If plywood flooring is used in the houses in the north by the State Housing Commission and other builders, the cost will be reduced.

From Churchill and Thompson I went to South Indian Lake where I looked at a community complex which cost \$4.8 million to build. This caters for 700 people. The complex is used as a school, but that use is intertwined with the requirements of the community. I think this is a good idea, and already people are starting to think of schools as something belonging to the community rather than to the Education Department. I realise that the Education Department in Western Australia is also thinking along these lines. In the province which I represent we have evidenced the situation where school community halls are used for community purposes.

At South Indian Lake I attended a meeting of Indian band leaders; they are known as tribal elders in our State. These people express their intentions and requirements to a Government representative. Rapport exists between the two parties, and one tells the other of its responsibilities. I pointed out earlier that when I report on my visit to the Philippines I would raise this matter further, because the Philippines has introduced something which we should adopt.

When I was visiting Gillam in Manitoba I found that the Provincial Government financially assisted any local authority which did not have sufficient rate revenue to provide all the facilities for a modern community. That is a commendable step for the Government to take. I would like to see a similar scheme introduced in Western Australia, particularly in the remote areas where the shires do not have sufficient rate revenue to provide the needed facilities. It could be instituted by the State Government out of grants provided by the Federal Government which has the means of raising the money through taxation.

I would like to thank the people in Manitoba who offered so much information and extended so much hospitality to me. They are—

Annalea C. Adolph Mitchell, Executive Assistant, Department of Northern Affairs.

The Hon. Ron McBryde, MLA, Minister for Northern Affairs.

Mr R. L. (Nick) Carter, Deputy Minister for Northern Affairs.

Mr Vern Boulthée, Regional Supervisor of Indian Affairs.

Mr J. R. Reeves, Honorary Secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Mr Larry Clark of the Northern Manpower Corps.

Mr Eugene Larocque, Information and Communications Section of the Manpower Corps.

Miss Sue Neden, of the Manpower Corps.

Mr Bob Barrett, Supervisor of the National Research Council.

Mr John O'Connor, Safety Officer of the Manpower Housing Project.

Mr Tom Fortin of South Indian Lake.

Mr Walter Homyn and family.

Mr Ken Killen, MLA for Thompson.

Mr Don Beckett, Project Manager of Gillam and Long Spruce Hydro sites.

From Manitoba I went to Alberta. I found that no provincial death duties were payable in that Province. It is a very rich Province, so much so that this year it is able to set aside a surplus of \$2.5 billion to meet the needs of the future.

We could learn a lesson from this Canadian Province, because it has done something in a practical way to encourage development in remote areas. Such a scheme is paying dividends, because the Province is now very wealthy. The Government of that Province transfers \$50 *per capita* back into developing areas; this is from moneys collected in revenue from those areas. The purpose of this is to assist further development. That Province makes available an Alberta resources development pack which I have and which members may care to see. This is a very comprehensive information pack which can be obtained by developers and investors from the Government to carry out a study of every part of Alberta. They may be deciding on an industry which they seek to establish. At the same time, there is a Federal and provincial programmes agreement. This is a highly organised Province.

Alberta Industries offer a 5 per cent to 40 per cent salary incentive to people in remote areas. The State provides its employees with an extra \$75 to \$150 per month to induce them to work in the

remote areas and participate in development. This State also offers low-interest loans of up to \$500 000 to any industry wishing to become established.

The students from isolated areas in Alberta are looked after by the State. The education is free, and the State provides \$3.25 per day to each student to enable him to arrange his own accommodation. I found that State was carrying out a very comprehensive survey on the requirements of early childhood education. This is being undertaken by a Dr Swift, and will be completed in June. I have arranged for the Government of Alberta to send me a copy of the findings, and on receipt of the findings I shall pass them on to the Minister for Education.

The State of Alberta finances lunch programmes for nutritional balance to children who require it; this applies more particularly in remote areas where nutritional balance is very much needed. Another feature is that the State appoints native court workers to assist in the courts when natives are charged. If I remember correctly, this was a recommendation made by Magistrate Syddall in Western Australia approximately three years ago. I do not know whether the recommendation is still under consideration.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Who owns the oil wells there?

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I think they are privately owned.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: They are Government owned.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I did not study that aspect in particular, and possibly the Government owns them and they are operated under private contract. I wish to extend my thanks to all those who assisted me while I was in Alberta. They include—

Mr W. McDonald, Secretary, Parliamentary Association.

Mr Henry Woo, Executive Assistant to the Minister for Northern Affairs.

The Hon. A. Adair, Minister for Northern Affairs.

Mr Adair is very proud of his nickname "Boomer", which is the name given to a large kangaroo. Others in Alberta I wish to thank are—

Mr Ron Penrice, Executive Assistant to the Minister for Education.

Mr William Ibister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Mr Ray Speaker, Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Dr A. Vanterpool, Executive Director, Industrial Development Branch.

Mr Rene Morrisette, Deputy Director of Public Assistance.

Mr Dennis Bell, Executive Officer.

From Canada I travelled to Alaska where I attended several meetings. The State of Alaska gives settlers a 25 per cent reduction on property assessments for taxation

purposes. This is to encourage agricultural development. Alaska also offers \$8 for every mile of fencing constructed, and \$40 for every acre of land cleared. The State pays reforestation subsidies of up to \$2 500 per year, or \$25 000 over 10 years.

The boarding fees of students from remote areas are paid by the State, if they attend a State hostel. It also provides \$20 per month to each student as pocket money. Once again, this is to encourage people to go into remote areas and develop them. The grants are made so that the people will not have to worry about the cost of education, as some people in Australia have to worry. These are some of the worries of settlers in remote areas.

I have already mentioned the State hostels, but Federal hostels are also provided. In this situation the students do not receive pocket money but the Federal Government pays the total cost.

Alaska has a resource inventory, similar to the one in Alberta. This provides a quick reference to people who desire to undertake the development of any resource. In that State there is the Federation of Natives Incorporated, which is akin to a provincial department of Aboriginal affairs. It does not have a Government officer as head of the department. The head of the department is a person elected annually by the natives themselves. There are four major native groups in Alaska.

Whilst in Alaska I visited the Mosesian Farms; this is a hydroponics project growing tomato plants up to 21 feet in length. I found it to be very interesting, and its existence confirms my belief that hydroponics can be applied to great advantage in remote areas where the seasons and the short daylight hours inhibit growth. Some members may not be aware that in the tropics the daylight hours are short. That is one of the reasons that soya beans cannot be grown in the north.

I would like to thank the people in Alaska who assisted me. They are—

The Hon. Jack Roderick, Mayor of Anchorage.

Mr Mike Gravel, USA Senator.

Mr Ted Stevens, USA Senator.

Mr David Jackman, State Co-chairman Designee of Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska.

Mr Roger Lang, President, Alaska Federation of Natives Incorporated.

Mr W. Long and Mrs Claire Neere, US Department of Agriculture.

Mr Mike Mosesian, Managing Director of Mosesian Farms.

From Alaska I went to Tokyo, Japan, where I did not observe anything that would assist remote area development in Australia. However, I used that stopover as a rest period and I was hosted well by

Mr and Mrs E. E. Adderley. Mr Adderley is the Counsellor for the Tokyo Embassy.

While in Japan I did make an observation which may be of interest to beef producers. When I was in Japan Kobe beef was selling at \$35 Australian per pound in one department store. Although our beef producers may not be able to emulate Kobe beef they could possibly turn out a heavily marbled beef and find a market in Japan.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Did you buy a pound and try it?

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I did not buy a pound, but I attended a dinner at which Kobe beef was served. Of course, it was not served in a great slab as we eat beef, but in very fine slices.

I thank those who offered me assistance while in Tokyo. I appreciated the kindness and hospitality of Mr and Mrs E. E. Adderley, the Ambassador, (Mr K. C. O. Shan, C.B.E.), and the Western Australian Trade Commissioner, (Mr L. Slade).

From Tokyo I went to the People's Republic of China where I received quite wonderful hospitality. I was allowed unlimited use of my camera, and I was taken to any place I wanted to go. I admitted I was a Conservative member of Parliament, an anti-Communist, and also a capitalist, and my views were accepted. The Chinese people said that because of my frankness they would like to give me every assistance, which they did. I even received a pass to go out of their country without my luggage or camera being checked, for which I was thankful. I might say that I did not let them down in any way by abusing their hospitality.

I was taken into a restricted area and shown the Miyun hydro project. I was also shown a system of hydro generation whereby some of the hydro generators are reversed and pump water back into the dam for re-use in irrigation, and generating additional hydro power. The system consisted of six hydro units of which two were reversible and became pumps. I might add that this was a 60-foot lift to pump the water back into the reservoir for further use.

I was surprised to find that in China there are 55 nationalities, which causes some problems. Although the 55 nationalities represent only 6 per cent of the population, that 6 per cent of the population take up 55 per cent of the land area.

I was also told of the problems associated with the Kutsung tribe of Hunan Province. It was suggested that the people of this tribe were similar to our Aborigines. I refer to the tribal Aborigines of our remote areas, rather than the Aborigines living in the cities some of whom are civilised in the same way as the rest of us.

The Kutsung tribe lives close to Burma, and was quite primitive. The Chinese people had some difficulty in convincing the people of the tribe of their sincerity. As a matter of fact, it took five years to convince those people of the sincerity of the Chinese people in their offer of assistance. It took a further six to 10 years for the people of the Kutsung tribe to be accepted into society. An extensive programme was carried out whereby the tribal people were trained and equipped with clothing, implements, and shelter. The Chinese people likened that tribe to our Australian Aborigines who live in the far north and who have to be trained in the use of modern implements and taught how to live in our type of housing.

When I visited the Institute of Nationalities I found the people observed the customs of their various nationalities, even down to the point of recognising the various national holidays although apparently this matter becomes confusing at times.

As a point of interest, I was taken to some of the more remote areas of China away from Peking where the people are not used to seeing Westerners, particularly a red-bearded Westerner. It can be rather startling when one attends a theatre because as one leaves the theatre the people stand and applaud in recognition of the fact that a Westerner has seen fit to attend one part of their culture. Of course, the applause must be returned.

Whilst in Sian I visited the No. 4 State North East Textile Mill which was a tremendous project and contained a huge complex of 130 000 spindles employing 6 380 workers. While there I learnt a little about the system of social education. The people work 48 hours each week. Husbands and wives work. The children are taken from their mothers 54 days after birth and put into a creche where the mother is employed. If the baby still has to be breast fed the mother is able to leave her bench or machine and feed the child. I do not think it is a system which could work in our society.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: Is the child taken from its mother or is it merely looked after?

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I did not mean to convey the impression that the child was forcibly taken from its mother.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: I wanted to get that point clear.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: Heavens, no. The child is not forcibly taken.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: I did not believe that was the case, but the way the honourable member expressed himself it could be implied.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I am sorry if I gave that impression. The children also attend kindergartens and in some cases the kindergartens are residences where the

children live during the week while their parents are working. The children return to their parents during the weekend.

I also visited the Panpo Museum which is the remains of a 6000-year-old village. I again pass on the information that I think the people who inhabited this village were the original swingers. They had a system whereby they worked in clans during the day but they moved into other clans during the night for mating. Therefore, I think they must have been the original swingers. The museum contained evidence of a civilisation which used reasonably sophisticated implements, bowls, and pottery some 6 000 years ago.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: It sounds as though it could be a good system!

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: My hosts in China defined the difference between Russia and China, and explained why it was necessary to criticise Lin Piao and Confucius as part of the extension of the cultural revolution. I would like to inform members that in Russia and China the distribution of wealth is even less than it is in the capitalist countries of, say, Canada, America, and Australia. That is something which disturbed the Chinese and caused a great difference between the Chinese and Russians.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: On what does the honourable member base that assumption?

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I will explain it.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: There would not be any millionaires in Russia.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: The Chinese people are worried by the fact that a labourer, in the Chinese system, is paid 40 yuan. Yuan is the currency in China and approximately 2½ yuan equal one Australian dollar. A professor is paid 280 to 300 yuan per month. The approximate factor is 7½ times greater. Of course, the factor in western society is roughly about five times greater. As I have said, the distribution of wealth within that country is less than it is in western countries.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: A socialist country.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: I understood that all profits went to the State.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I am stating a fact with which the Chinese people agree. I would also point out that I am not attacking any ideology whatever. I am stating the facts as they were given to me. In fact, I would not insult those wonderful people who hosted me by criticising them unless my criticism had already been recognised and the criticism had already been made in their own country.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Where are the people in those countries who get \$100 000 a year?

The Hon. N. McNeill: Why is the honourable member opposite so sensitive?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Members opposite want us to go that far.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I have stated some facts regardless of whether or not Mr Cooley wants to come in with an ideological argument when he has an opportunity to speak. I repeat: I will not insult my hosts by criticising any of their ideologies unless I have already made similar criticisms in China.

The Hon. R. Thompson: How long were you in China?

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: For a period of nine days. The reason the Chinese are worried about the distribution of wealth is they see it is not along the lines of true communism. They are endeavouring to do something about it. They are criticising Lin Piao and Confucius. Lin Piao recommended an eight-stage scale of salary structure which has caused them some problems. In order to correct the large imbalance, when a person now reaches the status of professor he is no longer called a professor, but referred to as a teacher so that he will be paid the lower rate of 80 yuan a month. The Chinese people are honouring their contracts to the former professors and are paying them 280 to 300 yuan per month. However, when they retire their salary scale will not be replaced so it will be seen that the Chinese people are trying to bring about a situation whereby the distribution of wages is more equal.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Wages now; but the honourable member said "wealth" previously.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: It depends on how one interprets "wealth". Would the honourable member have been happier if I had said "individual wealth" instead of "wealth" which can only be earned by enterprise, wages, or salary?

While visiting the Feng Ho commune, out from Sian, I picked up some very interesting information. The people in that commune have developed a system of agriculture which has to be seen to be believed. The Feng Ho brigade consists of 1364 people—men, women and children. Those people are able to support themselves as well as assist other brigades, and give assistance to the Motherland, China, from 164 acres of land.

These people have undertaken some remarkable projects. One man of 73 years of age with seven of his friends, all over the age of 60, chopped down half a hill and put that half a hill into a valley to establish an orchard for the people. These men wanted to prove that although they were old they were still capable of a great deal of work. This project was accomplished with four-inch hoes, and baskets, not wheelbarrows, were used to shift the hill. I have a photograph of the gentleman, the hill he and his companions

chopped down, and the completed orchard. I would be very happy to show this to anyone who is interested.

This community found that it required bricks. In the past the people had used mud and pise bricks and I feel they were a little ashamed of this. However, I pointed out to the Chinese people that here was a way of advertising to the world what China is endeavouring to do to change the old ways of living. They are now manufacturing fired bricks without the use of clay. I was told the method of manufacture of these bricks, and I passed on this knowledge to some of the missions in my province where experiments are now being carried out into this low-cost method of manufacturing bricks.

The Chinese use land for agriculture which we would not consider using, and they double crop most of their pastures. Where we spend money to stabilise road edges, paths, and channel banks, the Chinese grow a type of poplar tree in banks of three. The root system of the trees is such that the edges of the roads, the paths, and the channel banks are stabilised. With this type of tree the road surface is not interfered with. These 1364 people have planted 200 000 trees on what we would normally consider dead land. The trees provide shade in summertime and windbreaks for the crops in the fields. As I said previously, they stabilise the edge of any structure.

How are these trees used? The leaves become mulch and fertiliser, the twigs are used as binding underneath the ceramic tiles which are also fired without the use of clay in much the same way as the bricks. The branches are used for fuel in conjunction with coal to fire the bricks and to heat the houses. The trunks of the trees become lumber and are used for furniture and also for paper pulp manufacture. The people receive an astronomical return as a cash crop every three years, and for the sake of comparison I have converted this figure to Australian dollars. These 1364 people receive this cash return—a cash surplus after their own usage, incidentally—of \$220 000, purely from the trees grown on this dead land.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Is this every three years?

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: Yes, and I believe we can learn from their example. This information will be forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture, the Minister for Forests, and other parties.

When I expressed some interest in acupuncture, the Chinese were kind enough to take me to the Central Hospital of Sian where I met the surgeons and officials. The surgeons apologised because they had hoped to demonstrate brain surgery using acupuncture anaesthesia but they were unable to find a suitable patient.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: They should have tried it on you.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: The surgeons demonstrated this anaesthesia whilst they performed two other operations. The first patient was a 26-year-old male from whom the surgeons removed a bone structure from the sinus. The second patient was a 30-year-old woman who attended the hospital for the removal of a goitre. It was a startling experience to watch the operations. I was given a pre-operative briefing, capped and gowned, and invited to take my camera into the surgery, which I did.

The 26-year-old man was anaesthetised in about 15 minutes by the placing of two needles, one in the left cheek and one just under the left eye. The surgeons cut up under the upper lip, lifted up the front of his face and placed his upper lip on the top of his head. They then got to work on the bone with a hammer and chisel. The lip was eventually put back into place. There was minimal bleeding throughout this operation. I watched the patient's eyes and there were no noticeable signs of shock even though he was observing the operation. I was absolutely astounded that there was no sign of concussion. The patient stood up, thanked me for being in the surgery, and then walked out. He was in the operating theatre for a total time of 35 minutes. I asked the doctor when the patient would be able to eat, and I was told that he could eat straightaway.

The other patient had a very large goitre. She was anaesthetised by the insertion of four needles—one in either palm and one in either arm. The needles were attached to an oscillator which had one constant control for four needles, plus an individual control on each. It took about 20 minutes to anaesthetise this woman. She lay there while the surgeons made a five-inch incision in her throat and removed a goitre measuring approximately three inches by two inches. Prior to the incision the patient had been swabbed with iodine from breast to cheek. When the surgeons had sutured approximately two inches of the wound, the woman delivered a speech of welcome to her Australian friend who was so kindly there in the theatre. It was rather startling to hear the chuckling of the surgeons while they were endeavouring to catch together the edges of the skin as the woman was talking.

I was invited by the surgeons to ask questions during the operations, but I found that when I asked a question the surgeons stopped work to give me a lecture. I decided that I did not want a death on my conscience so I asked no more questions, although the surgeons thought it was quite natural to briefly stop work to explain proceedings.

After the operation the woman sat up and thanked the surgeons for performing the operation. Their reply was, "Do not thank us, thank Chairman Mao." I was then invited to take a photograph of the patient, the surgeons, and the offending goitre, which I did. The patient then walked from the operating theatre.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Do they have free medicine or Medibank in China?

Sitting suspended from 6.08 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: Before the suspension of the sitting for dinner, I mentioned that I had attended two operations using acupuncture as an anaesthetic. After the operations, the surgeon hosts were kind enough to give me a post operative debriefing where they explained what they knew about acupuncture pointing out that although it was a positive system which could be used, they were still unsure of the theory.

There are three possible theories, one of which we would have some difficulty in understanding because under our system of physiology, we have one central nervous system while under the Chinese system, they have one central nervous system and also a nervous canal system. They also have something which is not translatable called "yin" and "yang" within their system and they say that if "yin" gets out of balance with "yang", disease and problems with the nervous system occur. However, while it was still fresh in my mind I took notes which I have passed on to the Minister for Health and some doctors who I know would be interested in this subject.

After leaving Sian, we stopped off at a place called Yang An. It was here that I witnessed something that was an emotional experience. The town was expecting a visiting dignitary the following day and the people were having a dress rehearsal. Rather than say "observed", I should say that I "felt" 6 000 dancers doing a cymbal, drum and tap dance. I have used the word "felt" because I now know what the modern generation talks about when it says, "Feeling the vibes".

It was not only a listening experience but also an experience in feeling vibrations in the air—a feeling which I have never experienced before. Members can imagine that 6 000 performers with drums, brass cymbals and various other instruments could make quite a noise, but it was all in rhythm and very enjoyable.

From Yang An we travelled to Peking and carried on from there to Kwangchow. At Kwangchow I did several tours, one of which was over an ivory factory at Tahsin where they demonstrated their production techniques and showed me how they had developed the ivory industry from the old, known systems up to the modern-day system where they create modern designs. As members can imagine, some of these are quite beautiful.

From Tahsin I went to Fu Shan, where I visited an old Taoist temple which is used both as a museum and a school for students, where the Chinese students are taught about the tricks of the ruling class, whereby the ruling class used religion to subjugate the masses, to keep them poor. It is quite an interesting temple and a very pleasant museum through which to walk. I also visited the pottery factory at Shih Wan. In Kwangchow there was a light industry and forestal products trade fair at which many nations of the world were represented. I found that although some Australian people had been expected, Australia was not represented, so I took the opportunity to ask my host to arrange an invitation to the trade fair. I attended the fair and found it to be most interesting.

I found also that Chinese people—they have been at it for years, I know—are extremely astute businessmen. I found that some of the products being sold were in my own line of business and it was interesting to see the way they conducted their business; they are very sharp businessmen. The Chinese hosts gave me a farewell banquet prior to my leaving Kwangchow, and it was here that they told me how much they appreciated frankness and open, constructive criticism. This was evident throughout the entire trip. I feel sure that if any traveller in China wants to say something, he should go ahead and say it, because the treatment I received after having done so was exceptionally good.

I make one comment here that in China, rents are approximately 2 per cent of wages, so the workers have very few worries about paying their rents. However, at this moment, their standards generally are still very low and, in fact, I made a suggestion to the Chinese people, who are still slightly embarrassed by many of the mud brick houses. I said they should be showing them to the world and saying, "This is what we have had and what we still have, but this is what we are correcting the situation with." Then, of course, they would display the modern brick buildings which they are now putting up for their workers. They are generally limiting these buildings, constructed for living purposes, to five storeys, because they too have detected the problems associated with high rise buildings and they do not wish to create the same social problems we have encountered by the construction of high rise buildings.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Did you tell them about the Bentley flats?

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I did tell them we had problems with high rise buildings.

I wish now to refer to the many people in China who assisted me during my trip. I refer firstly to the Trade Commissioner (Mr Kevin Liddy), Mr Geoff Marginson of the Australian Embassy, Mr Chang, Mr

Kao and Mr Shu Chang of the China International Travel Service, Mr Cheng Chiyung of the hydro irrigation project, "responsible person" (Mr Yueh Taiheng), who hosted me at an official dinner; Professor Chen Yung Ling, teacher Yu-Feng, cadre Shu Yueh Kwong, teacher Mrs Norniska and cadre Lin Pao-Yuan of the Institute of Nationalities in Sian, who gave of their time. When the institute was actually closed for holidays, they went back and gave me quite a bit of their time explaining the Institute of Nationalities.

I also wish to thank Mr Wang Hua San and Mr An We, of China International Travel in Sian. I also thank Mrs Chu Faling, Mr and Mrs Tung Ming Yi and their family, who hosted me at the No. 4 State North East textile mill; Mr Chai Chien Hung and Mr Chang Feng Hou of the Town Planning section of Sian, which is controlled by the revolutionary committee. It was here that they explained the ideological differences between Russia and China and the reason they had to continue the cultural revolution and the criticism of Lin Piao and Confucius.

I also wish to thank revolutionary leader Mr Wang Po Jing and other members of the Feng Ho production brigade—an incredible brigade of 1364 people, who welcomed me, instructed me on their activities, allowed me to view the manufacture of their bricks and gave me a demonstration of bayonet practice which was designed to be as a form of defence of their commune. I pay tribute also to Mr Chu Chow Jen, the 73-year-old man who, with his friends, chopped out the side of a hill to build an orchard.

I refer also to Mr Wang Tsao Hsin and his wife, Kao Kang Feng, two very happy old people who, although they had no sons or daughters were happy because the commune had made them feel at home by giving them two coffins to keep within the house. I drank the traditional pot of tea with the couple, beside their coffins. This made them very happy. They did not have to worry about the cost of their funerals; they did not worry about not having a family to make provision for them on their death.

I also wish to thank surgeon Ho Erh Ming, President of the Hospital Revolutionary Committee, and Mr Tung Jin Ping, revolutionary committee member and their colleagues. I also thank Mr Su Whul Chuan, Revolutionary Cadre at Tahsin, Mr Hsueh Fan, "responsible person" of Shih Wan, Mr Kwuo Ray Tian, and also the Manager and staff of the China Travel Service, who hosted me at the farewell banquet at Kwangchow.

From Kwangchow I went to Sunchum and from there to Kowloon by train, where I had a meeting with the Australian High Commission Attache (Mr Ken Chan). Whilst in Hong Kong, I was able to look over one of their large jewellery factories and observe manufacturing techniques.

Here, I was hosted by the Managing Director of the Permacast Jewellery Factory (Mr Arthur Thornton), and his general manager (Mr Jerry Chan). I also thank the Australian High Commissioner and the Trade Commissioner for their hospitality; also the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Secretary (Mr Ken Wheeler) and the Deputy Director of Education (Mr Charles Lowe).

From Hong Kong, I travelled to Manila, where I was met by attache John Carroll. I also met a very old friend and compadre (Major Alfredo Sanchez), who met me with his family. Major Alfredo Sanchez made the initial arrangements with the Philippine Government for my inspection of some of their resettlement areas on the island of Palawan. This was an extremely interesting exercise; in fact, it interested our embassy so much that they requested that their senior counsellor (Mr Cavan Hogue) be permitted to travel with me to observe the resettlement scheme in progress on Palawan. A brief meeting with the Secretary of Agrarian Reform—equivalent to our Federal Minister for Agriculture—proved to be interesting, as did the meeting with the Deputy Secretary of Agrarian Reform.

At this point, the Philippine Government gave me a briefing on its resettlement schemes after which I was flown from Manila to Puerto Princesa on the island of Palawan, where two four-wheel drive vehicles were waiting to take the Director of Resettlement, his staff and me to the resettlement at Narra, which is on the south-eastern side of the island of Palawan.

The resettlement programme impressed me to the extent that I felt we could put one of its ideas into operation in this State. The organisers of this resettlement programme had devised a "Social Economic Development Programme Structure" which has an extremely simple lay-out, but is very similar to that provision which I found in Canada and Alaska to which I made reference earlier in this debate.

This resettlement programme has a type of target timetable which gives group and individual responsibilities and sets down guidelines. It represents too large a chart for me to describe in toto, but, briefly, it gives the individual settler some idea of what his responsibility is to the resettlement project. He has a responsibility so far as his own personal gain is concerned and he also has a responsibility to the community of which he is a part. In return the programme also lays down the responsibility of the Government, and all the planners work for the benefit of the settlers in the community. I consider this to be of great importance; in fact, so much so I am sending a copy of a report on this resettlement programme idea with recommendations to the Department of

Aboriginal Affairs in Canberra as well as the Minister for Community Welfare in Western Australia and other interested people.

What we are now experiencing has already been experienced in the Philippines, Canada, and Alaska. Many of our remote-area Aborigines need guidance because they are on a low social economic strata. They seem to be lost in regard to their identity and a little confused as to how they can participate in any particular programme. I think members will agree that many of our departmental officers and legislators are also lost and a little in the dark as to what their actual areas of responsibility are to the community, to their State, and to the nation as a whole when the welfare of Aborigines is considered. If we can adopt this very simple system that I witnessed operating in the Philippines and follow what the Filipinos are putting into practice—that is, to make up a chart with actual timetables which acts as a target for achievement—then everyone will understand what his true responsibilities are.

This is a programme we could adopt, particularly in regard to the development of Aboriginal projects.

Also, whilst visiting the Philippines I could not help but observe the many uses to which bamboo is put. We all know that bamboo has many uses, but at the time it struck me that the Filipinos were using bamboo for flooring in some buildings in the resettlement area. Its use for this purpose in the tropics is ideal because it is ventilated, does not require sweeping, and also it is extremely cheap. Bamboo would be ideal for the construction of meeting halls which are erected in bush or reserve situations, or even on private properties. This timber could be used for the construction of buildings that would not necessarily have to conform with any current building by-laws. So I will ask the Minister for Agriculture if he will investigate to ascertain whether there is any reason that bamboo cannot be grown and nurtured in our tropical north, because undoubtedly there are many uses for this kind of timber.

I forgot to mention the financing situation which is part of the resettlement programme. The Government finances the settlers with low-interest loans and for a three-year period it gives the settlers sustenance, shelter, working beast, and land. After three years the repayments commence and they are allowed 10 years in which to repay the loans that have been advanced to them. This is, I consider, a responsible way of tackling any development scheme. The settlers are not granted any charity and therefore do not consider themselves mendicants, because they have a responsibility to repay the loans which have been granted to them. Such a scheme

can do wonders for any individual who realises that he can hold his head high because he is not receiving any gratuitous sum of money.

I returned from Manila to Calcoocan City and later I was picked up at my hotel by Mr and Mrs Romeo Castaneda and Mr Mendoza. Mr Castaneda is the Director of Resettlement in the Department of Agrarian Reform. I was here provided with a pleasant lunch on the edge of the Taal volcano which is still actively smoking following its last eruption in 1965.

The hospitality I received in the Philippines was exceptional. These people went out of their way to do everything they possibly could for a visitor to their country. I was placed in the situation at one stage where a friend of my friend—a compadre of my friend Alfredo Sanchez—travelled 138 kilometres to meet me. That does not sound a great distance when one has transport, but when one considers that this man travelled that distance to meet a friend of a friend from Australia, carrying 10 litres of 96 proof coconut wine which he had brewed himself especially for this occasion, plus the largest lobster I have ever seen—and to travel this distance he had to put up with the curfews that applied at the time—members can imagine that I was greatly appreciative of what he did. I might add that coconut wine is extremely potent and although quite pleasant whilst drinking it, it leaves one flaked out in the morning. I take this opportunity to thank the people of the Philippines and the people in other parts that I visited for their hospitality.

I referred earlier to Sir John Carroll, and in particular I thank Major Alfredo Sanchez and his family and friends, and the compadre, the brewer of the coconut wine who is known as Sir Galahad. I also extend my thanks to the Secretary of Agrarian Reform (the Hon. Conrado F. Estrella); the Deputy-Secretary of Agrarian Reform (Sultan Mahommed Vales Al Kaj); the Director of Resettlement in the Department of Agrarian Reform (Mr Romeo Castaneda); his Executive Assistant (Mr Rick Mendoza); Team Leader (Manuel Bennete); the Australian Embassy Counsellor (Mr Cavan Hogue); and the Australian Ambassador (His Excellency, Mr R. G. F. Henderson). I would like to add that Mr Cavan Hogue was of great assistance to me because he spoke Tagalog very well and he also had a wonderful knowledge of the local scene.

This knowledge possessed by Mr Hogue enabled us to enjoy the songs that were sung in the home of Mr Manuel Bennete and family.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I feel certain that next week's edition of *Hansard*, containing the speech you are now making, will prove to be a best seller.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I would like to add that the dancing and singing of Estrella and Wanita who work with the Narra resettlement project made my visit very enjoyable.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Before you sit down—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He is not going to sit down yet!

The Hon. R. Thompson:—would you tell us something about the aluminium windows in the houses of Karratha?

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: I will answer the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition. I do not know anything of what has happened at Karratha since I have been absent from the State.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Have you not had those aluminium windows put in yet?

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: The Leader of the Opposition has me at a disadvantage, because I do not know what was going on whilst I was absent as I found it particularly difficult to obtain Australian newspapers, especially those from my own province. However, I can say that many people overseas are using aluminium windows in houses because they consider aluminium to be the best material for this purpose.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I know you have two fixations.

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS: In most of the countries I visited the authorities are offering assistance to remote area settlers under a scheme which is far in advance of any relating to similar settlers in Australia. I hope that some of the findings I have made during this tour, and some of the recommendations I have put forward to Ministers of departments, both State and Commonwealth, will be accepted as guidelines towards taking steps to decentralise in remote areas. If this is not done we will be faced with problems because we will be left without surface water for further development in Perth after 1989. This is not a very pleasant prospect, yet we are still proceeding with industrial development in the metropolitan region when we should be taking some of that development into remote areas where the minerals exist and be encouraging people to resettle in those areas before we wind up with a conglomerate mess and a social catastrophe we find now exists in New York, Chicago, and other huge cities.

I think that if our Federal Government could reconsider its views on zone allowances granted to people in remote areas it would assist in reducing the cost of living for people who are residing in those parts of Australia. In saying this I am not just referring to the failure of the Labor Government in this respect; I am referring to Governments of all political colours who have failed to revise

their attitude towards zone allowances granted to people in remote areas of Australia. We are losing many people from the north; people who cannot afford to live in these remote areas, and this is not good for the stabilisation of the towns in which we expect development to occur. It was my realisation of this trend that led me to make application to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to allow me to engage in this tour of other countries and I thank the association for approving my application.

I would like to mention that the foreword, a summary of my report, plus the *Hansard* report of the speech I am now making will be forwarded to all those departments, Governments, and individuals who assisted me throughout the trip so that they may see the fruits of that trip and what I have brought back to Australia. I would also like to extend my thanks to the members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Western Australian State Government, the Governments of other countries, and the many individuals who enabled me to speak in this House dealing with the findings I have made following my tour.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. W. Cooley.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [8.00 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to give the Public Trustee the authority to dispose of records that serve no useful purpose. Section 47 (1) of the Public Trustee Act as it stands at present requires the Public Trustee to retain forever records relating to all estates administered by him.

Retention of records for a reasonable period is desirable from the point of view of the Public Trustee, and of persons dealing with his office. However, permanent retention of all records is considered to be unnecessary and too costly.

Section 46 of the Public Trustee Act provides for inspection and audit by the Auditor-General and this has relevance in consideration of the proposed amendment to section 47.

The substitution of the new subsection (1) of section 47 will permit the Public Trustee to plan a programme for the destruction of records according to the nature thereof at the expiration of an appropriate period after an estate is finalised and cleared by the Auditor-General. In effect, important documents could perhaps be kept for a minimum period of 20

years and the bulk of files destroyed after a period of not more than six years, although ledger cards or micro films relating to estates would be retained permanently.

Advantage has also been taken of this opportunity to amend the Public Trustee Act as a consequence of part V of the Administration Act being repealed and embodied in the Death Duties Assessment Act in 1973. At that time the consequential amendment to section 19 (1) of the Public Trustee Act to substitute "Death Duties Assessment Act" for "Administration Act" was not considered necessary by virtue of section 14 of the Interpretation Act, 1918.

Section 19 (2) similarly requires the substitution of the relevant corresponding provisions now contained in the Death Duties Assessment Act.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. Thompson (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 8.03 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 19th March, 1975

The **SPEAKER** (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (96): ON NOTICE

1. TRAFFIC

*Great Eastern Highway, Greenmount:
Speed Limit*

Mr **MOILER**, to the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) What was the previous miles per hour speed limit when travelling east on the Great Eastern Highway, between Buninyong Road and Bullara Road, Greenmount and Buninyong and Innamincka Roads, Greenmount, before the changeover to metric speed limits?
- (2) What is the present kilometres per hour speed limit for the two areas listed above and what would be the equivalent miles per hour?
- (3) How many speed traps have been set in the area listed, since the change to metric speed signs and how many drivers have been fined for exceeding the speed limit in the area listed and what is the total amount of revenue raised?
- (4) Is the area concerned considered to be a hazardous stretch of road, and if so, what is the basis for such assumption?