

It is not right that this should be permitted. One is certainly not permitted to flout the law in Hay Street, so why should one be permitted to do so in the middle of a football field in front of innumerable policemen? Let us face the fact: Quite a number of footballers are actually policemen. It is of no use our saying that this sort of thing does not happen. It does happen, and I want to know why it is allowed to happen. I hope something realistic will be done in the future to prevent a recurrence of dirty play.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Crommelin.

*House Adjourned at 5.46 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 16th August, 1966

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

### QUESTIONS (5): ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

#### RAILWAYS

*Superphosphate: Cartage from Bassendean Works*

2. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many railway wagons for superphosphate loading were placed at Bassendean works during the month of April, 1966?
- (2) How many wagons of the total number were not loaded at the end of:
  - (a) one day;
  - (b) two days;
  - (c) three days; and
  - (d) a longer period than three days?

- (3) Did the Railways Department raise any charge for demurrage against Bassendean works during April, 1966?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) 4,036 wagons.
- (2) (a) 265 wagons.  
(b) Nil.  
(c) Nil.  
(d) Nil.
- (3) No.

Note: I would like to point out that the number of wagons required at the works is adjusted on a daily basis and for the information of the honourable member, I have here details of the number of wagons supplied and used daily by the Bassendean works during the month of April, 1966, as follows:—

### SUPERPHOSPHATE CRESCO

Date	Day	Shift	Wagons Ordered	Wagons Available for Loading	Wagons Loaded
April 1	Fri.	N/S	70	41	
" 2	Fri.	D/S	80	78	117
" 3	Sat.	N/S	70	65	
" 3	Sun.	D/S	80	84	140
" 3	Sun.	N/S	70	3	
" 4	Mon.	D/S	80	126	129
" 4	Mon.	N/S	70	33	
" 5	Tues.	D/S	80	86	172
" 5	Tues.	N/S	70	63	
" 6	Wed.	D/S	80	68	131
" 6	Wed.	N/S	70	51	
" 7	Thurs.	D/S	80	101	152
" 7	Thurs.	N/S	70	75	
" 8	Fri.	D/S	100	100	175
" 8	Fri.	N/S	70	70	
" 8	Sat.	D/S	100	135	205
" 9	Sun.	No Work			
" 10	Mon.	No Work			
" 11	Mon.	N/S	70	70	
" 12	Tues.	D/S	80	112	182
" 12	Tues.	N/S	70	70	
" 13	Wed.	D/S	80	128	198
" 13	Wed.	N/S	70	70	
" 14	Thurs.	D/S	80	118	168
" 14	Thurs.	N/S	70	64	
" 15	Fri.	D/S	80	70	134
" 15	Fri.	N/S	50	50	
" 16	Sat.	D/S	100	95	145
" 17	Sun.	N/S	70	70	
" 18	Mon.	D/S	80	77	147
" 18	Mon.	N/S	70	61	
" 19	Tues.	D/S	80	82	143
" 19	Tues.	N/S	70	66	
" 20	Wed.	D/S	80	86	152
" 20	Wed.	N/S	70	66	
" 21	Thurs.	D/S	80	72	138
" 21	Thurs.	N/S	70	50	
" 22	Fri.	D/S	80	82	132
" 22	Fri.	N/S	50	68	
" 23	Sat.	D/S	100	101	169
" 24	Sun.	N/S	80	60	
" 25	Mon.	D/S	100	100	160
" 25	Mon.	N/S	70	70	
" 26	Tues.	D/S	80	67	137
" 26	Tues.	N/S	70	70	
" 27	Wed.	D/S	80	94	164
" 27	Wed.	N/S	70	70	
" 28	Thurs.	D/S	80	98	168
" 28	Thurs.	N/S	70	70	
" 29	Fri.	D/S	60	91	161
" 29	Fri.	N/S	70	70	
" 30	Sat.	D/S	90	84	154
Total			3,750	3,900	2,856

**SUPERPHOSPHATE  
BASSENDEAN. C.S.B.P.**

Date	Day	Shift	Wagons Ordered	Wagons Available for Loading	Wagons Loaded
April 1	Fri.	N/S	40	40	85
" 2	Sat.	D/S	80	45	85
" 3	Sun.	D/S	....	....	....
" 3	Sun.	N/S	40	27	....
" 4	Mon.	D/S	45	40	67
" 4	Mon.	N/S	40	40	51
" 5	Tues.	D/S	25	60	100
" 5	Tues.	N/S	40	40	77
" 6	Wed.	D/S	46	39	79
" 6	Wed.	N/S	40	16	78
" 6	Thurs.	D/S	10	55	16
" 7	Thurs.	N/S	40	40	71
" 8	Fri.	D/S	100	80	11
" 8	Fri.	N/S	....	....	40
" 9	Sat.	D/S	No Work	....	80
" 10	Sun.	N/S	No Work	....	....
" 11	Mon.	D/S	No Work	....	....
" 11	Mon.	N/S	40	40	....
" 12	Tues.	D/S	30	33	40
" 12	Tues.	N/S	40	40	29
" 13	Wed.	D/S	50	71	40
" 13	Wed.	N/S	40	40	36
" 14	Thurs.	D/S	50	52	40
" 14	Thurs.	N/S	40	39	45
" 15	Fri.	D/S	28	23	39
" 15	Fri.	N/S	40	22	9
" 16	Sat.	D/S	100	73	62
" 17	Sun.	N/S	40	40	50
" 18	Mon.	D/S	50	46	86
" 18	Mon.	N/S	40	38	84
" 19	Tues.	D/S	27	28	66
" 19	Tues.	N/S	40	37	66
" 20	Wed.	D/S	20	31	68
" 20	Wed.	N/S	40	51	68
" 21	Thurs.	D/S	25	38	89
" 21	Thurs.	N/S	40	45	80
" 22	Fri.	D/S	10	40	85
" 22	Fri.	N/S	40	40	67
" 23	Sat.	D/S	100	99	139
" 24	Sun.	N/S	Nil	....	134
" 25	Mon.	D/S	Nil	....	....
" 25	Mon.	N/S	70	70	....
" 26	Tues.	D/S	10	41	111
" 26	Tues.	N/S	70	60	68
" 27	Wed.	D/S	20	32	102
" 27	Wed.	N/S	70	70	81
" 28	Thurs.	D/S	30	48	118
" 28	Thurs.	N/S	70	70	72
" 29	Fri.	D/S	10	38	103
" 29	Fri.	N/S	60	60	60
" 30	Sat.	D/S	60	68	128
" 30	Sat.	N/S	....	....	116
Total ....			1,944	2,055	1,662

When the honourable member receives the answer to his question he will see that it is difficult to answer (2) (a), because of the intake of wagons, and the fact that the number of wagons taken in a particular day may not, in fact, be used on that day.

**EPILEPTIC SCHOOL CHILDREN**

*Instruction to Teachers*

3. The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON asked the Minister for Health:

What instruction is given to teachers in schools in relation to the incidence of epilepsy amongst children?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

All student teachers very early in their course are given training in the recognition and emergency treatment of epileptic seizures. In addition there is discussion on public attitudes towards epileptics

**COMMONWEALTH AID ROADS ACT**

*Allocations to Western Australia*

4. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

What amounts of money have been allocated to the State this financial year under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act in respect to—

- (a) area;
- (b) population;
- (c) motor vehicle registration; and
- (d) matching money?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

	Basic Grant	Matching Grant	Total
(a) Area—	\$	\$	\$
	10,854,661.84	2,298,362.98	19,153,024.82
(b) Population—			
	3,057,121.50	416,880.21	3,474,001.71
(c) Motor Vehicle Registration—			
	3,453,987.63	470,998.31	3,924,985.94
Total ....	\$23,365,770.97	\$3,186,241.50	\$26,552,012.47

- (d) Matching Grant: Answered by (a), (b) and (c).

**MAIN ROADS: KIMBERLEY DIVISION**

*Area, and Road Maintenance Tax  
Collection*

5. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What is the total area of the Kimberley division of the Main Roads Department?
- (2) What is the estimated amount of tax to be collected in the Kimberley division this financial year under the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act, 1965?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) 162,361 square miles.
- (2) It is not possible at present to estimate the amount of tax which will be derived in the Kimberley division.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY***Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 11th August, on the following motion by The Hon. V. J. Perry:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—

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. R. F. HUTCHISON** (North-East Metropolitan) [4.44 p.m.]: Before I commence my Address-in-Reply speech I would like to make reference to the passing of The Hon. Hubert Parker. I met Mr. Parker twice only; once at the declaration of a poll and once during campaigning. I know he was a well-known public figure and had an honourable career. It is the fortune of politics that seats pass from one party to another at different times. However, I would like to express my regret at his passing and my admiration for his past services to this State.

Being the only woman in the House, I would like to make passing reference to my recent marriage and thank members here for the kind regards sent to my husband and myself. I believe we have broken records somewhere or other. Mr. Lavery and I received 170 telegrams and cards in one day, but I would say it took longer than that to read them. For the kind words and felicitations received from the Government, and members generally, in all humility I give my heartfelt thanks.

I intend to begin my speech on the subject of housing because it is such a vital matter in the area I represent; and I daresay it is so in every part of Western Australia. It seems to me that a greater effort should be made by the Government to overcome the chronic shortage of houses in this State. A happy home, or a home of some kind is a prerequisite to a stable society. A home is the first need of a family; and I think a large proportion of the youthful delinquency from which we suffer today can be traced to post-war home conditions in this State.

I spoke of this at that time as I had a large rooming house and saw this tragedy coming upon us. It was not the fault of the people that houses were not built in wartime as a full-scale war effort had to be carried out. The first thing any Government should do, irrespective of its political colour, is to try to build sufficient homes to house the people. Children need homes as they are a prerequisite for youthful citizens. Successive Governments have

made an effort in this regard, but I think the time has arrived for an all-out effort to be made.

This Government is not doing half as much as it should be doing in regard to this matter. Many engineering firms have come here; and every day we hear of the progress being made in Western Australia. However, Western Australia is not progressive while it cannot house its people. It is not a progressive policy, because what we get in the one hand we are denied in the other. A home is the basic requirement for human development and good citizenship. It is economic to have sufficient housing, because happy homes make happy people, and happy people do not indulge in the lawlessness that we see around us today. It is the right of a child to inherit the environment of a good home; and the civil authorities should provide that home. In addition, when our migrants first come here, they are unable to build or acquire a home immediately.

As we all know, the prices being asked for land have risen. Therefore one of the first things that should have been done was to peg prices for land for private homes until the need for housing was satisfied. I know this is not the idea of the Government, but it is my idea, and I stand here to say exactly what I think. Young people have had, and still are experiencing difficulty in fulfilling their natural community function. The situation in which young men and women find themselves is deplorable, and the Government stands condemned for its laxity and neglect and for the poor supply of housing compared with the size of the population and the prosperity of the State.

Throughout the community the emphasis is on big business and not on social necessity. Social necessity to me means a house for every family.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: To own or to rent?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Both. I now wish to pay a sincere compliment to the proprietors of the store known as Charlie Carter's in regard to their progressive and fair-minded action in granting equal pay to female employees. This marks a milestone in our community and is a progressive and sterling example to other employers of fairmindedness towards workers. It is an example of industrial advancement by a private company and is one which could well be followed by the Employers Federation. I believe that progress such as this must, in the ultimate, be beneficial not only to the employers concerned but also to industry as a whole.

I remember the depression days when many girls were able to get a job at 8s. a week. In many cases their brothers walked out of the homes because they would not live on the meagre earnings of the girls. I also remember the problem of the unemployed; it is boom and bust.

That is the problem of the present private-enterprise society. First we have a boom, and then we have to bust.

I am probably as old as or older than any other member in this House and I remember the depression which started in the early 1890s, and which did not end until about 1900.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Can you remember the depression in the days of a Labor Government?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I can remember the depression which was not brought on by the policy of a Labor Government. There would never be a depression if Labor's policies were followed.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I was just old enough, and I well remember that depression.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The depression years followed the boom years, just as they probably will in the future. I hope not; but history tells a great story, if one reads enough of it. As I see the situation this Government is following exactly the same pattern; the young men can get work; there is work for everybody. It is not the kind of work most people want, but they have to take what is offering. I do not want to vindicate myself. I am hoping that there will not be a depression. There will be a lowering of standards, but I hope it will not reach the stage of a depression. However, I believe we are heading in the same old direction.

I pass on to a subject which is of great interest to me; that is, the Epilepsy Association which has been established in Western Australia. The disability of epilepsy can occur among people in all walks of life. We do not know who will become an epileptic, and we do not know, when a baby is born, whether it will become an epileptic. We do not really know what causes it, except that it has an influence on the brain. Not many medical men are anxious to interfere. However, it is in our midst and anyone can become an epileptic at any time. This is not generally known.

I made a world tour studying this special matter; and also studying mental health, and consumers' associations. That is a good Irish stew in study. I studied all those problems when abroad, but epilepsy was my main concern. People from every walk of life are becoming interested, and this is something that Governments should be concerned with. This Government has been very good with its help to the Epilepsy Association. I asked the Government to invest money in a headquarters for the association, and it did so. We are very grateful for that. I like to give credit where credit is due.

We are receiving help from political parties and religious bodies within the community, and from almost every group of people. To show members the progress

we are making, I would point out that the association received an invitation for someone to address the people of Cunderdin, and I spoke to a capacity house there. I was received by the local shire and the doctor, and in fact everyone showed an interest in the problem. The interest was not political; it was human. We have now been asked to go to Collie, Busselton, Bunbury, and Albany, as soon as we can. At Cunderdin we enrolled 13 members in the first two hours.

That kind of interest shows the need in this State for the Epilepsy Association to handle this distressing incident. It is not a disease; it is something which happens and "incident" is the only way I can describe it. I do not often find that I want to thank the Government, but on this occasion I do so. I thank it for the help extended.

The association has succeeded beyond expectations and is very successful. It is unfortunate that we need it but it is a very successful body. Everyone is invited to inspect the headquarters, which belong to the Government but which are vested in the association. What we now require is some kind of home where a bed can be made available for an epileptic who meets prejudice when coming to the city and requiring accommodation for a night. One cannot go to a hotel if the management knows of the condition. That, of course, is a very wrong attitude for anyone in this community to take.

Lights have been installed over the name of the headquarters—The W.A. Epilepsy Association. It is interesting to note that the effect has been the opposite to what was expected. There was a certain amount of fear about putting up the name. However, it is there for everyone to see, and daily we have people showing interest in our endeavours.

I want now to give credit to the Perth City Council for what it has done with Hyde Park. I have special reason for mentioning this matter because Hyde Park used to be a little acre of horror when I lived on that side of the city. That was when I first came to Perth. It was a drunks' retreat and a cover for all kinds of bad behaviour. But the City of Perth has made it a beautiful acre of ground and I think that members, if passing, should look at it with interest. It is one of the most beautiful parks in Perth, and the area around it is becoming a good place in which to live. I would pay a tribute to the City Council for its work in the parks and gardens of the City of Perth.

Another matter I have mentioned before, and on which I will speak now, is connected with wildflowers. Why cannot we have a "wildflower road" to Northam? I hear of all the grandiose ideas we have for tourism in Western Australia, but recently when I went to Yallingup I observed the horrible things done to the

beautiful avenue of trees by the State Electricity Commission. It wantonly cut down the trees when it could have erected the power line on the other side of the road by resuming a strip of the farmers' ground a couple of feet wide. If the ground was refused, it should have been resumed. That beautiful avenue of tuart trees on the road to Yallingup has been wantonly destroyed. If the trees had been destroyed by boys they would have been called all kinds of names; but on this occasion it was done by the Government.

The road to Northam is one of the most beautiful wildflower drives in the State. Leschenaultia grows there and it is very beautiful but it is slowly becoming extinct because no-one takes any care with it. We could grow any kind of wildflower along the sides of that road and I think even boronia would grow along parts of it. We could have an attraction by means of which thousands of pounds would be raised from tourists. The Government often talks about tourism; it is a word which it knows very well. In this instance it need not resume any land; it could make a start on land on the roadsides which already belongs to the Government.

Only a small area would be required. The wildflowers could be set there and we would reserve them for posterity, because most of them will grow in the hills country. We make an effort to grow these flowers in the park, but why worry about that when we have a road, such as the Northam road, which could be made into a 60-mile drive of beauty if wildflowers were planted along the roadside?

This is the third occasion upon which I have brought this matter forward in the Chamber and I cannot understand why no notice is taken of it. I have asked this Government and I asked the previous Government to do something. So members can see that I am not placing the blame on only one side, and I am certainly not trying to curry favour. Only one gardener initially would be required to set wildflowers along the sides of the Northam road. Wildflowers do not have to be cultivated; they simply need a little attention until they become established. I understand, too, that the wildflowers in the Murchison area are being destroyed and unless something is done we will lose them. Those beautiful wildflowers which grow on the country between here and Geraldton could be grown along the edges of the Northam road. Therefore I hope I am talking to somebody who will listen to me, and that something will be done in this regard.

I am sure that if the bands of young people who go about doing good in the community were approached they would be only too happy to do something. If the Government gave its permission these young people would be able to clear away the dead wood and set the wildflowers. I

have no doubt the youth of Western Australia would be only too glad to do this if they were asked to do it on behalf of the community. As I said, I have raised the matter in Parliament before but nobody, so far, has taken any notice of me.

Now that private enterprise has purchased the Capitol Theatre I want to know what is to happen about providing a good concert hall for this city. Nobody seems to be worrying about the fact that the Capitol Theatre was the only concert hall we had in Perth, and that it will no longer be available. That is obvious because private enterprise would not have bought it with the idea of allowing it to remain as a concert hall. We hear a lot of talk by this Government about the progress being made in Western Australia, about the exciting things that are happening in Western Australia, and so on. But surely to goodness it should be doing something about providing a good concert hall for our youth to use!

We should be doing something now to help the youth who lost so much as a result of the last war. I can remember looking after young children who never knew when their mothers would be coming home from work; the mothers had to work while the fathers were away fighting for this country. Half the trouble today is caused by a lack of proper amenities, but these amenities could be provided because they do not cost much and a great deal can be done with a small amount of money if it is spent wisely.

That is one of the main reasons why I would like to see more women in Parliament. It is very difficult for women to be elected but I do not know why more of them do not have the courage to try. Those women who became members of Parliament had nothing to be ashamed of; every one of them has left a good name behind her. Unfortunately the women themselves are largely to blame because they will not come forward and offer themselves for election. There is no doubt no-one knows better than a woman what is needed in the community and, after all, it takes both men and women to beget life; it takes both men and women to rear families; but, by some weird reasoning, only men seem to be at the top of local government, or any other form of government. I do not know why this should be so.

There is no doubt that with local government a woman's interests start at the rubbish bin. If the lid of the rubbish bin does not fit it is the woman of the house who is in trouble. Therefore, why cannot we have more women in local government? Why cannot we make it easier for them to get into local government? There is too much stuffiness on the part of the menfolk in Western Australia. The men want every "i" dotted and every "t" crossed, and they definitely make it too difficult

for women to take part in local government.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: There is nothing to stop them from getting into local government.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: It is too difficult for women to get into local government and into Parliament in Australia. In this regard Australia lags far behind the other countries of the world, particularly England and Scotland, and it is a tragedy. This sort of prejudice harks back to the days of the camel trains. When members see me standing here they realise that I am not in my teens, but I have plenty of fight left in me yet. When I first came to Western Australia I travelled to Fields Find by camel train; that was my first conveyance in Western Australia. So when one can remember that far back one can appreciate the progress that has been made. Australian men are the most insular in the world.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: You had better be careful. You have just married one you know!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: In England the women have a chance of doing something in public life; but that is not possible in this country. My mother came from a lovely home. My father failed in the bank smash of the 1890s but we stayed on in our home for some time after that. I can remember it well. My father was a champion billiard player in his day and he came over here at the invitation of the late Tommy Drew, who asked him to play a match in Mackleway's billiard saloon, in Geraldton, and the family came too. My mother, after living in a lovely home, was then forced to live under conditions which were far different. She had to cook with a camp oven but she became so good at it that before long she was making bread for the whole camp.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: Did she put a damper on it?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Had some progress not been made women would still be using camp ovens for cooking; but in my opinion not enough encouragement is given to women to take some interest in public life. One has only to look at what happens when a woman is elected to a committee. The men will gang up against her. I know most of the members here would probably say, "You are all right dear; you look after the home and I will see that everything else is all right." But everything is not all right. Men have made a hash of things. One has only to look at the position of this country at the moment.

We are in the midst of another war but I do not want to talk about that now because I am a complete rebel on the question of the Vietnam war. I have with me a picture of a little girl in Vietnam who was wounded by a napalm bomb and I

want to show this to members to illustrate that we have not made that much progress when men allow that sort of thing to happen. If women could not do better than that I would be ashamed of them.

I now wish to touch on the question of alcohol and its effect on Western Australian drivers. Although I have never tasted beer, because I do not drink alcoholic liquor, I do not begrudge any man his beer if he wants to have it, but I do begrudge the fact that Western Australian beer has the highest alcoholic content of any beer brewed in Australia. Why cannot our beer have a lower alcoholic content? Why cannot a man quench his thirst and be satisfied to go home to his wife and family? If our beer had a lower alcoholic content I am sure it would have less effect and this would be reflected in the accident rate.

Now we have breathalysers and God knows what. Last year we were told in this House how effective the breathalysers would be, but I cannot follow that reasoning. What good will they do? Why does not the Government do something constructive? Why does it not tackle this problem at the source and reduce the alcoholic content of the beer made in Western Australia? Beer should be given—

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: There is not so much given. You have to pay for it.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Very often it is paid for at the family's expense. I do not intend to tell any man how he should live, or whether he should or should not have a beer; but why cannot we legislate to provide for a lower alcoholic content in our beer? What is the good of having breathalysers if we do not do something about tackling the problem at its source? In my opinion, men are sometimes childish.

As regards the clubs and hotels, hotels are now showplaces. Everything possible is done to entice people to spend time at hotels. I looked into one the other day to see what it was like. This hotel was an absolute showplace and it is no wonder that men sit there in chairs while their wives are at home looking after the children. Everything possible is done to make things comfortable and to keep people on the premises. They stay there and do not bother to go home. Probably they buy counter lunches and have beer with their lunch. I would stop this sort of thing. After all, a man's home is his castle and that is where he should spend his time. Let him have a drink if he wants one but, after having had his drink, he should go home.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I think you are trying to be provocative.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You would not do that, would you?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I now wish to speak about the Law Society. Last year I had occasion to approach the society

regarding a very sad case concerning a neglected wife. I approached the society to see if I could get some help for this woman so that she could get a divorce. She had been left with six little children and they were living under deplorable conditions. One of the children was a humi-dri-baby and, as members know, a child like that cannot be left even for an hour or two. I shall not mention the husband, but he is not living at home, naturally, and the woman wanted a divorce. Her position was such that she had no hope of getting a divorce because she did not have the money to pay for her legal fees, and I tried to get help for her from the Law Society.

When I approached the society I was told that no help could be given in divorce cases. I gave the details of this particular case and I was told that the society would do everything possible to help her, but after three days I was informed nothing could be done. I was also informed that the society receives a grant of £7,000 per annum from the Government. But why cannot the Government grant a larger sum of money to enable the Law Society to assist deserving people who cannot pay their own legal fees, instead of wasting money as it does in some instances? I am not talking about those who can afford to pay, but about those who cannot.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Did they tell you why they could not help this woman?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The society said it did not have enough money to deal with cases such as that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is not the case at all. Divorce is a Commonwealth matter.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I do not think there is a lawyer in the community—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: All the States have been trying to do more in this direction but divorce is a matter for the Commonwealth to be dealt with under its Matrimonial Causes Act.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Why does not the Government try to do something about altering it?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I have already said we are trying to do something more.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I do not know that that is so. I have been dealing with this question for some time and I intended to raise it before. As a matter of fact, I have a note here in the form of a question: Would the Minister advise if there is any intention on the part of the Government to increase the sum now granted to cater for very necessitous cases, such as the mother I speak of, who has been left to provide for a family of six children, with no hope of relief?

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: How would divorce help her?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: She wishes to be independent and if she were divorced she would be free. Men look

at things differently. Mr. Heenan asked me, "How would divorce help her?" and he is a lawyer. I will tell the honourable member how divorce would help her: she would be free; she would be able to do what she liked. Some people might ask why she does not get a separation. If the husband is a poor type of what use is a separation order? A man can please himself what he does but everyone seems to have the idea that a woman should not be allowed to have her freedom.

A woman needs freedom just as much as a man does and, if she wants to do so, she should be permitted to make a new life for herself, and remarry if she can find the right type of man. Why should a band be put around her throat while the husband goes free? Unfortunately, however, that is the public attitude. A woman should have the chance to be free so that if she has an opportunity to make a new life for herself she will be able to take it.

I know of another case where a woman in a similar situation could have made a new life for herself and her children, but she had obtained a separation order and was bound; because when a woman obtains a separation it is very seldom that she can get a divorce. That is where the law is like an ass; that is all I can call this law. It is so silly that I cannot work it out.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: My point is that a divorce would alter the economic position of the woman.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: How would the honourable member know whether such a woman would not have a chance of remarriage to a respectable and decent man, who was in a position to keep her in comfort? Why should such a woman not have that right? I am a blunt speaker, and I call a spade a spade when it comes down to fundamentals and humanitarianism. I am a humanitarian. It seems that some men never see anything wrong in binding a woman to a life of misery; yet men in these circumstances can please themselves what they do, and they can go on to wreck the lives of other women. There is nothing to stop them.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I would not mind you speaking in that manner if you knew all about the subject, but despite what you have said you do not know anything about it.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: About what subject?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are trying to tell us that when a woman is separated from her husband the husband is free but the woman is not free.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: She is not free to remarry.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Nor is the husband.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The husband can take on a joyful life on his own.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I have heard of women doing the same thing!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: It takes two to beget children, and it takes two to form a marriage. Members know what I mean.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I have not the faintest idea. Obviously you are much more worldly than I am.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I now deal with the subject of mental health services. First of all I would like to pay a tribute to the present Director of Mental Health Services, and the Government certainly made a wise choice. I give full marks to the Government for the choice it made. I had a little to do with the appointment of the present director, because previously I had seen Dr. Ellis working in this field in the Eastern States, and when the Minister spoke to me about the matter I told him that I had seen the work of Dr. Ellis.

I have inspected the new buildings which have been provided. I am always very interested in mental health services, as this subject is one of the planks of my platform. I was amazed as well as delighted at the new type of home which has been provided for mental health patients. I have been very closely associated with the handicapped groups, and I am sure that progress in mental health services, under the present director, will fully vindicate the appointment of a doctor of psychiatric medicine. This is something which we in the Labor Party have fought for. We now have a doctor of psychiatric medicine, and he is justifying himself.

Such a vast change in mental health services has taken place since the appointment of Dr. Ellis that I think it fitting to pay a tribute to the Ministers concerned. The development in mental health services is Australia-wide, and is bringing untold relief and hope to those families and individuals needing help in this field. We are fortunate in having the services of an outstanding doctor, such as Dr. Ellis. When I was conducting a survey into mental health services in the Eastern States I saw Dr. Ellis, and in my view he stood out in this field; and when the Minister in Western Australia appointed him director no-one was more pleased than I. I give full marks to the Minister for having made a good choice.

I have before me a paper dealing with mental health. I shall read it because this is worthy of inclusion in *Hansard*. It is as follows:—

#### SERVICES FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY HANDICAPPED

Beginning in 1967 the services to the intellectually handicapped will be augmented by the opening of a training centre costing over \$2,000,000

(Australian). This Unit will train the intellectually handicapped to the limit of their abilities and place them either in local industry or in sheltered workshops of the Mental Health Services. An overall plan envisages a number of workshops in the metropolitan area to take the "over eighteens" as they flow from the occupational centres where they have been trained in conjunction with the Education Department. The first of such workshops will open in March, 1966. Hostels will be associated with the workshops and one such hostel has already been obtained and is being furnished.

All intellectually handicapped persons are referred in the first instance to "Irrabeena" where they are assessed by a team of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and occupational therapists, and channelled to the appropriate section of the Service.

This is one of the things I have been advocating through my activities with the slow learners' group, and with Nulsen Haven which I helped to found. I am therefore delighted to read about this in the paper I have just referred to. We are getting those services from the director and the effort we put in to bring about the appointment of a doctor of psychiatric medicine was worth it. The appointment has been vindicated fully.

I would like to see one thing done; that is, destroy the old part of the Claremont institution. I have spoken to my leader in another place, and had the Labor Party been in office this step would have been taken. I could not think of a better place than the old portion of the Claremont institution in which to plant a bomb. Because of the acute shortage of space, and the immense cost of additions, the Government continues to use the old gaol-like buildings. They cannot be modernised. Whenever they have the chance, people should go down and inspect the new hospitals that have been built. The effort to make a modern structure out of something which is so very old cannot succeed, and the long verandah at the old part of the Claremont institution looks just like a gaol.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Where is this?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: At Claremont.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Have you seen the new buildings?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I have. I wish to goodness that something could be done about the old ones. I told the leader of my party in another place that on being returned to office the first step the Labor Party should take is to pass a law to enable me to plant a bomb in the old part of the Claremont institution.



The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You would then have to provide tents as sleeping quarters for the patients.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: We cannot make modern buildings out of the very old ones at Claremont. I realise that mental health is always a poor relation as far as this Government is concerned. I have had too much experience of that. When I was in England I had discussions with leading medical men in this field, and when I travelled through the Eastern States I did the same thing. I have visited the Ballarat centre and other new centres in the East. Dr. Cunningham Dax proved to be a real friend, because it was through him that I was able to see the work of the present Director of Mental Health Services. I saw all the new hospitals over there, and the humane work that was being done.

I have tramped through the existing old buildings at Claremont, and I think it is a pity the Government is attempting to utilise them, because they have a depressing effect on the patients, and their relatives and visitors. Although this is not what the director or the Minister has told me, I know it to be a fact. All the old structures should be replaced with new ones. I say the only thing to do is to blow them up, and in saying this I do not wish it to be inferred that I am an anarchist.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What is your opinion of the new buildings?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I think they are beautiful.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: After we complete the new buildings we move in the patients, and then we renovate the old buildings.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The old ones cannot be renovated. They were built in a long-past age. They are antiquated brick buildings.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Yet many people today want to retain the Barracks archway.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The Minister would be perpetuating a relic which should not be retained, and I will not be a party to anything like that. The Havelock clinic is a godsend to many who need help and advice. It is developing under Dr. Ellis into the most modern establishment in this State. Western Australia is far ahead of South Australia in this respect. We are following Victoria, and Victoria is far ahead of New South Wales. I do not know the position in Queensland.

Calico is being used to curtain-off some sections of the Claremont institution. This lends weight to the old saying that it is bad enough to be poor without looking poor. Here it is a case of being bad enough to be old without trying to make it look new.

A great mystery seems to exist in respect of the Barracks archway. I suppose

that in time it is to be demolished. The despoilment of this fine old structure and the effect on Parliament House make me shudder.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: In what way is it spoilt?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Spoiling it by the proposed construction of the open-cut. By doing this the heritage of the people of Western Australia would be ruined. People call it the fair city of Perth, but to me it is now just a city. It is ugly and brutal in appearance. In this very House we can hear the shattering noise of the pneumatic hammers. Any Government should be condemned by the community for leaving an ugly open-cut in a city like Perth. I will condemn this Government as hard as I can, because it has done a most dreadful thing. I blame the previous Government for building the Narrows Bridge and for reclaiming the bay. That was the beginning of it all. Perth as a city has been spoilt to some extent, and it is no longer a fair city.

The Hon. R. Thompson: What would you do with the open-cut?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I would cover it up, and make it into a tunnel. Negotiations are taking place for the construction of an underwater tunnel between England and France, so surely a simple tunnel in place of the open-cut could be built in Perth!

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: The tunnel under the English Channel has not yet been built. It has been talked about for over 50 years.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: If the Minister were to save only part of the money that is wasted in other directions, a tunnel could be provided quite easily. The noise in Parliament House will be terrific, and it will be impossible to do our work properly.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: With 7,000 to 8,000 cars going through every day members will not be able to hear themselves talk.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: We will not be able to hear ourselves speak. The Government will then probably come up with the brilliant idea of building another Parliament House. I hope it is put in the back blocks somewhere. I cannot imagine what the situation will be like as the density of the traffic increases. I cannot understand why it was decided to make such a horrible caricature of beauty which will be the result when the road is completed.

We had a beautiful view from King's Park which is so near the city. People could go up there for lunch and look down on beauty—a quiet river which merely needed to be cleared of a little algae. It was a beauty spot which had no comparison anywhere in Australia, but it has been thrown away and ruined. I say again that if Par-

liament were composed of women members only, anyone with such a suggestion would not have been allowed in the back door, let alone the front door.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You would not have got your Narrows Bridge, either.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: It is a wicked desecration and Perth has been ruined. We have only to look at King's Park to realise we cannot make anything as good as nature.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You want to tell Mr. Tonkin about the Narrows Bridge.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I told him before it was done.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Did you really? I am amazed.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: He never visualised what was to come.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you know what I think about the Narrows Bridge? I think it is one of the best projects we have completed.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: America would not have condoned such action, and America will do most things. I am protesting about the terrible cutting which will take the traffic in front of Parliament House. It has involved enormous expenditure and destruction and yet the Government says it has not enough money for this, that, and the other thing. For instance, the Law Society does not have enough money to relieve human suffering. I am ashamed to work amongst a body of men who cannot plan better than that.

I think I have stirred up enough strife by my speech but I hope my remarks will be thought about. I have been as nice as I could be.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You are always nice!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Yes? I know I would like to be in the club to hear what is said about me and then I would know how nice I was thought to be! I want to protest very vigorously about the mess which is being made of things. Another blunder was made in connection with the erection of the new Government office building. The employees there will suffocate one day as a result of a breakdown in the air conditioning. Someone who was there when it failed one day told me they all nearly suffocated. It will be a funny spectacle one day if it is necessary to bring all the employees out and place them on the footpath along King's Park Road.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Think of all the money we will save in wages.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Look at the hideous building which has replaced the lovely structure previously used. If I continued I would call this the most destructive Government we have ever had. All Governments make mistakes, but I think this Government is making a very

grave blunder which the community will not put up with. This will be proved when the time comes!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Good heavens above!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Thank you very much.

**THE HON. E. C. HOUSE** (South) [5.34 p.m.]: I would like to add my congratulations to those already expressed to Mr. Ferry for his capable handling of the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech. His main topic, the tourist industry or travel trade, as he so aptly described it, is one of vital importance to the whole State in view of the monetary gain to Western Australia from both interstate and overseas visitors. Mr. McNeill very ably enlarged on Mr. Ferry's remarks by covering aspects of the topic which had not been previously discussed.

Western Australians are good travellers and are fully aware of the potential of this State in both interest and beauty, and they are themselves excellent ambassadors when they travel overseas.

I think we must acknowledge our appreciation to the Government for making the recent unique northern trip possible. The organisation was superb and no effort was spared to ensure that all members benefited from the knowledge gained of the projects under construction. The ruggedness of the countryside, with its ever-changing colours, linked with the gigantic operations and the untold wealth of the minerals, almost left one spellbound.

Seeing the Kimberley area as we did, after good tropical rains, it was difficult to imagine that cattle died by the thousands through starvation and mismanagement. Yet it was only two years prior to this trip of ours that members who visited the Kimberleys and the Ord area saw how the cattle stood in the very roads we traversed and were too weak to move. If they fell over they never rose again.

It is very interesting to read the comments of Mrs. H. C. Miller, who was formerly Mary Durack. She describes the terrific disabilities suffered in the Kimberleys in the 1880s and the 1890s, including the rough access roads, the isolation, the hard living conditions, and the shortage of water. It was considered by her that everyone thought there was something wrong with Government policy and she claims that this was true to a great extent.

People got into the habit of criticising the Government. Probably it has been the same always. The people in the north wanted subsidies, less taxation, or no taxation, and good roads. The only thing they did not want was advice. By the 1930s the area had been neglected, not only by the Government but also by the people themselves.

Mrs. Miller's brother, after attending Muresk College, placed most of the blame on the lack of knowledge of animal husbandry. He also stressed the reluctance of station-owners to accept advice and so change and improve their systems. It would appear that this is still the case after nearly three-quarters of a century of mismanagement and devastating losses.

One cannot help but form the opinion that the second stage of the Ord project is justified for the revolution it would bring to the cattle industry. The work at the research station, the reserve of fodders which will come from the by-products of crops grown under irrigation, and the breaking down of the resistance of those who object to advice could well mean a new look for the whole of the northern cattle industry.

I think we could take a lesson from the situation in the Kimberleys and realise that absentee-owners are not in the best interests of the State, and that man left to his own devices entirely will quickly ravage land for short-term monetary gains, instead of preserving this, our most valuable asset, for generations to come—and this is a world-wide trend.

His Excellency made reference to the programme for the expansion and improvement of hospitals throughout the State. The increased population and the higher life expectancy makes the provision of adequate hospital and bed space one of our costliest projects, and this applies to the country as well as to the city. If a big hospital is established in the country, and the doctor leaves it, it cannot be utilised to its fullest extent, and the money expended on it lies idle until another doctor is found—if ever.

The cost per bed per patient is ever increasing and would probably be the highest per head of any facility the Government provides. Added to this initial expense is the specialist equipment required by each doctor to perform the various tasks with which he is confronted.

The shortage of doctors in the country areas has become acute, and one of the reasons for their reluctance to practise in the country seems to be the burden of responsibility placed upon single doctors, comparatively isolated as they are in these areas. They are expected to be experts in such a variety of branches of medicine and surgery and one mistake can blacken their reputation. In the face of this responsibility, it is no wonder that doctors are reluctant to venture into the country.

Every endeavour should be made to concentrate on the establishment of at least a two-doctor partnership. This would enable the sharing of responsibility and ensure rest and holiday periods; but, most important of all, it would allow for refresher courses which are so necessary with the rapid changes in medical science.

A need exists for a review of hospital facilities including the careful selection of centres to cater for a radius of districts, taking into account accessibility and population build-up. Main regional centres are necessary, supplied with the most modern equipment and, once again, strategically placed to cater for and benefit sufficient people to justify the expense.

It would be impractical in many respects to have specialists residing at these main centres as the work available would probably not be sufficient to occupy a specialist in a full-time capacity. When we consider the wonderful work being done by the Flying Doctor Service in the north, we must realise that there should be no reason why an aerial specialist team could not be organised to tour the regional hospitals at regular intervals, not only to perform major surgery, but also to help the local doctors keep up to date on the latest methods and drugs.

Tremendous expense is also involved by families visiting relatives or residing near them in instances of long or serious illnesses. The country centres would be far more accessible for these visits. Bunbury seems to have organised its medical teams to cater for all specialist treatment and the doctors there render good service to areas far afield from the town itself.

In the city doctors work in groups in order to improve their efficiency and to make their task easier by allowing them to have most weekends free, and also to take holidays.

There seems to be reasonable grounds to suggest that a member of these partnerships could annually relieve a country doctor and, thereby, provide him with a holiday. It is obvious that something must be done quickly to relieve the drastic shortage of medical practitioners in country areas. Medicine should, I feel, retain its high code of service to the public on a State-wide basis.

In his speech on opening day, His Excellency the Governor made reference to the allocation of C.P. land—in particular, to the million acres of C.P. land which has been allocated each year over the last seven years.

There seems to be a great demand for the release of this land. It might be an interesting economic exercise to determine how this is benefiting the State. How much is this conditional purchase land producing—or, how much is it likely to produce—over a relative number of years? Would it not be a sounder proposition to reduce the amount allocated each year and to channel more finance into a lesser area, in order to ensure the success—or, perhaps, the quicker success—of each allocation?

When the War Service Land Settlement Scheme ventured into conditional purchase land, the administrators were quick to appreciate the necessity for portion of the selection to be raised to a standard which

would be sufficient to support a family in its initial stages. The debt repayments and the gross turnover from this land proved that that planning and the economics of it were sound.

Nationally, we must raise our export earnings. If possible, these should be doubled. We need this extra money in order to keep financing the industrial buildup and this will happen only if we plan the projects efficiently.

Agriculture is still miles in front as the major export earner and there is almost an unlimited market—and an untapped potential—in South-East Asia for the whole range of our agricultural products.

Therefore, it might be preferable to consolidate as we release this conditional purchase land. At the moment, the rate of release is outstripping the ancillary services. From all districts complaints have been received with respect to the large numbers of unoccupied units; that is, absentee-owners who are preventing the genuine person from receiving adequate services which are considered today to be necessities. Speculators and large companies are gaining a hold on some fairly large areas of this valuable land—land which was once described as useless but which, in full production, is outstripping the forest country. Conditional purchase land should be regarded as one of our greatest assets and it should be guarded jealously for the genuine Australian farmer.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Hear, hear! I could not agree with you more.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: As there is no person more dedicated to the land—no person more capable of getting the best results from the soil—than the genuine Australian farmer, it is not in the best interests of agriculture to have speculators, or absentee-owners, being the prime beneficiaries of our valuable light land. The release of large tracts of land, which are sold for a matter of a few shillings per acre over a period of years, must not be used as a cheap advertising stunt—a sprat to catch a mackerel, as it were—and responsible Governments should guard this heritage jealously. There should be no urgent hurry to release land—to quit the lot over a short period of years. In the future, other age groups will be in even greater need of this land but will pay dearly when their turn comes.

The clause in the Act pertaining to the two-year residential period is quite a good one but no provision is made for a long-term loan for a moderate home. In so many cases families with young children are living under the most primitive conditions on these C.P. leases, and this does not provide the best basis for an efficient family relationship. Housing could be considered to be one of the most important factors in the pioneering of farming land.

It is hard to understand the lack of consideration for this important aspect but, perhaps, it could be linked to finance being spread over too large an area and the confirmation of a rather "don't care" attitude to this land which was once regarded as being useless.

Now that the Federal Government is conscripting our young men for two years continuous training for national service, it should be Government policy to instruct landboards to give these lads first priority when the landboards are allocating these blocks; that is, provided there is reasonable finance, or family help, available for development. A portion of each newly surveyed area should be set aside to cater for these lads when they return. This method would be preferable to the setting aside of one large acreage for mass farms, such as was done under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme.

There may not be the same finance available this time as there was after the last war. Therefore, if a block is close to a family unit, and it could provide help through finance, machinery, or labour, this would be of great assistance in the initial stages of development. Governments—both State and Federal—have a duty to see that the best advantage is obtained for these young men in order to compensate them for the loss of opportunity occasioned through these two years of continuous service. The country has a duty to face up to this responsibility as we expect these young men to fulfil a duty on our behalf. If the situation is as urgent as the Commonwealth stresses—and we have no reason to believe it is not—we will owe these young men much before this war is finished.

Landing on foreign soil under war conditions and under hard climatic conditions is not a pleasant experience but one which is rife with homesickness and hardship. These young men deserve the best in mail service, food and equipment—both in Australia and overseas. Our youth, with their background and breeding, are equal to the task. Let us ensure that we, as a nation, play our part in their rehabilitation, as we have done in the past.

Demonstrators do discredit to these young servicemen by sowing doubts in their minds, which only make their task harder to bear. What they need is backing and encouragement from the people whom they are going to protect.

I would like to make reference to the speech of one honourable member—I think it was The Hon. Syd Thompson—who talked about storm damage in the Grass Valley area.

The devastation which has been caused by these flash floods, electrical storms and fires in so many of our agricultural areas, emphasises the need for a Government-sponsored insurance scheme. Such a scheme would enable farmers to repair

damage and to recoup a proportion of their losses.

In some cases farmers at Hyden, Pin-garing and Lake Grace—with up to nine inches of rain at harvest time—experienced a total loss of the whole crop. With the high cost structure facing the industry today, as well as the developmental needs, farmers cannot budget against these freak acts of nature. Fires at Denmark and Mt. Barker caused losses of fences, pasture and stock. Thus, hardships are created which could be considerably reduced if such an insurance scheme were in operation.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The Government tried to introduce an insurance scheme but they would not have a bar of it.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: I assume that the Minister is referring to the Farmers' Union.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Yes.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: Nevertheless, with things getting worse, I think it is time, possibly, for the Government to have another try because it is the Government which is being blamed all the time for not declaring disaster areas and for not giving any help in this regard. Therefore, I think the Government should make another move to try to persuade the Farmers' Union to agree.

Each year we are going to experience—or can experience—some portion of the State being damaged extensively through fires or storms. This damage, of course, causes undue hardship. Insurance is recognised as the best way to protect properties or people against these unforeseen happenings.

To lose the income which has been derived from a whole year's work is, indeed, a very serious matter and, in addition, the farmer is faced with the cost of replacing fences and buildings, etc.

In view of the foregoing, it would be appropriate if this matter were regarded as urgent. To regard it as urgent would, in fact, be in the best interests of the State as we would avoid this recurring dissension which is experienced each time damage is caused through an act of nature.

It should not be impossible to design a workable scheme. It is amazing but, in fact, a very small percentage of, or a levy on the various incomes—a fractional amount only—could bring about a very sound insurance scheme which would prevent the people from suffering these hardships. With these remarks, Mr. President, I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. E. M. Heenan.

*House adjourned at 5.58 p.m.*

# Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 16th August, 1966

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

## QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

### Correct Procedure

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) (4.33 p.m.): With the indulgence of the House I would like to make one or two observations on questions which have been appearing on the notice paper. I am well aware of the great importance that is attached to the rights of members to ask questions in the House, and this is very properly a rather jealously-guarded privilege. However, in many Houses of Parliament it has been necessary to place some restriction on both the nature and the time permitted for the answering of questions; in some cases this has been brought about, no doubt, by the practice of the members in a