

Mr. Court: That is just plain nonsense.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I have the Minister's own word for that. In dealing with this Government I find it best to ascertain my information long before the event, so that there is no get-out. Last year I asked the Minister whether, in the event of the sale of the State Building Supplies, the interest would be a continued charge upon the State. The Minister replied only to the extent that any sale price falls short of the continued liability to the Treasurer.

I hope the Minister checks his answers before he gives them to the House. I understand that some Ministers obtain their own information. I hope the Minister does not do that.

Mr. Court: Oh, no. I use the offices'.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The difference between the selling price and the actual cost—the total debt—to the State is some £800,000 which, with repayments of capital and interest over a period of 20 years, would add up to something like £47,000 per annum, which is another added drain on loan funds which will have to be found by the Treasurer. Therefore, we can see—the Treasury benches are very quiet—that far from this being of advantage to the State, and far from providing additional funds for hospitals and schools—the member for Narrogin would be interested in that if he were awake—it is going to provide an added drain upon the Treasury.

Mr. W. A. Manning: I am awake.

Mr. ROWBERRY: As time is getting on, Sir, and I have not finished my remarks, I would like some advice as to the position.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The member for Warren must formally move that he be given leave to continue his remarks at the next sitting of the House.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I formally move—

That I be given leave to continue my speech at the next sitting of the House.

Motion put and passed.

Debate (on amendment to the motion) thus adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.11 p.m.

# Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 15th August, 1961

## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—</b>	
Building Heights—	
Melford Syndicate Flats in Mount Street	217
Promulgation of Restrictive By-law	217
Esperance Harbour: Commonwealth Assistance for Development	215
Government Boards and Trusts—	
Employment Conditions of Principal Officers	217
Annual Turnover	217
Number of Staff	217
Government Employment—	
Moneys Available to Hawke and Brand-Watts Governments	213
Number of Government Employees and Payment Received	213
Kununurra Townsite—	
Privately-owned Residences	214
Availability and Price of Blocks	214
Metropolitan Region Planning Authority: Resumptions and Proposed Works	217
Parliament House Bells: Installation of new Unit	215
Pastoral Leases—	
Money Spent by Government on Improvements	214
Resumptions	214
Prospectors' Assistance Scheme—	
Number of Beneficiaries and Money Spent	216
Review of Scheme	216
<b>ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY—</b>	
Speakers on Motion—	
The Hon. N. E. Baxter	218
The Hon. J. G. Hislop	224
The Hon. R. Thompson	221

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

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

*Moneys Available to Hawke and Brand-Watts Governments*

1. The Hon. A. R. JONES asked the Minister for Local Government:

(1) What were the total moneys available to the Hawke Government in its final year of government?

(2) What were the total moneys available to the present Government in the years 1960 and 1961?

*Number of Government Employees and Payment Received*

(3) What number of persons (male and female) were employed by the Government in the years 1959, 1960, and 1961?

- (4) What amount of money was paid to all Government employees in the years 1959, 1960, and 1961?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) £80,119,812 (1958-59).  
(2) £85,319,245 (1959-60),  
£90,882,812 (1960-61).

- (3) 1958-59 38,822,  
1959-60 38,932,  
1960-61 38,829.

- (4) 1958-59 £33,740,000,  
1959-60 £36,240,000,  
1960-61 £38,450,000.

The figures given are the amounts expended from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the General Loan Fund for the years listed, together with the number of persons remunerated from these funds.

### KUNUNURRA TOWNSITE

#### *Privately-owned Residences*

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

If privately-owned residences have been erected at Kununurra town-site, the following information is required:—

- (1) The number of houses involved.  
(2) Owners' names.

#### *Availability and Price of Blocks*

- (3) Prices paid for the blocks of land.  
(4) How were the blocks made available?  
(5) Under which section of the Land Act were the blocks made available?  
(6) Are other unoccupied blocks available to the public under similar conditions for either residential or business purposes?  
(7) To whom do potential residents or traders apply for the blocks?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Ten houses.  
(2) Christiani and Nielsen, Contractors, Ord River Dam Construction.  
(3) Six blocks have been purchased by the contractors at prices of—  
Five at £50 per block;  
One at £60 per block.

The balance of four will be made available under similar conditions as soon as the survey has been carried out.

- (4) At a fixed price, by calling for applications under section 45A of the Land Act.

- (5) Answered by No. (4).

- (6) Blocks will be made available to the public under section 38 of the Land Act for both residential and business purposes as soon as the survey has been effected—during 1961.

- (7) Under-Secretary for Lands.

### PASTORAL LEASES

#### *Money Spent by Government on Improvements*

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

- (1) What are the total sums of money spent by the Government up to the 30th June, 1961, on—  
(a) eradication of mesquite bush on—

(i) the pastoral leases known as Mardie Station, Fortescue, and

(ii) all other pastoral leases;

- (b) the destruction of donkeys on pastoral leases;

- (c) fencing, ploughing, regrassing and other expenditure involved in the renovation of eaten-out and eroded pastoral leased lands in the Ord River catchment area?

- (2) Who are the leaseholders and what are the station names of the respective properties being treated?

- (3) What is the estimated final total cost of such renovations?

#### *Resumptions*

- (4) If the treated areas have been excised from the pastoral leases, under which section of the Land Act was such action taken?

- (5) If no resumption has taken place, what arrangements have been entered into with the leaseholders?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) (i) Including research, the Agriculture Protection Board has spent £16,102 on the control of mesquite on Mardie Station.  
(ii) Nil.

- (b) £1,122 since 1958 plus other non-separable expenditure by staff engaged on general duties.

- (c) £61,164.

- (2) Australian Investments Agency Ltd. Ord River Station. Turner Station.

- (3) £240,000.

- (4) Treated areas have not been excised from the pastoral leases.

(5) Australian Investments Agency Ltd. have agreed—

- (i) to pay one-third of the total cost with a maximum of £80,000;
- (ii) to manage future grazing of treated areas in accordance with recommendations of Agricultural Department officers.

### ESPERANCE HARBOUR

#### *Commonwealth Assistance for Development*

4. The Hon. G. BENNETTS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) In view of the rapid development of land which has taken place in the Esperance district, and the amount of grain, stock, etc. that will be available for export in the next few years, and considering that the Government is aware of this and has discussed the urgent need of a land-backed harbour, will the Government advise if it intends to proceed with the matter?
- (2) If the answer is "No", and this is on account of the fact that the money is not available, will the Government approach the Federal Government for assistance, as the matter is urgent?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Following a recently completed hydrographic survey, a possible scheme for a land-backed berth has been prepared. The report is receiving active consideration, but no firm decisions have been taken.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

### PARLIAMENT HOUSE BELLS

#### *Installation of New Unit*

5. The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the President:

- (1) Was the decision to dispense with the electric bells in Parliament House a decision of the Joint House Committee?
- (2) If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes"—
  - (a) On what date was the decision made by the Joint House Committee?
  - (b) How many members were present when the decision was made?
  - (c) Which members (if any) were absent?
  - (d) Was the decision unanimous?
  - (e) Did the members of the Joint House Committee see a demonstration of the new

"hybrid" system now installed before agreeing to the alteration?

- (3) If the answer to No. (1) is "No"—
  - (a) Who made the decision for the alteration;
  - (b) on what authority; and
  - (c) when was such decision made?
- (4) Are you satisfied that the present "hybrid" system is in conformity with Standing Orders which require the ringing of the bells on specific occasions?

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver):

I must first acknowledge a private request from the Minister for Mines for a ruling as to whether a question to the President does not conflict with Standing Order No. 87, and I have the following to report:—

While I agree that a strict interpretation of Standing Order No. 87 would prevent a member directing a question to the President, there was a precedent in this House in 1954. Further, I feel that as this particular subject has been causing members some concern, it might be well to answer it in this manner.

However, I would point out to members that the practice in the House of Commons is that questions dealing with matters within the jurisdiction of the Speaker should be addressed to the Speaker by private notice. No written or public notice addressed to the Speaker is permissible.

Without establishing a precedent, I make the following statement:—

The change from the old type electric bells to the bell-sound system now in operation was planned by the engineers responsible for the improvements to Parliament House. There is no record on Joint House Committee minutes of the change being dealt with by the committee; but it has been referred to many times in general discussions on the improvements.

Since I have occupied the position of Chairman of the Joint House Committee, I have endeavoured to have all decisions determined by the committee so that a record is made of such matters.

The change was referred to at the annual meeting of members convened by the Joint House Committee on the 14th October, 1959; and, therefore, the decision to install the new system was taken some time before that date. The new system is known as a "Bell Sound unit."

As there appears to be some doubt in the minds of members with regard to compliance with Standing Orders, I gave instructions, following the question to the Minister by The Hon. F. J. S. Wise on Tuesday, the 8th September, for a meeting of the Standing Orders Committee to be called so that this point can dealt with.

I am sure that members generally will agree that the installation of the old type bell would not be in keeping with the improvements which have been made to the building, and I feel that after a short period of familiarisation the new system will be entirely satisfactory.

It has the added advantage of requiring less maintenance than the old type of bell, and any breakdown will be immediately apparent as the whole system will be affected, whereas under the old system the failure of individual bells was the cause of complaints on many occasions.

#### *Personal Explanations*

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Have I your permission, Mr. President, to make an explanation?

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Yes.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would like to explain that I did not raise this matter with you from any desire on my part to prevent the honourable member gaining information on this particular subject. However, if one studies Standing Order 87, one will see that it is permissible for members to address questions to Ministers of the Crown and also to any other member relating to any Bill, motion, or other public matter connected with the business, on the notice paper, of which such members may have charge.

In this regard, there was no matter on the notice paper of which anyone—Minister or private member—had charge. Therefore, I did not consider it was correct procedure for the honourable member to address his question to you. For that reason, I took the matter up with you. The precedent of last year, to which you

referred, could be dealt with as an exception rather than a rule, because once a precedent of this nature is established it would be competent for members of this House to fire questions at each other pertaining to matters not on the notice paper and of which we have no knowledge.

I am very pleased that you gave the honourable member an explanation in regard to his question rather than a reply to it, because I feel that in that way you have not established a precedent.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: May I make a personal explanation?

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Yes.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: My reason for asking you the question was that I did not consider it concerned the Minister. You, as the Chairman of the House Committee, were, I believe, the right person to whom to direct my question. It had nothing to do with the Minister. If he had any objection to raise, I would have expected him to stand on his feet and do so at the time.

Secondly, in 1954—I think about two days after I had been elected President—a question was directed to me by Sir Charles Latham, from the floor of the House, regarding an interview I had had with certain persons in Parliament House. The question had nothing to do with the business in the Chamber or the conduct of the business; it was more or less a private matter that was directed to me as President at that time.

Therefore, as I considered that this present matter was directly concerned with the Chamber, I maintain I was entitled to address a question to you, Sir. I will have more to say on this subject later when I speak on the Address-in-Reply.

#### **PROSPECTORS' ASSISTANCE SCHEME**

##### *Number of Beneficiaries and Money Spent*

6. The Hon. E. M. HEENAN asked the Minister for Mines:
  - (1) How many prospectors are now receiving assistance under the Government prospecting scheme?
  - (2) How much money did the Government spend during the last financial year in providing assistance under this scheme?

##### *Review of Scheme*

- (3) Is it the intention of the Government to review the scheme in the light of past experience, and in the hope of achieving better results for all concerned?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) 47.
- (2) £11,402 12s. 6d.

- (3) The Government prospecting assistance scheme is designed to assist financially the genuine prospector who is himself without necessary means, and is intended by so doing to encourage prospecting.

Last year the Mines Department offered an incentive through the Prospectors' Association in the form of a reward for discovery of gold by loaming methods. This had good results. Portion of the reward has been claimed and will be paid. The scheme is reviewed periodically, and any worthwhile suggestions or alterations will be welcomed and considered.

### GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND TRUSTS

#### *Employment Conditions of Principal Officers*

7. The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Mines:

Relative to the three principal executive or administrative officers of each of the boards, trusts or similar statutory bodies, will the Minister supply the following information:—

- (1) What are the—
  - (a) titles and annual salaries payable;
  - (b) travelling and other expenses allowances?
- (2) Whether Government-owned vehicles are provided, or free-of-interest loans are available for car purchase?
- (3) Where the Public Service Act does not apply, whether salary rates are fixed on recommendation from the Public Service Commissioner?

#### *Annual Turnover*

- (4) In trading and similar organisations, what is the money value of annual turnover?

#### *Number of Staff*

- (5) Where applicable, what is the total number of staff employed in both wages and salaries categories?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

In order to answer the honourable member's question, it would be necessary to contact every single board, trust, or similar statutory body throughout the State, of which there are many.

If the honourable member will nominate the authorities in which he is interested, so as to limit the field of inquiry, I will endeavour to have answers supplied accordingly.

### BUILDING HEIGHTS

*Melford Syndicate Flats in Mount Street*

8. The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) What is the proposed height of the flat building being erected for Melford Syndicate on Lot 47, Mount Street?

#### *Promulgation of Restrictive By-law*

- (2) Is there any by-law restricting the height of buildings in the City of Perth?
- (3) If there is no by-law in existence restricting height, particularly where it could affect the skyline of King's Park, Parliament House and its surroundings, will he endeavour to have the Perth City Council promulgate such a by-law?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) From ground floor to top of building—118 feet.
- (2) The only height restriction in the City of Perth is in respect of an area on Mounts Bay Road in the vicinity of Cliff Street, where certain allotments are subject to restriction on building to a height of not more than 70 feet above low-water mark, Fremantle.
- (3) Yes. Representations have already been made to the Perth City Council by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

### METROPOLITAN REGION PLANNING AUTHORITY

#### *Resumptions and Proposed Works*

9. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) How many properties were resumed or otherwise acquired by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority during the last financial year?
- (2) What is the number scheduled to be acquired during the present financial year?
- (3) In addition to those above-mentioned, what is the estimated number of properties which will need to be acquired by the authority during the next ten years?
- (4) What are the works for which the authority requires the properties?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) 44 properties.
- (2) 24 being negotiated—more will follow.

(3) It is impossible to estimate the number of properties which will need to be acquired within the next ten years. Purchase arises broadly in two circumstances—

- (a) where refusal to permit development carries with it an implication of purchase; and
- (b) where property is specially required for purposes of development in accord with the scheme.

The rate of development applications cannot be foreseen. The rate at which properties are required for development depends on many factors which will vary from year to year. In any case no extended programme of acquisition can be determined until the authority's financial ability to enter into long-term loans has been established.

As an indication of the scale of acquisition which will have to be faced during a period of 10-15 years, it is estimated that approximately 400 properties will be involved in the system of inner city roads. A large number of further acquisitions will arise during this period outside the city.

- (4) (a) Western switch road;
- (b) city inner ring highway;
- (c) important regional roads;
- (d) public open space.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed from the 9th August on the following motion by The Hon. H. K. Watson:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator 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 State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

**THE HON. N. E. BAXTER** (Central) [4.55 p.m.]: The Speech delivered by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator was an excellent outline of the progress and development made within the State over the past year or two; but,

of course, we all realise it will take many more years and a terrific amount of finance before we reach the stage of progress and complete development which is our ultimate goal. A lot of planning and work has to be carried out before that is attained.

I believe that at no time previously in the history of the State has there been so much interest shown in Western Australia by people from other States and from overseas. This augurs well for the future of the State, because interested parties from outside will be coming here and they will know what our State can produce; and, knowing that, they will be able to come here and develop businesses or farming properties, and will be able to do quite well; and not only will they help themselves to progress but they will help Western Australia, too.

In the meantime, we, who are more or less the appointed guardians of the State, have a big job in front of us. We must make every effort to see that the assets of the State—particularly our farming lands—do not lessen in value and usefulness by any misuse or mistreatment.

This aspect brings me to the subject of excavations of part of our rural areas for the extraction of gravel, stone, sand, and various other minerals. I believe there is not one of us who has not noticed when travelling, not only outside the metropolitan area, but inside it, what has happened to our land as a result of excavations for the various components required for roadmaking, building, and so on. In many places there is a very unsightly mess. Even though a lot of damage has been done, it is not too late to take steps to see that it is not extended; or to take steps to ensure that the damage that has occurred is treated in such a way that the land involved will revert somewhat to its original condition.

On the other hand, what is the position of a person who acquires a parcel of land and holds it in fee simple under a Crown grant, or a leasehold contract, or under conditional purchase? Under any of these contracts, he is given the right to hold the land and to work it to a certain depth. But how far do those rights extend? Under some sections of a number of our statutes, members will find that there are provisions contrary to the right of a person to hold land and to work it to a certain depth as prescribed in the Land Act.

Many Government instrumentalities and semi-government instrumentalities have the right of entry to what one might call private land to remove stone, gravel, clay, or any other material of a similar nature that they may want, without payment of any royalty; and they may do so even against the wishes of the occupier or the owner; and no compensation is payable, unless it is an *ex-gratia* payment.

I believe it is high time that some action should be taken to protect not only our landowners, but our lands, from devastation and such treatment as they have received in the past.

Under the Local Government Act, a local authority has the right to enter any property and remove gravel for roadmaking and other purposes. The Public Works Act gives power to the Public Works Department, to the Railways Department, and to the Main Roads Department to enter property and take what they require without thought of compensation. In addition, by the State Electricity Commission Act, the State Electricity Commission has the right to enter land and remove any materials it requires.

I repeat that it is high time something was done. Further, the same powers are extended to the Commonwealth Government, to the Public Works Department, and other departments, and the rights of the individual in this respect are whittled away to such an extent that he is left with practically none.

I believe that when these Acts were framed, the Parliament of those days was of the opinion that gravel was of little use except for road building and various other building purposes. Apparently the legislature in past years considered that gravel country, for farming purposes, was useless. However, since the advent of clover, lucerne, and other grasses, gravel country has become some of the most valuable in the State. I challenge any honourable member here to go into the Darling Ranges, as you and I have done, Mr. President, to have a look at some of the properties in the hills that have become eyesores because of the damage that has been done as a result of the soil being excavated right down to bare rock so that nothing whatsoever can be grown on the land.

Some of those properties are so bad that one might as well try to grow hair on a bald head as try to grow crops of any nature on them after the gravel has been removed. In fact, I think one might have more chance of growing hair on a bald head than growing crops on bare rock.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: A man with a bald head can at least wear a wig.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: That is so, but one cannot cover this land in any manner after the way it has been treated in the past. Let me quote, for example, a man who takes up a farming property, clears the land, fences it, top-dresses it, and erects his buildings on it. How would he feel if, after performing all that work, someone came in and removed acres of topsoil from his property?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: They cannot do that on private land.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am sure I would be most unhappy if that happened to my property, and I am sure the Minister would be quite unhappy if it happened on his property.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How can it happen on private property?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Under the various Acts I have mentioned, it can happen on any private property. There is nothing to stop any authority from entering one's land and removing gravel or soil for any purposes it thinks fit.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you mean a local authority?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Section 112 of the Public Works Act gives power to the Public Works Department—this section deals with railways—to enter on to the private land of any individual. The section reads as follows:—

The Minister for Railways may temporarily occupy and use any land for the purpose of constructing or repairing a railway, and the Minister for Works may temporarily occupy and use any land for the purposes of constructing or repairing any other public works, and the said Ministers respectively may do the following things thereon:—

- (a) May take therefrom stone, gravel, earth, and other materials.

Further on in the section, subsection (1a) reads—

- (a) lawfully enter the land with such assistants and things as the Minister or authorised persons think fit for the purposes of undertaking, constructing, or providing the public work.

I think that should be sufficient to make it clear to the Minister that the Public Works Department has every right to enter upon one's property and to take away stone, gravel, or any other soil without any compensation having to be paid to the owner of the property. In fact, that has been done. I can cite instances to the Minister where the Main Roads Department, the Public Works Department, and the local authority have all entered upon private land and taken therefrom stone, gravel, and other materials.

I know of one particular property situated in the hills which was entered by a Commonwealth department for the purposes of removing material for the construction of a road and one of its works. It may have been quite right and proper for that department to remove all the materials it wanted for those works, but following its entry a private contractor came in and removed quantities of gravel right down to the stone. That case is now in the hands of the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor with a view to obtaining some redress for the farmer concerned.

This is a matter that should be given every consideration to see whether we can redraft some of the sections in these various Acts so that no further miscarriages of justice will occur. We should ensure that the matter is put on a proper plane.

Only recently I read in the *Government Gazette* of the Lands Department gazetting some reserves in the Swan district, totalling some 81 acres of land, for the purpose of excavating gravel. These reserves have been vested in the Gingin and Mogumber shire councils to enable those two local authorities to obtain their gravel requirements.

In my opinion this matter should be further investigated by the Lands Department to ascertain whether it would be possible to proclaim other reserves for the purpose of obtaining gravel rather than permit local authorities to enter upon private property merely because this land is adjacent to the particular jobs they are doing, and enables them to obtain the gravel material quite readily.

It might be possible to obtain this gravel from a reserve on Crown land which may be only a mile or two further from the job; because, in these days of modern transport, the matter of another mile or so would not amount to very much and would not entail much extra cost. It is the labour charges that represent the main cost of any job. For any authority to obtain its gravel requirements from private property is not only unjust, but also the land is left in an unsightly mess.

In one of these areas where a gravel pit has been in existence, one can see where the gravel has been dug to a depth of five, six, or seven feet with the result that big boulders and trees are sticking out everywhere. No attempt has been made to level off that land and put it into a condition whereby it will grow something—even some sort of herbage; or whereby, perhaps in a few years' time, it would be possible to grow something worthwhile. In the existing circumstances, however, the land will remain bare for ever and a day: nothing will be able to grow on it in the future.

I trust, therefore, the Government will investigate this problem and review the Acts that control the situation to ascertain whether something can be done to put the matter on a sound and reasonable basis.

Getting away from that subject, but speaking along the same lines, the Forests Department, on the other hand, and in comparison with the private owner, has all the rights in the world. Nobody can enter upon a forestry reserve and remove gravel from it without first obtaining a permit to do so and without paying a royalty. Surprisingly enough, when I looked up the interpretation of "forest produce" in the Forests Act, I found that not only does the Forests Department retain full control over the timber on its

reserves, but it also, with the exception of minerals, owns everything else, including bushes, flowers, shrubs, sand, and stone, that may exist in the soil. What is more, if any local authority desires to obtain gravel from a forestry reserve, it not only has to obtain a permit from the Forests Department, but it also has to pay a royalty on every cubic yard of material removed.

Both the Armadale Shire Council and the Mundaring Shire Council have paid royalties to the department in payment for the removal of gravel from a forestry reserve. The worst feature is that the Mundaring Shire Council has a limited ratable income in view of the district it controls and because of the huge area contained in it comprising forestry reserves and water-sheds, all of which of course, is non-ratable property. Yet, alongside these forestry reserves it has become necessary for the Mundaring Shire Council to construct roads; and, to do this, in most cases, it has been forced to pay a royalty on gravel obtained from forestry reserves.

I discussed this matter the other day with the secretary of the Mundaring Shire Council, and he informed me that it had a permit and a contract with the Forests Department to pay a royalty of 3d. on every ton of gravel obtained. Recently it has been said that the Forests Department will agree to a new contract with the shire councils to charge them 1s. a cubic yard. This is not good enough! Not only does the local authority have to obtain a permit to enter upon a forestry reserve for its gravel requirements, but, also, it has to pay a royalty of 1s. a cubic yard. When the Forests Act was framed, I do not think there was any intention by the legislature that a shire council should be placed in that position.

I therefore ask the Government to inquire into this position with a view to seeing whether something can be arranged along reasonable lines to enable shire councils to obtain gravel from Crown lands or reserves without having to pay for every cubic yard of material they obtain.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: That is inconsistent with your previous proposition.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: No; it is far from being inconsistent. I am now speaking of Crown lands. I am not saying that shire councils should enter these reserves indiscriminately for the purpose of obtaining gravel, especially from forestry areas, but from those areas where there is a poor class of timber. All forestry reserves do not carry a good class of timber, and shire councils should be permitted to enter those forestry reserves so that they may obtain their gravel requirements. Also, I am not asking that local authorities should be required to pay royalties on any material



they remove from private property, but I am making the suggestion that if they do enter upon private land, in those cases where they cannot obtain gravel anywhere else, the whole matter should be handled in a reasonable manner.

I do not see the necessity for gravel to be quarried from a private property when there are many Crown land reserves in the hills, and water-shed areas, where there are ample gravel supplies. Would the removal of gravel from a water-shed area affect the water that goes into the weirs? I feel quite certain it would not. There is ample land from which to obtain gravel without entering upon private property.

In raising another forestry matter—one apropos of a question I asked in the House recently regarding the payment of royalties on timber and charcoal production for the Wundowie charcoal-iron and steel industry, I want to refer briefly to the report on the operations of the Forests Department for the year ended the 30th June, 1960. The following is part of an extract from a report by Mr. F. C. Ford Robertson, Director, Commonwealth Forestry Bureau, Oxford, and is to be found on page 16:—

The Wundowie charcoal-iron plant (1948), the only completely integrated plant of this type in the world, which logs the forest within a 15-mile radius, at the rate of 50,000 tons a year and produces (a) sawn timber, (b) dry-distillation products (methanol, acetic acid, wood tar, etc.) and charcoal from both the sawn waste and forest slash, (c) sawdust (8,000 tons/year) for raising steam. The charcoal is fed to the blast furnace where the State's iron ores are reduced to high-grade pig-iron: without the charcoal, coke would have to be imported at great cost. The whole plant is a model of integrated economy.

Here is a man, whom one might call an authority on forestry, referring to the timber used for charcoal as slash or waste. He also refers to the logging of forests within a 15-mile radius. I am afraid it is not a 15-mile radius under the present set-up. A royalty is charged by the Forests Department for some of these waste materials, a lot of which would otherwise be burned in the forest; and the area is extended well beyond 15 miles today, particularly when one realises that this industry is carting timber from 33 miles away.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: The forestry is a pretty hard mob.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I believe it is the wrong attitude to stick to the red-tape letter of the Act—just because the Act gives the Forests Department the right to charge these royalties for a forest product. Surely in regard to State-owned industries the departments should not try to cut one another's throats in small matters such

as this, especially when the industry to which I have referred is making progress and today is showing a profit.

I know that in the past I have stood up in this Chamber and condemned this industry because of its financial losses. However, the picture is different today. This industry is showing a profit; but that does not mean to say that it should be charged for material which possibly nobody else in the State would use—material that would be of little value to any other industry in the State. It is time the Government was reasonable about these matters.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Would not that be helping the Forests Department in most cases?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Yes; because it cleans up the forest in a good number of cases. In most cases today where an industry requires timber, it is bulldozed down and logs are cut from it. Stumps are not left sticking out of the ground: the land is left in a state for development at less cost than in the past.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Do they not sell that land for grazing?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Not very much has been thrown open to date as regards forestry land, but some areas have been developed and thrown open for selection. This industry is not only continuing to expand, but is becoming profitable and is assisting in the development of land in those areas. It is turning what was just ordinary waste forest land into a good type of land for production in the future. I ask the Government to give consideration to these matters. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

**THE HON. R. THOMPSON** (West) [5.20 p.m.]: I am going to speak about something that was not in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech, although I wish it had been. It is my intention to deal briefly with conditions at the Fremantle Prison. Several weeks ago the member for Fremantle, the member for South Fremantle, the Reverend Kirby, and I made an inspection, which lasted several hours, of the Fremantle Prison.

It was appalling not only to see the conditions under which the staff have to work in that institution, but also the conditions in which the prisoners are kept. As far as I am concerned there is no political flavour about what I have to say. Any Government that has the courage to do something urgently about the conditions at this prison will receive my whole-hearted support. I do not believe that local authorities, whether they be in my electorate or not, should raise objections to the construction of a new gaol in their area. Very shortly I will be shifting to what was the old Melville military camp where there is plenty of land. Should the Prisons Department decide to build a new gaol alongside my house, I will not raise

any cry against that being done after seeing the conditions which now prevail in the Fremantle gaol. I am of the opinion that it would do most members good if they took the trouble to visit the gaol.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You mean it would educate us?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes. We, in this Chamber, pass many Bills about which we know very little, yet in this day of social betterment when, in Western Australia, we are crying out for bigger and better things, we are condoning something that is a disgrace to Western Australia and Australia. The first thing to strike one's eye when visiting the gaol is the woodheap, on which 64 to 100 men are supposed to be gainfully employed while they are confined to prison.

As regards the implements used by the men, I was told by an official that approximately 98 men would have for their use five cross-cut saws, approximately four or five hammers, six wedges, and approximately five axes.

The Hon. J. M. A. Cunningham: That is hard labour?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes. We next visited the printing shop which was so overcrowded that one was led to believe the men were there for the purpose of solitary confinement. I would not like to say how many were in that room, but the number would be in excess of 30. The work they were doing would require five or six men in a normal printing shop.

The picture I have just given applies equally to the bootmaker's shop. The standard of workmanship in these two shops is excellent. The quality of the shoes being made would be unexcelled anywhere; and I would certainly like a pair for myself. They are "A"-class goods. The worst thing about these shops is the toilet facilities, which have to be seen to be believed. No words of mine could describe their dirty condition.

The prisoners have to live under the most unhygienic conditions. Some of the cells in the gaol proper are in a very good state. These are mainly occupied by lifers who develop their cells to a very high standard. However, those who are to be in their cells for a short duration simply give them a coat of whitewash, and do not go to very much trouble. Most of these cells are very old and dilapidated; and unless one was serving life imprisonment, I do not think one would go to the trouble of trying to improve them.

After seeing this institution, I am of the opinion that those who are most concerned about capital punishment would change their minds if they paid a visit to the gaol. I think they would say, "We will abolish capital punishment and sentence those cases for life in Fremantle

gaol," because, by no stretch of imagination, could a capital sentence be any worse than spending a lifetime in that gaol.

The prisoners in the woodwork shop and the carpentry department work under better conditions, and they turn out high class products. No doubt numbers of members have seen the dolls' house which was exhibited during the technical training week held recently. It is a beautifully made piece of furniture; and the soft furnishings such as curtains were made by the female inmates of the gaol.

The tinsmith's shop is not so over-crowded, but working conditions are not particularly good. About 10 or 11 men are usually employed in the tinsmith shop, where they turn out a large range of articles. No tradesmen are employed in that shop, but the men are able to acquire some knowledge, according to the length of their sentence, and are doing something useful. I should think that on leaving the gaol they would be able to obtain a job in a tin-plating shop or in a place involving sheet-metal work.

The hospital block within the precinct of the gaol is sadly in need of renovation. I consider that if the hospital were renovated it could become one of the best structures within the Fremantle Gaol, with the exception of the Church of England chapel which Professor Stephenson considered should be retained for its architectural value when the gaol itself was demolished.

The land on which the gaol is situated is most unsuitable. Apart from where the buildings are constructed, it is impossible to find more than one-eighth of an acre of level ground. The inmates are unable to indulge in sport or recreation of any nature, because of this limitation. The area where the inmates may go for recreation is no bigger than this Chamber and all they can do is sit around and mope. From the discussions I had, I considered that a 250-cell full-security prison would be most desirable at the present stage. This would be adequate to serve the community for many years to come. A 300-cell ordinary-security gaol would be necessary, but that would not have to be confined to the metropolitan area. I suggest this could be more in the nature of a prison farm to which prisoners could go after their period of full-security detention. Prisoners sent to various outstations could be rehabilitated and trained to take their place in society.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Do they have organised sport in the gaol?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No. The situation could be summed up by saying as I have heard it said many times, that it is a breeding ground for criminals. One can quite understand this statement. The prisoners have nothing to do; the majority are not usefully employed; they have nothing to occupy their minds; all the

do is talk over what they will do when they get out, and when and how they will do it.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Somebody told me that is where they make up all the yarns.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I think I could cook up plenty of yarns myself about the place. I refer now to the education facilities provided in the gaol. There is one schoolteacher fully employed there. Last year over 40 certificates, representing various standards, were gained by the inmates. Roughly 10 per cent. of the inmates take a keen interest in the educational facilities provided, and this figure is largely made up of the younger type of inmate.

Youths of 15 are employed in the gaol, manufacturing palliases and prison mattresses. I think we must all feel that it is wrong to allow 15 year old boys to be placed in gaol with the seasoned criminals. This House should support any move to introduce a better standard for all prisoners, and particularly for the youths.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Are there many youths of that age in Fremantle Gaol?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I was told there were eight youths in the gaol. There are approximately 36 females. From replies I received, I was given to understand that the number of prisoners is pretty static. If 36 prisoners go out one day, one can expect to see 36 others coming in the next day. The figure does not vary very much.

I have mentioned before in this House the need for an alcoholic foundation. I will not go over that subject at the present time, but it is very apparent to me that something should be done for alcoholics. Alcoholics constitute the largest turnover in the prison. They may be in gaol for three weeks or a month. When these people come out they have nothing to do. They cannot find employment and they have no money, so they hang around the town. They have a few pots, and then find themselves back in goal. If some outstation could be set up for these people where they could be held for a time and given treatment and help, with employment on their release, I think we would find the numbers would decrease, and such people would not be a burden upon the State. Such outstations would more than pay for themselves over a course of years.

If any members wish to take the opportunity of seeing the gaol for themselves, I will be only too pleased to make the necessary arrangements. I would like to mention that in one cell situated in No. 4 division there are etchings over the wall, which is a very beautiful piece of art work. This particular wall was covered for many years with whitewash. This has now been scraped off, and the etchings are being preserved. The cell adjacent to it

is known as Moondyne Joe's cell. This cell is completely studded with what looks like dogs—the sort with which railway sleepers are fixed into position. The authorities were unable to tell me whether Moondyne Joe ever had the opportunity of being confined in the cell, or whether he died there.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: He was ultimately caught in a wine cellar, was he not?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It was a little before my time. Irrespective of what Government is in power, I think we should provide something better in the way of social uplift for people who are sentenced by our courts.

I wish now to deal briefly with the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority with respect to resuming land for public open spaces. I refer in particular to a piece of land which, I think, most members will know. It is due east of the existing Robb Jetty meatworks. It consists of a row of limestone hills and comprises 109 acres. This property was bought some three years ago by six partners at a cost of £10,000. Although the owners have spent several thousands of pounds on developmental works, improvements, and so forth, they are still not permitted to work their property—quarrying works—to the level set out by the local road board. Negotiations have been going on for three years with the local road board, the Town Planning Department, and the Minister. There appears to be a complete shifting of policy all the time, first with the local authority, next with the Town Planning Board, and then with the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

The Minister knows I have been interested in this matter for some time, and I would ask him, if he replies, what is going to be the exact position in respect to this block of land. The people concerned have invested £10,000 in the property, and they just cannot go on and on. All they wish to do is to work the property and obtain a living from it. There are six families involved. I think it is stupid and unnecessary that these people should have to resort to visiting lawyers in order to get some clarification of the matter. I have been to the Town Planning Board on three or four occasions. I have also telephoned the board on numerous occasions. I have arranged for the Minister to visit the property; and the answer is always that something will be done tomorrow. Tomorrow is not good enough. The people concerned have had this property for three years, and this situation does not augur well for anybody to start up in industry—and this is an industry, namely, a quarrying industry. The owners are not going to make an ugly mess of the countryside. It does not encourage anyone to put capital into the land.

Since the owners first purchased this land three years ago, the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority has changed its mind. The area originally set aside for open spaces has been shifted to the top of the hill because of the cost involved in the resumption of the land. I have recently been told by Mr. Lloyd (Commissioner for Town Planning) that in the near future the owners will be advised that they can quarry on certain levels, but the ridge of the hill will have to be kept. I have since been told—not by Mr. Lloyd, but a person interested in this venture—that that decision has been scrapped. If land is going to be resumed, I think that people who own land should be told, and they should be entitled to compensation when they are notified.

There is another piece of land which the Minister knows all about, and I think it is also worthwhile bringing this matter before the House. It is an area of land in Dixon Road, East Rockingham. It was reserved for public open spaces, and while it was so reserved it was subdivided and sold to certain individuals at approximately £50 an acre. These people bought these blocks, in good faith, and one chap hired a bulldozer, levelled the block, and pushed down those trees which he did not want to keep so that he could build a home and sow about four acres of pasture to feed a few cows or poultry. When this man applied to the Rockingham Road Board for a permit to construct a house worth £4,500, the board said to him, "You can't build a house on that land; it's public open space." Yet he had bought this property only nine months before and it was reserved as public open space when he bought it.

I sincerely hope that the Minister will try to do something in this instance. I know he tries to do a good job, and is always sympathetically disposed towards cases that I have taken to him. I am not criticising the Minister in any way, but I think something should be done about the muddle and fuddle that surrounds the situation when people try to find out whether their properties have been resumed. When land is resumed I suggest that, instead of notifying the local authorities, signs should be placed on the land to indicate that it has been resumed so that the owners can apply for compensation.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: We have told this fellow we will purchase his land.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: If the Minister has told him that, then he has not told me as yet.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You should have been informed.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: As yet, he has not told me that the land is to be resumed, but I can see what will happen next: he will come to me and ask me how soon he will get paid for it. When the Minister speaks during this debate will he tell us how long it takes after property has been resumed for compensation payment to be made? At present this position is most unsatisfactory; and I am not the only one who is called in to assist these people.

There is only one other matter about which I am concerned, and that is the attitude of some of our speed cops, as they are called. As yet, I have not been picked up by the speed cops, but of late I have been observing their behaviour and the manner in which they speak to people when they pull them up for some offence against the traffic laws. I do not want to see our Police Force get a bad name; by and large I think we have a good Police Force and that the members of it do a good job, or at least a reasonable job. But the trouble is that some of the constables are young, and, particularly when they get a motorbike and uniform with a crash helmet and leggings, they approach people as though they were S.S. troopers. Perhaps they are young and inexperienced, but they are no credit to the Police Force.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: What percentage of them would be like that?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I would not like to give a percentage; all I am saying is that from my observations there are few—I will put the number down as few. It is not a majority; it is a minority but the manner in which they approach people when they intercept them, and the way they speak to people when they have intercepted them, should not be tolerated. It is completely unnecessary for them to speak like they do. Policemen are paid from the public purse, and the people whom they intercept are helping to pay their wages. These policemen should be instructed that at all times they must have a tolerant attitude towards the public when they find it necessary to intercept them for a breach of the traffic laws.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: To be more courteous?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes; that is correct. That completes my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate, and support the motion.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [5.51 p.m.]: Like my colleague, Mr. Watson, I had intended to say what was in my mind regarding such things as Berlin and the European Common Market. But on a day such as this I think it would be most unwise for anyone to contribute anything which may be controversial.

debatable about such a critical situation as Berlin. Suffice it to say that each one of us here should express his sympathy with all of those people who have been confronted with a problem such as this is, whether they be citizens of West or East Germany, or those of our leaders who are endeavouring to find a solution to a problem which must have been recognised as a problem from the very moment when Berlin was divided between four nations, even though it was in an area set aside for one nation. It was a nation which suffered grievously from the war, but it was done in a moment of trust by all sides. However, it must inevitably be a problem for us to solve; and I trust that it will be solved peacefully for the sake of mankind.

The European Common Market, however, is a most interesting problem, about which we must all have some thoughts; and it raises a great deal of conjecture—in fact, one might build fairy stories around it—as to what might happen in the future as regards the common market. As yet, Britain has only applied for membership, but certain terms will have to be laid down which, of course, she can ask for prior to making a final decision to join.

The whole question opens up some interesting facts regarding the situation of England in relation to Europe, and as regards the relationship of Australia to Asia. One must realise that there was a time when England was a portion of Europe; and it is interesting to read a book called, *The Evolution of England*. The words of J. A. Williamson, in his treatise on the subject, are most interesting, and in this book, *The Evolution of England*, he has this to say:—

In the distant pre-historic age the land of Britain was part of the Continent of Europe, joined southward to the soil of present France and Eastward by a great flat plain to Germany. The Channel was then but a gulf, stretching inwards no farther perhaps than the Isle of Wight. The Thames flowed on through the now vanished eastern plain until it met the Rhine, and together they sought the ocean somewhere north of what is now the Dogger Bank. The westward face of the land presented its cliffs to the Atlantic storms, as it still does. But few of them can have been the cliffs we see today, for waves and frosts have gnawed them unceasingly, and all cliff-coasts have given ground slowly but surely to the sea.

He later goes on to say—

The whole process was so slow that no pre-historic savage in his single lifetime could realise that it was taking place. Yet the final moment, when some terrific tempest burst through the last land-ridge, between Britain

and the Continent, must have struck the imagination of the men who witnessed it, although they could not have conceived how great a day it was to prove in the history of the world.

So we come to the point that the decision which is to be made by Britain today might be just as momentous in the history of the world as was that day when England was separated from the Continent. In my view, we have to realise that as a nation we are part of South-East Asia, and we should act accordingly. I believe that in the future the markets of Australia will increase not so much in the European zones, but in the East Asian zones. I think, too, we must begin to realise that the people who live in Eastern Asia have leaders and a society of men who are just as capable and have just as much brainpower and ability—mechanical, scientific, and intellectual—as we have, and that they are capable of governing their people in the future in such a way that South-East Asia will take a very different place in the world from that which it has in the past.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They are a little ahead of us in some things.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Having been fortunate enough to travel through a good deal of South-East Asia, I met people with the greatest degree of culture and intellectuality, and I came back with a very high opinion of the people who are leading those countries. It would be almost impossible for us, if we were a small group of people separated by a short distance from those countries with a vast army of customers, baldly to say without thought that we would not join a common market. I do not think it would be possible for us to do so; and likewise it may not be possible for Britain to do so.

I think we in Australia must look at this matter less self-consciously than we sometimes look at problems that face us, because Britain must survive. It is disheartening to know that Britain at present has to make a request to the International Monetary Bank for something like £892,000,000—I believe the sum finally asked for was a little less than that, but it was really the maximum which the World Bank could lend—in order to balance her economic affairs. So Britain has a problem, and we have a problem; and we will have a bigger problem if Britain joins the European market.

One looks at the various trade markets that will be affected, and one wonders just how the British motor market, for example, would face the effect the European market would have on it, particularly the German, Italian, and French motorcars which would be allowed into England with the same small amount of duty that would be placed upon them by the various countries in Europe. That might have a disastrous

effect upon the motor trade. On the other hand, there might be increased markets for various other types of commodities; and England alone, I think, would be able to work out the situation that faces it.

It takes us back to the days of Sir Winston Churchill who offered an alliance with France to make France and Great Britain almost one nation, in order to save the races in the face of possible defeat. It also takes us back to the time when he suggested there should be a united states of Europe.

If the present common market brings about a united states of Europe then, ultimately, it will bring about free trade between those States which comprise the united states of Europe. Then, of course, the whole situation of protection by the British races, and particularly by this country, must be considered in a completely new light.

If one considered this whole situation very deeply, from not only the financial aspect, but from the humanitarian aspect also, the trend towards free trade between the various countries looks the obvious solution, that may come, perhaps not in our time, or in our children's time, but certainly in our grandchildren's time; and much of the world will be a free trade area.

When we look at what is happening, from a humanitarian point of view, it will be realised that the blacks, the slightly coloured, and the whites are coming together in a way that was never thought possible in the nineteenth century. We are beginning to understand each other a lot better. We are beginning to mix in a way in which we have never mixed before. The dominance of the whites from the time of training, as it were, and of the so-called colonisation of the Asian countries is gone. We are beginning to realise, as I said earlier, that these people are all being led by men of great ability and culture, with intellects which will have the ability to cope with world affairs.

If we are going to mix on a basis of friendliness and realise the immense problems facing us in relation to the feeling of nations, then I think we must begin to see that trade between the countries is inevitable; if we are all to live on something akin to a similar basis of existence.

I do not know whether all members have read very carefully a recent document which was sent, I think, to most of us—I do not imagine that I was the only privileged one—concerning the Colombo Plan. If members have done so, they will realise the immensity of future works that must be undertaken in India and Pakistan. Only recently the Rev. Peter Ewing, a Western Australian, trained at Hale School, came out on holidays to Western Australia and pointed out to us the urgent necessity of doing something for India.

It is quite true, as he said, that in Assam and the Brahmaputra Valley there is an annual period of three or four months which is regarded more or less as a starvation period. He feels this is due to the fact that the people have not the proper equipment to cultivate their countries during those periods; or, as is the accepted viewpoint in the Colombo Plan, because the Brahmaputra River so completely floods this valley as to cover millions of acres of fertile soil. This means it is impossible to grow anything during that period, and something like a reasonable existence among those people will only be possible when that great river is dammed.

When we read of the dams that are being built in order to bring prosperity to these people in the area north of Calcutta, and when we read of what is being done in the delta of the Ganges—which is very similar to what is being done in Holland—in the area that lies between the rivers that flow through Pakistan, we realise the immensity of the problem that is facing these people in an endeavour to bring them to a common level.

In my humble way of thinking I can see that the decision to join the common market, whether it is yea or nay, will have a tremendous influence on the future of the world. As one goes through the cities of Asia it is interesting to realise that the cities which are growing and progressing at the fastest rate are those which are free trade ports. It is most interesting to see the progress that is being made in these areas; particularly having all these factors in view.

It was extremely interesting, in Sandakan, to realise that it was impossible to have a duty placed on all goods which entered Sandakan, because of the proximity of the lower island of the Philippines; and barter trade has to be promulgated by the banks in Sandakan in order to maintain some financial security for the trade there, which is virtually smuggling between island and island. Although they are islands belonging to different races, there seems to be this common urge among these people to obtain their goods at the cost, more or less, of the country of origin of such goods. In other words, it is again free trade.

Whether we have continued protection or whether we have free trade—and I am not trying to say for one moment which is better—I would emphasise the great rate of progress that these people are making. I would stress very greatly the improvement which is being made in the living conditions of the Japanese by their efforts and by their intense loyalty to their country in regard to production; by the hours they work; and by the way they have improved the nation from one which could only copy to one which can, today, initiate new types of commodities and produce goods of very high quality.

Today nobody would suggest that goods which come from Japan are built for a day, to be thrown away tomorrow. That is not the case at all. As a matter of interest, I would like to say that last week I brought from Sydney a germanium diode radio which cost 57s. 6d. This germanium diode, I understand, is a Japanese discovery. It is regarded as being something which will quite soon replace transistors. This little apparatus is fitted with an earpiece; and it has an earth and a cord which can be fitted into any electric plug. It works whether the plug is switched on or not. It also has an aerial; and on the radio one can quite clearly receive five stations.

This small apparatus at 57s. 6d. is a sign that before long such types of production will probably revolutionise the use of radios and transistors in this country and elsewhere. We must appreciate that the standard of living in Japan has risen, as have wages; and this, of course, will mean that costs will also rise. It is futile to imagine that before long there may not be the need to place a protection against what we call the countries that produce things at slave wages, or low wages, because that situation is rapidly going to change.

I offer those few thoughts as coming from one who has given a good deal of consideration to the problems that will face Great Britain and Australia. We will lose some of our markets for our primary products, but I feel sure that before long we will find that we can sell to Asia any of the products that we now sell to Europe. I will come a little later to the suggestion that these nations, because of the way that some of them have been endowed with riches that we unfortunately do not possess, will be able to afford to buy our goods.

If one looks at the map of China today, one sees oilfields in vast quantities. Looking at the map of the oilfields in China, I think one could count 16 oilfields, about one-third of which are, I think, in Sinkiang which, curiously enough, is almost on the border of Russia.

In the past we have had the idea that selling our goods to China might involve long-term payments. The time is probably not far distant when it will not be necessary to indulge in long-term payments with China and the East Asian countries, because the output of the Chinese people is increasing rapidly from year to year.

So, in completing the first part of the remarks I would like to make, I give to the House these few thoughts. There is nothing very original about them, but I give them simply because they are things over which I have pondered, and which may permit each member to increase his thinking to produce very much better ideas than I have put before the House this evening.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

**The Hon. J. G. HISLOP:** Reference was made by Mr. Strickland to the work of the oil companies in Western Australia. It would be as well for us to examine oil production in other countries, and then to review the position in this country. One of the great disabilities of oil search in Australia is that this continent is far too old.

Some of us were privileged to see the operations of Wapet at Rough Range when the first oil was extracted from that part of the State. We were reminded of the age of Australia, and the probability that oil was present in Australia in bygone times; but today there is no longer any oil. We were very interested in the dream of Mr. Morgan that valleys at Rough Range could be dammed and the water used to establish big dairying areas around Exmouth Gulf. He painted a bright picture for the area, if oil were found. Unfortunately no further oil was found, and the visions of Mr. Morgan were known to some of us as Morgan's dream.

He gave the explanation that it was quite possible that during the time Australia was submerged, and during the time of the great mountain formation on this continent in prehistoric days, there were vast areas of sedimentation, but these areas could have been washed out to sea when the sea again covered the continent. That sums up the opinion of Sir Edgeworth David, one of our first geologists, who said there was no oil to be found in any quantity in Australia. The geologists tell us that this part of the country shows evidence of an age of between 2,500 and 3,000 million years. Therefore, it is possible that we in Australia may have an ill-fated continent which does not possess oil in practical quantities.

On the other hand, as recently as the 17th October last, Mr. Sprigg of the geological survey branch said that the use of new techniques would give us very great hopes of finding oil. He pointed out that the sedimentation basins of Australia were much the same as those of other countries, and it was wrong to suggest that no oil could be found here because up to date no oil has been reported to be found south of the equator. Even where oil was found in Timor, the fields were north of the equator; so the rule still holds that no oil in commercial quantities has been found south of the equator.

About 1,500,000 square miles of territory in Australia has been taken up by 60 to 70 companies interested in the search for oil. A very small portion of this area has been examined thoroughly. We should bear in mind what happened in Canada. After innumerable bores had been sunk, it was reported that the last hole which was put down before the search was to be abandoned produced oil and opened up Canada's vast oilfield.

Let me make a comparison of the number of bores put down in the United States and Australia. One bore is being spudded in each month in Australia, but in the United States 150 bores are being put down per day. This illustrates the fact that once oil is found in a country the technique becomes known, and the finance becomes available to pursue the search for oil; and progress continues at an increasing rate thereafter.

Quite recently the Mines Department in Victoria located the Belfast Mudstone lead near Port Fairy; in association with the gas found near Port Kembla, it looks as if this is a likely spot where oil is available. The finding of crustaceous rocks is regarded as a likely indication of the presence of oil.

Looking at the countries in which oil is found in commercial quantities, one wonders why those quantities are so enormous. I looked up the oil output for the Soviet Union and found that between 1950 and 1958 the output of crude oil trebled, and that in 1959 it reached 113,000,000 tons. A seven-year plan envisages another 11 per cent. increase. Even countries like Cuba, which boasted that it could take over the establishments of Texaco and Shell and carry on with crude oil supplied by Russia, have been able to continue. That is evident because there has been no cry of a shortage of oil in those countries.

If we look at the oil map of the world we will find that the oilfields of Russia lie on the eastern part of the country. One therefore hopes that further oil discoveries will be made in the non-communist countries of Europe. Russia has embarked on a search for oil in other parts of the world, with the idea of refining and exporting the crude oil. Its export trade in oil has grown to an enormous extent. Russia has signed a trade agreement with Japan and with Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. I understand there is a suggestion to build a refinery in Ethiopia through a huge loan of £36,000,000 to that country. The most recent find in the Baku fields on the northern side of the Caspian Sea is enormous. And now there is a claim that even bigger discoveries have been made in the area south-east of the Caspian Sea. The figures given by the Soviet oil gazettes show that in 1930 the total output was 38,000,000 tons; in 1958 it was 113,000,000 tons; for 1965 the estimate is 230,000,000 tons; and for 1971 the estimate is 350,000,000 tons. In addition to that, Russia has tremendous gas fields.

If we can find natural gas in Australia in good quantities, or in the quantity found in the Roma field, the piping of it will become possible here.

The important centre of oil production in the world is Kuwait, which supplies 21 per cent. of the world's total output. I

examined the figures shown in the *Petrol Gazette* relating to the oil that still remains in the earth at Kuwait, and the quantity is estimated at 62,000 million barrels. The estimate for the oil that we found in small quantities in the north of this State was only 500 barrels a day. This discovery is so small as to be hardly worthwhile. This gazette suggested that if an oilfield in the continent of Australia contained 42,000,000 barrels, that quantity would only be sufficient for six months on our present consumption of 260,000 barrels a day. So, the amount of oil that has to be found in Australia to meet local consumption would have to be very much larger. One field alone would not be sufficient. If we are to succeed in supplying our own oil, we must find it in sufficient quantities in various parts of Australia. I was also interested to read in the gazette that it was regarded that the cost of transporting oil from Papua was too high for the oil to be of commercial value.

In the last 10 years, £63,000,000 has been spent in the search for oil in Australia. Whilst oil has been found in very few of the bores, gas has been found in quite a number. One of the interesting aspects in the search for oil is the opening up of large coalfields containing high-grade coal. They have been found in Queensland and New South Wales. These finds of coal will become a factor in the economy of Australia if a cheap method of mining can be used.

The real progress made in Australia regarding oil is the establishment of oil refineries. These are dotted around our coastline, and the number has been increasing each year. I checked on the amount that has been spent in the building of these refineries and it is in the nature of £80,000,000. When one takes that amount, together with the £63,000,000 spent on the search for oil, one realises that a fair sum has been expended in Australia to satisfy the need for finding oil here.

I regret having to refer to a case which involved one of my professional colleagues. This incident brings me to question the wisdom we displayed about three years ago when we rejected a solatium provision in the fatal accidents legislation. We are all familiar with the case of the man who lost his life when a car, overtaking a bus or truck on the York road, collided with his car. Although the driver of the overtaking car pleaded negligence, the widow of the deceased driver had to make a claim for damages. Recently the judge gave a decision against her on the grounds that it was very hypothetical that she had suffered any financial loss.

This is the point I want to query—not the judge's findings in the case. It is just that a woman has to prove that she has suffered financial loss through the death of her husband? One would have thought



that the mere loss by two girls of a father, and the loss of a husband who had built his property to a very high value within a number of years and who was still quite a young man, would automatically mean that his daughters and widow had suffered financial loss.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: And a son.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I am sorry; I did not realise there was a son, and I therefore do not know his age. The widow would have to employ a manager, and no manager would enhance a property as would the owner. Surely this automatically establish that this person had suffered loss; and yet not only did the woman fail in her claim, but she had costs awarded against her, which seemed even still more unjust.

What I am complaining about in the law—and I think it should be looked at—is that if the individual who is killed in an accident has left sufficient means for his family to live moderately, it is going to be very difficult to prove any loss, or gain any solatium. This is because in this House and in another place solatium was not accepted in the Fatal Accidents Bill.

The judge in his findings, if I remember rightly, said that the property would bring in £1,600 a year which he regarded as being sufficient to maintain the way of life of the victim's widow, two daughters, and son. I would say that while the husband was alive they did not live on £1,600 a year but probably on considerably more than that.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I bet the judge has more than that.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I am not querying the judge. That is wrong. I am querying the Act which this House and another place made law. I consider that it does not adequately protect a certain section of the community. I have been talking the matter over with some legal friends and they say, "That is the law. That is what you did." One said to me, "I have told my clients that if they are going to knock anyone down to make sure they pick a rich person."

The Hon. A. L. Loton: You had better be careful!

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If my friend on my right who has interjected was the one involved, his family would receive nothing at all. I cannot imagine that that is justice. I would ask the Minister to look into the law to see whether we should not review it again to adjust such conditions; because, quite frankly, I cannot believe that any family has not suffered some loss if it has lost a father and husband who had built a property to the extent this man had in such a short time. He still had a long time to live in the ordinary course of events; and I think this House should always attempt to see

that justice is done not to one section of the community but to all sections. I will leave it to the Minister to study the Fatal Accidents Act and advise the House whether we should not take action to alter the conditions which exist at present.

I am back on an old problem at the moment, and one for which I will again be castigated when the Minister replies. I am sorry that recently someone got in ahead of me and wrote to the Press about the matter. I would like to know whether the plan published in the Press on the 17th of February this year is the final plan for the switch road; because if anyone who looks at the jumble of roads which will be situated in front of this building after we have spent a large sum of money on it, considers them anything but an eyesore, I will find it hard to understand.

If some of the members have studied this plan, they will realise that there will be a cutting; an entrance from Malcolm Street into the cutting; an over-pass and two roads leading in opposite directions; and a further join into the cutting—all in front of this building at the foot of the hill. It is a complete and utter jumble of roads, and I cannot imagine that this is the final solution. I would like the Minister to have a look at this and advise the House whether this is to be the way it will be finished.

Whether the American visitor has had a look at it and altered it, I do not know; but the public has not been advised of any alternative. Properties are still being bought. Only recently a property was bought on the north side of Mount Street through which the switch road will go. Therefore the actual site of the switch road is to remain the same.

But surely this conglomeration of roads in front of Parliament House will not be as envisaged in the diagram. I am still of the same opinion as I have been all along. We let the opportunity pass by when we missed the possibility of widening Milligan Street at the time when property could have been bought at a much lower rate; and then there would have been no need for half the open cut. I will again be told that I am wrong, but I cannot help that. I think that in time someone will tell us that the roads as envisaged in this diagram in the newspaper on the 17th February are also wrong.

Last year I asked that the penalty for cruelty to animals be considered. I ask again that the Minister give thought to the introduction this session of new penalties for actions against helpless animals. There seems to be no sort of correlation. I think everyone must have seen examples of this in regard to human beings. A person completely bashes a man and is fined £5. Yet someone who does something far less is fined £15 or £30. It

seems to depend so much on the whim of the magistrate as to what penalty is inflicted. For instance, we find a large number of people today being fined big sums for speeding. Although they have broken the law, they have done no harm to anyone. Yet they are fined as much as £20 and £30. On the other hand, a man who puts turpentine on a dog's hindquarters is fined only £10. I know what I would have fined him. I would have been much more vicious than that. The matter certainly needs investigating.

These are the sorts of things that really make one interested in the need for a revision of the position from time to time by a law society, or some such body, so that it may advise the Ministers in regard to making sure that penalties are in keeping with the crimes.

It may interest the House if I say a word or two in regard to social services—not of the pension type so far as it relates to widows, to injured individuals, or to those who have suffered calamities, but in regard to the question of a pension without a means test. This is something that has interested a lot of people for a long time; and I know of a number who would be interested to pay into a super-annuation fund so that at the end of a time they could receive a pension from the Government. However, it seems to me that in order to pay for this type of welfare of the people and for this hand-out to them, nations have to extract very large sums of money from the taxpayers.

As I instanced previously, it is deplorable that Great Britain in her present economic plight has a health scheme whereby everyone gets practically everything for nothing at a cost of £400,000,000 a year. Therefore the taxpayers have to find a very considerable sum.

In a recent trip to New Zealand, I obtained some figures which demonstrated that 2,000,000 people were paying £110,000,000 a year for their social services. This means that every man, woman, and child is paying £55 a head for social services. Therefore, a man on an average income, with a wife and two children, would be finding in the vicinity of £200 a year out of his salary for social services.

The situation can be quite amusing. In the place where I was fortunate enough to be staying, there was a wealthy individual who was having daily consultations with his solicitors to ascertain ways of apportioning some of his wealth to his family in such a manner as to avoid the terrific probate duties; and he was telling me of some of the ways this could be done. Then one day he asked me whether I would like to go to the post office with him while he picked up his pension. There was a man who was trying to dispose of a large sum of money, going every week to collect his £4 10s. pension!

For those who would like to live in New Zealand, let me point out that at the date I was there, on an estate of between £29,001 and £30,000 there was probate duty, or estate duty, as it was called of £8,410 plus 59 per cent. of the final balance over £29,000. That would work out at about £9,000. For an estate valued at more than £30,000 the duty is £9,000 plus 60 per cent. of the excess over £30,000. There are very few farms—those on my right side will agree with me here—worth less than £30,000 in this country; and if we had this sort of taxation, the practice of handing on a farm to a son could not really continue.

Let us look at the position. Suppose an individual, who had property valued at something over £30,000, decided that, in order to protect himself from such ravage of estate duty, he would take out a life insurance policy of £10,000; then of the £10,000, an amount of £6,000 would go in extra probate duty, so that he would have only £4,000 left with which to pay his probate of £9,000. He could never catch up, no matter what insurance he took out.

Having looked at these figures and the British figures, it seems to me that if people desire to have an easy way of life they have to pay for it in hardship in another direction.

The Hon. R. Thompson interjected.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Everybody tries by various means to get over the difficulty of this type of taxation; but when gift duty in New Zealand is, in the main, 9 per cent. as against our 3 per cent., we realise that it makes it a bit difficult for a father to hand over his property to his sons. I believe the present Government has altered this tax to some extent, but how far, do not know.

No wonder one begins to feel, as one goes through New Zealand, that there is a feeling in the minds of the people on meets that they have very little chance of making progress. I have come back from my journey to that country quite fixed in my mind that I would much rather that we continue as a people who work and save and strive for all we get, rather than that we should look for things in an easy fashion.

Finally, for a few minutes, I would like to refer to something that has interested me, and my friends in Kalgoorlie, for many years. I trust the Minister, during this year, will be able to extend the benefits of workers' compensation to cover affected Miners. I see this depressing side of life time after time because, since I have taken up this cudgel, as it were, many of these people come to seek my advice, and I find so many of them completely without aid simply because their X-ray films do not show sufficient silicosis to justify their getting the full amount.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: You agree we should try to do something for them?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I have my ideas as to how I would improve things for these people; and I trust the Minister will be able to do something; that he will bring down legislation that I know he is aware of. I know that the Minister's sympathies are in the same direction as mine. But if, at the end of the session, I feel there are elements in the community that are preventing the Minister from doing what I know he would like to do, then it will be my intention to move for a Royal Commission to be appointed to go into this matter, because I still believe it is one of the great disgraces that exist in Western Australia.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am very anxious to do something, as you know, but there are difficulties that I can explain. However, I hope to be able to overcome them.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If the Minister cannot overcome them, then I think it is about time this House itself took action to assist him. I will watch the position with great interest.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: That is good news.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I do not want to say any more about the silicosis problem at this stage, but I have again, this year, accumulated quite a large amount of further knowledge in regard to the disease itself. I had the privilege of spending an evening with Dr. Schepers of Dupont, and I have been in constant communication with him since. I feel quite certain that eventually the struggle will end and the Minister will be able to introduce the legislation he desires in order to help these men; and there are dozens and dozens of them. They really get nothing in the way of reward for their years of service in the goldmines.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: We have known that for many years.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It is something we must correct. I know the Minister is sympathetic.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You stated the main difficulty when you said there were dozens and dozens. Unfortunately, I have been unable to measure the extent of the liability on the fund.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: Possibly a select committee would be the answer.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I have raised the point, and I know the Minister is deeply sympathetic. I have told the House that the problem still exists, and I know something will be done to assist these men. I have much pleasure in agreeing to the motion.

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

*House adjourned at 8.7 p.m.*

# Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 15th August, 1961

## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—</b>	
Accidents on Farms : Number and Compensation .....	237
Alvan House and McDonald House : Tabling of Papers .....	237
Bellevue School : New Classrooms .....	234
Betting Tickets—	
Calling of Tenders .....	237
Printing and Cost .....	236
Copper : Incentive Subsidy on Production of Low-grade Ores .....	234
Coal Imports—	
Quantity Used by Railways Department and Price Paid .....	235
Tonnage .....	235
Coal Supplies : State's Known Reserves, and Wilga Field .....	235
Discoloured Water : Flushing of Mains as a Remedial Measure .....	235
Electricity and Gas Production : Fuel Consumption and Cost .....	237
Electricity : Total Generating Capacity of Power Stations .....	235
Electricity Supplies, Manjimup and Southward : Provision of Maintenance Personnel .....	236
Esperance Port : Tabling of Report on Development .....	235
Fireworks : Proposal for Banning .....	233
Gribble Creek Water Scheme : Government's Assistance in Establishment .....	234
James Street, Guildford : Delay in Completion of Road Works .....	234
Liquor for Natives : Refusal of Sale .....	236
Mounts Bay Road : Classification as Main Road .....	235
Mt. Walker School : Provision of Water Supply .....	234
Off-Course Betting : Size of Signs at T.A.B. Agencies .....	232
Police Station at Albany : Site and Erection Date .....	233
Police Quarters at Manjimup : Erection .....	236
Railways Department Revenue : Amount from Increased Freights and Sales of Wheat to Communist China .....	238
Railway Passenger Buses : Faulty Tyres and Use of Retreads in South-West Service .....	234
Railway Sleepers—	
Calling of Tenders .....	236
Supplies from Hawker Siddeley Company .....	236
Reserves : Cancellations .....	232
State Forests : Areas Dedicated by Hawke and Brand-Watts Governments .....	233
Stirling Highway—	
Length .....	235
Cost of Median Strip and Alterations .....	235