

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Second Session of the Nineteenth Parliament.

The Parliament was prorogued on the 17th June, 1948, to the 22nd July, 1948, when it met for the despatch of business.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 22nd July, 1948.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Opening of Parliament	1
Proclamation	1
Commissioner	1
Swearing-in of members	1
Election of President	2
Presentation of President elect	2
Lieut.-Governor's Opening Speech	3
Bill: Foundation Day Observance (1949)	
Royal Visit, 1r.	6
Lieut.-Governor's Speech, distribution	6
Address-in-reply, first day	6

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at noon.

PROCLAMATION.

The Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. L. L. Leake) read the proclamation of His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor summoning the second session of the Nineteenth Parliament.

COMMISSIONER.

His Excellency's Commissioner, the Honourable Mr. Justice Wolff, having entered the Chamber, a message was sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting the presence of members in the Council Chamber.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having arrived accordingly, the Commissioner requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things necessary in the name and on the part of His Majesty the King or in the name and on the part of His Excellency for the opening and holding of the second session of the Nineteenth Parliament.

The Commission was read.

The Commissioner read the following statement:—

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

I have it in command from His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor to inform you that, at three o'clock this afternoon, His Excellency will declare to you the causes of the calling together of this session of Parliament; and it being necessary that a President of the Legislative Council be first chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you, Honourable Members of the Legislative Council, after those who have been newly elected have been duly sworn by me in terms of a Commission granted to me by His Excellency, do elect your President and notify the same to His Excellency.

Members of the Legislative Assembly retired from the Chamber.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

The Clerk of Parliaments read the Commission appointing Mr. Justice Wolff to administer the oath of allegiance to newly-elected members.

The Clerk announced the return of writs for the election of members, showing that the following had been duly elected:—Hon. H. K. Watson (Metropolitan—by-election), Hon. H. Hearn (Metropolitan), Hon. G. Fraser (West), Hon. F. R. Welsh (North), Hon. L. A. Logan (Central), Hon. Sir Charles Latham (East), Hon. H. Tuckey (South-West), Hon. H. L. Roche (South-East), Hon. H. Seddon (North-East), Hon. H. S. W. Parker (Metropolitan-Suburban), Hon. J. M. A. Cunningham (South). These members took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

The Commissioner then left the Chamber.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

The Clerk of Parliaments reported that the office of President was vacant.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban): I move—

That Hon. H. Seddon do take the Chair in the Council as President.

HON. J. A. DIMMITT (Metropolitan-Suburban): I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

No other member having been proposed, the Clerk of Parliaments declared Hon. H. Seddon elected, and he was conducted to the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT: I desire to express my thanks for and appreciation of the honour you have bestowed on me in re-electing me to the position of President. During the time I have occupied that office I think that the principle we have observed has been the maintenance of the importance of the Houses of Parliament and the function of Parliament as the paramount authority to deal with legislation. Although the Government in power for the time being is, of course, in charge of the affairs of the State, the affairs of Parliament are entirely in the hands of the executive officers of both Houses, and I propose to carry out my duties in that respect in the months to come in the same way as I have endeavoured to do so in the past, representing you as members of a House of importance and the equal of the other House in passing the laws of this State.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban): May I offer you, Sir, my congratulations on being unanimously elevated to the office of President. The position is one that is not easily held or maintained, but during the past year all members have observed how well you have preserved the dignity of the office. It is a pleasure to me and to other members of this Chamber to know that you have again been the unanimous choice of the House.

May I mention that I have received a message from His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, intimating that he will be

pleased to meet you, with such members of this Chamber as desire to accompany you, forthwith at Government House.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West): I desire to support the remarks of the Leader of the Chamber and congratulate you, Sir, on being again elected as President of this House. You did a wonderful job last year. It is absolutely essential that the dignity of the House should be maintained and that there should be completely fair play to every member. In that regard you, I think, have followed out the splendid example of our previous President and added lustre to the chairmanship of this Chamber.

HON. J. A. DIMMITT (Metropolitan-Suburban): May I express my pleasure, Sir, that you have again been elevated to the office of President. You have occupied the Chair with dignity in the past, and we trust that your health will be such that you will be spared for a long time to fill the position to which you have been elected today.

THE PRESIDENT: I desire to thank members for their kindly expressions of confidence. I am sure that with their co-operation it will be possible to carry on the business of the Chamber with dignity and success.

Sitting suspended from 12.27 to 3 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT ELECT.

THE PRESIDENT: I desire to inform the House that, accompanied by the Chief Secretary, the Chairman of Committees and other hon. members, I have waited upon, and been presented to, His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor as President elect of the Legislative Council, and His Excellency has been pleased to signify his approval of the choice of the Council. I have received from His Excellency the following letter—

Mr. President: It is with much pleasure that I learn that you have been elected by the members of the Legislative Council to the high and honourable office of President of that House. I have every confidence that you will fill the office in a worthy and dignified manner. (Signed) James Mitchell, Lieut.-Governor.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor entered the Council Chamber at 3.5 p.m. and the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber, obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

It is with pleasure that I open the Second Session of the Nineteenth Parliament for the transaction of public business.

The announcement that Their Majesties The King and Queen and Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret will visit Western Australia from June 6 to June 13 next year has been received with enthusiasm, and our Royal visitors are assured of a most loyal welcome. Our people are keenly awaiting the opportunity of demonstrating to Their Majesties personally their deep affection for the Royal Family and their unswerving loyalty to the Throne and Empire.

It is with deep regret that I record the great loss the State has suffered by the deaths of the Honourable L. B. Bolton, a member of the Legislative Council for the Metropolitan Province for sixteen years, and the Honourable W. D. Johnson, member of the Legislative Assembly for Guildford-Midland, who served in Parliament for forty years, including periods as Speaker and Minister. Both were held in high regard and rendered distinguished service in public life.

As a consequence of the Commonwealth Government's retirement from price control, following the defeat of the recent referendum, the State Government has accepted responsibility for the control of prices and land sales in Western Australia. Ministers recognise that where the demand for goods continues to exceed the supply, price control is still essential. Consideration is being given to the system of price fixing with a view to achieving greater simplicity, and it is intended to relax controls in suitable cases as rapidly as circumstances permit. Close co-operation will be undertaken between the State Governments to ensure uni-

formity of action where required. You will be asked to give urgent consideration to such measures as may be necessary to enable the Government to carry out its obligations.

Ministers are of the opinion that increased production is essential to the restoration of economic equilibrium. It is desired to pay a tribute to the efforts which under difficulties are being put forward by producers to develop the undoubted capacity of the State to produce greater quantities of the food which the world so urgently needs. The State Government is rendering every practicable assistance, and has placed proposals before the British Food Mission for consideration by the Government of the United Kingdom.

Increased production is dependent on the maintenance of industrial harmony which has been well maintained by co-operation between employers and employees during the period under review.

The establishment of a Department of Supply and Shipping has considerably accelerated the flow of goods from the Eastern States, and the serious congestion of imports awaiting shipment to Western Australia has been appreciably relieved. Unfortunately Western Australian industry and developmental works continue to be hampered by delays in the production of types of goods for which we must rely on factories outside this State.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

The need for an adjustment of Commonwealth-State finances is indicated by the fact that, while the Commonwealth Government continues to receive large revenues, the financial resources available to the States are totally inadequate to their requirements.

Although revenue for the year 1947-1948 was within £352,082 of expenditure, this was achieved only by the aid of an additional grant of a million pounds through the Commonwealth Grants Commission. £2,977,000 was received during the year from this source. Ministers strongly believe that the States are entitled to a far greater share of income tax collections under the uniform tax scheme and they will continue to press for a more equitable distribution of this money, without which the States are in danger of being prevented from fulfilling their constitutional obligations.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

Constant attention is being devoted to overcoming the persistent shortages which continue to hamper our great primary industries. Scientific research is being actively pursued to aid both primary and secondary industries.

Discussions between the Commonwealth and the States on wheat marketing are proceeding.

The rains in June although belated, have enabled cropping programmes to be completed but the lateness of the season has caused a reduction in acreages sown. Over most of the pastoral areas the outlook is favourable, but in many wheat and sheep districts stock feed presents a serious problem.

Training of ex-servicemen for rural pursuits is proceeding satisfactorily. 110 wheat and sheep farms, 68 dairy farms, and two poultry farms, a total of 180, have been allotted under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme and it is expected that 28 additional farms will be allotted in the near future.

Soil surveys have been completed of approximately 1,500,000 acres in the heavier rainfall localities and provided equipment can be obtained these areas will be developed as rapidly as possible. Preparatory steps have been taken to implement a scheme for development in the Albany Zone.

The Rural and Industries Bank continues to make satisfactory progress and is now represented in 36 centres. The policy of settlement reconstruction is continuing.

Because of rising costs, shortage of labour and the static price of gold, the goldmining industry is experiencing a difficult period. Vigorous approaches to the Commonwealth Government for general financial assistance to the industry have so far been unsuccessful. Assistance, however, has been promised for marginal mines. The State Government is examining every angle by which the industry may be helped. Exploratory operations, geological field work, and experimental research are being maintained.

Mineral production is being encouraged by means of expert technical advice and

financial assistance where warranted. Iron ore will soon be exported from Cockatoo Island. The Government is rendering assistance in the extraction of blue asbestos from the deposits at Wittenoom Gorge. The search for oil is continuing and extensive areas are being prospected, in one case with Government assistance.

The production of coal continues to increase, over 730,000 tons being produced during 1947. Proposals involving the future of this industry will be placed before you for consideration.

While local supplies of building materials have shown considerable improvement in many directions and it has been possible to eliminate some controls, the building industry continues to be subject to the limitations of manpower and certain classes of materials. The Government has set up a special division of the Department of Industrial Development to foster local production.

New types of buildings, such as expandable and duplex homes, and a limited number of flats are being incorporated in the State's housing programme to increase the number of dwellings obtainable from the existing volume of labour and materials and to afford a wider opportunity for small unit families. Encouragement is being given to applicants who can erect modest homes where they can provide a substantial proportion of their own labour and materials.

The effective building rate at the end of May last was 2,712 houses per annum. Increase of this rate will, for the time being, be chiefly dependent on the expansion of the State's force of building tradesmen.

An extensive tour of the North-West and Kimberleys was undertaken by the Premier. Consideration is now being given to the many problems which were discussed and particular attention is being directed to improvements in transport, water supplies and other public works. The arrival of the Dulverton will assist in overcoming shipping difficulties, and the extension of the period for the aerial subsidy on perishables is of great value to Northern residents. The State Housing Act will be amended to enlarge the scope of the Commission's activities in the North. The Prime Minister has been requested to convene a meeting of the policy council of the Northern Australia Develop-

ment Committee in August so that projects for which it is desirable to secure substantial Commonwealth aid may be placed before him.

The Government arranged for a comprehensive survey of native institutions and conditions by Mr. F. E. A. Bateman, R.M. His report is a contribution of importance to the study of native affairs. The Department's activities include the authorisation of an approved dietary scale of native institutions, the transfer of the medical inspection of natives to the Health Department, and investigation of farm areas to enable the segregation of natives who at the present time are congregated at the Moore River Settlement.

Activities of the Forests Department include an extension of its radio communication service, additional equipment in the way of bulldozers, tractors and graders, and vehicles for fire protection and for pine planting. The building programme for staff has been resumed and a programme of 30 houses is in hand of which 10 houses have been completed. Since 1st April, 1947, 40 new mills have been registered under the Timber Industry Regulation Act, representing an appreciable increase in timber production.

Activity in the fishing industry has continued to increase. An expanding export trade in frozen crayfish tails and canned fish is being developed.

Continued expansion has been recorded in the field of secondary industries, but progress has been retarded by the limited supplies of steel products, building materials and electric power.

Production of charcoal iron commenced at Wundowie in January last. In addition to its contribution towards the State's requirements of pig iron, it will assist in the establishment of two other industries, namely, the manufacture of agricultural tractors and production of slag wool.

Negotiations are being continued in regard to establishing an iron and steel industry in the South-West.

Development work in connection with the new process for the production of potash from the Lake Chandler alunite deposits is continuing.

Plans are well advanced to enable a commencement to be made with the modified Agricultural Areas Water Supply Scheme, estimated to cost £4,300,000. Progress on the raising of Mundaring Weir is satisfactory.

Special attention will be given to providing and re-conditioning water supply storages outside the boundaries of the Comprehensive Agricultural Areas Water Supply Scheme.

Improvements to Bunbury Harbour have been commenced. An order has been placed for a suction dredge to undertake improvements to Albany Harbour.

Numerous extensions to metropolitan water supply and sewerage systems have been completed during the year but construction works have been somewhat restricted by the shortage of materials.

An appreciable increase in the manpower available has enabled steady progress to be made in the State's main road system. The expenditure of £1,100,000 during the last financial year was the second highest on record since the inception of the Department in 1926.

While progress on the new Causeway is being well maintained, unavoidable delays are associated with the inability of the Eastern States suppliers to provide structural steel on schedule.

Satisfactory progress is being made with the construction of the first section of the Fremantle Power Station. Contracts have been let for the extension of the Collie Power House, and the construction of transmission mains to connect the power house with towns in the South-West will be undertaken immediately materials on order are received.

The report of the Royal Commission on Railways has been considered by Ministers and you will be asked to deal with legislation to give effect to certain recommendations.

Regeneration of rollingstock and deferred maintenance has been continued and everything possible is being done to solve the difficult problems associated with inadequate locomotive power. Re-organisation of the Midland Junction Workshops is in progress.

It is hoped that a number of the fifty new trolley buses on order will be received this year.

Legislation is being prepared to provide for closer co-ordination between the various forms of transport and for the future control of metropolitan street passenger services.

With the completion and occupation of the first section of the Royal Perth Hospital, attention has been given to the commencement of the second section. The necessary steel work has been ordered.

The State is co-operating with the Commonwealth in an endeavour to eradicate tuberculosis. The clinic established for mass radiography is now in operation.

Every effort is being made to overcome the acute shortage of hospital staffs. A central school for trainee nurses has been established; several country hospitals have been made training schools, and pre-nursing courses have been instituted. Doctors recently appointed to North-West centres have greatly improved the medical services available.

Amendments considered necessary to the Health Act for more effective administration of health services will be submitted for your consideration.

Energetic endeavours are being made to satisfy demands arising from a keener public interest in education, and increased financial provision has been made for all phases of education from the kindergarten to the University.

Progress has been made in the replacement of outmoded school buildings by schools of modern design. School equipment is being liberalised, school libraries assisted, and a new and better type of school furniture is being manufactured. While the Teachers' Training College is filled to capacity, a shortage of staff will continue for some time.

A Council to advise on juvenile delinquency has been established. Women members are being appointed to the Bench of the Perth Children's Court. It is proposed to establish regional officers throughout the State to decentralise the work of the Child Welfare Department.

A committee, representative of local governing bodies and the Government, has been set up to consider the amalgamation of the Road Districts Act and the Municipal Corporations Act. It is hoped that the

committee will furnish a report in time for legislation to be introduced during the current session, if thought desirable.

Since the inception of the present migration scheme, 2,370 nominated migrants have arrived in Western Australia. An additional 3,376 persons who have been nominated are awaiting allocation of passages. At present the scheme is restricted to persons nominated by Western Australian residents who can provide the necessary accommodation for their nominees.

Legislation to be submitted for your consideration will include measures dealing with the Workers' Compensation Act, the Land Act, the Bushfires Act, the Navigation Act, and the Constitution Act.

I now declare this Session of Parliament open and trust that Providence may bless your labours.

His Excellency then withdrew from the Chamber.

[The President took the Chair.]

BILL—FOUNDATION DAY OBSERVANCE (1949 ROYAL VISIT).

THE CHIEF SECRETARY: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act relating to the observance of a holiday on Foundation Day during the year of the proposed Royal visit, namely, One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.

THE PRESIDENT: For the sake of greater accuracy, I have obtained from His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor copies of the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament. These will be distributed among hon. members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

HON. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM (South) [3.31]: I move—

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

“May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council of the State 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.”

I should like to open my remarks this afternoon by extending my warmest congratulations to those members who recently were the recipients of Royal honours and also to you, Sir, on once again being elected President of this House. May you all be spared many years to bear your distinctions with pleasure to yourselves, usefulness to the House and honour to the State of which you are citizens. I would like also to pay a tribute to the work of Hon. C. B. Williams, my predecessor, whose good service to all sections of the community gained him many friends—friends whose numbers are indicative of the thousand and one little acts of kindnesses and good work that were a feature of his activities.

I was pleased to note in the Speech some reference to the proposed revision of the hopeless confusion into which the maze of Acts and amendments relating to workers' compensation in general, and miner's phthisis in particular, has drifted. Over the years anomalies and injustices have occurred, and they exist today. I consider that a comprehensive Act, embracing all the best features of our own and mining legislation of that enacted in other States, and a consequent complete rescinding of the present patchwork quilt of compensation laws, would be a worthwhile State contribution to the expected and hoped-for revival of the mining industry, now only awaiting the Commonwealth Government's long-promised and overdue assistance.

Coupled with this line of thought is the hope that this Government will do something to bring about the complete abolition of the so aptly-named means test—a masterpiece of descriptive naming if ever I saw one. Closely allied to this urgent necessity is the desperate and heartbreaking need for some form of home on the Goldfields for the turned-down miner—the man who can no longer be retained in a hospital, and yet cannot receive at home the necessary treatment and care that his condition warrants. The only place left for that man is Wooroloo, a wonderful but overcrowded institution, and the psychological reaction upon a miner of the very name “Wooroloo”

is a spiritual signing of his death warrant. The uprooting of a miner from his beloved goldmining atmosphere halves his remaining life expectancy. I feel that this Government could find it possible to investigate the need of subsidising the establishment of a home—we could call it a “knock-off home”—for the turned-down miner on the Goldfields.

I cannot help but feel it is a matter for regret that the R.A.A.F. hospital at Boulder was disposed of for a fraction of its real value—even for the worthy cause of home-building—when it was so ideally suited in construction and site for a home such as I have advocated. I feel sure the Government could reasonably expect a favourable reply from the Commonwealth Government to an application by the State for the return, on a pro rata basis, of the unused war damage insurance money. The Goldfields share of that money would more than defray the cost of a project such as I am now advocating.

Reference is made in the Lieut.-Governor's speech to water supplies and transport, and transport charges—“charges” without brackets. This reference applies in general to all parts of the State outside of any water reticulation scheme, and transport is completely bound up with the whole question. In particular, the Lakes district, which I have in mind, is a vast area, and its development is no longer at the experimental stage. The country has proved itself and the people have certainly proved themselves. The whole area is serviced by two spur lines running in to the railheads of Hyden and Newdegate. From there to all points east, the only service is by road transport, and that service is dear. Road and road transport is poor and I feel that an absolute necessity is a complete system of good all-weather arterial roads. Freights could be scaled to a flat rate, and subsidised, if necessary. Motor transport could then really be given an opportunity to prove itself as feeders to existing railway lines, as has been so successfully done in South Africa.

I couple water with this problem of transport. It is no isolated instance to find through that area good-class country hotels in main centres with their bathroom doors locked to conserve supplies of water, and also to find that farmers have had to cart

their water from as far as 80 miles away, that is, 160 miles per round trip. That is a clear indication of the type of settler we have in this area. The weaklings have all gone and only the true settlers remain. I commend to the Government's attention the great need for a more permanent water supply in this area, which has contributed so greatly to the prosperity and economic stability of the State. I feel that it is a reflection on the country as a whole that such hardships still exist in our day.

I am well aware that I am breaking no new ground in the advocacy of Esperance as the port for the Goldfields. This theme is getting old, far too old, in my opinion, and I am determined, in the interests of my constituency, to leave no avenue unexplored in this matter. I am fully alive to the fact that customary trade channels are hard to change and that Goldfields traders must be assured of a regular and frequent service, and that present port facilities are inadequate as to cargo-handling plant, lighting on the wharves and the rollingstock for railways, etc. In fact, the whole set-up is bristling with difficulties, none of which, however, is insurmountable if the problem is tackled in a proper and businesslike manner.

Before the port of Esperance can be made attractive to Goldfields business interests it is essential to establish a regular and frequent shipping service. But the question immediately arises: Have we sufficient trade to warrant such a service? As things are at present, I doubt it, but a ship calling every month would considerably boost inward freight. That, I believe, would present no great difficulties, if an all-out effort were made by traders generally and agents in particular. Now, let us contemplate the position from the point of view of shipping companies. If ships are to be operated successfully, loading inward and outward is essential. Obviously this aspect presents greater difficulties and the desired objective—exportable produce—becomes more difficult of attainment.

It is my opinion that large-scale land settlement schemes, without adequate departmental testing and experimenting—judging by past experience—are unwise. Nevertheless, I believe that this is where the State could take a hand in the development of the Esper-

ance coastal plain. Therefore, whilst strongly advocating the development of the Esperance light lands area, I would urge that an experimental farm be established in the Esperance light soil districts. This should not be difficult of accomplishment and should not be costly. As the experimental stage in the Salmon Gums area is long past, I would urge the transfer of the existing staff and implements to a site near Gibson's Soak and the pine plantation which, I understand, is now in the hands of the Forests Department.

I would advocate also experimentation in specialised fodders, such as clovers, grasses, lupins and turnips, with particular attention to the Kudzu vine, which virtually saved the Dust Bowl in America. The man who goes into this area with the idea that it will grow anything is wrong. I will tell the House what he will grow—he will grow tired; he will grow poor, and he will grow old. Another thing that must be aimed at in such a scheme is control of erosion. Small paddocks and preservation of belts of existing native scrub would serve a dual purpose—shelter for sheep and the breaking up of high erosive winds. I feel that this is a sphere where politics and politicians can justify their existence and legitimately intervene in the interests of a large and important section of the community. I intend, consistently and continuously, to work to that end.

The progress made in other parts of the State with diesel transport to supplement our over-worked railway system, with its record of successful achievements, its economy and efficiency, prompts me to advocate very strongly the allocation of a diesel power unit to the Goldfields area. This would do more to relieve the pressure on passenger and mail transport than at first sight one would think possible. I would point out that the inability of the slow and overworked Esperance train service to run to schedule is the main contributing factor to the late running of the Kalgoorlie-Perth express, supplying material for, and inviting, adverse comment from interstate travellers and from Goldfields residents alike.

Summing up, if industry in Western Australia with regard to its goldmining and pyrites potentialities is encouraged, as it should be, with the imposition of more

equitable water charges in general and for Norseman in particular, the provision of a regular, fast, modern diesel transport service, with the development of our exports by the utilisation of the productivity of the hinterland and with the development of Esperance as the port for the Goldfields, then the decentralisation policy of the present Government would begin to be an accomplished fact, and not a recurring dream of post-atomic ideology.

HON. H. HEARN (Metropolitan): I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. E. H. Gray, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.46 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 22nd July, 1948.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Meeting of the Assembly	9
Message—Opening by Commissioner ...	9
Swearing-in of member	9
Summons from the Lieut.-Governor ...	9
Questions : Electoral Districts, as to report on redistribution of seats	9
Price Fixing, etc., as to State's assumption of control	9
A.S.G. engines, as to number modified and in traffic	10
Migrants from foreign countries, as to State's voice in selection	10
Railway bus services, as to South-West costing system	10
Bill : Brands Act Amendment, 1r. ...	10
Lieut.-Governor's Opening Speech, distribution	10
Address-in-reply, first day	10
Adjournment, special	12

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. F. E. Islip).

The SPEAKER took the Chair.

MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A Message from His Excellency's Commissioner requested the attendance of

members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber. Hon. members having accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and heard the Commission read, they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

ELECTORAL—SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received the return of a writ for the vacancy in the Guildford-Midland electorate caused by the death of the Hon. W. D. Johnson, showing that John Joseph Brady has been duly elected. I am prepared to swear in the hon. member.

Mr. Brady took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

Sitting suspended from 12.12 to 3 p.m.

SUMMONS FROM THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR.

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

QUESTIONS.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

As to Report on Redistribution of Seats.

Hon. F. J. S. WISE (without notice) asked the Premier: Will the Premier give the House an indication of when he expects to make available, either by publishing in the "Government Gazette" or of his own announcement, the report concerning the redistribution of seats?

The PREMIER replied: In reply to the Leader of the Opposition, I made inquiries today as to when this report is likely to be available and I understand it will be ready in about a week's time. As soon as it comes to hand a copy will be posted to each member.

PRICE FIXING, ETC.

As to State's Assumption of Control.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN (without notice) asked the Attorney General: Has his attention been drawn to the statement of the Deputy Premier in "The West Australian" of the 28th May, 1948, that he sees no diffi-