

Aborigines. One does not deny the sincerity of the member for South Perth on any subject, and in particular on this subject. However, I was tempted to jump to a conclusion. I had to bear in mind the warning which was referred to by, I think, the Premier in an interjection to the member for East Melville, that the reasoning of one who jumps to a conclusion can be based on fallacy. I was tempted to believe that the member for South Perth was going to suggest that the plight of the Aborigines was something which had just come into being overnight. However, I resisted the temptation and my mortification was rewarded because the member for South Perth went on to say that some 15 years ago he, with other members of this House, had visited the Mt. Margaret and Warburton district. He was able to indicate that during the 12 years of the former Government the situation had not improved and, in his own words, if anything the position was now much worse.

I would like to assure the member for South Perth that this Government has a great deal of faith in its present Minister for Health and its present Minister for Community Welfare. I am sure that a new dawn is awakening and that a new and better deal is ensured for those people.

I thank members who have participated in this debate, Mr. Speaker, and I again commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Norton) in the Chair; Mr. T. D. Evans (Treasurer) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Before I commence my duties as Chairman of Committees in this Chamber I wish to thank all members for having elected me to this very important position. It will be my desire to maintain the high traditions of this office, but I will require the co-operation and indulgence of members in doing this. Members can be assured of my indulgence with them so far as Standing Orders will permit me.

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. T. D. Evans (Treasurer), and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 10.14 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 21st July, 1971

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

QUESTIONS (5): ON NOTICE

1. EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Effect of Britain's Entry

The Hon. N. McNEILL, to the Leader of the House:

With reference to the statement by the Hon. Premier, reported in the Press on the 3rd June, 1971, that Britain's entry into the European Economic Community would not greatly disadvantage Western Australia, I ask—

- (a) will the Government prepare and publish a detailed and authoritative report on the effect on Western Australian exports which would result from Britain's entry into the European Economic Community, and the steps the Government is taking in order to compensate for the possible loss of markets, particularly for primary produce; and
- (b) what was the total value in 1970-71 of Western Australian exports to Britain and Europe which could be so affected?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

As an interim reply to the honourable member's question, the following statement is submitted.

A more detailed report will be prepared as developments between the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth become available.

Effects of U.K. Entry Into The E.E.C.

It now appears unlikely that transitional arrangements will be made for Australian agricultural imports into the United Kingdom when that country enters the European Economic Community. An exception is sugar.

The agricultural industries likely to be most seriously affected by U.K. entry into the E.E.C. are dairying, canned fruit, dried fruit, apples and pears and the sugar industry. Sales of soft wheats are also likely to be reduced. Sales of coarse grains may not be seriously reduced below recent levels, as the E.E.C. is itself a major importer of animal feedstuffs; however, the opportunities for growth in exports

to the U.K. market would be curtailed. Imports of Australian wool should not be affected by U.K. entry.

Because of the pattern of agricultural production in Western Australia, the State will not experience the direct and substantial reduction in market outlets that sectors of agriculture in other States will be faced with—especially the irrigation areas of those States where dairying and fruit are produced intensively. In those industries, where there is intensive production in a few regions, the impact of the U.K. entry will be severe unless alternative markets paying remunerative prices can be found, and this seems unlikely in the short to medium term. However, Western Australia is not in this position except for apples.

Wool, wheat, beef, mutton and lamb, and coarse grains account for a large part of agricultural production in Western Australia. The future for wool depends on the level of activity in the world textile trade and wool's share in it, and the U.K. entry does not have any direct bearing on this. The wheat industry is faced with the prospect of recurring surpluses on world markets and it is this outlook, rather than the U.K. entry in itself which is the important factor in the industry's future. In recent years Australia has made significant, though fluctuating, sales of wheat to the U.K. The British Government has announced a number of measures designed to increase domestic wheat production. The outlook for future sales of wheat on the U.K. market is poor; if this market is lost, as appears likely, the worst effects can be expected to be buffered by the operation of the Wheat Industry Stabilisation Plan.

Beef is in short supply on world markets at the present time. Both the U.K. and the E.E.C. have been major importers. There is little prospect of the existing E.E.C. countries being in a position to supply British requirements; in fact the E.E.C. seems likely to continue to be a major importer of beef although it is improbable that Australia will become a major supplier. Imports of Australian beef to the U.K. will probably decline; however, the demand for beef in Australia's other main markets should continue to expand and further rises in exports can be expected. In the past the U.K. market has been available for the disposal of seasonal surpluses (lamb and mutton as well as beef);

this may be more difficult as it will depend on meat supplies in Europe.

As from 3rd July, 1971 imports of mutton and lamb into the U.K. from all sources have been subject to a duty. This duty is being phased in and will increase from 0.96c per lb. at present to 2.7c per lb. from July 1972. From 1974 there will be a further transition to a 20% *ad valorem* duty. These duties will make the U.K. an increasingly difficult market in which to compete.

In recent years Western Australia has been importing butter from Victoria in order to meet local requirements. The W.A. dairy industry will, therefore, not be directly affected by U.K. entry; but the local industry is tied to movements in world trade through the operation of the stabilisation scheme.

The present world shortage of butter is seen as being temporary; the butter stockpile which built up in Europe in 1970 shows the capacity of the E.E.C. in dairy production. When the present scarcity is overcome, a large part of the U.K.'s butter will be supplied from within the E.E.C. at the expense of Australian supplies.

Depending on other market opportunities, total Australian production may have to be restricted. Such action should not have a major impact on the Western Australia industry where production is geared mainly to local requirements.

Exports of apples are likely to be less remunerative after U.K. entry. This industry is already faced with heavy increases in freight to the U.K. market, greater availability of European apples, and increased supplies from other major exporters, notably Argentina.

By the 30th June, 1970 all fresh fruit and vegetables had been brought under the provisions of the E.E.C.'s Common Agricultural Policy. As a result all exporters of apples to the E.E.C. in 1970 were reduced to 80% of their average of the three previous years. This limitation applied over all varieties.

Safeguard provisions under the Common Agricultural Policy ensure very high levels of protection to E.E.C. producers. Additional levies and quantitative restrictions could be imposed if these are considered necessary.

The adverse effects on Western Australian agriculture will be less severe than those likely to be encountered in other areas of Australian agriculture. Nevertheless, the loss of traditional U.K. preferences and their replacement by import levies presents a further difficulty at a time when many of the agricultural industries are faced with low prices and various import restrictions in major markets. In some cases, though, the U.K. market is no longer as important an outlet for Western Australia's agricultural products as it has been in the past.

W.A. Exports to U.K. in 1970/71
(11 months to May 31st)

| | \$ |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Wheat | 23,083,000 |
| Barley | 6,568,000 |
| Wool | 5,651,000 |
| Sheep skins | 191,000 |
| *Lamb and Mutton (incl. offal) | 1,767,000 |
| Beef and veal (incl. offal) | 955,000 |
| *Apples | 1,631,000 |
| *Cheese | 190,000 |
| *Honey | 136,000 |
| | <hr/> \$40,172,000 |

*Items most likely to be affected
by U.K. entry into E.E.C.
Europe

The exports to Europe which will be affected are exports to those countries which have also applied to enter the E.E.C., viz. Norway, Denmark and Ireland.

Cereal sales to Norway may be affected as may apple sales to Denmark and Ireland. Australia has been supplying some 300,000 bushels of apples each year to these two countries in recent years.

2.

HOSPITAL

Bridgetown Site

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has the acquisition of a site for a new hospital situated between Williams Street, Hampton Street and Peninsula Road, Bridgetown, been finalised?
- (2) If not, what is the present position?
- (3) What priority is being given to replacing the existing hospital and re-building on the new site?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) It is still in the course of being acquired.

- (3) This project has not a high priority and all available funds in 1971/72 will be required for more urgent work.

3.

TRAFFIC

Control in Country Areas

The Hon. N. McNEILL, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many Country Local Authorities have voluntarily transferred traffic control to the Police Department?
- (2) How many traffic inspectors previously employed by Local Authorities have been absorbed into the Police Department for employment as—
 - (a) traffic officers; and
 - (b) special constables?
- (3) How many traffic inspectors previously employed by Local Authorities—
 - (a) were rejected as unsuitable by the Police Department; or
 - (b) declined employment in the Police Department?
- (4) What are the conditions of employment, and rates of pay, offered to traffic inspectors wishing to transfer to the Police Department from Local Authorities?
- (5) What special provisions are made in conditions, or rates of pay in lieu of seniority for traffic inspectors with special training or experience and length of service when transferring to the Police Department?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) 15.
- (2) (a) Nil.
(b) Nil.
5 former Traffic Inspectors have been re-employed as Police Officers.
- (3) (a) Nil.
(b) Nil.
1 Traffic Inspector found employment with another Shire and 3 who were approaching the retiring age, were retained by the Shires concerned.
- (4) Traffic Inspectors employed by the Police Department up to the present have been engaged as Police Officers as Constables, at a rate of pay exceeding that of a Traffic Inspector. They are eligible for promotion and salary increases in line with other Police Officers.
- (5) No special provisions are made for previous seniority or length of service of Traffic Inspectors, but should an instance arise where the base rate of pay of a Senior Traffic

Inspector exceeds what he would receive as a Police Officer, the matter of monetary adjustment would be examined.

4.

HEALTH*Medical Facilities at Walpole*

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has the Medical Department reconsidered the need to establish a nursing post or similar medical facilities at Walpole?
- (2) If so, what is the Department's intention in the matter?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) and (2) The position has been reviewed but funds are not available at present.

5.

HOSPITAL*Denmark*

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) What improvements are planned or under consideration for the Denmark Hospital?
- (2) When may it be expected that the improvements will be effected?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) It is intended to provide a new operating theatre, outpatient treatment room and the relevant service rooms as a separate block linked to the existing hospital by a short covered way. To facilitate the project it is intended to provide this in the form of transportable units.
- (2) It is hoped to proceed this financial year, but this is dependent upon the availability of funds.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES*Election*

On motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), resolved:

That, in accordance with Standing Order No. 34, the following members be elected to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees for the present Session—The Hons. F. D. Willmott, J. M. Thomson and R. F. Cloughton.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION*Election*

On motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), resolved:

That, in accordance with Standing Order No. 37, the following members be elected to the Standing Committees for the present session:—

Standing Orders.—The Hon. F. D. Willmott, The Hon. J. M. Thomson, and The Hon. R. F. Cloughton.

Library.—The Hon. V. J. Ferry and The Hon. L. D. Elliott.

House.—The Hon. J. Heitman, The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson, The Hon. J. L. Hunt, and The Hon. D. K. Dans.

Printing.—The Hon. R. T. Leeson and The Hon. F. R. White.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by the Hon. J. Dolan (Minister for Police), leave of absence for six consecutive sittings of the House granted to The Hon. R. Thompson (South Metropolitan) on the ground of ill-health.

On motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Leader of the Opposition), leave of absence for six consecutive sittings of the House granted to The Hon. Clive Griffiths on the ground of private business overseas.

SUPPLY BILL*Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY*Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 20th July, on the following motion by The Hon. L. D. Elliott:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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

THE HON. S. J. DELLAR (Lower North) [4.46 p.m.]: Mr. President and honourable members, it is indeed a proud moment for me to stand here for the first time as the elected representative of the Lower North Province. It is also a proud moment when I recall that my father stood here some eight years ago representing the same electorate, although the boundaries have since been somewhat adjusted.

In view of the number of new members in this Chamber of Parliament, the staff has been spoken about a great deal. The members of the staff give the impression that they are quite a good bunch of fellows. Mr. Withers spoke about them yesterday, and I would like to reiterate his statements. The help and guidance given by the staff members has been a great help to me and to many new members in this our first sitting of this Parliament. The two-day seminar which was

conducted by the staff did a great deal to ease the tension which was building up in some new members, and I would not say I was not one of them.

The province which I represent—Lower North Province—covers an area in excess of one-third of the State. It is obvious that in such an area there will be many diversified interests. These range from those in the north-west corner, where we have the United States naval communications station at Exmouth and the R.A.A.F. base at Learmonth, which is currently being upgraded and further developed, to Carnarvon, a little further down, where we have the National Aeronautics and Space Administration tracking station in conjunction with the Overseas Telecommunications Commission.

Within this area we also have the salt works of Texada and Useless Loop, and the possibility of a future development at Exmouth Gulf itself. Primary industry is a large business in Carnarvon and on the Gascoyne River, and recently at Wiluna, in the "Desert Farm" project, there have been developments in melon and citrus growing. The pastoral industry, naturally, covers a very large area of this electorate. I would like to say something about that later.

We have a fishing industry which is at present mainly supported by prawning. This industry could be further developed by the processing of wet fish. The mining industry also covers a great part of the area, and we have recently seen an increase in nickel mining and other mineral developments in the region.

In his speech yesterday the Leader of the Opposition referred to the Speech made by His Excellency the Governor at the opening of this Parliament. I, too, have read the Speech and I find there is one important omission from it. On page 5 of the Speech there is mention of further developments in water conservation schemes throughout the State. The subject about which I would now like to speak has possibly been raised many times in this House, and members may have heard this a number of times before.

However, I do not wish to let this opportunity pass without speaking about the matter. I refer, of course, to the developments along the Gascoyne River at Carnarvon. Members are probably aware that Carnarvon was established in the late 1890s as a port outlet for the Gascoyne and surrounding regions. The port was used mainly for the export of wool and other products from the area. It was not until after the first war that some development in relation to irrigation took place along the banks of the Gascoyne River.

Just after the first war the production of peanuts was commenced. However, that was not a great financial success. At about the same time there was some development in the growing of bananas, but

that also failed due to lack of knowledge and inexperience on the part of the growers.

The town of Carnarvon has developed considerably over the years, and further developments have occurred recently with the establishment of the space tracking station and the Texada salt industry. The town has now grown to sizeable proportions. I first visited Carnarvon when I was on holidays about 1961. I subsequently worked in the area and I was amazed to see the lush growth in the plantation areas on both sides of the Gascoyne River. The river itself is actually a dry, sandy creek-bed. It was not until I made some inquiries that I learnt that the river is actually the source of the water supply for the plantation areas which were being developed and also for the townsite itself.

In 1965 approximately 4,500 acres of freehold land were held along the banks of the river, and they were allocated for irrigation projects. Approximately only one-third of this land could be used for plantation purposes owing to the restricted water supply in the area. That position has remained fairly static even to this day because the restrictions imposed upon the water supply do not allow for further land to be opened up or subdivided so that other growers can establish themselves.

In 1965 it was estimated that the water storage in the river sands was approximately 7,000 acre-feet. At that time the requirements of the plantation area were probably in excess of 4,000 acre-feet. With the subsequent development of the townsite and the influx caused by the establishment of the space tracking station and the Texada industry, in May, 1970, the consumption of water for domestic purposes in the Carnarvon townsite—including the tracking station—and for parks, gardens, and so on was 300,000 gallons per day. That is in excess of 450 acre-feet. So members will see that the present total water requirement is in the vicinity of 4,500 acre-feet, whilst there is a water storage capacity of approximately 7,000 acre-feet. This leaves an amount of only 2,500 acre-feet in reserve.

Unfortunately, the river does not flow every year to replenish the sands. It has been calculated that it fails to flow on average once every six years. However, in the past five years it has flowed on average two or three times a year. Those flows have not been large, but sufficient to recharge the sands and allow the industry to survive.

The area produces bananas plus a few other crops such as tomatoes, beans, and citrus fruits. The demand for winter crops of this type is increasing and it is obvious and logical that Carnarvon could be developed further to meet this demand, which comes particularly from the metropolitan

area. It is also evident that the developments taking place further north could be supplied from Carnarvon. Let us face it: if we cannot supply the housewives, they will have to pay more when limited supplies are available.

An article headed, "A pineapple patch holds the key to the future" appeared in *The West Australian* on the 14th July, 1971. The article referred to recent experiments in relation to the growing of pineapples at the Department of Agriculture research station at Carnarvon. It would appear that the problems associated with the growing of this crop have been overcome, although I do not know whether a market exists at this stage. The article goes on to refer to the production of bananas in 1969 and it states—

Carnarvon provided 75 per cent of Perth's needs for bananas in 1969—about 220,000 bushels. Last year, because of the cyclones, it supplied only 20 per cent. Since production began again in March this year, 67,000 bushels have been sent to Perth.

At this point I would like to pay a tribute to the growers along the banks of the Gascoyne River. If any member has seen the ravage a cyclone can cause and the damage it does to crops, he would agree that it is fitting I should pay a tribute to the growers for the way they have got stuck into getting their plantations in order again so that this season I feel they will produce one of the best crops for years.

It has already been mentioned that perhaps a cannery could be established in the area to process the citrus, tomato, and other crops. This, of course, would necessitate increased production in order that the cannery may operate on an economic basis. I see no reason why this could not be done and the cannery could operate in conjunction with the prawning factory at Carnarvon, which processes a large amount of prawns for export. However, as can be seen, this project relies solely on the continuation of the water supply upon which the plantations and the town depend.

In 1956 a clay barrier was placed across the river. This was designed to restrict the flow of underground water to the sea. Whilst the barrier has helped some of the plantation areas, it has not been the complete answer to the serious problem of guaranteeing a water supply for Carnarvon. A pilot scheme was established to reticulate water to some plantations and at the present time that scheme is being extended to the north bank of the river and to the plantations west of Quobba Road. In addition, the pilot scheme is also supplying water to the township of Carnarvon, and I think it is a good idea.

The water from the dry river bed is being pumped 15 or 16 miles to the town and plantation areas. The scheme has

merit, but it still relies on the river flows.

Dam sites have been discussed at length and one possibly is in the Kennedy Range, 70 miles east of Carnarvon. A feasibility study has been undertaken in regard to that site, and a study is being undertaken in regard to the Rocky Pool site, which is closer but smaller. In answer to a question asked in another place on the 1st October, 1969, the then Minister for Works said—

A feasibility study of a dam at the Kennedy Range site has been completed but because it would be extremely costly and there would be difficulties of salinity and supply, it must be studied in conjunction with the current investigations in course in the vicinity of Rocky Pool. These will not be completed until the end of 1971.

Water storage in the Gascoyne River area is a matter of urgency not only in order to guarantee the survival of the existing industry, but also to permit expansion to take place to cope with the increased demand faced by the industry.

Labor Governments have initiated most of the water conservation schemes in Western Australia and I trust that the present Government will give attention to this project for Carnarvon.

As I mentioned earlier, the Lower North Province covers a large area with diversified interests. One matter which causes me a great deal of concern is the decline in the pastoral industry throughout the Murchison and eastern goldfields. I have today received a telegram which, with your permission, Mr. President, I would like to read to the House. The telegram is from the Chairman of the Leonora Pastoralists Association, and it reads as follows:—

Government assistance for drought stricken pastoral areas still as urgent and necessary as outlined previously to Minister for Agriculture Stop Your assistance sought in enabling pastoralists to stay in industry long enough to take advantage of Federal Government supported wool price.

Not only is the price of wool worrying the pastoralists; they are also worried by the conditions which exist in the area further to the east of the Murchison. The conditions there are woeful. I refer particularly to the area from Leonora through Laverton and extending to Cue. This area is dry and barren and there is no growth at all.

Unless some increased help is forthcoming I feel certain that a great number of the pastoralists will follow the pattern that has been set. Some of them are walking off their stations. They are shearing their sheep and sending them to market, after which they close their doors and walk off.

While I appreciate that the problem of financial assistance to pastoralists is a Federal matter, I do maintain that the

question of price is not the only problem. There is little use having wool produced unless we can find a market on which to sell it. I suggest that the Federal Government also has a look at the possibility of increasing markets for wool products.

As we all know, in the early part of the century the goldmining industry was possibly the backbone of the country's economy. It is most depressing when travelling through the electorate to see the decline that has occurred in places like Menzies, Wiluna, Cue, Agnew, and other towns; places which previously were thriving are now completely inactive townships with few people and very little to encourage them.

The figures which I will quote will indicate the decline that has taken place in gold production in Western Australia in the last 10 years. The figures are as follow:—

| Year | Ounces | Value \$ |
|------|---------|---------------|
| 1955 | 842,000 | 26,351,118.00 |
| 1960 | 855,758 | 28,743,322.00 |
| 1965 | 659,436 | 20,722,164.00 |
| 1966 | 628,776 | 19,765,287.00 |
| 1967 | 576,021 | 18,071,924.00 |
| 1968 | 511,703 | 16,285,723.00 |
| 1969 | 465,411 | 17,707,219.00 |

There was an increase in 1969, and these were the amounts received by the Gold Producers Association. In 1970 the number of fine ounces produced totalled 341,608 for a return of \$11,069,049.00. It will be seen, therefore, that in 15 years the value of gold produced in this State dropped by over \$15,000,000.

Representations have been made to the Federal Government for an increase in the subsidy paid to gold producers. At present this subsidy is \$8 and a case has been made out to have the amount increased to \$12 per ounce. This may be of some benefit to the small prospector who goes to the bush and fossicks around, but I do not believe there is not much room left for these people at the moment, particularly when we consider the impact that nickel development has had in this area.

If an increase can be obtained in the subsidy on gold it will, however, at least enable the larger companies to employ men until such time as the nickel boom and the development of other minerals generally catch up with the labour requirements that are found to be necessary in the goldmining industry.

With an upsurge of its mineral development the State is passing through an exciting time. Every day we hear of discoveries being made at places like Windarra, Mt. Keith, Agnew, and other areas. It is possible, however, that while some of these mines will be brought into production, other developmental projects in the mineral field might be merely fly-by-night ventures, and I am not sure whether they will assist.

There is little doubt, however, that with this development we will be faced with certain problems. This has already been evident in connection with roads, railways, and the like. I have visited Kambalda and have seen the development taking place there. The week before last I had a look at the new smelter site at Kambalda and all this indicates that the State is still on the move; that we are getting further development which will provide more employment for our work force.

I would suggest, however, that we look and plan ahead, not merely for four or five years, but for a much longer period to enable us to accommodate the proposals which now confront us. We are all aware of what happened in the Leonora, Laverton, and Wiluna areas when the railways were removed. It is not so many years ago that the railway from Kalgoorlie to Leonora was in danger of being closed and we were lucky that that line was retained. Other lines, however, were pulled up. With the development that is taking place at Windarra, Mt. Keith, Agnew, and in other areas, we will find that we will require railways to transport the ore to places where it will be processed. I would urge anybody who has anything to do with the upgrading of railways or the planning of new lines to stick, if possible, to the new standard gauge. It is quite evident that the areas to which I refer—that is, the mineral fields—will develop very fast. People need development, and development needs people. Without people there can be no development. With the influx of population it is obvious that other people will also be attracted to these areas and they will assist in the development of the mineral fields.

For many years the people who have been living in the areas to which I refer have carried the outback. They have maintained essential services and provided the requisite supplies to the outlying country areas and to the motorists travelling in those areas. I would like to pay a tribute to these people. I trust they will in the future get some reward for their efforts.

If there is to be an influx of population and continued development it is obvious that something must be done to induce people to remain in those areas. They need to be remunerated; they must be paid well, because nobody will work for nothing. Such people will need houses and it is quite easy for large companies to provide such facilities. It has been done in the past and there has been no problem in the establishment of townships.

We must provide the people who work in these areas with the necessary amenities. We must educate the children and provide medical and other facilities. Every child in this State has the right to a standard of education which is adequate for his future in life, to enable such child, if necessary, to continue with higher education. Mr. Withers mentioned some of these problems yesterday.

We are told that the junior high school at Carnarvon will next year be upgraded to a fourth year high school and that in 1973 it will become a fifth year high school. Proposals are being considered at the moment for the upgrading of the Exmouth Junior High School to a fourth and fifth year school. I also understand that the Meekatharra High School will be upgraded at the start of the 1972 school year.

This is all very well, but there are other areas which require these facilities; there are a number of people who are further north in the electorate who also require educational facilities. There is no doubt that it would cost a great deal of money and the only way to make these facilities available is to provide regional high schools with hostel accommodation for the number of students the schools in question can accommodate, within reason. I feel this is the only answer. There must also be an increase in the allowances paid to the parents of the children concerned to enable them to obtain educational facilities similar to those enjoyed by children in the metropolitan area. I would also urge that additional assistance be given to people who live in the outback areas and who of necessity must have their children taught by correspondence and by the School of the Air.

As I have already said, a number of these problems were mentioned by Mr. Withers. He asked for certain matters to be attended to so that they may be in operation by 1972. I feel, however, that 12 months is rather short notice for such facilities to be provided, particularly when we know that the previous Administration had 12 years in which to make them available.

Consideration should also be given to improving communications. I refer to roads and transport services generally. There is one road in my electorate which has been a problem for many years and this road probably affects me more than other roads do, because I have travelled over it more often. I refer to the road from Minilya to Exmouth. Whilst this stretch of road is only 69 miles long, it is possibly the worst I have encountered. Mr. Berry may have some knowledge of it.

The bitumenising of this road could surely be given greater priority, particularly when we consider the population of that area and the fact that at Exmouth and in that area of the north-west a sum of over \$100,000,000 has been invested in the U.S. naval communications station and townsite. We must also consider the investment in the prawning industry and in the development that is taking place at Learmonth as a result of the activities of the R.A.A.F.

I have known this stretch of road to be closed for periods of up to three weeks. The only transport available in these areas is road transport, apart, of course, from the air service which involves considerable

charges by way of air freight. The transport services to the areas east of the Murchison have been rather mean in the past. However, they have improved since the mineral discoveries. The radio and telephone services, too, have not been much good, although there has been some slight improvement over the years.

As I have already said, incentives are needed to encourage people to develop these areas to which I refer. Some aspects which come readily to mind are of course the responsibility of the Federal Government; and I refer now to zone and district allowances.

There is no justification whatever for a person living at Wiluna not being entitled to a taxation deduction equal to that of a person living at Exmouth, on the coast, where better housing and other facilities are available.

This, however, is a Federal matter. But I would strongly urge members of this Government to do what they can by approaching the members of the Federal Government to ensure that a complete revision is made in this direction. People who live on the trans-line are surely entitled to the concessions that are enjoyed by those who are living at Exmouth.

In her Address-in-Reply speech The Hon. Lyla Elliott spoke on the question of Aborigines. I would like to raise one small point on this subject which deals with the educational requirements for the younger generation of Aborigines.

At present these children receive the same education as do other children in the area who happen to attend the State schools, convents, and missions. A number of these children, however, come direct from an environment which is, perhaps, not as conducive as it might be to their attaining the standard that might be attained by the white children who possibly attend the same school.

This, however, is not the fault of the child: it is possibly due to the conditions under which it has been brought up. I suggest that consideration be given to this problem to see whether we cannot establish some form of preschool centre for Aboriginal children.

Those in charge of the native hostels in the area do a good job. They work very hard and do what they can to house-train the children and send them to school. However, we all know that in those areas the teachers not only are required to teach the children but they are also required to train them in house manners—I think members can appreciate what I mean. The teachers have to do that before they can get on with the job of trying to teach the children.

Following this we have the problem of what to do with these native children after they leave school. There is very little that these children can do once they leave

school, unless they are the lucky ones who have been able to go on and gain a higher education. This problem is not an easy one to solve, but I ask that it be looked at and treated as an urgent matter so that we can go on and do something for these people. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. J. L. Williams.

House adjourned at 5.16 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 21st July, 1971

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

THURSDAY SITTINGS

Questions: Procedure

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Toms): Owing to Parliament meeting at 11 a.m. on Thursdays, it has been decided that the closing time for questions on that day shall be 2.15 p.m. and not half an hour after the House sits at 11 a.m. Also, answers to questions will be given at approximately 3 p.m. on Thursdays, or at an appropriate time subsequent to that, depending on who is speaking at the time.

Mr. Nalder: On a point of clarification, does it mean that questions for tomorrow will not be accepted up until the usual hour of 5 p.m. today?

The SPEAKER: On Tuesday and Wednesday the closing time for questions will be half an hour after the House sits. However, the House will be sitting at 11 a.m. on Thursday and it is proposed to accept questions for the following Tuesday until 2.15 p.m. on Thursday.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

THE SPEAKER: I also inform the House that the Public Accounts Committee had its first meeting today. The member for Pilbara (Mr. Bickerton) was elected Chairman and the member for Narrogin (Mr. W. A. Manning) Deputy Chairman.

LIQUOR

Sale of Low Alcohol Beverages: Petition

MR. JONES (Collie) [4.34 p.m.]: I have two petitions. The first reads as follows:—

COLLIE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Petition regarding the sale of low alcohol content beverages

To the Honourable, the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia.

We, the undersigned petitioners express our concern that beverages of low alcohol content are being put on sale in stores and milk bars in W.A.

Makers of beverages containing alcohol are pressing hard to win new markets. They are exploiting a law which permits beverages with less than 2 per cent. alcohol content to be sold in milk bars and stores. The legal limit is used to its furthest point because Shandy drinks contain 1.99 per cent. alcohol.

Your petitioners therefore urge and pray that your House will take this petition into consideration and take whatever action is needed to restrict the sale of the said beverages to licensed premises, and your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

I certify that the petition conforms to the rules of the House; it contains 13 names.

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

LIQUOR

Sale of Low Alcohol Beverages: Petition

MR. JONES (Collie) [4.36 p.m.]: The second petition reads as follows:—

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION OF W.A.

Petition regarding sale of low alcohol content beverages

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia.

We the undersigned petitioners express our concern that beverages of low alcohol content are being put on sale in stores and milk bars in W.A.

Makers of beverages containing Alcohol are pressing hard to win new markets. They are exploiting a law which permits beverages with less than 2% alcohol content to be sold in milk bars and stores. The legal limit is used to its furthest point because Shandy drinks contains 1.99% alcohol.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your House will take this petition into consideration and take whatever action is needed to restrict the sale of the said beverages as to licensed premises, and your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

I certify that the petition conforms to the rules of the House; it contains 26 names.