

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 2nd September, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (5): ON NOTICE

1. ROYAL COMMISSION: WOOL EXPORTERS PTY. LTD.

Representation of and Action Against Bank

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is it a fact that at some stage of the Royal Commission into Wool Exporters Pty. Ltd. the then State Manager of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd. (Mr. J. H. Wilson) attended the Royal Commission?
- (2) After such an attendance, would not this fact be sufficient to subpoena him at any future sittings?
- (3) In view of the Royal Commissioner's comments and criticism of this bank, as detailed on pages 72 to 77 inclusive of his report—
 - (a) has the Government power to take action against this bank on behalf of all the creditors involved in the failure of the particular wool company concerned; and
 - (b) if not, could the Minister indicate why, and what recourse is open to the said creditors?
- (4) Has the Government power to take action against this bank for contempt of the Royal Commission—
 - (a) by withdrawing the bank's license to operate in Western Australia; and
 - (b) by requesting the Associated Banks to debar it from membership?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) On page 72 of the Royal Commissioner's report, it is stated that Mr. J. H. Wilson was physically present at one sitting of the Commission on the 26th November, 1968.
- (2) A subpoena was subsequently issued to secure the attendance of Mr. J. H. Wilson at the commission but he was then outside the State and his attendance could not be enforced.

- (3) (a) The Government has no power to take action for civil remedies on behalf of private plaintiffs.
- (b) Any recourse open to creditors is a matter upon which the creditors concerned should be guided by the advice of their own legal advisers.
- (4) (a) The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd. carries on the business of banking in Western Australia under the authority of section 9 of the Banking Act, 1959. This is a Commonwealth Statute and the State of Western Australia has no power to terminate or otherwise inhibit the exercise of the authority thereby conferred.
- (b) No.

2.

MUSEUM

Proposed New Building

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Have tenders been called for the construction of the proposed museum building?
- (2) If not, when is it expected that tenders will be called?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) End of October, 1969, subject to availability of loan funds.

3.

PERTH CULTURAL CENTRE

Land Resumption

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Who are the present owners, other than the Government, of property required for the Perth cultural centre?
- (2) How many of these owners have been given notice that their land is required?
- (3) What are the time limits for vacating the above properties?
- (4) Is it envisaged that compensation to be paid will allow for re-establishment costs?
- (5) Has consideration been given to the possibility that the activities of some of the existing owners, such as church bodies, may fit into the concept of a cultural centre?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied: (1)

Lot Description	Title No.	Owner
1. Lot 1, Perth Lot Y55	CT 1046/507	Commercial Bank of Aust.
2. Lots 5 and 6, Perth Lot Y55	1073/413	D. Baldwin
3. Lot 7, Perth Lot Y55	1102/657	J. Skender
4. Lot 8, Perth Lot Y55	790/47	A. Tampalini
5. Lot 9, Perth Lot Y55	527/200	M. & T. Marto
6. Portion Perth Lot Y56	571/83	Federation of W.A. Police & Citizens Boys Club
7. Portion Perth Lot Y56	230/122	K. Kalafatas
8. Portion Perth Lot Y57	1135/805	Public Trustees for the Estate of R. Formiotti
9. Portion Perth Lot Y58	1142/861	A. Clonzas
10. Lot 3, Perth Lot Y58	721/48	N. R. & J. M. Westwood
11. Lot 2, Perth Lots Y58 and 59	712/10	Estate of W. Boyd—Executor L. W. Boyd—W.A. Trustees Co.
12. Lot 1, Perth Lots Y58 and 59	736/75	G. L. Miller
13. Portion Perth Lot Y59	826/45	R. D. Benjamin
14. Portion Perth Lot Y59	846/78	Bread Manufacturers, Industrial Union of Employers of W.A.
15. Lots 1, 2, 3, Perth Lot Y34	1045/21	Marchesi Holdings Pty. Ltd.
16. Lot 4, Perth Lot Y34	1045/20	A. & I. Ulrich
17. Lots 5 and 6, Perth Lot Y34	1071/170	Marchesi Holdings Pty. Ltd.
18. Portion Perth Lot Y34	663/140	S. & V. Forte
19. Lot 3, Perth Lot Y34	678/119	A. E. Mandello
20. Lot 2, Perth Lot Y34	749/163	National Bank
Lot Description	Title No.	Owner
21. Portion Perth Lot Y31	178/198A	Baptist Church Inc.
22. Portion Perth Lot Y31	688/170	W.A. Police Union of Workers
23. Portion Perth Lots Y31 and 30	220/104	Baptist Church Inc.
24. Portion Perth Lots Y31 and 30	995/23	Perth Lodge of the Theosophical Soc. Inc.
25. Portion Perth Lot Y30	792/52	Ancient Order of Foresters
26. Portion Perth Lot Y15	954/82	Bank of N.S.W.
27. Portion Perth Lot Y15	1180/845	Bank of N.S.W.
28. Lot 4, Perth Lot Y15	252/105	J. M. Hunt, G. M. D. Hatfield
29. Portion Perth Lot Y15	1073/861	R. Harrison
30. Portion Perth Lots Y15 and 16	569/75	Swan Brewery Co., Ltd.
31. Portion Perth Lot Y16	1003/308	S. Forte

(2) Ten owners have been informed, following inquiries, that their land will be needed in due course.

(3) The approved land acquisition and construction programme for the development of the cultural centre is spread over a 16 year period from 1968 to 1983. The time limit for vacating privately owned properties varies according to the starting date of the individual buildings within the centre.

(4) Upon acquisition of properties, compensation will be paid in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Public Works Act.

(5) Yes.

4. TOWN PLANNING

Advice from Public Health Department

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Town Planning:

(1) When the development of a particular area is being considered and the question of the suitability of the area for such development is submitted to the Town Planning Board for approval, is it usual for such proposal to be referred to the Public Health Department for its opinion?

(2) Where the area is considered by the Public Health Department as not being suitable, does the Town Planning Board always agree and therefore refuse to permit the development?

(3) If the answer to (2) is "No", what would be the circumstances prevailing which would cause the Town Planning Board to ignore the advice of the Public Health Department?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

(1) Some proposals for subdivision are automatically referred to the Public Health Department for advice because of the known nature of the soil. Other cases are referred to the department where the suitability of the soil is in doubt. Where the land is high and dry, there is no reference to the department.

(2) No.

(3) On some occasions, there may be circumstances where, having considered the advice of the department, the Town Planning Board may decide that the development

is of such a minor nature that it would be unreasonable to withhold approval.

5. WATER SUPPLIES

Connection to Education Camp at Point Peron

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Mines:

Further to my question of the 28th August, 1969, relating to water supplies at Point Peron, would the Minister ascertain whether the Minister for Education would undertake to negotiate with the National Fitness Council to have the Point Peron Education Department Camp connected with the water supply main referred to in my previous question?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Negotiations are at present taking place and it is hoped that the matter will be resolved in a few weeks.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the Opposition), leave of absence for 12 consecutive sittings of the House granted to The Hon. R. Thompson (South Metropolitan) on the ground of ill-health.

On motion by The Hon. J. Heitman, leave of absence for 12 consecutive sittings of the House granted to The Hon. F. D. Willmott (South-West) on the ground of ill-health.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: TWELFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 28th August, on the following motion by The Hon. J. Heitman:—

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. C. R. ABBEY (West) [4.44 p.m.]: This afternoon I rise to make my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate—probably the last speaker to do so, apart from the Ministers. I wish to express my appreciation to the Leader of the House for his courtesy in agreeing that we continue the debate on this motion today.

Firstly, I would like to add my voice to those of members who have conveyed their congratulations to our Premier (Sir David Brand) and his wife for the high honour conferred upon them by the Queen. This is a great honour for a man who has spent his whole life in the service of the State, and it is also an honour to his wife who has so ably supported him. It shows the very great appreciation of this House, I am sure, when almost everybody has referred to it.

This afternoon I want to deal with a visit I made, along with several other members of this House, to the Fremantle Prison. The visit was arranged by The Hon. Clive Griffiths in conjunction with the Comptroller-General of Prisons (Mr. Campbell). A number of members have told us over the last few years about the situation in the gaol, and they have expressed their opinions; but it does one a great deal of good to visit such an institution. I know it opened my eyes even more so than listening to such honourable gentlemen as Mr. Lavery, who has a great knowledge of the subject.

However, one has to see these things to realise just how important it is that one should be well informed. I would like first of all to pay a tribute to the Comptroller-General of Prisons (Mr. Campbell) and his staff. Mr. Campbell has introduced a very enlightened approach in the few years of his occupancy of this position. There is no doubt about this; we know from references in the Press of his continual concern that improvements should be made to both the treatment of prisoners and the environment in which they live. It appears to me that he is very ably backed up by an efficient staff which has accepted that his ideas are worth while and should be put into effect.

I would think that Mr. Campbell could be very firm when required, but he has a kindly approach and is a very down-to-earth individual—a man ideally suited to his job. I am sure that if we provide new prisons and new environment, as suggested by Mr. Campbell and the Minister for Police (Mr. Craig) when they returned from overseas, we would find great and immediate improvements. However, we all recognise that, funds being what they are, we have to go slowly in this regard.

There is no doubt in my mind that if Fremantle Prison was bulldozed—completely flattened—and the money that would be obtained from selling this commercial site utilised to build a new prison, this State would be very much better off. Fourteen acres of suitable commercial land would no doubt bring a high figure. Naturally, the Treasury faces great difficulty in finding sufficient funds to build a new prison; but I believe a site is already available and this would be one way of finding at least some portion of the funds required.

People who value old buildings would no doubt make an outcry and say that the buildings should be preserved. However, in my opinion it is utterly impossible to have such a large area preserved. It may be that, perhaps, one small building could be kept as an example of the type of architecture of the day, as long as it did not interfere with the area as a commercial site. This is a practical problem and one which we must face up to and I believe this to be the best solution.

This afternoon I took the opportunity—along with other members of both Houses of Parliament—to attend a meeting called by the Farmers' Union to discuss the drought situation. It was a fairly well attended meeting and one from which a number of very constructive suggestions emanated. The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Nalder) was present and was the main speaker. I must say he impressed me very greatly with his knowledge of the subject; with the efforts he has instituted; and with the obvious solutions that are available from all Government sources.

It must have been very satisfactory for those farmers who attended the meeting—particularly those from the drought areas—to find that all the problems they had raised in the afternoon had already been thought of and that constructive moves were being made to overcome them.

There is no doubt at all that the drought situation is very serious indeed. Many parts have been declared drought areas and we see a situation where, I understand, even the eastern side of the main line is to be declared a drought area. This has been previously unheard of in the Avon Valley. I do not know whether that area was so affected in 1914, but if it was it must have been quite serious. The position is much more serious now, however, because of the large numbers of stock which are suffering from the drought conditions.

In my view the steps being taken by the Government are adequate for the time being; and, should further measures be needed, there is no doubt that these will be instituted.

I would like to tie up my remarks in connection with the Fremantle Prison with the present drought situation. We have the position where 80,000 or more sheep and lambs are being received at Midland. Many of those sheep are aged; they come from drought areas and they are not worth slaughtering—their condition is just too poor. There are quite a number of sheep in this category and at the moment they bring about 10c a head.

I daresay they could be taken to areas where feed is available and where some worth-while use could be made of them. There is no doubt, however, that the areas in which feed is available would also carry a great deal of stock. A farmer in Albany

to whom I was speaking last week said that he had so much in the way of stock that he found it difficult to close the gates. The Albany area, of course, is enjoying good seasonal conditions.

The point I wish to make, however, is that we have a shortage of labour in the abattoirs; there is just not sufficient labour to handle the stock that is worth handling. From time to time announcements have been made that experienced men have been brought from as far away as New Zealand; and, for the time being, this has largely met the situation at Midland.

I understand, however, that there is a need for 30 or 40 men at Robb Jetty to man fully the facilities available there. The abattoir facilities in the metropolitan area can handle something like 70,000 sheep and lambs a week; but the capacity would be much greater if more labour were available.

Some time ago the Government announced that an enlightened programme of work release would be instituted in relation to suitable prisoners from our gaols. Surely this affords us an opportunity to explore fully and thoroughly, the avenue to which I have referred. If we could evolve a work release programme in relation to men from the Fremantle Prison and other institutions where such men are available, this would help overcome a very worrying situation.

There is far too much stock coming forward for treatment and it is just not possible to handle it all. Later I would like to mention what the Farmers' Union decided to do in this regard. I would like to develop my theme for a moment, because I am assured by the authorities that there are suitable prisoners who could be released on a work release programme. I understand they could be suitably trained in two to three weeks when they would be able to take part in the operations at the abattoirs, where there is a shortage of labour to carry out the necessary killings.

I do not for one moment suggest that these men should be released and become sweated labour. That would certainly not be the case. In my view—and I am sure this would also be the view of the prison authorities—they would be released and be paid the standard rate and would work under the conditions set out in the award. It would not be at all desirable—nor is it envisaged—to lower the standard of the workers in the industry.

I do stress, however, that we have a pool of labour; men who are finding time lying very heavy on their hands. The prison authorities at the Fremantle Prison are finding it extremely difficult to keep these men gainfully employed. There are a number of shops—such as the boot shop,

and so on—which do a very worth-while job in employing such men and providing them with a trade.

If we could implement the suggestion I have made I feel sure it would have a tremendous impact on the future treatment of prisoners in our institutions. It might, perhaps, be considered a bit radical that we should think of letting out of prison large numbers of men; so, for a start, we could try letting out just a few. However, the matter of having sufficient labour in our abattoirs is one of great urgency at the moment. Accordingly, perhaps some small risk is justified and a number of men suitable to the job could be released under a work release programme.

It is of vital importance to the producers of our State that the stock should be treated as quickly as possible; and, if my suggestion is adopted, I hope there will be co-operation from the institutions concerned, from the workers in the industry, and from the unions.

This matter was looked at very realistically this afternoon by the farmers and by the executive of the Farmers' Union who were present at the meeting. The president of the meat section (Mr. Davies of York), who is also a member of the Abattoir Board, explained the situation as far as the meat executive was concerned. He explained what it thought could be done. This was, in effect, that a committee could be formed representing farming and pastoral interests together with trade and selling interests, and anybody else who might be concerned. Mr. Davies suggested that this was an urgent matter and that the committee he envisaged could adequately deal with the situation.

I believe this is so. If we have a situation where some control is exercised on the number of stock coming forward and the drought areas are given some priority—as I consider they should be; and it has been so suggested today—then the present position could be largely overcome.

Some years ago the Midland Junction Abattoir Board instituted the idea of a nomination of stock for Midland, but it was not accepted very well at the time. However, I believe the situation is desperate and it is one that needs such a control. If this committee can agree, and it is finally decided that sheep should be nominated, and that they go forward in controlled numbers and, in particular, that the drought areas have first call on nominations, then this is a very sensible solution to a quite worrying situation.

Mr. Nalder—who, as I said before, was present at the meeting—has declared his intention to hold such a meeting as quickly as possible; and this could overcome the present position. I look forward

to the future—as Mr. House told us last week—when we can expect a doubling of sheep numbers in a short period of years; and they will have to be handled adequately.

I think we will have to be wary of spending too large a sum of money on further abattoirs. I believe we should make every use of the existing facilities. At Robb Jetty we have quite a large set-up which, with some additional killing and freezing facilities, could probably handle 40,000 or 50,000 sheep or lambs per week, if necessary. However, it would be necessary to face up to the requirements of the United States of America which are very stringent in regard to handling methods.

In my opinion, we could have a situation in the future where the boner type mutton goes to one source for treatment. At the Midland Junction Abattoir there are also adequate facilities for this purpose—for boning and killing—and they would need to be used to capacity. But I believe any additional facilities should be built at Robb Jetty.

The W.A. Meat Export Works used to be geared to kill large numbers of lambs for export and I think we should again gear these works to handle most of the boner type mutton that will come forward in increasing numbers in the coming years. I think this could be a means of keeping handling costs down.

We have had the spectacle, only within the past 12 or 15 months, of the steep increase in killing charges at Midland mainly because of extra labour requirements and expenditure on the works; and we do not want to create a situation where a large expenditure on new works results in additional costs. In my view, we have to be very careful in this regard; so, if we can first of all take away from the Midland saleyards the excess number of boner type mutton, and possibly cattle—every year this depresses the price to the producer and, therefore, to the State—and they could be handled at a point to which they could be directed, it would mean they would be sent to a works or an authority that could quote a price. This would provide another competitor.

I do not mean that this should be done compulsorily, but it should be possible to send the boner type of sheep and cattle to a place which operates virtually on weight and grade, and one will know that a certain price is being offered. In this way it would surely be easier for most producers to plan their programmes. Their old stock could be sent on nomination to a works that could handle them. This would save the situation of poor sheep—the boner type in particular—standing in areas for days on end, getting poorer and hungrier day by day. It would also be much more satisfactory and less costly to the producer and it would create a better supply of meat for export.

I make these suggestions in all sincerity; and whilst I realise I can be accused of taking this suggestion from today's meeting, it was my intention to make this exact statement last Thursday. However, because of circumstances, I did not speak. I am of the firm opinion this is a solution and that it is one that ought to be accepted by most producers and exporters. I realise that if this does not meet the wishes of some producers there could be a great deal of controversy with such a method being introduced. In the past farmers have been opposed to being directed or, in fact, having to nominate the stock they wished to send to Midland, in particular; but if we want to keep costs down, the producers will have to accept this situation.

I am sure it will be of much benefit if this scheme is rationally developed and we can have a position that can be fully controlled in future years. This is not the first time I have advocated in this House that we have a weight and grade method of meat marketing. It would meet the situation I have just outlined in regard to old stock. In my view, we do not need to interfere with the present lamb situation. In an economy such as ours people can readily demand the best type of meat available, and generally we have a position where the population is, in the main, consuming lamb and beef. These days very few people buy large legs of mutton, as was the case formerly; and most of the mutton is being exported as strip meat, suitable for hamburgers, and so on.

So if we had a situation, as I envisaged, of a weight and grade method the producer would know what he could expect to receive. He could plan, and I am certain this would overcome many of our present problems. Unfortunately, I cannot see an answer to the present problem of sheep, that are just too poor to be handled other than to be made into fertiliser, coming forward to Midland. I believe there are many hundreds—probably thousands—of sheep that are just going down the chute. It costs something like \$1 per head to handle them and if the handling charges are not more than the skin value, there is some return to the buyer. But it is a very difficult situation and at Midland today there are some very cheap sheep.

I understand that last week a consignment of wethers was sent by a producer in a very dry area. They were strong and were probably six-tooth to full mouth, and could—according to those who saw them—have travelled to a point such as Esperance, or some other far distant place. Although they were in that condition, they were marketed from 10c to 30c, which would mean that the producer would get a bill. It has been said by other speakers that the same sort of situation occurred last week. The wethers of which I have

just spoken were big but in poor condition. However, they were strong but they brought only 10c to 30c.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: My butcher does not give me my lamb chops any cheaper.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: That is right. The situation has become quite chaotic. Because of the numbers coming forward it will now be difficult to supply the market with good sheep and lambs. People feel that if they send in their good stock to the market there will be a glut.

Because of this, they feel they will receive a bill instead of a return. So some order will have to be introduced into this sphere. I am not suggesting the butchering trade is making excess profits. Figures produced show that costs remain static—irrespective of the initial cost of the sheep. I believe that to be so, as a fairly large sum is spent in handling; but it is a rather dreadful situation when the trade is paying only 1c, 2c, or, at the outside, 3c for good mutton. That is what has been paid in the last market or two and, in my view, it seems unnecessary that this should be so. It is obvious that 5c or 6c would be a reasonable figure and would give a return to the producer.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: Is this due to the drought and over-supply?

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: Yes; but it happened last year also. There was no drought, but a large number of stock came forward. There was a glut at about this time, or a little later, and prices dropped almost to the same level as today.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: What is the cause of it?

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: The cause probably lies largely at the door of the producer, because he attempts to send in his sheep within a short period straight after shearing when he has surplus sheep. This is how the market has operated over many years, but we need to take a close look at the situation with a view to making changes.

I think the changes I have suggested, and the changes that were suggested at the Farmers' Union meeting at Subiaco this afternoon, as a temporary measure, should be looked at from a long-term point of view.

I turn now to the present method of levying the vermin and noxious weeds taxes. These taxes are levied on a traditional system. As a basis, the unimproved value of land is used and this does not take into account the fact that it is for the provision of a service.

We have a situation where the smaller farms, in the vicinity of the metropolitan area, where there has been a rapid increase in values—and I should include in this category all highly productive land

used for orchards and irrigation projects, and so on—have been valued by the Taxation Department at a very high and unrealistic figure. The application of this tax is most unfair, particularly as it applies to properties of 100, 200, or 300 acres of land; because in those cases frequently the owners pay similar sums in tax—namely, \$100, \$200, or \$300. Yet in other areas—and I include my own farm in this category—the owners pay only cents per acre.

The anomaly is too great and the situation needs a very close examination. There needs to be a levelling off and, as Mr. Heitman said when he moved the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, it would be better if we had a flat rate to pay for the service that the farmers get. The tax in this instance was not meant to be levied purely for revenue purposes; it was to provide a service and the Government provides matching money for this purpose. Also, the farming community pays its share. However, in my view—and I hope this suggestion will be adopted in the not-too-distant future—a flat rate should be levied with a minimum charge on the smaller properties. This would be a realistic way to tackle the problem, which is one needing urgent consideration. I do not say this in a critical way, but I appeal to the Government to have a close look at the matter because the position is getting completely out of hand owing to the revaluations and there needs to be some alleviation.

As most members know, the Agriculture Protection Board does an extremely good job and it has sufficient finance. I am not suggesting that it should have less or that it should have more, but I do suggest that the charges should be made more equitable. There certainly should not be any lessening of the efforts made to control noxious weeds and vermin. If we do not continue to do all we can in this direction our agricultural areas could be completely overrun with both of these pests. However, there is no doubt the department is doing a worth-while job in this direction and I appeal to the Government to iron out the anomalies that exist under the present system.

During the debate several speakers in this House, and probably in another place, too, have made some mention of the Royal Commission into Wool Exporters. To the limit of his powers, Mr. Justice Burt did a remarkably good job and I join with the Minister in expressing appreciation to him for the work he did. It was obvious from the report, and from what other members have said, and particularly from an answer to a question asked by Mr. Jack Thomson today, that there is little that can be done by those who have lost as

a result of this disaster except for them to take some legal action on their own account.

It is a great pity that the banking institutions as a whole should bear some stigma because the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney refused to disclose all of its dealings in the matter. That institution made sure that some of its officers, who perhaps could have enlightened the Royal Commissioner, were not available, and this action leads to some suspicion. I support the remarks of Mr. House, particularly. I think we are entitled to expect from a financial institution of great standing, as the banks all are, or were, honest advice; but it appears from the report, and from the evidence given to the Royal Commissioner, that the advice given by the bank to which I have referred as to the liquidity of the firms concerned—and Wool Exporters in particular—was erroneous and misleading.

The Hon. J. M. Thomson: Deliberately so.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: As the honourable member said, it would appear that it was deliberately so. I know the Government has the situation in hand and is examining it. Therefore, I will say no more, but I do congratulate the Minister and the Government upon delving into the matter and disclosing the true situation. With those remarks I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West—Minister for Town Planning) [5.22 p.m.]: I regret the necessity to reply to Mr. Ron Thompson in his absence this afternoon, and particularly under the circumstances which have necessitated his absence—he is in hospital recovering from a fairly big operation. However, I believe that, in justice to the Fremantle City Council, and its administrative officers, who were the subject of his criticism, some comments should be made.

To summarise the honourable member's criticism, he complained that the scheme was only a zoning scheme; that it made only one provision for public open space; that it did not indicate the nature of the road widening that might be necessary; and that the council did not inform the ratepayers sufficiently. Also, the honourable member was critical of the Municipality of Fremantle Act. He went so far as to call it obnoxious, and he queried my part in the scheme and of my giving preliminary approval to it. He also wanted to know what the Town Planning Board was doing in making a recommendation that preliminary approval for the scheme be given.

I am sure members know that a town planning scheme, or a zoning scheme, does not get passed by the department, or the Town Planning Board, without first being

closely scrutinised; and the officers concerned do not make any recommendations until they are satisfied that such a scheme complies with the regulations and the Act. Those officers, after a thorough examination, were satisfied that the scheme complied with the regulations and that it was a worth-while town planning scheme. Because I was aware of the fact that the Municipality of Fremantle Act had been used previously I could see no reason for not giving preliminary approval in this case. This scheme was on show for four months; it was open for inspection and anybody could have objected to it during that period.

Dealing with the Act which the honourable member has described as obnoxious, I think we must remember that it was first passed by Parliament in 1928. It is now 1969 and, to my knowledge, this is the first time that Act has been described in this manner. In 1928 certain by-laws made under the Act, and dealing with the widening of Market and High Streets, were presented to Parliament and were then put into effect.

In 1955—and might I remind members that this Government was not in power at that time—the then Minister for Local Government (The Hon. Gilbert Fraser) agreed to certain by-laws and laid them on the Table of the House. It is interesting to note, too, that the streets affected by those by-laws agreed to in 1955 were Hampton Road, Ord, Queen Victoria, James, Market, High, Mouat, Pakenham, Leake, Bannister, Nairn, and Collie Streets, and Canning Highway. Since then other by-laws have been made in respect of Lefroy Road, Newman, Henderson, Holdsworth, Knutsford, Alma, Adelaide, Queen, Cantonment, Josephson, John, and William Streets.

All of these by-laws were presented to Parliament and laid on the Table of the House for 14 days. Nobody ever objected to them; yet today we find that somebody has referred to this Act as being obnoxious. Under the Municipality of Fremantle Act people affected by road widening have to be notified by the local authority. If land is taken for road widening purposes the ordinary laws relating to resumption apply. Provision for this is made under the Local Government Act and the Public Works Act.

I think Mr. Ron Thompson was rather inclined to give different meanings to the words, "take" and "acquire." He thought they had separate meanings but, as far as the Act is concerned, they are synonymous. When there is a reference to "take" it means "acquire" and such land taken or acquired is the subject of compensation under the provisions of the Public Works Act. However, there is a limitation so far as valuations are concerned, because there is a reference to the fact that "the compensation shall be limited to a sum representing the depreciation in value of the

remaining land due to the setback of the building line." As far as I know that is the only restriction, or the only formula laid down as regards compensation.

In those circumstances, I think it was only right and proper that the local authority, when it presented its town planning scheme No. 2, should not include in it any road-widening provisions. It certainly would have been very difficult to do so. Having a town planning scheme such as this, which allowed for rezoning of certain areas, it must be realised that it is only after rezoning takes place that development, or redevelopment, can proceed; and it is in the course of redevelopment that conditions can be laid down.

We must bear in mind, too, that under the GR5 and GR6 codes, at least 50 per cent. of the area has to be set aside as open space. Under the GR6 code only 15 per cent. of the land can be built on and the rest has to be used for car parks and so on, and at least 50 per cent. has to be utilised for open space, playgrounds, beautification, etc. Under these circumstances, open space is provided so far as redevelopment is concerned.

Mr. Ron Thompson mentioned Douglas Street, in particular. On this specific issue I would point out that in the main the GR4, 5, and 6 zones have been located near existing important local roads, proposed important regional roads, or other major highways, all of which, it is considered, will or can be developed to provide a vehicular circulation and access pattern adequate for the localities.

In fact, Douglas Street is only about 100 yards long. If any of the adjacent land is redeveloped the important local roads should provide for sufficient volume of traffic to cater for the area.

So far as concerns road widths in industrial and warehouse zones, I think it is fair to say that the rezoning of land from factory to warehouse purposes could result in a reduction in day to day traffic, because the number of employees in an industrial area is usually greater than the number in an equivalent warehouse area.

Therefore, the day to day traffic is reduced. We should bear in mind, also, that the scheme lays down that with regard to any development or redevelopment, provision has to be made for car parking for employees' and customers' vehicles.

If members look at Fremantle as a whole, I think they will find that, although some of the streets are narrow, heavy vehicular traffic does use the 20-foot-wide streets without causing too much congestion.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Most of it is one-way traffic.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes, much of it today is one-way traffic. Mr. Ron Thompson made reference to the fact that no provision has been made for open space. However, 433 acres of open space are provided for in the Fremantle town planning scheme. Further, the scheme lays down that if any of the present open space owned by the council is needed for a school site, then further land—which is not at present zoned for open space—will be zoned from the council's own land for this purpose.

On the question of school sites, the honourable member was very critical of the Government taking land without paying compensation. However, he was wide of the mark. I have in my hand a letter which proves conclusively that Mr. Ron Thompson was wide of the mark in this regard.

Members should bear in mind that, even under a town planning scheme or a zoning scheme, a person has a non-conforming use right. He does not have to apply for this, because it is his by right. A person can maintain his non-conforming use right until such time as the land may be required for a particular public purpose. Under certain circumstances, the council could give him permission to make additions or improvements to his property. If it is found that the area is not likely to be required for this purpose for five, 10, or 15 years, it is quite within the bounds of the council to give permission for certain additions and extensions to be made. I am sure that under these circumstances permission would be given.

The letter dealing with school sites says—

Dear . . .

You may be aware that a Preliminary Planning Scheme has been published by the Fremantle City Council, for the information of Ratepayers. Several schoolsite areas are shown on the plan and it is understood you are the owner of property in one of these.

It is desired to emphasise at this point that your property is not at present required for school purposes. The need for these additional schoolsites will only arise if development takes place in accordance with changed development generated by the Planning Scheme. This is most likely to be many years away, and it is even possible that the redevelopment might never occur. In the meantime there is no reason why existing use cannot continue without interruption.

You are assured that at such time as the property is required, adequate compensation will be assessed. In this respect full provision to protect property owners is contained in the Public Works Act. Without going

into detail it can be said that compensation would be similar to prices received for similar properties on the market, not affected by the schoolsite proposals, with certain additional allowances as well.

If at some future time the schoolsite restriction prevents you from redeveloping or selling your property in accordance with your own requirements it is requested that you contact the Land Resumption Branch of this Department. Action will then be taken to ensure that you suffer no detriment.

It is hoped that this explanation is satisfactory to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) J. Stapleton,

Acting Under Secretary for Works.

I do not think anything could be fairer than that letter which is written by the Public Works Department to the people concerned. It informs them in no uncertain terms that compensation will be available if land is taken; it advises them that it could be quite a long time before the land is required; and that sometimes it is not required at all. Altogether, the people are fully informed of the situation.

I do not intend to go into the argument Mr. Ron Thompson used when he almost, but not quite, accused the town planner and the town clerk of telling lies; because I think these gentlemen are quite capable of handling that situation themselves.

I would, however, like to say that I very much doubt—in fact, I am quite sure it would never happen—that a town clerk who is as responsible as Mr. Parkes, would ever come down to telling lies under circumstances such as this. Further, I am quite sure that the town planner would not do so, either.

I do not think I need speak further on this subject, because I have briefly covered the accusations made and the criticism levelled against the council in regard to its scheme. In the past, some people have not properly understood town planning schemes or have not obtained the right information about them. Because of this, at times they have been somewhat critical of them. However, my experience over very many town planning schemes—whether it be an overall town planning scheme or a minor one—is that I have not yet found anybody who has not come out on top. When people really appreciate what is going on in their areas so far as development is concerned, they are all on the side of having town planning schemes and redevelopment.

I would like to deal with one other subject before I conclude; namely, the anti-litter campaign which was raised by Mr. Ferry. Members will recall that during Local Government Week I made a

plea to every individual and organisation concerned to join in an anti-litter campaign. This received some publicity. One part of the campaign was criticised by one person who apparently did not go to the trouble to read the whole story. I think members might judge for themselves who the person is and, consequently, there is no need for me to mention her name.

It is significant that in the last fortnight I have received a visit from Mrs. Frost who is in charge of the Victorian section of the Keep Australia Clean campaign. Mrs. Frost brought me some posters and circulars which the Victorian branch is using and she was visiting Western Australia to see if a similar organisation could be set up in this State.

Yesterday morning, I received a visit from Mr. Robson, who is on the executive of the Keep Australia Beautiful campaign. He, too, is on a similar assignment—if one can call it that—namely, to see what can be done to get an organisation started in Western Australia. The idea is to have an Australia-wide project with every State joining in the Keep Australia Beautiful campaign.

I consider it is to our discredit, as Australians, that we should have to do anything like this at all. However, when we look at our beaches, streets, or roads, one glance is generally sufficient to realise that Australians are a rather untidy bunch of people. I have been informed on very good authority that European countries—perhaps I should qualify that statement and say “some European countries”—do not suffer from this to the same extent as we do, because the penalties there are very heavy. I understand, further, that the matter is supervised to the extent where individuals even report one another. In Singapore a fine of \$25 could easily be imposed for flicking a cigarette onto the footpath.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: In Hong Kong the fine for a first offence of spitting in the street is \$300 (Hong Kong).

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: This is the kind of action which I believe will be necessary in the long run in order to make Australians wake up to themselves. People can only be made aware of this problem by advertising and by education. Surely it would not be asking too much for a teacher to remind children in school of the situation. This would take only a few minutes once a week.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: Remind the parents, too.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It would not take much time for a president or a chairman of any organisation to remind his members of the problem either at the beginning or end of the meeting. I think this approach could be built up.

The item on which I was criticised was my statement to the effect that all manufacturers should print on cartons, “When empty, please place in a suitable receptacle.” I was criticised for saying it; apparently the critic took the remark as being the be-all and end-all of the anti-litter campaign.

The non-returnable bottle has come in for some comment only in the last few days. The organisation to which I have referred and which is very strong in New South Wales has raised a fair amount of money, which it has donated to hospitals in that State, through its campaign on bottles.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Mr. Hall is going to make a lot of money, too.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I know the Minister for Local Government in Victoria arranged a dinner for some 22 industrialists or manufacturers. At the dinner he said, “Gentlemen, we are going to start a campaign. It will take some money, and I think you ought to put in \$1,000 each.” The industrialists and manufacturers did put in that sum of money. It is nothing new for top industrialists in other States to take a very active and leading part in this organisation.

I mention this, because I hope that sooner or later we may be able to start an organisation in Western Australia which will do exactly what the organisation is trying to do in the other States. This kind of activity is to the benefit of all. I am sure that if this is done tourists from overseas and interstate will have a better appreciation of our countryside than they have at the moment.

One other subject which does not quite concern anti-litter, but which is almost as bad, is the shocking outdoor advertising. Possibly we see this advertising every day and do not take much notice of it until we see photographs or something of that nature. However, when one stops to look at some of the shocking outdoor advertising and realises what could be done, it is brought home very forcibly that this is a subject which needs cleaning up very quickly. I hope that in the not-too-distant future we will be able to take some action to overcome this problem.

Having made those remarks and replied to Mr. Ron Thompson, I hope and trust it will not be too long before he is out of hospital, fully recovered, and back in this Chamber again.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [5.44 p.m.]: I consider that I, too, might well commence these remarks by using the words of Lewis Carroll; namely, “The time has come, the walrus said, to talk of many things.” Sometimes I become a little concerned at this point in the Address-in-Reply debate because, through custom, I have to get up and say so many things.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Why is there a difference between the two Houses in making such a reply?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have found that it is always traditional that the Leader of the Government in this House goes to the trouble to reply to the debate on the Address-in-Reply.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It goes back before the turn of the century.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, it does; it goes back, I understand, to the first sitting of the Legislative Council. However, I sometimes feel that if I were given a lead by some members on occasions to the effect that they were becoming tired of listening to the various subjects with which I deal in making this reply, it would be an indication to me to sit down.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I think we all speak up because we expect you to reply.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: However, in making my contribution to the debate on the motion moved by Mr. Heitman, I thank that honourable member for carrying out this service on behalf of all members of the House on the opening of the second session of the twenty-sixth Parliament.

I wish to say that I am concerned that Messrs. Harry Strickland, Frank Willmott, and Ron Thompson are in hospital at this point of time, and I join with Mr. Logan in wishing not only Mr. Ron Thompson a speedy return to health but also the other two honourable members I have mentioned.

Let me join with Mr. Heitman in congratulating the Premier (Sir David Brand) on the very high honour Her Majesty the Queen has conferred upon him.

The simple expression of loyalty to the Queen and thanks to His Excellency for delivering the opening Speech deservedly receives the support of all members, as has already been evinced by the number of speakers who have taken the opportunity to address themselves to this debate. I am in accord with the terms of the motion and of the Address which it is proposed to present to His Excellency.

Perhaps I could deal, firstly, with the matters raised by the second last speaker, Mr. Abbey. I was pleased to note that he attended a meeting of farmers this afternoon at which the Minister for Agriculture was present, and I will convey Mr. Abbey's remarks on the several questions upon which he spoke in relation to agriculture to the Minister concerned. I would like him to know that, in reference to his suggestion for better conditions for prisoners, the Chief Secretary (Mr. Craig), and myself have, for some little time, been conferring on this matter and legislation will be presented to Parliament in the not-too-distant future dealing with the very subject about which the honourable member spoke.

A strong point made by Mr. Dolan, in his criticism of the presentation of the woolmark Bill, was a reference to Mr. Vines, the managing director—the honourable member mentioned the general manager, I think—giving certain definite promises arising out of some discussions which took place. The reference here was to the thirty-eighth conference which started on the 4th June, 1969, after the Australian legislation had been passed, including that in our own State.

For the honourable member's information, I would like to quote from a letter written by Mr. W. J. Vines, Managing Director of the International Wool Secretariat, on the 10th September, 1968, just six months before our State legislation was introduced. Mr. Vines, writing to the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industry in Canberra, had this to say—

We were therefore compelled a few months ago, (March, 1968), to agree that in all those countries where the law permits—which is most of the countries of the world—up to 20 per cent. of rare animal fibres may be included in pure virgin wool products qualifying for the wool mark. Naturally, none of these products will be permitted to bear the wool mark in Australia until labelling legislation in your country is—as we hope—amended. However, it is obviously desirable that there should be uniformity throughout the world as soon as possible and I hope it will be soon practicable for the necessary amendments to be made to the laws of all Australian States.

Surely then it is quite obvious to members that the House has not been misled by Mr. Logan. The Minister stated that acceptance of the proposals contained in the Bill would mean that the wool brand mark as well as the description "pure wool" or, alternatively, "all wool," may be used on textiles containing not less than 80 per cent. sheep or lamb's wool, but, in this event, the material would have to contain at least three-quarters of the balance, or 15 per cent. of the total weight comprised of the specialty animal fibres previously mentioned. Accordingly, the figure of 80 per cent. mentioned by Mr. Dolan rises to 95 per cent. The remaining 5 per cent. may consist of fibres other than specialty animal fibres and this is necessary because standard tests have a 5 per cent. margin of error.

Therefore, at no time were members in this Chamber—or those in another place—misled or told any story different from the facts, Mr. President, and I could let the position rest on that basis. However, I would like to add that the secretariat allowed up to 3 per cent. of other fibres—not wool or specialty. This could result in a possible minimum sheep wool fibre content of 74.7 per cent. being acceptable for

the woolmark. However, the legislation agreed to in Australia provides for no less than at least 80 per cent. of sheep wool fibre content on certain conditions as already explained.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Thirty-seven countries have now accepted the woolmark.

The Hon. J. Dolan: To my knowledge there is no Bill in which the word "woolmark" occurs; not even in the Bill that was presented to this House.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member sticks to the point. I could go much deeper into this matter with the information originally supplied to me. However, what concerns me most is the statement made by Mr. Dolan that the House was misled. I do not think the House has been misled, and the explanation I have given is the true situation.

In speaking of drought conditions, Mr. Stubbs spoke in reasonable terms of conditions in the South-East Province in particular, and of the desirability of our finding new wheat markets. The honourable member spoke of the decline in the gold-mining industry and the ever-increasing quantities of gold being used in industry. I mentioned by interjection that I was watching the position with respect to weekend prospectors.

I noted with interest the comment made by the honourable member regarding possible harmful effects to health resulting from nickel mining and treatment, the disabilities of air pollution and noise factors, and also prospects for compensation. The honourable member's comment on the need for protective legislation regarding the control of inflammable clothing, particularly children's clothing, raises a matter which has been discussed at Commonwealth-State level and these comments have been noted.

In addition, when he spoke to the motion my colleague, the Minister for Health, had something to say on the question of nickel poisoning in industry.

Mr. President, with almost every member addressing himself to this debate, we have heard proposals and counter-proposals for resolving many of the problems that have been mentioned.

Mr. Garrigan and Mr. Perry for instance, have, conflicting views regarding the wheat quota system—Mr. Perry assuring the House that the farmers of Australia favour the system. Mr. Garrigan's suggestions for a farmers' contributory fund for the purposes of meeting seasonal setbacks, would certainly stand farmers in good stead in many parts of the State this season.

The State Government has, of course, from time to time made representations to the Commonwealth for extension of the Zone A taxation provisions. Without

doubt, other States of the Commonwealth would also like to see something done in this regard, but, apparently, the Commonwealth Government is not as yet willing to accede to these requests.

Problems associated with native welfare and the shortage of doctors in outback towns were also touched on during debate.

I noted with interest Mr. Perry's remarks concerning the Menzies-Hanrahan report on the Collie coalfields, and his desire for extension of deep mining at Collie, having in mind, particularly, I think, overseas markets.

The matter of coal contracts is at present under consideration and the report made by the two coal mining engineers who visited us from New South Wales is receiving the attention, in the first place, of a fuel and energy committee recently appointed by the Government.

Dissatisfaction in the Farmers' Union was also mentioned, and I am sure we all trust that this is but a passing phase.

Mr. Perry also referred to good work being done at the Karnet Rehabilitation Centre.

Mr. Perry and Mr. Willmott spoke on reforestation and I have handed to the Minister for Forests the remarks made which merit careful consideration. The Minister has the position under study at the present time.

Mr. Wise made some cogent comment concerning the position of the Press in the community and with particular reference to a likely change of management of *The West Australian*. The honourable member traced the thinking of the "West" under successive editors, and paid tribute to the late Sir Winthrop Hackett for his benevolence in making possible the commencement of the University as we know it. Mr. Wise drew attention to the desirability of this newspaper under new management "thinking Western Australia," as has been its policy in the past—and I, of course, agree with him. He then departed from this theme to place before members certain quotations from various current newspapers.

Earlier, the honourable member had replied to some comment made by Mr. George Brand regarding a static period being experienced in the development of the Carnarvon area at the mouth of the Gascoyne. Mr. Wise was in both a serious and a mischievous mood. He spoke of the D.L.P. and I tried hard to ask him, by way of interjection, what the A.L.P. would do if the D.L.P. decided to give it—the A.L.P.—its preferences, but I was unable to make the point.

The honourable member, as a parliamentarian and family man, deplored the high cost of children's clothing, and of shoes in particular.

Making reference to the high cost of developing the Ord River project farms, Mr. Wise interested members in an informative treatise on transformation of the cattle country of the Kimberley. In taking advantage of the opportunities presented by the Address-in-Reply debate he spoke on many subjects and with respect to the high costs of goods and fertilisers in the north, pressed for reconsideration of subsidies on northward transport.

The honourable member informed the House of some urgent problems concerning Balgo Mission, in relation to the management of Billiluna Station. These two latter subjects were referred for consideration to the Ministers concerned. With reference to the Balgo Mission, the Minister for Lands' comments are as follows:—

With reference to your memorandum of the 29th ultimo—

He was referring to the note which I had sent him requesting the information. To continue—

—I desire to advise as follows:—

Negotiations have been proceeding since early July to locate a stock route to the north of Balgo Mission, which will avoid stock passing through the Mission and Native Reserve 26399. The Director of Agriculture had asked whether there would be any objection to putting down a new stock route north of the Native Mission Station which would involve drilling at least three bores for water.

This point was referred to the Commissioner of Native Welfare who supported a new stock route north of the Native Reserve (Balwina). This, in fact, means that a continuation stock route must be found through the Northern Territory which involves water points.

Dr. Dunne advises that further information is required from Northern Territory on the direction the new route will take so that a decision may be made on the required water points, either through Mungrill Downs Station or to connect with Tanami.

The Minister for Lands (Mr. Bovell) concluded his remarks as follows:—

Please express thanks to the Hon. Mr. Wise for his interest. The appointment of a committee is not considered necessary.

I turn now to the speech delivered by Mr. House and note with appreciation his commendation of several of our governmental activities. It is nice to hear a little praise occasionally.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: What about his criticisms?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I shall come to those in a moment. I refer to the modified use of Wooroloo Hospital; the success being achieved at the Karnet Rehabilitation Centre; and when supporting the open road speed limit, the honourable member's commendation of our efforts to contain the road toll. Mr. House acclaimed the efforts of the Government in doing its part to alleviate the incidence of drought conditions which are occurring in many areas.

It is noted that the honourable member would desire encouragement of private enterprise in the abattoir industry, and this with a view to making provision for greatly increased flocks and herds of the future. Mr. House's views in respect of the disciplining of refractory University students were a point of interest during the debate.

In passing, I would like to express this thought: I sometimes wonder what is happening in the world, in respect of the things which some people do. I picked up the newspaper yesterday morning and found that a prominent member of Parliament of this country had been attacked in his own home. Apparently a number of those people also attacked the son of that member of Parliament, and caused him some injury. It appears that the liberties of the people are being interfered with in a manner which does not appeal to me. I cannot understand why some people do this sort of thing.

Mr. House raised the question of the activities of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney in relation to the Royal Commission into Wool Exporters Pty. Ltd., and so did Mr. Abbey earlier this afternoon.

I have answered certain questions put to me by Mr. Jack Thomson, and cannot add anything further, except to say that the Government has done all it possibly can in this matter—firstly the appointment of an inspector under the Companies Act, and followed by a Royal Commission. But I do not want anybody to think that in answering Mr. Thomson's questions, I am in any way condoning the actions of the bank in relation to the Royal Commission.

Members in this Chamber were privileged, during the debate which is now drawing to a close, to be present to hear several addresses delivered on specific subjects by members having the professional knowledge to enable them to discourse or, who, by dint of thorough research, spoke on particular subjects of their choosing.

Sitting suspended from 6.5 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Before the tea suspension I was about to make some comment in relation to the remarks made by Mr. McNeill; and I thank him for drawing the attention of the House to the

question of Commonwealth-State financial relations, and in particular to the public debt of the State. As a result of his close interest in this matter he has presented the House with information that touches on a very real problem for Western Australia.

At the Premiers' Conference in June next year the present Commonwealth-State Financial Agreement will be renegotiated. This will be an important meeting as it will determine the pattern of Commonwealth-State financial relations for a number of years to come.

In the past 12 months the Premier has met with the Premiers of the other States on a number of occasions to examine this critical area of State finances. Considerable research has been done in a joint effort by the Treasury officers of all States. A comprehensive case is being prepared on behalf of all the States, and it will be presented to the Commonwealth well before the Premiers' Conference in June, 1970. We want the Commonwealth to be fully aware of our problems and to have a chance to consider the views of the States before this conference. One of the aspects that will be covered in this case is the public debt of the Commonwealth and the States.

As members are aware the amount of public borrowing throughout Australia is determined by the Loan Council. There is no formula which automatically increases the amount to be borrowed by the Commonwealth and States each year. The total borrowing programme is determined in the light of economic conditions. However, as the figures presented by Mr. McNeill show, the Commonwealth has increased its debt over the last three years by a much smaller amount than the States. The Commonwealth has been able to maintain a large capital works programme and reduce its debt by using revenue funds for capital purposes.

Western Australia and the other States, with their limited taxing powers, have not been in such a fortunate situation. They have had to borrow substantial amounts to meet their responsibilities in providing both productive and unproductive capital works and as a result have had to use increasing amounts of revenue to meet debt charges on their borrowings.

Debt charges are one of the items which will be raised in the case to be presented to the Commonwealth. We feel that this is one area in which the Commonwealth could help ease the burden on the States. If the Commonwealth provided non-repayable funds for the States for non-productive assets, the States would be able to devote their borrowings to such productive assets as housing, sewerage and water supplies, electricity undertakings, and other fields which at the moment are being placed under stress by the rapid development taking place in Western Australia.

Members may be assured that the Government is paying close attention to this problem and that a great deal of work is being done to prepare a strong case for additional assistance to the States to be presented to the Commonwealth prior to the June, 1970, Premiers' Conference.

The address given by Mr. Medcalf on administrative law, its importance to legislators and to members of the general public, was most informative. The matter is both topical and important; but I think most lawyers would agree that some, if not many, administrative decisions lie in the realms of policy and they should not be open to review by courts or be subjected to constituted appeal tribunals.

Dr. Hislop discoursed on the reconstruction of medical education and made representations to members of the Legislative Council to form a small committee to study medical documents—a matter coming within the portfolio of my colleague, the Minister for Health.

We are grateful to other members, too, whose well prepared contributions to the debate have been both informative and educational.

Mr. Heitman spoke of his impressions of a visit by the Liberal Party Rural Committee, which made a tour of inspection of rural areas over a large expanse of country covered by the extremities of Northampton and Mullewa, down to Esperance and up through Hyden and Quairading. The honourable member thus led the way in a series of speeches by members who spoke on agriculture and the economics of farming and, of course, who, during this precarious season, emphasised the shortage of fodder and water brought about by near-drought and drought conditions, which led to the problems of stock relief.

Mr. Heitman expressed surprise at the lack of soil and water conservation in many areas of this State and further stressed the need for key dams for on-the-farm storage. Within the State, there are many very conservation-minded farmers, although a great many are not. As much help, advice, and stimulation as is possible is being given by the Soil Conservation Service to these matters.

Water conservation is given special attention by field soil conservation officers. Under the Farm Water Supply Loan Scheme, they undertake all the field work associated with the certification of sites, improvements of catchments, etc., and approximately 150 of these have so far been constructed. In addition, about 300 farm visits are made each year concerning the improvement of water supplies on individual farms. They have also undertaken numerous surveys to assess water problems which vary in nature from technical problems to a lack of farmer-realisation of the importance of adequate

farm storage; because of current seasonal conditions, these efforts will require intensification.

Mr. Heitman's further comment that it would be better still if soil and water conservation could be carried out on a district or watershed basis is also sound. Because of problems peculiar to Western Australia, resulting from mature drainage lines, there are considerable pressures for action in this direction, and the Soil Conservation Service has currently about 20 catchment projects in various stages of completion. Soil conservation work in itself is time consuming and it is not possible to complete these projects quickly or to extend their number except under extreme pressure.

Mr. Heitman's further comment on section 22 of the Soil Conservation Act is also true. Subsection (5) of this section does, in fact, make it difficult effectively to use force under section 22. However, it should be pointed out that compulsion is difficult for several reasons—

1. With vast areas and limited staff, one must develop the philosophy that it is not the Soil Conservation Service's job to undertake all the soil conservation required. While it must provide the guidance and enthusiasm, some responsibility must be accepted by the farmers, shires, etc. This can only be done by process of education.

2. The demand for soil conservation services in various forms—farm planning, water conservation, erosion control, initial development planning, flood mitigation, etc.—is far beyond the capacity of the present staff to keep up a satisfactory service. While there is a waiting list for this service, it does not seem logical to try to force a service on farmers who have not requested it, except in severe cases of erosion hazard or in such instances where the time consumed in so doing is not great.

The honourable member will be interested, no doubt, to know that the whole question of the basis of rating in respect of vermin and noxious weeds is at present under very close consideration by various organisations and the Treasury Department. The assessment of these rates on an acreage basis is one of the proposals being examined. I believe Mr. Abbey will also be relieved to know this.

I thought Mr. Lavery was somewhat critical of the Government's rural relief programme, so I referred the honourable member's comments to the Minister for Agriculture and am advised as follows:—

Until the unseasonably dry August conditions were experienced, the season was a dry one and could not be classified as a drought. If widespread

rains were received in the next week or two, the position could be somewhat alleviated in many districts.

Of course this was said a week ago, as members will appreciate, and still no relief has come.

In view of seasonal trends, the Government took early action to prepare for the developing situation. A drought committee was formed in the department on the 28th July, and had its first meeting next day. A state Drought Advisory Committee was formed, including representatives of primary producer organisations, Public Works Department (Country Water Supply), Rural and Industries Bank, the Controller of Transport, and the Department of Agriculture, and held its first meeting on the 12th August.

A Drought Finance Committee composed of the Chairman of Commissioners of the R. & I. Bank, the Under-Treasurer, and the Director of Agriculture, was formed and held its first meeting on the 18th August.

As a result of recommendations from these committees and from the special consideration given to the problem by the Government, the following action has been taken to assist farmers:—

1. Finance: If a farmer cannot obtain finance from his bank or stock firm, long term finance can be made available for the purchase of wheat on the basis of no interest or capital repayments for two years, interest at 5 per cent. and repayment of capital and interest over a period up to five years. This finance is available through the R. & I. Bank. The Australian Wheat Board has also announced that it is prepared to make wheat available to farmers who are paying the home consumption price for it on the basis of 12 months terms at 5 per cent. interest. In addition, the Government has asked the Australian Wheat Board to implement a redelivery scheme to allow farmers to obtain wheat at the price which they received when it was delivered, plus administration and storage costs, and members would have read in the morning paper last Friday of the success attending these representations.

2. Freight: A freight rebate for transport costs for the return journey of stock sent to agistment areas will be paid. The freight on coarse grain from the natural port to the farmer's own siding will be paid.

3. Water: Under the control of the Farm Water Supply Committee, the Government has agreed to a subsidised exploratory drilling programme. Under this scheme, the farmer will pay 25c per foot where no

water is found and 75c per foot where water of an adequate quantity and quality is found. Where water is found and funds are not available from any other source, capital will be available for development of the bores from the Farm Water Supply Committee under the normal loan arrangements of priority over other mortgages, 15 year repayment period, and normal bank interest rates. To be part of this scheme, the farmer must agree to undertake 1,000 feet of drilling to allow opportunity for fully testing the area.

4. Advisory: As the probability of drought conditions developing increased, the department's extension service has been organised to deal with the situation. Advisory statements have been published in the Press; a bulletin will be published shortly on feeding of sheep under drought conditions; and the advisory staff have been given special schools in drought feeding.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I take it that my question brought great publicity to what the Government is doing.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I rather take it that the honourable member was somewhat critical of a situation which, as I have outlined, the Government had well in hand.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: The Government did not tell anybody else. My request for publicity has been well answered.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If it is any satisfaction to the honourable member, great minds think alike.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Great propaganda for the Government.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is not a case of propaganda for the Government at all, but a case of relating that the situation was under control a month ago.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Not one member of Parliament knew until tonight.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I cannot agree with that.

The PRESIDENT: Order, please, order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The Press has been given this information from time to time and if the publicity has not been sufficient to satisfy the honourable member I can hardly be responsible for that.

Several members spoke on the subject of agricultural, pastoral, and mining development in relation to the conservation of flora and fauna.

In this regard I am somewhat at a loss to know how to reply to Mr. Claughton, who condemns and praises almost in the same breath. This matter was also discussed during the debate on the Supply Bill and it was my understanding at the

time that both my colleague, the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, and myself had made it very clear that we were not unmindful of the problems involved.

Consequently, I was somewhat nonplussed to listen to Mr. Claughton, during this debate, expressing, firstly, his disappointment in my attitude to this matter and then, a little later in the same speech saying—and I quote—"I have no doubt the Minister for Mines does approach these matters with a great sense of responsibility."

As I have said, I am somewhat at a loss to know in what manner I should reply to the honourable member, other than to reiterate once more that I am not unmindful of the problems involved and as affecting the varied interests of agriculture, pastoral, mining, and reserves.

I would like now, Mr. President, to refer to several matters raised in this House by Mr. White during his Address-in-Reply speech.

It will be remembered, Sir, that Mr. White touched on some matters concerning the Mining Act which were said to be *sub judice* but as I recall it the main items which could be discussed generally were—

- (1) The difference between a mine and a quarry;
- (2) the meaning of the term "minerals";
- (3) Mining Act Regulation 229; and
- (4) service on the mayor of copies of applications under section 30 of the Act where the land applied for includes roads within a municipality.

If the House will bear with me I would like to deal briefly with each of these items in turn for the benefit of Mr. White and members generally.

It was correctly related by Mr. White when he spoke that I did receive a deputation from people in the Mundaring shire, introduced by Mr. White and Mr. Abbey. It is also quite true that I went down to Pinjarra, a week or so ago, and talked to quite a large gathering of people, many of whom probably had the same fear with regard to their rights in relation to the operations of mining companies. I did what I could to dispel those fears.

In the matter of a "mine" and a "quarry" it appeared to me that the honourable member had confused the Mining Act with the Mines Regulation Act when he sought to establish, by quotations from various sources, that a mine was an underground operation and a quarry an open cut type of working. While underground and open cut operations are of some consequence in regard to the Mines Regulation Act, which is concerned with the safeworking of mines, no such distinction is made for the purposes of the Mining Act.

It will be realised that there are two Acts. In the Mining Act, which deals with the granting of mining tenements, a mine is specifically defined as—

"Any land held, occupied or used for mining purposes."

And mining is also specifically defined as—

"All modes of prospecting and mining for and obtaining gold or minerals."

It is accordingly clear that for the purposes of the Mining Act—the one with which Mr. White is concerned—a quarry can be a mine if it is the type of working used in prospecting or mining for and obtaining gold or minerals on land held, occupied, or used for mining purposes, and I trust that this explanation will clarify the point for him.

Again, by quotations from various sources, the honourable member sought to confine the meaning of "minerals" to metallic ores and the extraction of the metal therefrom; but I noted that he quoted only part of section 115 of the original legislation passed in 1904, and omitted entirely to mention section 3 which clearly defined minerals as—

All minerals other than gold, and all precious stones.

I am sure that was not done intentionally. This definition still stands unchanged in the Mining Act today and it clearly refutes any attempt to restrict the meaning to metallic ores and the extraction of the metal therefrom. I am grateful however, to Mr. White for drawing my attention to the Mining Act, regulation 229, which still repeats portions of the obsolete timber regulations made under the old Land Act of 1898 and which were repealed 49 years ago in 1920.

They were superseded by regulations under the Forests Act and I might mention that it is departmental practice to refer all applications for mining tenements on timber reserves and State Forests in the south-west mineral field to the Conservator of Forests to ensure that our valuable timber resources in the south of the State are protected.

Perhaps, in addition, I should say that when an industrial agreement surrounding a mining project is being negotiated close collaboration is maintained with the Forests Department on the question of how the mineral will be mined and the basis on which reforestation is to be carried out by the company.

I agree entirely with the honourable member that regulation 229 is no longer required and consideration will be given to removing it.

Finally, Mr. President, with regard to the matter of section 30 of the Mining Act let me freely say that it is not departmental practice to refer to the shires copies of all applications for mining tene-

ments which include roads. Roads are automatically protected by the imposition of appropriate conditions if the mining tenement is granted. The conditions are set out in the title itself.

Let me assure Mr. White, however, that both before and after 1960, when the new Local Government Act broadened the term "municipality" from a city or a town to include also a shire, all applications for mining tenements within cities or towns have always been and still are referred to the mayor or shire council.

As might be expected, opportunity was taken once again to raise the matter of housing, land, and rents. Mr. Lavery will be interested, I think, to know that I referred to the Minister for Housing the comments which he made in this connection. Having discussed these matters with Mr. O'Neil, it is my belief that at this point, and in view of the quite recent and full debate on these matters, little purpose would be served by my taking up further time of members purely to reiterate once more that these matters have been placed before the House on previous recent occasions, and answered.

Members have been told what has been, and is being done, and other than reiterate that in this State we have the highest building rate in Australia, I shall not pursue the matter further in reply to Mr. Lavery.

The question of the release of some building blocks at Exmouth, as raised by Mr. Berry, has been referred to appropriate authorities.

Both Mr. McNeill and Mr. Baxter spoke at some length on the incidence of probate, death, and succession duties, and I have passed this information on for investigation.

Several members, in their desire to find a solution to the mounting toll on our roads, and appraising the modicum of success so far achieved through traffic control, made individual suggestions and recommended modifications for consideration by members in the House. Strangely enough it was this subject, more than any other I think, which introduced some levity into the proceedings.

In view of the fact that several conflicting views were put forward, members might not appreciate my adding my own personal views. Therefore, I forwarded the remarks made by the several members to the Minister for Police and Traffic for his consideration.

It was Mr. Syd Thompson, I think, who doubted the efficacy of the breathalyser test in reducing the road toll. On the other hand, we must bear in mind that the use of breathalysers enable efficient policing and more positive determination which reacts not only in favour of the police but also in favour of any person apprehended.

Having referred the honourable member's views to the Minister for Police, I am advised that the use of breathalysers is a definite deterrent to those persons who consider driving after drinking. As to the fines—well, these are fixed by Statute, which has been approved by Parliament, and they are not considered excessive.

The statement in *The West Australian*, attributed to the Minister for Police—and referred to by Mr. Syd Thompson—in regard to a journey made by the Minister on the South Western Highway, was incorrect. Both the journey and the statement were made by a newspaper reporter.

The honourable member will be interested to know that on portion of the South Western Highway, between Perth and Armadale, additional police patrols have been recently implemented.

Mr. Clive Griffiths interested members in an explanation of a "show the uniform" campaign, which is apparently current in Queensland. This is in accord with local police policy: that all uniformed patrolmen should operate on the roads and be visible to road users—the object being to prevent incidents before they occur. Local authorities use warning signs showing amphotometer and radar areas ahead. Some of these signs are permanently erected and therefore defeat their own purpose in that they are on display when the amphotometer and radar are not in use, so motorists tend to ignore these warning signs.

I am advised by the Minister for Police that, as to police administration, it has been the policy for decades not to readmit to the Police Force members who have previously resigned. Following World War II, several members who had resigned were readmitted as police constables and after a short period most of these again resigned. It was then decided that a member of the force who resigned would not under any circumstances be readmitted, as it was obvious they were making a convenience of the service.

Under present conditions of employment, if personnel could resign and then be readmitted at a later date, there would no doubt be a considerable number of resignations from those wishing to take on other employment for the higher money to be earned, such as in the northern parts of the State. They would work for a time and then wish to come back into the force, thus making the Police Force a transit job until something more suitable came along.

The Western Australian Police Force is viewed as a career service. Some people, after joining, find themselves—or it is otherwise established—to be unsuited for this walk of life and resignations follow. Others leave in search of higher earnings.

The Police Department is receiving ample applications and, this particular matter having been discussed with the Minister for Police on several occasions, it has been resolved that, should the department ever have to "scrape the bottom of the barrel," as it were, further consideration would then, at that time, be given to re-employment. I hope that the use of those words is not misunderstood. No reflection is intended by them.

As to police salaries, I am advised that the formula used to arrive at the recent increases in police salaries provides that the average of the four mainland States—namely, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland—be used to calculate the amount payable to members of the Western Australian Police Force. The pay increases in other States were the result of appearances before tribunals. The formula also provides for a review of police salaries annually.

The most equitable and satisfactory manner, should a deviation from the present formula be desired, would be for the W.A. Police Union of Workers to exercise its rights before the Industrial Commission.

Cabinet recently agreed that when the decision on wage increases in South Australia is known, the result will be effective forthwith and not be delayed, as the terms of the agreed formula provide, until the 1st July, 1970.

On the question of the replacement of male employees with females in T.A.B. agencies, I am advised that on the 2nd August, 1969, a male agent conducting a city agency, having reached the age of 65 years, was retired in accordance with board policy. A manageress was appointed in his place and most of the casuals now employed in this agency are females. Whilst in other agencies most of the casual labour comprises males, difficulty is being experienced here because males have other work on Mondays to Fridays and, whilst available for weekend work, are not available for midweek employment.

There is a difference in the case of females, however, as most are available during the week as well as on weekends; thus there is now a greater tendency to employ females. In addition, experience is gradually showing that females are more efficient in agency work than males. I think Mrs. Hutchison would acclaim that statement.

In the Eastern States, for instance, over 90 per cent. of the labour employed in totalisator agencies is female labour, whilst in this State it is substantially male labour. It is clear that a change is gradually taking place and in the long run it is expected that more female than male labour will be employed in the board's agencies.

I have been provided by the Minister for Police, who is in charge of the T.A.B., with quite informative comment on the points raised by Mr. Dolan. Mr. Craig says that mention has been made of the increase in Totalisator Agency Board turnover from over \$36,000,000 in 1966-67 to over \$44,000,000 in 1968-69; an increase of more than 20 per cent. over a two-year period. However, when the off-course betting turnover is measured against the income of the community, and expressed as a percentage thereof, it will be seen that, relatively speaking, off-course betting is a declining factor.

This matter has been highlighted in the board's reports for the years 1966, 1967, and 1968, and the usual graphs will in due course be shown in the board's report for 1969.

The cost of erecting new grandstands at the Belmont and Ascot racecourses has drawn some unfavourable comment. It must be appreciated, however, that today people everywhere are expecting more in the way of service and facilities. Those who attend racecourses for the purpose of betting on the totalisator, in so doing make a sound contribution to the revenue of the State.

It has been suggested that restrictions or limits should be placed on the amount of the Totalisator Agency Board profits distributed to the racing and trotting clubs. In matters of this nature, a proper balance has to be maintained. If one proceeds too far in any one direction, it could have disastrous results. For example, it would be a bad thing for the revenue of the State if the Totalisator Agency Board paid no turnover tax. This would greatly swell the incomes of the racing and trotting bodies and could lead to unnecessary and wasteful expenditure on the part of those bodies. It would also mean that other taxes and charges would have to be looked at.

On the other hand, it would be even more disastrous if the State Government took all of the profits, both on-course and off-course. This would simply mean that racing and trotting would quickly grind to a halt and one of the less painful avenues for raising taxes from a small section of the community for the benefit of the whole community would be lost. This, again, would require other charges and taxes to be looked at and would, no doubt, cause some pain to those who do not bet.

The money spent on amenities on racecourses and for the provision of clean, wholesome premises for the purpose of betting off-course, comes solely from those who bet. It is estimated that about 15 per cent. of the adult population have a flutter on the horses. This 15 per cent. provide over \$4,000,000 per annum by way of special taxes and, at the same time, pay fully for all amenities enjoyed in the pursuit of betting. If a sum of a few hundred

thousand dollars per annum is required for charitable purposes, is there any reason why the remaining 85 per cent. of the community should not share equally in the burden?

The returns to the clubs from all betting, whether on-course or off-course, are much less than the revenue derived by the Treasury from those sources. The position will, no doubt, be watched to see that a state of imbalance does not creep in. In the past, the Government has made it clear that it is prepared to act if necessary. The lifting of the turnover tax from 5 per cent. to 5½ per cent. in 1966—not easily achieved in this House if I remember rightly—and the taking over of the unclaimed dividends some time prior thereto, are examples of this.

In regard to the comment by Mr. Syd Thompson of disgraceful conditions at the Perth Airport lounge, I would inform the honourable member that the sale of liquor at the Airport is under the control of the Commonwealth Government and the powers of control are vested in the Airports (Business Concessions) Act of 1959. I would mention in passing that, to my recollection, the State Parliament did license the Perth Airport at one time. The Bill was introduced by my colleague, the Minister for Works. However, the Commonwealth later assumed control of the situation.

The Hon. E. C. House: Are the State police allowed to go in there?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am about to make some comment on that. Under powers given by this Act, the Commonwealth Minister has leased to an approved person certain portions of the air terminal building for the sale and supply of liquor. The conditions of tender, contract, and lease are also drawn up under that Act. The tenant under this contract and lease is not bound by the State Licensing Act, and therefore the State police have no power under the State Licensing Act in regard to their powers against the licensee for the sale and supply of liquor.

The Hon. E. C. House: That is a bit grim, isn't it?

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: Do our police have any control at all in the Perth Airport lounge?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In relation to the licensed premises?

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: No, separate from the licensed premises.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I think to maintain law and order, yes. However, I think it is fair to say that the police have no knowledge of the alleged brawl or knife episode to which the honourable member referred. It seems to me to be a pity that the incident was not brought to the notice

of the police. Various patrols visit the Airport regularly but have found all quiet and orderly according to the information supplied to the Minister for Police, in consequence of the honourable member's complaint.

Mr. Ron Thompson said it was sad that some of the petty traffic regulations could be used to penalise motorists. I am advised that regulation 706—pedestrians propelling perambulators, etc. abreast of another vehicle on a footway—and regulation 1305—a person shall not play games on a road, etc.—are a carryover from the previous traffic regulations and were included in the infringement notice system for the purposes of administration. Regulation 1804(a), covering the driving of vehicles on a freeway at less than 35 miles per hour, was framed to keep traffic at a reasonable pace so that we might benefit from the construction of freeways. It is agreed that in peak periods it cannot be enforced.

With reference to the comment made by Mr. Willmott with regard to educating the young motorist, I am advised by the Minister for Police that there are at present approximately 35 high schools operating driver training schemes under the auspices of the National Safety Council and the Education Department.

It is agreed that driver training education is of immense benefit to the young and to this end the Government has called for a further report from the Director-General of Education on his ideas for a comprehensive scheme on driver education in schools.

As to the honourable member's views regarding the 65 miles per hour speed limit throughout the State, the Minister for Police comments that an analysis of 154 fatal country accidents in the period from the 1st January, 1968, to the 31st December, 1968, shows that 63 of these were due to excessive speed. In some accidents, of course, it was apparent that there was more than one contributing cause.

The definite speed at which the vehicle or vehicles involved in the accidents were travelling is impossible to ascertain in most instances. What it is possible to say, with some conviction, is that the speed was too great for the circumstances, taking into account the road conditions, terrain, etc. It is considered that this speed limit should be maintained, as it must have some restraining value on those people who will not drive at reasonable speeds in accordance with road conditions.

As to graduated speeds, this is a step in the right direction as it allows for an increase or decrease in speed, taking into account not only the road surfaces but the physical limitations of the country the road traverses. These speeds are observed by the greater percentage of motorists.

Might I say that I, personally, feel this system is of tremendous assistance. One sees a sign and knows that one's speed has to be altered, and it is obvious that the sign is there for some purpose—an approaching town, a bend, or some condition of the road which causes a decrease in one's speed to be necessary.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: If everybody took notice of these signs our accident rate would be cut down tremendously.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, I agree. If everybody refrained from doing some of the cranky things they do on the road—

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I am talking about the main road signs.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I repeat: If people refrained from doing so many of the things they do on the roads, the road toll would be lessened.

I now want to say a few words about the teaching profession. I suppose that, during the course of the debate, more members spoke on the teaching profession than on any other subject. Again, this was a subject introduced in the first instance by Mr. Heitman on opening day, and it may well be that the views expressed on that occasion gave rise to other members wishing to express their own experiences with respect to education.

Before further commenting in respect of that subject, I desire to make reference to the representations made by Mr. Berry that the State could well press for the full amount of education expenses to be allowed as a tax deduction. Mr. Berry had in mind the procuring of some financial assistance for people living in remote areas having to board their children in Perth for educational purposes. The Acting Premier, in reply to the representations made on behalf of Mr. Berry, advised that for some years the State has supported applications to the Commonwealth Government for extensions of zone allowances prescribed under income tax legislation, to assist persons residing in the more remote areas, as I previously mentioned. These applications have not been successful.

Any concessions granted by the Commonwealth are generally made available in the Commonwealth Budget. As the Budget for 1969-70 has recently been introduced into the House of Representatives, and in view of the Commonwealth's lack of response to previous approaches by State Governments for relief under the income tax provisions for residents in remote areas, it seems unlikely that any useful purpose would be served by making another approach at this point, based on the education expenses allowance only.

Mr. Clive Griffiths made some interesting points concerning the amount of detailed testing and materials inspection necessary under water supply Acts.

I referred those comments to the Minister for Water Supplies, who advises that the Metropolitan Water Board's by-laws are at present under review and in course of revision. The revised by-laws are expected to be available by the beginning of January, 1970. I hope that information will remove the agonised look the honourable member had when relating the difficulties experienced in this respect.

I understand the testing practices of the board have been altered during the past 12 months. I would not know if the honourable member is aware of that. A number of items now are tested purely as a prototype and a further number of items are statistically or batch tested.

There have been some delays in testing but certainly not amounting to weeks, I am advised, but now, because of current changes, delays have been practically eliminated.

Copper pipe for water supply for many years has not been required to be tested, except after installation in buildings, and now testing of copper pipe for sewerage has been discontinued. So it is quite apparent the honourable member was on the right track.

It is true, however, the board does inspect all taps, but as there has been a reduction in the proportion of faulty taps, consideration is presently being given to the statistical batch testing of these also. Quite a considerable part of the board's testing operations is carried out in the factories of the manufacturer, of course.

I am in receipt of a report from the Minister for Works and Water Supplies, outlining the progress of investigations being made into the harnessing of the water of the Gascoyne River, a question close to the heart of Mr. Berry. Mr. Brand also touched on the matter and the report reads as follows—

Since 1961, the Public Works Department has carried out investigations for dam sites in the Gascoyne River Catchment. Three sites have been selected—

- (i) on the major tributary, the Lyons River, and
- (ii) on the Gascoyne River at Kennedy Range and Chalby Chalby sites.

Initial investigations have given indications that the Kennedy Range may be the most favourable of these three sites. More detailed investigations and a feasibility study recently have been completed and these further studies are being examined currently by departmental engineers, but preliminary conclusions are that a dam at this site would be extremely costly and that there would be difficulties of salinity and supply.

Currently the Public Works Department is carrying out further investigations into a smaller scheme using Rocky Pool as a limited storage site. These investigations will have particular reference to foundation conditions and the possibility of leakage into adjacent river channels.

The Geological Surveys Branch of the Mines Department has carried out extensive investigations over the whole of the Gascoyne delta to ascertain if any other favourable aquifers exist and whether there would be serious losses from any proposed storages or of the water released from the storages in the river channel for conveyance to the irrigation area.

Within the existing plantations and throughout the lower delta area a system of observation wells has been set up to determine more accurately the hydrogeology of the area.

Very recently the Government has engaged the consulting firm of Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners to review all investigations to date and select the most promising solution for providing security to the existing plantation area and the town of Carnarvon against the droughts which normally occur once every five years. These consultants have recommended further investigation of aquifers, principally upstream of the small Rocky Pool site. The department is actively pursuing these investigations.

Irrespective of the outcome of any investigations, the Government will take positive steps to improve the position by tapping known aquifers located in the riverbed upstream of the plantation areas. Some \$350,000 has been expended on this work by way of equipping bores and constructing pipelines for augmentary supplies to the plantations. For the 1969-70 year, a further sum of \$76,000 has been included in the draft estimates to continue this augmentary scheme during 1969-70.

I now refer to comment made by Mr. Dolan regarding fire-fighting services in the Canning Shire. In 1964, the Fire Brigades Board developed an overall plan for the siting of fire stations in the metropolitan fire district and, since then, stations have been resited and additional stations provided and these stations are manned by permanent staff.

The board is aware that the expansion taking place in the Canning Shire and the development plan for the southern sector of the metropolitan fire district—and this includes the Canning Shire—will require fire stations to be resited and new stations erected.

The fire call records shows that the Canning brigade's attendances, in the main, resulted from false alarms, small grass and rubbish fires, and other fires of a minor nature, and the trend in fire calls gives no need for immediate concern.

Throughout the metropolitan fire district, it is standard practice for more than one fire brigade to respond to an actual fire call, and units are linked by two-way radio.

Operational and strategic reasons require that fire stations be spaced in a balanced manner across the area, and, among other things, the Fire Brigades Board is currently negotiating with the Canning Shire for station sites in the Canning Shire area. The board is anxious to finalise on sites so as to be in a position to decide on, and implement, its works programme over the next two or three years. The procedure being followed—that is, to resite fire stations progressively—is seen as the desirable course to be taken, bearing in mind the board's overall responsibility for fire protection in the metropolitan fire district.

The schedule of works carried out since 1965 includes the replacement of the Maylands Fire Station with a new station at Bedford, and that at McCourt Street with a new station at Daglish. An extra pumper and staff of 10 have been placed at Osborne Park for transfer to the planned Balcatta fire station in the northern sector. The Midland Junction Fire Station has been resited.

The Spearwood Fire Station has been erected this year and is about to be manned. This is an additional station requiring 10 paid staff. Currently under consideration is the southern sector, and this includes the Canning Shire area. Shire contributions in 1969 amounted to \$16,231, being 4.39 per cent. of total contributions from metropolitan local authorities, and this figure is expected to rise to \$21,937, a percentage of 4.89, next year.

I would like to conclude by saying that during this debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply approximately 100 subjects were dwelt on by members. As I have already said, the Minister in charge of the House traditionally makes some comment on at least the more important matters raised. Because of the ever-increasing scope covered by the debate at this time it is not humanly possible in a matter of a week or so to prepare comprehensive notes in comment.

Unfortunately, therefore, some of the important issues raised have had to suffer, this being due to the volume of material that requires to be analysed if considered comment is to be made in the House. The very nature of this debate is by address, and several very good addresses were made. It has been impossible for me, however, beyond this point, to supply further information.

I hope this long approach has not unduly bored members. I do not altogether like having to do this at such great length, but it has grown to be a custom and I think it serves some purpose. It is certainly not my intention, so long as I am here, to do other than conform with a practice which

has been of such long standing. With those remarks I conclude my comments on the Address-in-Reply.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-Reply thus adopted.

Presentation to Governor

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [8.29 p.m.]: I move—

That the Address-in-Reply be presented to His Excellency the Governor by the President and such members as may desire to accompany him.

Question put and passed.

COLLIE RECREATION AND PARK LANDS ACT REPEAL BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), read a first time.

BILLS (5): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Fisheries Act Amendment Bill (No. 2). Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.

2. Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill.

3. Licensing Act Amendment Bill.

4. Methodist Church (W.A.) Property Trust Incorporation Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.

5. Local Government Act Amendment Bill (No. 3).

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs, and read a first time.

House adjourned at 8.35 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 2nd September, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (18): ON NOTICE

1. EDUCATION

Meckering School

Mr. McIVER asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Is the Meckering School to be connected to the deep sewerage scheme being installed in the new townsite of Meckering?

(2) If so, when will this connection take place?