

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: There is not much more for me to say except that I support the motion. The Government is doing a mighty job, and I think the people in the north believe this, otherwise they would not have elected Mr. Ridge at the last election.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson.

House adjourned at 4.27 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 15th August, 1968

The SPEAKER (Mr. Guthrie) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (28): ON NOTICE

HOUSING

Canning: Completions in Last Six Years

1. Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Housing:

Relative to his answer on Tuesday, the 30th July, 1968, could he advise in what areas of the Canning electorate the State Housing Commission homes were built from 1962 to 1968?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

The areas in which the 91 units of accommodation referred to in the answer to question 50 asked on the 30th July, 1968, were: Brentwood, Cannington, Gosnells, Kenwick, Maddington, Riverton, Rossmoyne.

BRENTWOOD SCHOOL

Water Fountains

2. Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Education:

Will he give consideration to having drinking fountains established at suitable points at the Brentwood State Primary School?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

This is at present receiving attention and the work will be put in hand as soon as the location of the additional fountain has been determined.

DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Training and Employment

3. Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) When will the recruitment and training of dental hygienists in Western Australia begin?

- (2) When will he be able to give a general outline of the course content?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) No decision has yet been made.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

State Subsidies

4. Mr. CASH asked the Premier:

Will the 1968-69 Commonwealth Budget proposals for the provision of libraries for Government and non-Government secondary schools throughout Australia enable increased State Government subsidies to be given for primary school libraries in this State?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No. I would point out that although we have no final details in respect of the grant—it is yet to be worked out by the Minister for Education—to my knowledge and in the light of my experience no grant of this kind by the Commonwealth ever allowed for the State to decrease its allocation of money for the particular subsidy. Therefore I think the Commonwealth would expect we should continue to make a State contribution to the secondary school libraries at the same level and to continue with the primary school libraries with the same degree of responsibility.

KIMBERLEY ELECTION

Counting of Votes

5. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Was the aboriginal voter George Widdjoe, No. 2659 on the Kimberley electoral roll, requested to give an explanation as to why he failed to record a vote at the general election?
- (2) If "Yes," was a reply received and what reason was given?
- (3) If "No," why was he treated differently from other electors who failed to vote, which included some who were deceased?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) A notification was posted to elector, George Widdjoe, No. 2659 on the Kimberley electoral roll, requiring him to state the true reason why he failed to vote at the Legislative Assembly general election held on the 23rd March, 1968.
- (2) No reply has been received to this notification.
- (3) Answered by (1).

LAND IN MIRRABOOKA

Rezoning

6. Mr. CASH asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

What advance information was given to ratepayers in the Mt. Lawley, Inglewood, and Maylands areas regarding Perth Shire Council proposals to rezone land east and west of the Beaufort Street shopping area for flat development?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Proposals for G.R. flat zones in this area have not been finalised and the Press has been informed concerning them.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Appointment: Government's Plans

7. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

Will he please outline what the Government's plans are in respect of appointing district court judges?

Mr. COURT replied:

Jurisdiction to be given to district court judges will be involved and this has not yet been approved by the Government. Legislation will be required and will be introduced when it is approved.

PORT HEDLAND

Tabling of Regulations

8. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Works:

Will he table regulations governing the port of Port Hedland?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

Yes. Port Hedland is governed by the jetties regulations and the ports and harbours regulations which are common to all ports in the north-west under the control of the Harbour and Light Department.

The regulations were tabled.

LEGAL AID

Government Practice

9. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Labour:

Does the Government intend to cease the practice whereby the legal resources of the Crown are made available to one subject and appear on court records to be matched in their might against another subject, as in cases where the apparently favoured subject is an insured of the State Government Insurance Office and the other party to the litigation is an

injured worker or a dependant of a deceased injured worker claiming damages or workers' compensation?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

It has always been the practice for the State Government Insurance Office to use the legal services of the Crown Law Department. There are occasions when the Crown Law Department briefs private practitioners to act on behalf of the State Government Insurance Office. The matter will be re-examined.

RESIDENTIAL LAND

Mortgaging by Infants at Law: Amending Legislation

10. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

Will the Government reconsider the question of amending appropriate legislation so as to enable infants at law, at least in certain instances, to contract for purposes of mortgaging land for residential purposes?

Mr. COURT replied:

Legislation has been drafted for introduction during this session of Parliament.

11. *This question was postponed.*

PORT OF DAMPIER

Hamersley Mining Company's Regulation.

12. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) Does the Master of a State ship operating within the port area of Dampier sign a contract that requires him to abide by the regulations made by Hamersley Iron for the control of that port?

(2) If "Yes," for what reason?

(3) If the master of a ship refused to sign a contract as stated in (1) above, what action, if any, would be taken against him by the W.A. Coastal Shipping Commission or Hamersley Iron?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

(1) The master does not sign anything, but the State Shipping Service signed a receipt acknowledging the receiving of a copy of the company's terms and charge, (called by the company "Regulations") and agreeing that such terms and charges would apply to all vessels using the port.

(2) Answered by (1).

(3) This position does not arise.

13. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Are the regulations governing the Port of Dampier deemed to be in the nature of a penal code?
- (2) If "No," are they a form of contract between the company and each master mariner?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) A reply to the question asked involves the expression of opinion on a question of law and the question is therefore an example of inadmissible questions as stated in May's *Parliamentary Practice*, 17th Edition, at pages 352 and 353.

However, for the information of the honourable member, the company is apparently relying on its rights under clause 10(2) (f) of the agreement ratified by Parliament (Act No. 24 of 1963 as amended). Whether or not a contract is made in any particular case depends partly upon the facts of the case and partly upon questions of law.

COUNTRY SCHOOLS

Reticulation of Playing Fields

14. Mr. H. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

Would he please explain why the reticulation of playing fields from country water supply schemes is not permitted, even in cases when water is available in over-abundant quantities and the provision of alternative methods imposes unusually heavy costs and difficulties on the local authority?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

The conservation of potable water for domestic and industrial use, based on a long range need, necessitates the exclusion of playing fields from country reticulated supplies. Whilst at the present time a particular supply may be sufficient, this situation may not always exist, and in the interests of equity the policy of treating all areas alike is not varied.

Provision of water at current prices for playing fields would involve the Government in a considerable loss, additional to that already suffered in the supply of water to country areas, and hasten the day when large capital expenditure becomes necessary to provide for the expanding town, to the detriment of other towns with no reticulated supply, which are pressing for such a service.

The existing policy provides that where a supply is adequate, scheme water may be available for swimming pools, bowling greens, croquet lawns, grassed tennis courts, and turf cricket pitches.

A Government subsidy scheme was instituted several years ago to assist local authorities in the provision of independent water supplies for watering sports grounds by subsidising to the extent of 25 per cent. of the cost. The Government is cognisant of the financial difficulties involved and recently increased the limit of the subsidy payable.

SUPREME COURT RULES

Availability

15. Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Are the Supreme Court Rules, in loose leaf form, again available for purchase by the public?
- (2) If not, when will they be so available?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The Supreme Court Rules, in loose leaf form, will be available on Monday, the 19th August, 1968.

LICENSING ACT

Charges and Convictions

16. Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister for Police:

In each of the five years to the 30th June, 1968, how many charges have been laid and how many convictions have resulted therefrom for offences under each of sections 147(1), 147(2), 148, 149, 149A(1), 149A(2) of the Licensing Act?

Mr. O'CONNOR (for Mr. Craig) replied:

		YEAR ENDED THE 30th JUNE									
Licensing Act		1964		1965		1966		1967		1968	
		Charges	Con- victions	Charges	Con- victions	Charges	Con- victions	Charges	Con- victions	Charges	Con- victions
Section 147 (i)	.....	29	28	44	44	47	47	78	78	59	55
147 (ii)	.....	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
148	.....	489	469	435	433	593	553	1,112	1,093	947	939
149	.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
149A (1)	.....	Nil	Nil	1	1	17	17	13	13	10	10
149A (2)	.....									

Notes: (i) Departmentally, offences under sections 147 (i) and 147 (ii) are not segregated for record purposes.
(ii) Section 149A as now constituted was introduced during the 1965 session of Parliament.

HILLS AREA

Subdivisional Restrictions

17. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Has his department restricted or objected to, for any reason, any subdivisions being made in the Swan View, Greenmount, and Helena Valley areas over the last two years; if "Yes," for what reasons?

Mr. COURT replied:

Yes, in Swan View, because of non-availability of sewerage. In Greenmount and Helena Valley there have been no subdivisional refusals because of the lack of sewerage; however, the minimum lot size is a half acre.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Power of Resumption

18. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Electricity:

Under what authority does the State Electricity Commission have power to resume land for the purpose of establishing substations?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied: The State Electricity Commission Act.

SPECIALIST MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Registration

19. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Referring to his answer of the 14th August, 1968, regarding the registration of specialist medical practitioners—

- (a) in what manner and under what conditions will registration be required;
- (b) when is it proposed registration will commence?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (a) and (b) The matter is still under discussion by the medical board.

KWINANA FREEWAY

River Crossing

20. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Works:

Taking into consideration that the precise location where the freeway crosses the river has not been determined, will he advise—

- (1) What is the basis for the proposal to cross the river on the line of Mt. Henry and Beryl Place?

- (2) What were the circumstances submitted for the rejection of Deep Water Point as being the point of crossing?

- (3) Are both local authorities concerned in agreement with these proposals?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) The original decision to cross at Deep Water Point was made on the basis of its being a somewhat cheaper solution than the Mt. Henry crossing. Subsequently however, the Melville City Council raised strong objections to the Deep Water Point crossing because of the adverse effect on residential development and recreational facilities on the foreshore which had taken place since the line was adopted. Further, the small economic advantage in adopting the Deep Water Point line was largely lost when the Olympic rowing course was located in the vicinity of Deep Water Point, thereby requiring a more expensive bridge structure. There was thus, ultimately, little to choose between the two alignments on economic or engineering considerations. Subsequently a joint meeting of the Melville City Council and the South Perth City Council was held, as a consequence of which the South Perth City Council withdrew its objections to the Mt. Henry alignment, providing certain conditions were met. In view of this decision the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority accepted in principle the Mt. Henry line in lieu of the Deep Water Point line.

- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).

HOUSING IN KWINANA AREA

Effect on Other Projects

21. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Housing:

In connection with the recent Press announcement that the Government plans to provide 5,000 new homes in the Kwinana area, will he advise whether—

- (a) the mentioned programme will have the effect of restricting development of other State Housing projects scheduled for 1968-69 and 1969-70;
- (b) there will be any alienation of funds from other scheduled projects to provide water and

sewerage extensions for the new Kwinana residential development?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

The Kwinana scheme is designed to progressively open up the northern half of the townsite, which has a potential for some 5,000 homes.

The development works essential to maintain the planned annual building rate of the order of 700 units of accommodation—of which the commission plans to contribute approximately one-third—will be financed through a short-term revolving development fund to be recouped from sales. These operations will assist in increasing the provision of homes from both private and commission sources and will not affect the other expanded operations of the commission as recently announced.

READING BOOKS IN SCHOOLS

Encouragement of Australian Outlook

22. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Adverting to his reply to my question on the 8th inst., will he advise the nationalities, other than the U.S.A., from which reading books are in use in schools for the purpose of developing in children "a healthy Australian outlook" through "a wide knowledge of the viewpoints of other nationalities"?
- (2) Did the introduction of the U.S.A. publication previously referred to arise from any approaches from U.S.A. sources, or representations from the publishers?
- (3) If not, what was the origin of the adoption of the publication for use in primary schools?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) *Happy Venture Readers*—Australian author.

Janet and John—Published in United Kingdom.

W.A. Reading Development Scheme—Produced by W.A. Education Department.

School Papers—W.A. Education Department.

Supplementary reading texts—including *Readers' Digest Advanced Skill Builders*—of 70 titles. Twenty are set in the United Kingdom, 18 in Australia, 12 in North America, 10 in Europe, 6 in Asia, and 4 in Africa.

- (2) No.
- (3) Submission by local booksellers.

"F"-CLASS LOCOMOTIVES

Wipers on Windows

23. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Was a request, or requests, made to the Railways Commission for the provision of wipers on windows used by firemen on "F"-class locomotives when such locomotives are travelling long end first?
- (2) Who made the request(s)?
- (3) On what date(s) was/were the request(s) made?
- (4) What was the reply on each occasion?
- (5) What was the date of each reply to the requesting authority?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) West Australian Locomotive Engine Drivers', Firemen's and Cleaners' Union.
- (3) (a) The 15th November, 1967 (this referred to G class also); and
(b) The 25th June, 1968
- (4) (a) "On inspection of these units it is possible to put wipers on left hand side of short end as the window is the same size as on right hand side which is already fitted with a wiper. This applies only to the F class unit as the G class are already fitted with wipers on both sides.
It is not practical to fit wipers to left hand side facing long end due to the narrow glass in doorway and this applies to both class of units.
There is already a wiper fitted to right hand side which is a fixed window and is much larger.
Accordingly arrangements will now be made to provide wipers to the left hand side of short end on all F class locomotives."
- (b) "Your request to fit windscreen wipers on the left hand side of F class locomotives facing long end is at present under investigation in the Drawing Office.
For your information drawings have been prepared and a Technical Instruction issued to fit windscreen wipers on the left hand side of the short end of all F class locomotives as requested in yours of 15th November, 1967."
- (5) (a) The 2nd May, 1968.
(b) The 10th July, 1968.

LAND ACT

Appeals

24. Mr. YOUNG asked the Minister for Lands:

How many appeals have been made under section 27 part I of the Land Act, 1933-1967, in the years 1966, 1967, and 1968?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Appeals under section 27 of the Land Act are made direct to His Excellency the Governor.

No record is kept in the Lands Department of the number of appeals. However, as far as can be ascertained from individual files, the position is as follows:—

1966 - three

1967 - three

1968 - one to the 14th August, 1968.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Number per Thousand Drivers

25. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many reported accidents per thousand licensed drivers have occurred during the last five years in this State?
- (2) Can he supply the same information for all the other States of Australia?

Mr. O'CONNOR (for Mr. Craig) replied:

(1)

Year Ended the 30th June	Total Reported Accidents	Number of Licensed Drivers	Number of Accidents per 1,000 Drivers
1963	12,640	295,319	43
1964	14,345	325,215	44
1965	16,900	332,631	51
1966	18,202	348,657	52
1967	20,567	367,156	56

The accident tabulations for the year ended the 30th June, 1968, are not yet available from the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

- (2) This is not readily available, but the Bureau of Census and Statistics will endeavour to obtain the information. This will be supplied when received.

SEWERAGE

East Victoria Park-Bentley Area

26. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) When is it proposed deep sewerage will be extended into the East Victoria Park-Bentley area?

- (2) Can he table a plan showing the extent of deep sewerage in this area and future proposals?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) Sewers have already been extended into East Victoria Park; and an area bounded by Hill View Terrace, Jarrah Road, Creaton Street, Clinton Avenue, Alvah Street, Humphrey Street, Page Street, Walpole Street, and Hill View Place is under construction this financial year. Preliminary planning has been done for further extensions, but until developmental proposals in the area are firm, not much more than this preliminary planning can be done.
- (2) Plan showing the existing sewerage area in orange and work under construction in green is herewith. Future sewerage proposals cannot be shown at present on a plan as they are dependent on the overall planning for the area.

The plan was tabled.

WEST DALE SCHOOL

Availability as Teachers' Quarters

27. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that vandals are gradually despoiling the old West Dale School?
- (2) As it was agreed to shift the school to a new site before December, 1967, for use as single teachers' quarters, could the House be informed when the building will indeed be shifted and ready for occupancy?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A tender has been accepted and it is anticipated that work will commence in the near future.

ASHBURTON SHIRE COUNCIL

Electricity Charges

28. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Works:

Will he supply an itemised statement of all charges made to the account of the Ashburton Shire Council by the Public Works Department for the operations of the Onslow electricity concern for the last four years?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

Yes; the information is as follows:—

Expenditure—Onslow Power Station								
Year	Wages	Fuel and Oil	Fares, Accommodation, Travelling Allowance and Mileage	Hire of Equipment and Overhauls	Materials	New Installations	Other	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1964-65	4,909.14	2,737.25	729.72	949.82	5,017.36	1,517.82	363.97	16,225.08
1965-66	5,334.34	4,086.04	1,283.21	4,246.42	2,595.05	1,123.27	250.37	18,918.70
1966-67	4,595.77	4,206.88	1,598.98	8,451.58	5,301.28	....	324.96	24,479.45
1967-68	7,995.04	7,750.97	408.80	3,207.92	4,049.09	....	514.99	23,926.81
Total	\$22,834.29	\$18,781.14	\$4,020.71	\$16,855.74	\$16,962.78	\$2,641.09	\$1,454.29	\$83,550.04
						Less Credits	....	1,540.54
								\$82,009.50

SUPERANNUATION AND FAMILY BENEFITS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BRAND (Greenough — Premier) [2.35 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is a very short Bill and the intention of the Government to introduce this measure has been well publicised. The purpose of the measure is to add to the investment powers of the Superannuation Board so that it can assist in the provision of houses for Government employees in country areas.

In order to give this assistance, it is proposed that the board be authorised to acquire houses from the Government Employees' Housing Authority. These houses are then to be leased to the authority for letting to Government employees. The purchase of houses from the authority will, of course, provide it with funds which can then be used for the construction of houses.

As members are aware, the Government Employees' Housing Authority is a statutory body set up in 1965 as a result of legislation introduced for that purpose. This was done in an endeavour to obtain some co-ordination and efficient management of a problem which had worried Governments for a number of years, not only this Government, but the previous Labor Government, and maybe further back than that when Government departments were responsible for providing what accommodation they could for their employees in the country.

This was a very real and vexed problem as no department was willing to set aside any large amount of money to house its employees. The departments rather followed the line of saying that this was somebody else's responsibility. To some extent the State Housing Commission was able to assist, but because of the various limitations placed upon the commission, not a great deal of progress was made in relieving the problem. There was not only the problem of providing a normal house

with two or three bedrooms, but there was also the problem of housing single people in the country, particularly single girls who left home for the first time to attend colleges and the University.

These girls were faced with real difficulties and, indeed, some very real social problems. However, I think it is fair to say that some progress has been made. First of all, the authority took over a number of houses which were needed by the various departments, and a large number of houses were renovated. I recall that some years ago we spent \$34,000 on fly-proofing alone. Even then, the matter was not resolved; but it gives some indication of the total sum of money required even to bring the existing houses up to a reasonable standard.

Over the three years the authority has taken over the control of 575 houses from Government departments, it has spent \$648,000 on improvements to houses; it has financed the construction of 92 new houses in various country centres; it has erected 10 duplex units in country towns for the accommodation of single persons; and it has arranged for local authorities to erect houses for Government employees under a scheme which provides those authorities with a guaranteed rental sufficient to cover their outlay on some long-term arrangement.

To date, nine shires have indicated that they will provide 11 houses and eight duplex homes, or—in terms of housing—27 units of accommodation during this financial year. Again, whilst this is not a great number of units, it is a contribution towards the easement of the difficulties in various country towns. If we are able to close the gap against the present demand it may be, that as the number of schools grows and staff numbers increase, we will be able to provide sufficient accommodation to bring about a reasonable situation.

Three other shires have already built accommodation for single employees working in their areas. It is good to know there is a continuing awareness on the part of local authorities that they are able to be of great assistance.

Although good progress has been made by the authority, a much greater effort is needed to increase the stock of housing available to Government employees in the country, and this can only be achieved by giving the authority additional financial support. We must bear in mind that we require accommodation not only for school teachers, but also for the many hundreds of Government employees who are sent out from the metropolitan area to represent their departments. Indeed, some are sent to very isolated areas of the State.

The Superannuation Board is willing to provide this support, and it will be empowered to do so if the Bill is passed. The terms and conditions under which houses will be acquired and leased by the Superannuation Board will be a matter for that board to agree to with the Government Employees' Housing Authority, and there is no doubt that the board will seek and obtain an adequate return on its investment.

I believe it will be a very sound and payable investment because, as you know, Mr. Speaker, investment in long-term housing has proved to be quite attractive, and certainly quite secure. The proposed arrangement will also allow the board to invest contributors' funds in a way which will be of direct benefit to the many contributors who spend part or all of their Government service in country areas.

The Superannuation Board has given its full support to the proposed scheme and it has indicated that \$1,100,000 will be available in this current financial year to support the housing programme for Government employees in 1968-69. Similar amounts are expected to be available in subsequent years.

Mr. Tonkin: Will this proposal in any way limit the Government—if it has any intention of doing so—in liberalising the provisions of the Superannuation Act?

Mr. BRAND: No. As members will recall, we announced last year that we proposed to update and modernise the superannuation scheme. The decision regarding this \$1,100,000 was made with the knowledge of the proposed scheme.

Not only will we have the \$1,100,000, but there will be permissible borrowings of \$300,000 which will allow the Government Employees' Housing Authority to finance a housing programme of \$1,400,000 in this current financial year. In 1967-68, the finance available to the authority amounted to only \$640,000. That was made up of the \$300,000 which the authority borrowed, and an additional \$340,000 from the General Loan Fund.

If it is found that the authority is able to build more houses than are provided for with the allocation of this money, then the Government will give consideration to making available \$300,000 of loan moneys.

However, in view of the time factor, the programme which has been set out, and the demand for labour and materials in the housing industry, perhaps the authority will not need to add to the \$1,400,000 available for the current programme.

The provision of housing for both married and single employees in country centres is vital to the continuing effective administration of Government and to the provision of essential services for the community. The Bill aims to make more funds available for this purpose so as to permit a considerable speeding up of the Government Employees Housing Authority programme in order to provide much needed accommodation in country centres.

I might add that the Government is as mindful as anyone else of the need to have contented employees in the country, whether they be school teachers or other Government officers. We realise they are not going to be happy and contented without decent accommodation, but will be inclined to return to the capital city.

As I introduce this Bill I am naturally reminded of the campaign regarding accommodation waged by the Teachers Union during the time of the election. This campaign was waged in spite of the fact that the Government had set out, in round figures, a programme such as the one I have just outlined. It appeared that the public relations officer from the Teachers Union was not to be deterred from his objective. A political flavour became evident right throughout the campaign.

The Government undertook to make at least \$1,000,000 available. I believe that next year there could be an increase in the amount of money available if an increased building programme can be arranged. It looks to me as though over the three years of this Parliament the Government will be able to supply school teachers with reasonable accommodation and make some significant inroad into this special difficulty.

It has been a problem not only for the Government and the Education Department, but also for the parents, to provide some sort of reasonable accommodation for young school teachers—both men and women—who go out to teach in the country for the first time.

So it is with pleasure that I commend the Bill to the House. I might add that planning has gone forward and contracts have been let on the basis that this Bill will go through Parliament. However, if it fails to go through, the Treasury has provision for bridging finance and will meet the cost of the houses already under construction.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Tonkin (Leader of the Opposition).

RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [2.48 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Members will recall that in 1966 Parliament gave the Rural and Industries Bank of Western Australia power to buy and sell land for housing and to call public tenders, and to enter into contracts, for the building of 100 homes in any one financial year. This was in addition to the bank's normal lending and trading activities which, members will know from a perusal of the bank's report for 1968 recently issued, have provided almost \$43,000,000 for some aspect of housing for 18,519 applicants over the past 12 years.

With these new powers conferred, the bank acquired land from the Government at Coolbinia, that is, the old Scaddan pine plantation area, and at Karrinyup. The first 12 months were spent mainly in arranging the initial subdivisions and attending to matters relating to the development and servicing of these areas, with the result that only seven contracts were let in this first period. The next 12 months to the 30th June, 1968, saw 77 contracts let and a further 22 brought to their concluding stages, a total of 99, and virtually the maximum which the bank could contemplate because of the legislative limit placed on its activities in this field.

I think members will agree the bank has tackled its new responsibilities with some vigour and decisiveness, and the commissioners have not hesitated to commit the bank's private resources to furthering the scheme. It is interesting to note that whilst as at the 1st August, 1968, income from the Coolbinia and Karrinyup areas totalled \$1,230,024, outgoings and commitments amounted to \$1,904,849. In effect the bank has financed this scheme until the revolving fund can be brought up to the amount expended.

Mr. Graham: You sound very proud of this socialistic bank.

Mr. BOVELL: I think the bank performs a good service for the community of Western Australia.

Mr. Graham: Unquestionably.

Mr. Lapham: Let that be recorded.

Mr. BOVELL: It is quite apparent that with the experience gained in this new field and with the resources available to it the bank can play a more important role in housing than its Act presently allows, and this the commissioners are anxious to do; and, of course, the commissioners are supported by the Government in this regard.

Every possible method must be used to meet the housing needs of the State's rapidly increasing population, including the migrant intake. I might comment here that the migrant intake, in my opinion, and in the opinion of the Government, is vital to the progress and development of this State.

Mr. Graham: As long as you have houses to put them in.

Mr. BOVELL: When we realise that in the last year a little over 23 per cent. of the British migrant intake came to Western Australia—that is, compared with the whole of Australia—it is indeed an encouraging result, so much so, of course, that the State's population has risen to 900,000, and it is anticipated that in not many years' time the million mark will be achieved in Western Australia. We could not do this without the migration policy that the Government of this State is at present engaged in. It is therefore proposed to amend section 19 of the principal Act dealing with the powers of the commissioners in such fashion as will remove the limitation of 100 houses.

Members may be interested to know that the 131 houses for which the bank has been responsible up to the 1st August, 1968, involve 36 separate contracts with large and small builders, ranging from single homes to a group of 13. The total value of these contracts to the building industry was \$1,416,411. The scheme is one which calls for the least capital outlay on the part of the industry. Builders are paid promptly for work done and do not have to look for or buy land, or wait for their money till the houses are sold or mortgages are arranged.

The bank takes no profit on the houses which are retailed at the wholesale price. They are keenly sought by the public. Rarely is a house completed before it is sold. Presently six uncompleted homes have been sold and interest has been evinced in another 14, but the bank will not talk seriously on a housing proposition until the house is 80 per cent. completed. The bank requires home purchasers to enter into a \$2,000 bond not to resell within four years, thus preventing any speculative activity with regard to the house and land. Finance may be arranged through any bank, building society, or similar institution of the purchaser's choice. Therefore, the financial arrangements of the individual purchaser are not confined to any one financial organisation. The purchaser can make his own choice of the financial institution he desires to assist him.

In addition to Coolbinia and Karrinyup, the bank has been entrusted with the development of the Hamersley East project, which should yield eventually something like 2,300 building lots. In this area the bank has already spent \$81,461,

and has committed itself to a further expenditure of \$723,000. It is hoped that the first lots will become available to private individuals, and to the building industry, before the end of this calendar year.

At the present time a portion of the income from Coolbinia and Karrinyup, and in due course from Hamersley East, will be directed to further development; but in the final analysis every cent received, less a small administration charge made by the bank, will find its way into housing.

That explains the first provision in the Bill, and the second is in relation to section 96(1) (c) of the principal Act which requires the commissioners to prepare each year—

—an analysed cash account in such form as may be prescribed showing particulars of receipts and disbursements made by the bank for the period covered by the said revenue account.

The bank publishes its accounts and balance sheet each year in line with the practice of the industry. Beyond this it is difficult to envisage a cash statement which would give a true presentation of the bank's transactions over a period of 12 months. Consequently, no form has been prescribed and no analysed cash account has ever been prepared; as a result the Auditor-General has felt impelled to comment each year on its absence. In supporting this action the Auditor-General comments—

No form has been prescribed and no analysed cash account has ever been prepared.

It is difficult to envisage a cash statement which would give a true presentation of the bank's transactions over a period of twelve months, and I am of opinion that if no such statement can be prescribed, this subsection of the Act should be repealed.

The sub-section was taken verbatim from section 69 (c) of the Agricultural Bank Act, 1934, and I am not aware of an analysed cash account having ever been prescribed or prepared under that Act.

Therefore, this requirement in the Act would seem to be superfluous, and by the second provision in the Bill it is proposed to have it deleted. I commend the measure to the favourable consideration of members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Jamieson.

ROAD AND AIR TRANSPORT COMMISSION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) [3 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The amendment which the Bill sets forth is intended to provide an alternative basis for assessing license fees for omnibuses and aircraft. The present Act bases the calculation of license fees for commercial goods vehicles on the gross weight of the vehicle; that is, tare weight, plus load. For omnibuses and aircraft the fees are calculated as a percentage of the gross earnings. This involves the operators in the submission of returns of earnings and the calculation of fees from month to month.

This is satisfactory for the larger operator who must necessarily maintain a full accounts system, but for the smaller businesses, the preparation, submission, and checking of monthly returns represent an undue amount of time and paper work by both the operators and the Transport Commission.

To eliminate this, clause 2 of the Bill seeks to amend section 21 of the Act to provide an alternative basis of assessing license fees. Subsection (1) of section 21 would then permit omnibus license fees to be based either on a percentage of gross earnings as at present or, in appropriate cases, at a rate not exceeding \$10 per annum for each passenger the omnibus is licensed to carry at any one time.

In the case of aircraft, the alternative provided is to calculate the fee at a rate not exceeding 10c per pound weight of the maximum permissible take-off weight. If this is agreed to, a definite fee could be fixed on the granting of a license and the expense and inconvenience of submitting monthly returns could be avoided. In both instances, the maximum rate specified would give a result in practice less than the maximum of 6 per cent. of gross earnings already provided for in the Act.

The final subsection proposed to be added excludes subsidies from the gross earnings for the purpose of calculation of fees. At present this applies to aircraft only but it is considered that the same provision should be extended to omnibuses.

In regard to omnibus license fees the average cost of operating a 30 to 36 passenger omnibus is about 35c per mile. To allow a moderate profit, a return of about 38c per mile would be required. Assuming the bus operated only 500 miles per week—anything lower would not be an economic proposition—the gross earnings per annum would be in the vicinity of \$9,500. Six per cent. of this is \$570. Under the alternative basis the annual license fee would be from \$300 to \$360. In both cases these are maximum fees and in practice the actual license fees charged would be less.

In regard to aircraft license fees, there is a hire charge of \$32 per hour for a Cessna 182 aircraft—three passengers—with a take-off weight of 2,650 lb. At, say, only 200 hours flying per annum—economically an extremely low usage—the

gross income would be \$6,400—of which 6 per cent. is \$384. Under the alternative method, the maximum annual license fee would be 2,650 lb. multiplied by 10c—or \$265 per annum.

For a larger aircraft such as the Beechcraft Queen Air for nine passengers, flying 200 hours per annum at \$110 per hour, and a take-off weight of 8,200 lb., the annual license fee would be \$1,320 at present, or \$820 under the alternative arrangement now proposed.

All in all, the proposed amendments to this Act will not only reduce the operator's fees, but they will ease the work of administration both for himself and the department.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Graham (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 14th August, on the following motion by Mr. Ridge:—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to:—

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

MR. BURT (Murchison-Eyre) [3.6 p.m.]: In speaking to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, I would first like to add my congratulations, to those expressed by members who have already spoken, on your attaining such a high office in this Chamber. When I, together with a number of other members, heard of the unfortunate defeat of my colleague, Mr. John Hearman, I wondered who would step into the shoes which he filled so admirably for nine years. Personally, I had no doubt in my mind that you, Sir, were the most suitable person for the office, and it was no surprise to me when my thoughts were put into practice by the House. I now take this opportunity to wish you a happy reign. I also congratulate the Chairman of Committees on his re-election to that position, one which he has filled so well for a number of years.

When a member makes his initial speech in a new Parliament, it is customary for him to welcome the newly-elected members to this House and I follow the usual practice on this occasion. It would be hypocritical for me to wish the members on the other side of the Chamber a long reign, but I certainly wish them a happy one. The game of politics is a business of dog-eat-dog, and no matter what affection

one may have for members on the other side, and how pleasurably one gets along with them, at the end of a three-year term it is our job, at election time, to do our best to unseat them. This is regarded as one of the rights of democracy as we know it today.

I often wonder whether the general public realises the extremely temporary nature of our job, particularly when it comes to criticising parliamentary salary rises. However, that is the way of life and I do not think any member, however favourably he looks upon it, could consider the job as being a permanent one, because surely that is the way to an early defeat.

Whilst on the subject of passing complimentary remarks, I will now go out of my way to congratulate my leader, the Premier and Treasurer of Western Australia, and his Government, for the wonderful job they have performed during the nine years they have now been in office. I make mention of this at this point, because during the last few weeks two very important milestones in the State's history were passed. I refer, firstly, to the fact that we attained financial independence from the Commonwealth by our promotion to a standard State; and, secondly, to the historic ceremony we witnessed in Kalgoorlie on Saturday week to commemorate the linking of the standard gauge railway in Western Australia with the line that proceeds to the Eastern seaboard.

Both those events are the direct result of the Brand Government putting its policy into practice over the past nine years. During this session we have heard quite a deal of criticism from the Opposition benches on the housing situation and on the high price of land. I do not think any member likes to see a shortage of housing, or anybody waiting an unduly long time for a house; nor do members like to see exploitation of land; but it must be evident to all that this is the direct result of the tremendous prosperity which Western Australia is experiencing, and which has been increasing gradually since 1959.

Mr. Graham: It is a definite result of the very paltry effort that this Government has put into housing.

Mr. BURT: It is interesting to note that in the six years of office of the previous Labor Government Western Australia was at the lowest ebb in which any State has been. At that time we had the highest rate of unemployment, because there were about two persons to each job; but today Western Australia has the lowest rate of unemployment, and has just about two jobs for every person. Our rate of migration at the present time has never been higher; and, similarly, our bank credit per head of the population has never been higher. Surely this must have an effect on housing, with everyone in the community being so prosperous.

Mr. Graham: This State is so prosperous that you have pegged the basic wage! I would like to know where the prosperity is.

Mr. BURT: Whether or not the basic wage is pegged, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition should realise there are more jobs available than ever before. Practically every person is employed, but the position was vastly different in 1959.

Mr. Graham: Today the basic wage is worth \$11 less than it was worth in 1952.

Mr. BURT: That is not a point to be used in this argument.

Mr. Graham: Of course it is. There is prosperity only for the big fellows.

Mr. BURT: Today more and more people in Western Australia are wanting houses and land. When many people seek to purchase a commodity, the price inevitably rises. The people only want houses and land because they can afford it.

Mr. Graham: You have pegged wages, but what about pegging profits and rents?

Mr. BURT: During this session there has been some discussion on the Kimberley election. I had no intention of referring to this matter, but in today's *The West Australian* a report appeared of the speech made by a member in another place. He mentioned that natives had been coerced into voting during the last State election in Kimberley. This brought to my mind some incidents which occurred in Laverton in 1965. Of course, Laverton is in the Murchison electorate, and it is in a locality where I, as a Liberal candidate, have received a good majority; but in 1965 I lost by one vote in that town, the voting being 29 to 28.

My opponent at that election showed good sense, and I probably should have done the same as he did and obtained the services of a part native who could speak the language of the native voters. This person spoke to the natives in the district, and he offered them full employment and, among other things, liquor rights. What I took exception to at that time was the fact that officers of the Department of Native Welfare picked up native voters from the reserve and drove them to the polling booth. They handed the natives Labor "How-to-Vote" cards, they took the natives into the booth, and then told them how to vote.

Mr. Harman: Who were the officers?

Mr. BURT: The member for Maylands has a pretty good idea who they were.

Mr. Tonkin: They did not vote for them, did they?

Mr. BURT: Their votes were reflected in the results. Since that time several elections have taken place, and the vote has since been very favourable to Liberal. Possibly the reason I got a few votes at all

in that district was that my opponent had promised the natives full employment. During this session the Opposition has squealed about the result of the Kimberley election. I could not agree more with what the member in another place said, as reported in today's newspaper: there are some aborigines who should not have been placed on the rolls, because they have not the slightest idea of what voting means. Apparently the supporter of the particular political party who gets the last word in usually secures their vote. A great deal more consideration should be given before these people are enrolled. Although there is no compulsion for them to be enrolled, once they are enrolled they must vote or suffer the consequences.

Mr. Graham: That analysis also applies to many white people.

Mr. BURT: I could not agree more with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Quite a number of white voters could not care less whether or how they voted.

Mr. Graham: Why discriminate against the natives?

Mr. BURT: Sometimes I feel that compulsory voting is not the right procedure to adopt in running a democratic country.

I now wish to say a few words about the agricultural phase of development in pastoral districts. A number of pastoral leases exist on the verge of developed areas, but this was not the case some years ago. It is only in the post-war period that agricultural methods have improved to such an extent that land which was once thought to be completely useless for agricultural development has come within the orbit of use for agriculture. As a result of this trend a number of pastoral leases bordering agricultural areas look like being forfeited and being used for agricultural development. I do not want anyone to think that I disagree with this idea, because people generally agree that if more production can be obtained from certain land, then the quicker the new method of production is implemented the better for all.

I would like to emphasise to the Minister for Lands that the uncertainty of the position does concern a great number of pastoralists who come within the category I have been referring to. Naturally enough a great deal of money has been expended in developing the pastoral areas, and most of the owners have sons who, they hope, will follow on in the pastoral business. We are all aware that in these days it is very difficult to obtain sufficient labour to work the stations. They have been informed by a reporter who often writes feature articles for the newspapers, and sometimes by departmental officers, that in five or 10 years' time their land

will be taken away from them and turned over to agricultural purposes. Well the lessee of a pastoral lease should be given some preference over others, if it is decided that a lease is more suited to agricultural development.

Under the Act if a pastoral area is considered to be suitable for agricultural development, it can be taken from the lessee and thrown open for selection by the land board. In such circumstances it is only fair that the lessee who has perhaps been leasing and developing the property for the past 50 or 60 years should be given preference in taking up a portion, at least, of the area. With the introduction of more modern methods of land development some of the pastoral leases are classified as being suitable for closer development.

Mr. Lewis: What degree of preference do you think should be given?

Mr. BURT: The existing lessee should be given the first option. He should be informed as to what is possible to be done with the land, and he should be given the chance to say whether he is prepared to develop it. If the existing lessee does not wish to take up the land then it could be thrown open for selection.

Under the Act it is quite illegal to cultivate land in a pastoral lease. That does not seem to be right in these days, because on a number of these properties there are good supplies of underground water, and irrigation plots have been established by the owners.

Lucerne patches are not uncommon, and in many cases the feed has saved the lives of great numbers of stock during drought time. However, to my surprise I recently discovered that irrigation and the growing of cash crops are completely illegal in pastoral leases; and I think it is high time the Act was amended, because every encouragement should be given to the development or growth of cash crops in the pastoral areas which would never be suitable for large-scale agriculture.

Mr. Bovell: I think the main reason for this is to stop any erosion that may occur by wholesale clearing of the natural vegetation; but, provided this could be protected, I quite agree.

Mr. BURT: That is no doubt the reason for the particular section in the Act, but surely the operations could be carefully watched. As we know, the operations of the pastoral lessee are now very closely controlled and such things as overstocking or chaining, which will cause erosion, are already controlled.

Only recently a well known Queensland fruit grower visited me. He was interested in the Wiluna district, and members will recall that I have often stressed the potential of underground water there. At last we have a person who is willing

to try his luck, and I am doing all I can to obtain some areas of land which are now part of a pastoral lease—but a most unproductive part—so that he can expend quite a considerable amount of money on irrigation to provide food for stock fattening. However, I have found that at the present time that sort of thing is quite illegal. Therefore I think the Act ought to be altered in that regard.

Last evening we heard from the member for Kalgoorlie of the result of the nickel boom on the prospectors of the goldfields. This nickel boom, as we know it, has been a miraculous occurrence in the goldfields. Only a few years ago we were wondering how the town of Kalgoorlie could be kept alive and, out of the blue, so to speak, came this extraordinary find of nickel at Kambalda, and it has transformed the goldfields scene completely. It is still spreading north and will, eventually, form a nickel shield over the known goldfields of this State.

However, like all progress, it has its worries and problems. The temporary reserves to which the honourable member referred last night are a form of tying up the land by the Minister for Mines to enable large-scale scientific prospecting to be undertaken. Prospecting today is, of course, a long way from the dish and pick methods of the old days of Western Australia. The prospecting is now done from an aeroplane by a method known as induced polarisation and by magnetometer research and by other methods which, of necessity, means that very large areas of land must be tied up.

I could not agree more with those who say that sometimes the companies tie up the land for far too long. One of the conditions for temporary reserves is that at the end of the term, 50 per cent. must be surrendered to the Crown and, in the main, this is being done. However, matters reached such a hectic pitch in early 1967 that temporary reserves were granted everywhere and no-one knew the boundaries of them. As a result the Minister for Mines clamped down and no new reserves have been issued since the middle of last year, although those which had been applied for before the decision was made have been granted.

However that did not clear up the mess, I am afraid, because straightaway companies which found themselves unable to obtain large areas of land for prospecting, decided the only way they could tie the land up was by applying for 300-acre mineral claims; and, literally, thousands of these 300-acre claims have been applied for during the last 12 months at what amounts to a very high cost. The applicant for a 300-acre mineral claim has to pay out about \$150 per claim. This has had the effect of tying up nearly all the available land in the goldfields, and as a result most of the genuine gold prospectors—and I could say now that I do not

think there are more than about a dozen men who permanently rely on gold prospecting for a living—find themselves with very little ground left on which to carry out their operations.

As we heard last evening, two meetings of protest have been held in Kalgoorlie in recent weeks, the forces of the permanent prospectors being augmented by those who prospect at weekends and who are known as weekend prospectors. I suppose there would be about 100 of them throughout the State.

I do not think the State batteries are suffering in any way by the nickel boom. I doubt very much whether any more gold ore would have been obtained even if these areas had not been pegged, and I doubt if there has been any reduction in the tonnage available to the State batteries. But be that as it may, I am in sympathy with the prospectors because one never knows what is at the other end of the pick and all prospectors live in the hope that one day they will discover the bonanza the thought of which has kept them at the job all their lives. If these prospectors are told they cannot go here and they cannot go there, naturally they are greatly concerned.

I am not altogether sure of the remedy. I feel that any holders of mineral claims should allow prospectors to enter those claims to look for their particular mineral. If a prospector finds an area worth working on in a mineral claim, the Act should allow a prospecting area for gold to be pegged on the mineral claim. I have told numerous prospectors to consult the company which is holding the claim on the land in which they are interested, because I have felt sure the companies would be only too happy to allow the prospectors to work there, provided an agreement was reached whereby if any nickel were found, the company concerned should have the first refusal of it.

Mr. Evans: The Act does not countenance that.

Mr. BURT: I know, and that is an amendment which might well be worth looking at. The other point is of course that companies are not willing for a prospecting area for gold to be given on their lease because under the Act the prospecting area can be turned into a goldmining lease, and the definition of that makes it possible for the holder to find any minerals as well as gold; in other words, the prospector could get onto nickel through the back door, so to speak. He could get permission to prospect and then obtain a prospecting area which could be changed into a goldmining lease, and then he would legitimately be allowed to mine for nickel. Consideration might be given to amending the Act so that other minerals are deleted from the conditions governing a goldmining lease.

The price of gold of course remains as stationary as ever. I feel the only chance we will ever have of a rise in the price is for the United States to devalue its dollar; and, naturally enough, that would be the very last resort of any country. However, the fact remains that since World War II, 71 countries have devalued 280 times, and this is the way for all politicians when in economic strife. Whilst none of us wishes to see it done, it may be that one day the United States will be forced to devalue its dollar. If that occurred, I firmly believe that every other country in the world would go with the U.S., and then the price of gold would rise.

However, it is a left-handed way of doing things and I am not altogether certain that we would be better off in the long run. Certainly had it not been for the nickel find, the goldfields of Western Australia would welcome such a move.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer to a matter which I spoke on in the Address-in-Reply debate this time last year; that is, the continuance or otherwise of the Leonora railway line. This time last year it looked as if the line was doomed. The Minister for Railways made a trip to Leonora where he met the local residents and as a result of that meeting I am very pleased to say the Government gave the line a reprieve of 12 months to the 1st September, 1968.

Since then the spread of mining activity to the north of Kalgoorlie has increased tenfold. In 1968 already over 300 mineral claims have been applied for at the Leonora Mining Registrar's office. That alone brings in revenue of something like \$45,000 to the Treasury. With the possibility of a find occurring up there, I ask the Minister and the Government to give every consideration to leaving the line a little bit longer to see what might be forthcoming. Over 12 major world companies are operating in and around the Leonora-Laverton district and it is by no means impossible that a major find will come out of the extensive exploratory work which is being undertaken.

We have all heard a little of the Scotia district. Scotia is a siding 35 miles north of Kalgoorlie on the Leonora line. Just recently diamond drill intersections were made by Great Boulder and North Kalgurlie, which are the joint owners of the leases in that area, and they consider an operating mine is now a certainty. A figure of approximately 500 tons per day of nickel ore is being mentioned as the amount to be taken to Great Boulder's plant at Fimiston on the Golden Mile. If a suitable rail freight were agreed upon with the Government, a spur line of 4½ miles would be built from the Scotia siding to the mine site, and altogether about 44 miles of transport would be necessary.

I have made these remarks to indicate to the Minister that the importance of the railway line has by no means ceased. Most of the Golden Mile treatment plants would be only too ready now to take nickel ore, wherever it was discovered. I feel that with the very intensive prospecting that is going on in the area from Kalgoorlie to Leonora, and even as far as Wiluna, it would be a very short-sighted policy on the part of any Government to close the railway line. I conclude my speech by leaving those thoughts with the Minister concerned.

MR. McIVER (Northam) [3.34 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I join with previous speakers to congratulate you on your election as Speaker. I trust that your term of office will be a very memorable and enjoyable one. I also congratulate the new members of Parliament on both sides of the House and trust that their contributions to the Parliament and to the people whom they represent will be worthy ones.

Many speakers before me have addressed the House for the first occasion. However, I very much doubt if any one felt as proud as I do today. I say this for two reasons. Firstly, I have been given the honour by the people of the Northam electorate to represent them in Parliament; and, secondly, I have been given the responsibility to take over from a man whose deeds and services, not only to the people of the Northam electorate but to the people of Western Australia, will never be surpassed in the annals of the political history of this State! Of course, I refer to The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke. Mr. Hawke will be a legend. It does not matter where one travels throughout the State, he is always referred to with the greatest respect, irrespective of the person's political beliefs.

I sincerely thank Mr. Hawke for the guidance and the assistance he has given me over the years, and I trust he will have many years of happy retirement; he has certainly deserved them.

The Northam electorate is an expanding one. It could well be, in time, that the mineral development and the intensive tests that are being carried out in relation to the area around Northam could materialise, and we could certainly take our place with the rest of the State with regard to mineral development. Certainly we lack secondary industries in the area. That has a big effect on employment and, consequently, if the tests which are being carried out extensively around the various farming areas of Northam materialised, they would most certainly have a big effect on the district.

We have the facilities to attract and to carry on secondary industry, on either a large regional basis or in a minor way. We have power, land, water, and modern transport available. In other words, we

have the facilities to cater for all secondary industries, whether they are concerned with an export market or with the local scene.

Much has been said in the House in the last few days in relation to agriculture. In Northam we are certainly playing our part in research into agricultural methods, so that greater technical skills and greater knowledge can be applied by the man on the land and so that men may be enticed into this field. There is the C.S.I.R.O. at Bakers Hill, the Muresk Agricultural College, and the Department of Agriculture in Northam proper. In addition, the junior agricultural high school is situated at Cunderdin. Each one of these organisations is playing a very important part in a very important industry.

The effect of aerial spraying in the district of Northam has been considerable. As members know, Northam is largely surrounded by hills and, as a result of this method of spraying the hills around the area, and of the right grasses being consequently produced, the farmers in the district have been able to increase their sheep production—they have increased their flocks and improved the economy of their farms.

The farmers in this area, as in other parts of the State, are unanimous in their growing concern at rising costs of production, especially as they are related to wheat and wool. As legislators of this State we have a great responsibility to these men, and we must tackle the complex problem at far greater depth than we are at present because, as we know, the economy of the State and of the nation depends to a large degree on primary production.

Because of the great development of iron ore and other minerals in the north, the growing problems of the farmers tend to be pushed into the background, and I suggest that we get down to the fundamentals which are causing these men so much concern.

I also wish to bring before the House the growing concern that is being felt in regard to the encroachment of salt. This matter has already been ably dealt with by the member for Mt. Marshall, and I heartily support his remarks. I sincerely hope we will intensify our efforts in this field of research with a view to overcoming the problem of encroachment, which is taking more and more fertile land every year.

I would now like to touch on the employment problems which are facing the young people in the Northam area. As you are aware, Sir, there are several large Government instrumentalities in Northam, some of which are the Main Roads Department, the Public Works Department, the Water Supply Department and, of course, a very large section of the Western Australian Government Railways.

Each of these instrumentalities has its own motor pool, and I would make a strong recommendation to the Government that here we have one avenue of employment which could be used to cater for the young people of the district. They could be apprenticed to the motor mechanics employed by these instrumentalities and they could help carry out the maintenance work on the vehicles concerned rather than have them sent down to the city.

Once these young people leave the senior high school, there is not much opportunity for them—unless of course they continue in further academic fields—and, as a result, they generally migrate to the city in an endeavour to obtain jobs.

In the last few days a great deal has been said about housing and I, too, would like to bring to the attention of the Minister for Housing the shortage of homes in the Northam area. In all fairness I would say, however, that from the answers I received to the questions I asked in the House the other night, the Minister appears to be doing something about the matter.

When young people get married they do not, as a rule, have much money and, as a result, it is necessary for them to live with friends or parents. They have a very hard task ahead of them and it is this sort of thing which usually causes the breakup of so many marriages. The high prices they must pay by way of deposit does not enable them to commence their lives happily together—they just do not have the necessary accommodation—and it is not long before arguments develop between husband and wife, and then, of course, things go from bad to worse.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.3 p.m.

Mr. McIVER: Prior to the suspension I was speaking on housing in the Northam electorate. I now wish to speak briefly on the native situation in the area. Without doubt, we have the worst native reserve in Australia. This reserve was badly sited when it was first constructed. It is in close proximity to the Avon River and consequently during the winter months it is practically under water. At the present time there are insufficient homes on the reserve for these very confused people; and native families in the town of Northam are living in houses that have been condemned by the local authority. In many cases some of the homes do not have any toilet facilities, water, or electric light.

It is pleasing to know that the Government is going to build type 64 native homes in Northam; and I trust this can be expedited so that these people will have an opportunity to be adequately housed. The native problem is certainly a complex one, and here again the solution of the problem rests with adequate housing. It is also pleasing to see that the Department of Native Welfare is considering purchasing the old C.W.A. hostel in Northam. I feel

this is a step in the right direction, because if the younger native people can find employment and can live at this hostel under supervision, rather than have to go home to the environment of the reserve, it will be very stimulating for them, indeed.

I would now like to touch on a subject which is of very great concern to me: the resignation rate of employees of the W.A.G.R. In the last month or two there have been reports in the Press in relation to main-line derailments and derailments in marshalling yards. I cannot agree with the investigations into these derailments that have been undertaken, because I feel this information could easily have been obtained as a result of closer liaison with the senior administrative officers of the department and the senior unions.

The resignation rate has increased considerably during the last two years; and to be more specific I will refer to the motive power section and the traffic section. Within a period of two years there has been a resignation rate from these two branches of 1,137 employees. No enterprise, irrespective of its vastness or magnitude, can function efficiently and give service with a staff depleted to that extent. There must be something radically wrong to cause these increasing resignations of employees.

I hope to put forward some constructive suggestions and trust they will be viewed as such so that this problem can be investigated in an endeavour to have the resignation rate checked. As members know, in Northam there is a vast complex—it is the largest marshalling yard in this State at the present time. It cost thousands of dollars to construct and at the moment 75 per cent. of the grain yield passes through it.

If we are going to employ men in marshalling yards, then it is imperative they be trained in their job so as to eliminate the derailments, which seem to be increasing in number. Years ago, before a man joined the railways—irrespective of the branch—he had to pass a very stiff medical examination and had to have certain academic qualifications, but this is not so today. Any Tom, Dick, or Harry can go to a marshalling yard and be employed as a shunter and within a week be given such a responsible job as a pilot, piloting important freight trains into a marshalling yard. It is no wonder we are experiencing derailments. The whole working structure, as it is at the present time, has to be streamlined and looked at more closely.

I say to the members of this House: Would any one of them like to be a driver at the present time and be instructed to take a train in excess of 1,000 tons out of the marshalling yard in Northam and bring it down the Avon Valley route? How many would like to face the corners knowing that the braking system was not

continuous through the train. This might have been all right 20 or 30 years ago when trains were 20 to 30 trucks in length and locomotives were of small dimensions, but that is not the position today.

I would draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that several of the safety working rules are out of date. For months the E.D.F.U. has been trying to get the department to agree that when locomotives are multicoupled they be driven from short-end leading. This is in the interests of the safety of the public, and it is beyond my comprehension why the department takes a strong view in not allowing drivers to drive with short-end leading.

I draw attention to the siting of the standard gauge railway signals between Northam and Merredin. It is of paramount importance to remember that signals do not stop trains—brakes do. Therefore I cannot understand why the Government with this brand-new railway has installed a signalling system which is antique. A standard gauge train of 4,000 tons travelling at 45 miles an hour takes a chain under a mile to stop—that is, with the brakes fully applied. However, it is the intention to increase the speed once the standard gauge railway is fully operative to 60 and 70 miles per hour.

We have a signal siting committee, the specific job of which is to recommend to the department where the signals are to be erected. On this committee is a representative of the drivers' union, and I appeal to the Minister for this committee to be given far more co-operation than it is receiving at present, because it is most imperative that the signals be sited so that evasive action can be taken when a crash is imminent.

It would not have cost many more dollars to have apparatus attached to the signals, especially in the area of West Toodyay where there is a danger for three months of the year of particularly heavy fog retarding vision. The human element is always open to error and since the standard gauge railway has been in operation there have been instances of trains running past signals at danger.

Members of the Government have gone overseas and observed modern signalling devices in other countries. For the life of me I cannot understand why some modern methods of signalling were not adopted in this State. They are installed in Victoria and New South Wales, where they are attached to the signal. Once the signal is passed, when it is at danger, the apparatus on the signal makes contact with the brake on the train and stops it.

Perhaps I have painted a grim picture, but as one who has been associated with the railways and its problems and achievements during the past 25 years, I bring

these facts before the House. They certainly require attention and until they are adjusted and some proper agreement is reached as to where the signals are to be sited, the travelling public of Western Australia will be placed in jeopardy.

Referring to the amenities that have been provided in the last four or five years, I must say that the Government is to be commended. At Northam and Merredin the quarters have certainly come a long way from the days of the cyclone bed. In those days when one turned over every-one turned over. The silence of the night was often broken by the fall of a boot and then usually a raucous voice would call, "Go on, drop the other one."

We have certainly come a long way since those days, and when one considers that a railway man spends the greater part of his life in railway barracks, it is most important that the accommodation be modern. At Merredin and Northam the accommodation is certainly modern. In other parts of the State, conditions can be improved, especially where engine-men have to sleep in temperatures well over the hundred. I refer to areas such as Wyalkatchem, Cue, and Yalgoo. It is essential that the men rest. I trust that the building programme which I know is envisaged for these places can be expeditious.

If the items I have mentioned can be given consideration—especially with regard to the safeworking structure of the department—there is no doubt in my mind that when the standard gauge becomes fully operative the railways of Western Australia will be the leader in the modern field of competitive transport.

I do not go along with the views expressed by the Commissioner of Transport that the container service will not be a success when the standard gauge line is in full operation. There will be an interstate interchange of wagons, and when the scheme reaches full operating capacity I am sure the people of this State will benefit greatly.

In conclusion, Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Mitchell), I wish to thank members of the House for their decorum and the close attention they have given to me. It is with interest, pride, and enthusiasm that I take my place in this Parliament—in its debates, and in its deliberations.

MR. STEWART (Merredin-Yilgarn) [4.20 p.m.]: Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Mitchell), it is my pleasure to speak to this House for the first time as the member for Merredin-Yilgarn. I am deeply conscious of the tribute the electors of Merredin-Yilgarn paid me on election day.

In following Mr. Lionel Kelly, who represented the electorate for so long, I indeed have a difficult task. Mr. Kelly

was liked for his charm, hard work, and willingness to help all in the community. He was respected by everyone for his kindness and courtesy and for his interest in all sections of the community. In his retirement, I wish that he be blessed with good health as a reward for all the good work he did in the interests of the electorate of Merredin-Yilgarn.

I would like you, Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Mitchell), to convey to the Speaker my congratulations on his being elected to his high office. I am confident his training, interest, fairness, and tolerance, will be appreciated by members; that he will carry out his duties with credit to himself; and that during his term of office the reputation of this House will be enhanced.

To the Chairman of Committees I also extend my congratulations. I am sure he will carry out his duties in a most capable and pleasant manner. I would also like to acknowledge the courtesy extended to me by all members since I was elected to this Parliament. I also thank the officers and the staff, the controller and his staff, and all the others with whom I come in contact in Parliament House. Their courtesy and kindness has made my initial period in this Parliament most pleasant.

I would like to tell members something of the electorate of Merredin-Yilgarn. It has its worries, difficulties, and problems, for it starts in the east at Kambalda—that area of metal which holds so much promise, not only for the Western Mining Corporation, but possibly for further developments—and extends westward to Koolyanobbing where the iron ore is being put to good use. I also refer to that ribbon of steel—the broad gauge line—about which the member for Northam has just spoken.

I call Merredin the heart of the middle west. To my mind it will develop as a distribution point for goods, not only from our capital city, but from the Eastern States. I hope the goods from the Eastern States will be minimised, and that the manufacturers around our city will be the largest users of that line.

Going south from Merredin, there are the shires of Narembene, Kondinin, and Kulin, and extending west the shires are particularly well developed. However, on the eastern side the country is still in the pioneering or developmental stage, with all its attendant problems.

I hope to be constructively critical of the Government. We need to have a very clear picture of what we require and where we are going; and the problem is not one of requiring anything really new; it is just one of improving what has already been done, and accelerating this improvement. In the eastern wheatbelt we have a great farming area. Nowhere else in the world

are cereals farmed so economically or so consistently as in this area. I do not believe the land can be used for much else, apart from producing wool.

The No. 1 factor which makes this area so great is, of course, the people. I heard an honourable member from the other side lauding their virtues, and I join with him. After all, these people are in an area which, with a modest rainfall and rather poor soil conditions, was 30 years ago known as a marginal area, and they have transformed it into one of the major grain-producing districts of the State.

The factors which made this possible were, firstly, the greater power of tractors; secondly, improvements in machinery methods; and, thirdly, the use of fertilisers. The transformation which has come about through the use of fertilisers on poor soils is quite fascinating.

We are fortunate to have an oil industry in this State because one of the by-products of that industry is nitrogen. I feel that nitrogen has a tremendous future in cereal growing in Western Australia. Nitrogen—and other trace elements—has been added to the base of superphosphate. Different forms of manufacture are being undertaken in our own State at quite a substantial rate. The refining of nickel will contribute a form of nitrogen which will be helpful to our industries.

I want to emphasise that the consistency of production of the area I have mentioned has been brought about through management. The settlers remained there through the old days of bloom and boom, which seem to be declining. However, there are still quite large difficulties. In this dry farming district we have the paradox of the area being too wet in the wintertime, and too dry in the summertime. There are flooding problems in winter, and we need water piped there in the summer. Associated with the flooding problem, is the matter of erosion, and I intend to say something about the controlling of erosion.

For a start, I would like to compliment the Government, and the Minister for Lands for forming the key dam scheme. It was evolved by scientists, engineers, geologists, and soil conservation officers. The key dam scheme is quite good and allows a certain sum of money to be made available at a very modest repayment rate and interest rate to provide a settler with a dam that will hold sufficient water to last two years. Evaporation is very high in this area.

The point I want to make is that the scheme has been operating for two years. The area is not reticulated, but the comprehensive scheme has been saved 50,000,000 gallons of water through the provision of the dams. At present, something like 80,000,000 to 100,000,000 gallons of water has been stored for use by far-

mers in the future. I hope the scheme will be enlarged and that possibly the terms will be eased a little, because it is a very good scheme.

Tremendous areas of country are being opened up but soil erosion is a problem. There is a great clamour for land to be opened because people want to go farming. In the case of conditional purchase land, a farmer has to declare, and show evidence, that he has the money for a certain amount of development. Nobody seems to be concerned with soil conservation, but it is a good thing. Provision for it should be written into the lease, and there should be a definition of the fencing required, and of the contours of high and doubtful land, because if an area is not contoured then a lot of farms will be in trouble with flooding problems.

Soil conservation should be commenced at the top of a hill, but usually those farmers at the top of a hill are least conscious of the problem. I believe that in respect of this question, we have to legislate, the same as we did for the eradication of rabbits and for the provision of firebreaks. The provision will have to be statutory to force farmers to contour the land. We have to lift our thinking. We have a good department, but not good enough to control this problem.

I certainly intend to do everything I can to convince the Minister that something should be done about this land. We must understand that the problem of farming in this area is pre-care farming. Once the development period is over we can expect, in the next decade, that the population will recede. The tractors will get even more powerful and the machines will get bigger and faster. A larger servicing population will be required in the towns.

I do not think that is a bad feature. After all, it takes 100 per cent. of effort to feed people in a primitive society. The more progressive the society, the smaller is the proportion of effort necessary to feed the people. That is why we welcome development in the cities and the towns.

I would like to go through some of the other features to give an indication of our expectations and the help which we will require from the Government in the future, and I wish to touch on education to some extent. I compliment the Minister on his efforts. He has a tremendous job in being responsible for educating the children of the State over such a wide area. It must be very difficult indeed. The junior high schools are appreciated, as, too, are the senior high schools. However, in an area which is so vast, it is necessary that the people, who were described by a member on the other side of the House as "the little people" but whom I describe as "the important people," should be able to have their children educated. If one lives 100 or 150 miles from a high school, boarding accommodation is essential.

I commend and compliment the Minister on the Country High School Hostels Authority. The hostels are very good. There is only one fault: we do not have enough of them, and we want more money. The hostels enjoy a tremendous reputation and, to get that reputation, they must have earned it. I hope the Minister is listening very closely to my plea for more and larger hostels to enable the children from the out-back areas to receive an education. To my mind that is decentralisation in a practical and economic way.

There is one other point I would like to mention to the Minister while on the subject of education. I know there is a move afoot for some sort of course in farm management. We have an industry which produces hundreds of millions of dollars every year, yet we are not making any effort to improve the position by training anyone in the management field. All existing management consultants are trained elsewhere. A few are trained in the Eastern States, but the majority are trained either in New Zealand or elsewhere overseas.

Farm management is a logical development. I know it is on the way, and I hope the Minister will look at the matter very sympathetically, because the agricultural industry will be a mighty industry in Western Australia forever, I believe.

To refer to other matters, the S.E.C. extends quite extensively through the Merredin-Yilgarn area. However, it does not extend far enough, because it does not go as far south as it should. I am hoping this extension will come about. It is particularly important for the people to obtain cheap power. It does not matter how humble the home, if it is air-conditioned it makes for gracious living and keeps the woman happy. Happiness in the home and education for the children are so important.

Since I have been in the House, I have not heard mentioned the matter of subsidies for swimming pools in the country. In my opinion it is a delightful move and much appreciated. The smaller the place, the more difficult it is to provide the amenity and, of course, once it has been provided it has to be kept running. I know that subsidies are appreciated by the smaller communities, because it is not possible for all folk to take their holidays in the school-holiday period. There is nothing more distressing than to see children roaming around and making their own sport. However, anywhere a swimming pool is located, the children really enjoy themselves. They look forward to the holiday break and to enjoying the amenity, which people in more fortunate places take as a matter of course.

We are quite well served with health services, and I am very appreciative of that. The Minister has infant health clinics going along quite nicely and the

dental clinic operates very solidly. These things are much appreciated, and I would like to congratulate the Premier for putting through the fluoridation measure in an endeavour to try, if not to eliminate, to minimise the need for the efforts of the dental clinic.

I come now to the subject of housing. We are getting our fair share, but of course it is never enough. Whilst I hope that the very eloquent members in the House who have told such distressing stories will obtain sufficient houses, nevertheless I still hope we will get our fair share of houses in the Merredin-Yilgarn electorate, because certainly a great need exists.

I appreciate the new scheme for Government employees, particularly teachers; because many of these are young girls who have only been out from training college for a year or two. If there are insufficient houses in the community, where are these people going to be housed? The scheme is very necessary and very good and, as I have said, much appreciated. I look forward to seeing it develop as time goes on.

In an area which is so large, of course transport is a necessity and the provision of good roads is particularly important. I hope the Government maintains its policy of feeding as much of the petrol tax money as possible into the country with a view to providing sealed roads, particularly over the flooded and salted sections, because they certainly cause plenty of trouble to transport. I believe this is one of the most costly factors with which we in the farming world and those who work for us have to contend.

I support the Government in its endeavours to promote the interests of Western Australia. I hope in my own way to promote the interests of Merredin-Yilgarn and, through Merredin-Yilgarn, the interests of Western Australia. We should all be conscious of the fact that Western Australia was developed by people with a positive approach; it was not developed by people who looked backward.

MR. TAYLOR (Cockburn) [4.37 p.m.]: Before addressing the House, I would like to make certain references which give me the greatest pleasure. I begin by offering my congratulations, along with those of other members, to you, Sir, on your appointment to the position of Speaker of the House. I would like to thank my party for the confidence it has shown in me by endorsing me for the seat of Cockburn; and I also thank the electors of Cockburn for electing me by such a handsome majority. I thank the members of my own party who have helped me so much before and since the election. Also, I pass on my thanks to the staff of the House who have assisted me to settle in. In addition, I thank members and Ministers

on the other side of the House for the many courtesies and kindnesses they have shown me since I have been in the Parliament.

The first duty which I feel I should carry out is to make reference to the former member for Cockburn, Mr. Henry Curran, whose place I have taken in the Parliament. Through listening to some of the older members on this side of the House, I can believe that Mr. Curran had before him a long and able career but for his unfortunate accident. In working through the electorate of Cockburn, I know that Mr. Curran made, and he still maintains, many friends. It will be my task and my hope in the years to come to work as he did in the electorate and to improve if I can.

I am sure Mr. Curran would want me to thank those other members for the Fremantle area who so ably helped look after the Cockburn electorate during his illness. In particular, I think of Mr. Ron Thompson, M.L.C., who did so much during the three-year period for Mr. Curran, and who also helped me to obtain the seat.

If I put to one side for a moment the speeches on housing and land resumption, I think that what has impressed me most in the House since I have been here are the speeches which have been made by members from the country. As many would know, over the last five years I spent a lot of time travelling the State from one end to the other. I have worked with people in the country. I have had the privilege of milking cows, picking apples, cutting a little maize, throwing a few fleeces of wool, picking a few mallee roots, sitting on a harvester, and pushing a few bananas into crates in Carnarvon, and I have also had a run on a cotton-picker on the Ord.

From listening to the problems that have been outlined I would like to say I can also appreciate some of these, because I have been pulled out of bogs in the Warren electorate; I have been pulled out of Lake King in the Roe electorate; I have been pulled out of the mallee in the Merredin-Yilgarn electorate; I have spent a night in a creek in the Avon electorate, and have been bogged up to the axles of my car in the Greenough electorate.

If I come to the House with some little background so far as the metropolitan area is concerned, I also have some understanding of the problems that face the country areas. Having been born on the goldfields and having relatives there, I naturally, too, have a smattering of the problems of the mining industry. Accordingly I think it is right for me today to devote some of my time to what must be the fourth pillar of the economy of this State. I refer, of course, to industry.

Very few members of this House really appreciate the term "industry"; particularly heavy industry. It is something that

is relatively unknown and little understood in this State, and few members within this House would have any experience of its activity.

I have made it my business, as far as possible, over the last 12 months to try to find out what is likely to develop south of Fremantle in Cockburn Sound. Everything I have been able to gather about this area has been in terms of economics. I understand the population will grow to something like 60,000 people in a short period, and in a 20-year period after that it will grow to about 120,000 people.

The annual value of production from that area is about \$120,000,000, which, of course, is a lot of money. Even though I have read the papers and looked at the questions concerning the Kwinana-Cockburn area, I have not been able to discover what the Government's intentions are in relation to the social conditions of the area. I am just not sure what is likely to accrue there.

In all the reading I have done in relation to industrial areas throughout the world, at no time have I been able to find any reference to a claim that areas of heavy industrial activity are good places in which to live. They are certainly places in which to earn a living, but not necessarily places to which one would go by choice. We have examples of this in Australia; and through our reading of the newspapers and what we have learned in school we know that examples also exist in Western Europe and in the United States.

Accordingly we have, in this State, a unique opportunity to do something in the Cockburn area to establish an industrial setup which could be an example for the rest of the world to follow. Already much activity has taken place, and the scar of man is very plain to see. Some of the activity which has taken place will not be able to be changed by posterity; but there is still time to look carefully at this section and appreciate not only its potential, but also the fact that something like 120,000 people will have to reside within the area. That we have not much time is evident.

We listened yesterday to an answer to a question given by the Minister for Housing who made reference to 5,000 blocks which were to be made ready for housing within a few years. Five thousand homes means something like 10,000 voters. Ten thousand voters would be equivalent to the four electorates of our north, and they are equivalent to the electorates of Katanning and Collie, and of Blackwood and Vasse. Sixty thousand people are equal to the totals of the electorates of all non-metropolitan seats on the Government side of the House, and 120,000 are equal to all the non-metropolitan seats on both sides of the House. It is an area, therefore, which is worth looking at.

I have tried to decide how to approach this matter of an industrial area at Cockburn Sound, and, as members will be debating many Bills in the next few years concerning this area, I would like to give them one side of the picture.

Members will have been given the economic and industrial picture, and I would like to lay the foundations now, if I may, of the social conditions in the district. Members may have seen some aspects of this; some of the ugliness made by man on the shores of a most beautiful piece of our coastline.

We find that by night from a 30-mile radius it is possible to see a light in the sky, and by day we see a plume of smoke or a ribbon of steam. Freight trains are constantly going through the area carrying iron ore or alumina, and apart from that we also have screaming diesels. In addition, we have to contend with the smell of oil from the refinery, which carries for many miles. It would seem that all this is to be the hallmark of the Cockburn industrial district for many years to come.

Every time one walks out one's back door or one's front door there will be the mark for one to see, and this is the environment in which the people there must live. Already much of the coastline has gone; already there are small features which irritate the people and worry them.

There are slag heaps developing, and there is also evidence of caustic soda, red mud, and oil being accidentally discharged into the sea. There have been many complaints and the companies have endeavoured to remove these disabilities. There is also evident in that area dust from alumina, iron ore, and phosphate rock, and within a few years we will have dust from bulk wheat.

Perhaps I should have said this earlier, but now may be an opportune time to mention it, that the remarks I make are not necessarily aimed at the Government, although its members may listen to me intently to see where they fit into the scheme of things. I am certainly not blaming the companies. The officials of these companies have treated me with every courtesy, and among them I have friends with whom I was educated and with whom I shared my sporting activities in my younger days. The managerial staff has been most helpful to me, but the points I make must be placed on record.

As I have said, in this particular area we have a layout in which 130,000 people are likely to live. They will be creating a new type of life, a type of life only seen in the past at the odd timber mill or the small mining town. In the first place it becomes an overtime community. I say that, because the industries there are all major industries which work seven days a week and 24 hours a day. Every major industry in the area does this at the

moment. This is a shift work economy and it means that for the children Dad is home only one week in three. That is, only one week in three will he be home when they get up in the morning and be there when they have their tea at night. And this is not just in a few houses, but in house after house and street after street.

I realise that this sort of thing happened during the war years, but these industries, as I have said, work seven days a week, and because of the shifts involved they create an overtime community; and here, perhaps more than anywhere else, the people come to rely on the extra money they receive for overtime and shift work.

These people are likely to find themselves in the same difficult position that has been experienced by other sections of the community, particularly if the overtime cuts out, or their shift work changes; because their economy is geared to the high rate of pay they receive as a result of overtime, and consequently they become vulnerable to changes.

The next problem is the question of employment for women and girls in the area. The major industries in the Cockburn area employ very few women. To quote some figures from memory, one industry which employs 1,200 men has about 50 women employed; another with about 800 men has 70 women employed; another with 250 men has five women employed; and the remaining one with 750 men has about 50 women employed. The proportion of women employed is about 5 per cent. of the work force. I have checked with the Bureau of Census and Statistics, and I have been supplied with the figures of the proportion of men to women employed in that area for the last three years. The proportion of women employed has fallen slightly from 5.5 per cent. to 5 per cent., and last year it was down to 4.5 per cent.

Such a situation will create a tremendous problem. In the extractive industries we will find, if the position continues as it has, there is no employment for women or girls. Country Party members will understand this; that is, if there is no employment for girls after they leave school then they will leave to seek employment in the city. While Kwinana is not very far from Perth, with the present method of transportation it is too far for women to travel backwards and forwards to work. Certainly there is no work for married women in Kwinana, and this problem must be faced.

On Sunday last I listened with interest to a talk by the Minister for Industrial Development in the "Four Corners" feature on television. He was speaking on the opportunities of employment within Western Australia. I agree with him when he said there were increasing opportunities for employment within the State; but

I cannot agree that this is applicable to the Kwinana industrial area, especially to the type of extractive industries which are established there. The number of skilled men required is very limited.

While I was in the Eastern States recently I took the opportunity to visit some of the major steel works and took out some figures in relation to employment. In one major steel works at Wollongong in New South Wales the staff totalled 19,000. The proportion of the work force was made up of about 20 per cent. staff, 14 per cent. tradesmen, 7 per cent. apprentices, and 60 per cent. unskilled or semiskilled workers. If we include the tradesmen and apprentices with the unskilled and semiskilled workers we get a proportion of just over 75 per cent.; and if we add the clerks who are on the staff we get an even higher percentage.

As a former teacher I can say that at least half the community have an I.Q. of 100. If these industries employ people in these proportions, then the large number of people with an I.Q. of over 100—which is slightly above average—will not have opportunities of employment within that area in the type of employment they wish to engage in. Young lads on leaving school will say to their fathers, "If that is the only type of job I can have, I will get out." With the employment of such a high percentage of unskilled workers this will happen.

It is disappointing to realise—and I hope this will be changed—that even some of the high managerial positions in that area will not be held by local people. They are, and they will be, held by people who have been trained in the Eastern States or overseas. This again will cut out one avenue of employment open to the people who are there.

In this type of industry there is a high turnover of staff. It is a feature which is also common in northern development, and I appreciate the reason for it there. However, in an area where the people wish to settle down for life, and want to create communities, this is a bad feature. In the manufacturing and heavy industries in some of the Eastern States the turnover of staff is between 30 per cent. and 50 per cent. I have been told by fairly senior members of industry in the Kwinana area that the turnover of employees there is even higher.

With a shift-work economy, with an overtime economy, with large numbers of unskilled workers coming in, with a lack of opportunity for higher positions, and with a high turnover in the work force, a social environment which may not be necessarily pleasing will be developed. My experiences of Wollongong and the Eastern States are comparable with my experiences of Kwinana. I went to great length to investigate this aspect as well as I was able to. Wollongong was a small country

seaside resort with a small iron and steel industry to start off with, but in 15 years it grew to be the sixth largest city in Australia. It is interesting to find that Canberra is the fastest growing area in Australia, with three times the rate of growth of Perth; Darwin is next with twice the rate of growth of Perth; and Wollongong is growing slightly faster than Perth. In some ways Wollongong and Kwinana are comparable.

In Wollongong the unskilled labour force is composed of almost 50 per cent. southern Europeans. I make no other comment than that, and I cast no aspersions in raising this point. It means that a large proportion of the population of that area is composed of nationalities that do not speak English. There is a growing number of international communities, although the people of Wollongong get on well together. I feel sure we will see the same trend at Kwinana. If it does come about I will be happy to work with those people, because I appreciate the opportunity they are getting. Nevertheless, I have made the point, because it does fit in with the possible future of the area.

Finally, as regards social problems I refer to the matter of delinquency. From the few records I have seen in Western Australia, delinquency, or crime among the youth, is greater proportionately in two areas; and unfortunately one of them is the area south of Fremantle. If the reports which we see in the Eastern States and overseas are accepted, then it is an indication that an overtime and a shift-work type of economy does tend to breed broken homes and delinquency.

I mention another factor of which members may not be aware; and that is the managerial change which is evolving because of the development at Kwinana. When I was a young man and worked in St. George's Terrace, I could name most of the major families involved in industry and commerce in Western Australia. Many of those undertakings began with the grandfathers starting off years ago. They knew their staffs, and the children of the staffs. They had a paternal interest in those people, and they helped those people whenever they could. The profits they made were spent in Western Australia, and the decisions they made were based upon their intimate knowledge of their organisations.

All that has changed at Kwinana, as it has with the industries in the north. Firstly, the companies are owned by Eastern States or overseas interests. Of course, that takes the economics of the establishment outside the control of Western Australia. To make one brief comparison, we have at the moment one blast furnace establishment by Australian Iron and Steel Pty. Ltd. at Kwinana which turns out 600,000 tons of pig iron per annum, and the whole of this output is sent to the Eastern States. At Wollongong

the A.I.S. has established six blast furnaces. At the moment the world is over-supplied with steel; and if it becomes necessary to cut down on pig iron production, then the decision will be made in the Eastern States. All things being taken on their face value, if it becomes necessary to cut out one blast furnace in Australia, I think the decision could be to cut out the one at Kwinana, because it would mean a bigger saving so far as the company is concerned. If such an event were to take place it would be disastrous to the Kwinana area, but it is an example of the type of economic problem that is beginning to develop.

The production of items such as nickel and aluminium or alumina is dictated by requirements outside the State. However, as I said earlier, this sort of development must be continued, and it would also be continued if we on this side of the House were the Government. There is another problem, inasmuch as overseas trained executives do not understand the ways of our workers or our way of life, and I think this will cause problems in the future. Where salaries and conditions are arranged in the Eastern States there is likely to be a lack of accepted communication in dealings with the workers in the area, and I would not be surprised to see great industrial trouble developing there.

This also applies to the trade unions. They have been mainly centred here in the past, but they are becoming increasingly national unions and decisions are being made in the Eastern States. We had examples not long ago of sections of the economy of this State being affected by strikes as a result of actions taken by employers and unions in other States. This will be a growing factor as far as we are concerned in Kwinana.

The size of industries is also changing. If we reach the stage in this State as has been reached in the Eastern States—and I hope we do—where we have 15,000 and 20,000 men working in some plants, and if we accept the development that goes with this work force, then we have to accept the fact that we lose so much in human contact and perhaps something in human dignity. In an establishment employing 20,000 people, a man walks into the gate as no-one, and when he walks out he is still no-one. This does not help to make the type of community we have been used to in the past.

Whilst I think the general development in the Kwinana area has been accepted with enthusiasm by the people there, and also by the people of the State, there are a few things which have tended to irritate, worry, and exasperate people in the area. Again, this is not necessarily the fault of the companies there or the Government. Some actions that have been taken by the Government would have been taken by those of us on this side if we were the Government.

I have drawn the attention of members to this fact in the hope that when future legislation comes before the House there will be some tempering of it to make it more palatable to the people in the area. I refer to such matters as surveyors entering properties and pegging without leave, and resumptions continually going on—a matter to be raised shortly.

I have two cases that have been brought to my notice. One concerns a market gardener whose property was resumed by the Labor Government. He built a new house only to find that now a freeway is to pass through the centre of his house. In the other case the person concerned established a small factory, after which his land was resumed. This man built again only to find that his land is again to be resumed. While these things are perhaps necessary, they do create a bad atmosphere. One way of overcoming this sort of situation would be more liaison.

I would make a point here: The Minister for Housing made a chance remark on TV—and I believe him—that he did not know certain activity was taking place in Mandogalup, yet a lot of people in the area did know. This sort of thing tends to worry people and put them on edge.

The Broken Hill Proprietary Company's Integrated Steel Works Agreement Act provides by clause 29 (2) of the agreement another example of this sort of thing. The clause refers to permission to dump slag along the foreshore. This agreement was passed in 1960, so its provisions will be new to many members. Provision is made for slag to be dumped for a distance of 7,500 yards along the coastline, which is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The company may not do this, as other arrangements may be made; but a blank statement like that in an Act tends to make people wonder and worry.

The Alumina Refinery Agreement Act of 1961, which was slightly amended in 1963, contains a provision that subject to the prior approval in writing of the Minister the company will purchase a further area comprising land of not less than 500 acres within two miles of the works site for the purpose of dumping effluent, which is described in the Act as red mud. Again, this is necessary; but in this particular instance, an area of some 300 acres, into which this red mud is piped, has been cleared adjacent to the Medina townsite.

When I first became interested in the Kwinana area I obtained a publication from the Department of Industrial Development which contains a paper written by H. C. Morris, B.E. (Hons.) M.Sc. (Engineering) for the Institute of Engineers, Australia, Annual Engineering Conference, 1965, entitled "Development of the Kwinana Industrial Area, Western Australia." He made this comment—

Although the industrial land around Kwinana is still very open and atmospheric pollution is not a problem,

nevertheless the time must come when air pollution will be a factor to be reckoned with.

The discharge from the steel works, oil refinery, chemical plants, fertiliser works, and related industries will not be pleasant. For this reason a public open space of 2,500 acres running north/south, a mile wide and five miles long, has been preserved between the industrial area and the proposed city of Kwinana to the east.

A mile wide and five miles long. Continuing—

This open space consists of heavily timbered rolling hills, the integrity of which is fully protected for all time by designation in the metropolitan region scheme. Any alteration thereto can only be made with the authority of Parliament.

At the time Miss Feilman drew plans for the Medina area, she described this belt as a filter—and I think that describes it.

I have looked at the Stephenson Plan and noted that on page 235 reference is made to this area, which is described as public open space, but I have found no reference to this land being set aside as a public reserve. But now, 300 acres of this heavily timbered rolling country which runs to within 100 yards of the main road to Medina and to within half a mile of houses in Medina have been cleared. In addition, this cleared area lies in a direct line between the stacks of the alumina works and of the new power station, and the Medina townsite. I would hope that this sort of thing, if possible, could be avoided in the future.

Another matter which came to my attention the other day is a further example of the problem that exists in the area. This concerns the building of a works to make fertiliser. I know the people on the managerial staff and compliment them on their works and the activities they carry out. However, they have a problem in that they have to get rid of 300 tons of gypsum per day. They have permission to discharge this gypsum into the sound.

I have talked to their chemists and have been told there will be no problem as far as gypsum is concerned, because it will not do any harm or damage whatever—and I believe them. However, the fact that 300 tons of gypsum per day will be pumped into the sound must have some effect as far as the thinking of the people living within the area is concerned. When this is added to all of the other factors, people must wonder whether this is a worth-while place in which to live.

Another matter causing concern is the "A"-class reserve which contains the wreck of the *Kwinana*. The Government

in its wisdom declared this area an "A"-class reserve, but when the shire council asked for the area to be enlarged so it could incorporate a caravan park and other facilities, the request was declined because the land was needed for Fremantle Port Authority facilities.

A plan published in *The West Australian* in May, 1966, shows existing jetties very close to this Kwinana "A"-class reserve. One of them to the north is the jetty from which bulk phosphate rock will be discharged; and certainly the houses adjacent have already been affected by dust. The dust must settle on the water and drift to the "A"-class reserve to the south. I quite agree that it is only a tentative plan, but it does make reference to future wharves to the south of the "A"-class reserve, and these are for storage areas for bulk cargo—I presume for bulk wheat and other bulk activities.

The provision of so small a swimming area in the middle of industrial development is surely a waste of time, and this opinion is also expressed in the report from which I have already quoted. The comment is this—

Normally all shore beaches in Western Australia are preserved as far as possible for public recreation and enjoyment. However, under various agreements that have been made in the past, long lengths of coastline at Kwinana have been alienated. It is felt that with sewer outfall works at Woodman's Point to the north, and proposed port facilities to the south, the coastal water of the sound in the vicinity of Kwinana would not be conducive to public enjoyment.

In the long run the waterfront land north of Rockingham will be either too valuable or too polluted for recreation purposes, so that there appears to be no point in retaining narrow beachfront reservations in their present form.

I can quite understand that viewpoint, and from what I can see of the area at the moment I have to agree; but I hope that because of this type of development, the Government will find ways of compensating the people of the area by making other recreational facilities available to them.

The alumina refinery agreement, rushed through in the last days of Parliament of last year, is another example of the attitude upsetting the public in the area. The Point Peron controversy which arose at the end of last year is a further matter which had an effect on the people in the area, particularly the way in which it was brought before the public. I understand that the information became public through newspaper reports, and not through this House.

Finally, as an example, I would like to make reference to a petition which was handed to me some few weeks ago. I showed it to some of my friends, and they were highly amused. Some 130-odd people had signed the petition complaining about land tax rises in the area.

On checking through the petition I found that 17 of those who had signed it did not live in the area. A number of others were in an area which had not had the land tax evaluated for some eight years. A number of others had not signed their name correctly, and a further batch did not even pay land tax because of the occupation carried out on their property.

However, I could not see the humour in this at all. To me it was a manifestation of the state of mind of many of those in the area—not all of them, of course, because many are happy and contented. But, because of the type of activity there, an air of uneasiness exists, and I think this petition was one of the examples which indicate that although the people were not necessarily involved they felt they might be and they thought it was best to get in quickly.

I would now like to raise a few matters, this time helpful ones, in order that the Government might try to assist the people and make the place a more worth-while one in which to live.

I hope the Government will continue with its policy of opening offices overseas. I agree completely with the Premier in setting up an office in Malaya and another in Japan. Obviously if we are to have employment for women and we are to encourage light industry in the area, we must have markets overseas. I cannot see how we can compete at the moment with markets in the Eastern States; I cannot visualise that our industries here will become so efficient that we could export some products back to the Eastern States. Therefore the overseas markets are the ones for which we must aim, and the Government is obviously aware of this fact and has made moves in this direction. I sincerely hope it continues in this vein.

We must attract secondary industries—and particularly light industries—to the area; and again I must congratulate the Government. The Minister for Industrial Development (Mr. Court) was overseas recently and I read with interest the comments he gave to the Press. He visited Italy and Czechoslovakia, from which countries he felt we might be able to attract light industries to Western Australia. I hope that some of these industries will come to the Kwinana area.

There is another facet I would like the Government to consider. The Hawke Government had a similar problem when it was in office. At that time 85 per cent. of the processed food consumed in Western Australia came from the Eastern States, as did some 80 per cent. of clothing, all our

electrical goods, our steel products, and our automotive materials. Because so much of the pay packet of Western Australians was going back to the Eastern States, efforts were made to compel the manufacturers to bring their industries here. I think the method adopted at that stage was to give Government contracts only to those who produced in Western Australia.

The **SPEAKER**: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR: Attempts were made then to check the situation, and they were partly successful, as factories were started in this State, particularly for the production of paint and tyres.

I hope consultations will continue with the industries in the area as to their future planning to encourage them to remain. For example, a newspaper article made reference to the fact that if the proposed Hammersley metallising plant at Dampier is a success and a big market develops for the type of metallised pellets it will produce, and if an efficient new way is found to turn these into steel, pig iron from a blast furnace could eventually become a thing of the past; in other words, with the new technological changes, steel could perhaps be produced in the north and not at Kwinana. I hope the Government will remain in close consultation on this matter.

I suggest the Government study the labour regulations concerning women. These were compiled many years ago—some of them in the 1920s, and earlier—and many are out of date. Many women in the Eastern States are happy to work at weekends and on shift work, but this is not permitted in some industries here. We should revise this legislation and not wait until a crisis occurs.

I agree with the Leader of the Opposition, who made reference to the training of trade union leaders. Money would be well spent in providing scholarships for these leaders because this would help communication between management and workers. The expenditure of \$1,000 to \$20,000, even, on training these people would be recouped one hundredfold if good relations could be established.

I would like the Workers' Compensation Act, and the scaffolding and apprenticeship Acts revised because if this were done it would mitigate disputes and would thus attract labour to the area which would, in turn, make things easier on the people.

I hope there will be greater expenditure on community affairs. For instance, a hospital is needed as soon as possible, as well as a full-time ambulance. I trust more money will be spent on youth in this area than in other areas because of the possible high rate of delinquency which could be experienced. Also I hope the Government will in its wisdom allow greater payments of rates to the shire in

that area because so much of the land involved is now coming under Government control. The shire is finding that whereas once it received a certain amount in rates, this amount has now been greatly reduced because of Government purchases.

I regret that I have had to rush through my remarks. I appreciate I am nearing the end of the time allowed for my speech, so will conclude by quoting from a speech made by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh at the Third Commonwealth Study Conference which was, as members know, attended by some 300 eminent people from all over the world. He had this to say about industry—

The economic and material benefits of industrial development are only too obvious, but these benefits can be bought at a very high price in human existence. There are plenty of examples where every consideration has been subordinate to the needs of industry and where people are housed merely in order to serve industry. It is developments like these which give rise to blight areas and which hardly deserve to be called communities.

The fact is that satisfactory human communities are more important than the industries which provide employment. People do not exist to serve industry, it is the other way around; every industry exists for the benefit of the people. In any new development which involves the employment of people, the first consideration should be the establishment of a viable and satisfactory human community to which the industrial part of the development can offer gainful employment.

I suggest that this become the philosophy of the Government, and I hope it will remain the philosophy of this side of the House also when we have to deal with the many problems in the Kwinana area.

Adjournment of Debate

MR. HALL (Albany) [5.20 p.m.]: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.
Motion put and negatived.

Debate Resumed

MR. HALL (Albany) [5.21 p.m.]: Like previous speakers, I wish to congratulate you, Sir, on attaining the high office of Speaker of this House. However, I might add—humorously—that the wig does not do you justice; it should be modified.

The first subject I would like to touch on is the attitude of the new members from both sides of the House, particularly the younger ones, and the manner in which they have approached the subjects which they have discussed. That approach augurs well for the advancement of Western Australian politics. I feel I must refer to the speech made by the new member

for Mirrabooka on Wednesday, the 7th August, 1968. I think that he, as a new member of the House, who had had experience in Federal politics prior to coming here, exceeded his privileges in his attack on the Leader of the Opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition took no heed of his comments but allowed him to carry on regardless. All new members in making their maiden speeches have enjoyed the privileges extended by this House. I do not think any other new member of this House has taken such advantage of the privileges as to expound on a subject as did the member for Mirrabooka. I think a lot can be said in favour of the Leader of the Opposition for not taking part, and I think his action is commendable. I will not pursue that matter any further, but I would be failing in my duty as a member of Parliament if I did not raise the subject in some way.

I would now like to touch on decentralisation. We must approach this problem with a clear idea of what we intend to do. We are building overways and underways at a tremendous cost to the State—or the Commonwealth, as the case might be. Just what are we achieving? The fact is that by the time the overways and underways are built they will be practically outdated.

In my opinion—for what it is worth—the future of the country lies in establishing industries—and facilities such as education—and everything else that goes with them, in areas where the population can be absorbed without so much congestion. This has been borne out in other countries. Decentralisation of industry is not hard to organise. We could model our approach on Tasmania. In that State the industries are established in different areas, the population is absorbed into those areas, and congestion is avoided.

We are aware that congestion is caused through certain processes, and that it is natural for industries to congregate in certain areas for their own benefit and gain. However, if we do not spread the population out into different areas we will end up in a mess. I think Western Australia has an advantage over all the other States because we have time to rectify the errors made by the other States, and also the errors made in other parts of the world. As the member for Cockburn mentioned, in his maiden speech, we should move the population to an area where there will be less congestion.

We have to give absolute precedence to decentralisation. We should decentralise Government activities, and establishments such as universities. I hope that eventually university colleges will be built in decentralised areas. We cannot hope to attract trained staff to outer areas unless we have facilities, such as housing and schools, so that the people can enjoy the same privileges as those in the metropolitan area enjoy. Recently I met a very

qualified executive who desired to move to the Albany area, but he was not able to obtain suitable accommodation.

That brings me back to the housing problem, and this matter has recently been put forward forcibly by the Leader of the Opposition and defended, in some way, by the Minister for Housing. This is a problem not easily solved. The housing position in Western Australia is acute or even chaotic. I think that Mr. Graham, who was the Labor Minister for Housing, covered this subject very well. Also, during his term as Minister he lifted housing out of the doldrums. However, since this Government has been in office—a period of nine years—it cannot be denied that the housing situation has declined.

That has imposed a terrific burden on our young people; it has caused disruption in the homes of many of them. That statement could be checked easily by reference to divorce proceedings, separations, or whatever it might be. We should all check the list to see what is actually happening. I am sure it is one of the reasons we are going backwards.

The Minister for Industrial Development is not in his seat at the moment, which is rather unfortunate, because I wish to refer to the advancement or progress in our primary industries. I refer particularly to the production of wool in the southern part of the State. I wonder why it is that a scouring works has not been established in the south when five scouring works are situated in Fremantle? It is very difficult to reconcile the existence of five scouring works in Fremantle, where no wool is produced, with the position at Albany where wool is produced and five or six sales are held each year, but no scouring works have been established. It is not common sense. In addition, because it is possible to grow certain types of wool in the south, we could make a blend which the manufacturer could put on the machines without any difficulty or the necessity to alter his framework of machines. As I have said, it is not common sense. I make that statement after having experienced some 30 years in the industry. Herein lies a possibility for decentralised industrial development.

The other point I would like to mention is the development of our mineral sands. I believe I have had some material effect on the steps that are being taken in this field. I have battled for years and raised the question in the House on many occasions. Only recently I found some reaction. A certain man came to visit me and together we had discussions with the Minister. However it has taken at least six and a half to seven years to reach this stage, and the market has been available for at least five years. Something might have been achieved by now, but why has it taken so long?

The other night it was stated that a certain Minister was not in the House. The Minister for Mines is not in this House, I know. The fact is we are now achieving something which has not previously got under way, but it has taken five and a half years to do so. I challenge the Government on its lethargic attitude in this matter.

The other point I wish to mention concerns university colleges and the establishment of another three-year high school in Albany. The question of a university college was mentioned by the Minister for Lands last Saturday in one of the best deliverances I have heard him make. My remarks are congratulatory, and he certainly made a good job of it. He said university colleges would have to come and would obviously have to be established in country areas in order to offset centralisation. I hope the Minister for Lands will support me in this respect. Perhaps the Minister for Education might be a little opposed to the idea, but never mind. If the two Ministers could get together we might get somewhere. It is a progressive move, and well worth considering.

I think the Minister for Education realises now that the population of Western Australia has become rather explosive in country areas, and that serious consideration must be given to a further high school in Albany, particularly a three-year high school.

By way of a question, I asked about the appointment of an inspector for Native Welfare and a welfare officer at Albany. The Minister's answer on that occasion was very vague, as I have had earlier correspondence from him in this respect.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will address the Chair.

Mr. HALL: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. However the correspondence I had previously received from the Minister gave a complete assurance that an inspector and a welfare officer would be appointed. Nevertheless, when replying to my question, the Minister said he knew something was going on, but he did not mention that he had told me in a letter that they would be appointed if suitable accommodation could be supplied.

The position in Albany has now reached very serious proportions. The native population has almost doubled because many have migrated from Gnowangerup to Albany. Consequently the position has become acute and it is very necessary that some adjustments should be made. I hope the Minister will give serious consideration to the point which I raised and which he answered by way of correspondence; yet when replying to my question, he only said that he knew something was going on in this connection.

I terminate my short contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate with the points I have mentioned. I ask that serious consideration be given to them.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Runciman.

House adjourned at 5.40 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 20th August, 1968

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

SUPPLY ACT

Assent

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator received and read notifying assent to the Act.

QUESTIONS (11): ON NOTICE

ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Albany Operators

1. The Hon. E. C. HOUSE asked the Minister for Mines:

Would the Minister ascertain from the Minister for Transport—

- (a) a list of the names of the hauliers and transport businesses based at Albany or in the Albany Shire who pay road maintenance tax;
- (b) the average monthly payment to the maintenance tax fund of each of the named persons or companies for 1967-68;
- (c) the gross total paid by all persons and companies based at Albany and in the Albany Shire for 1967-68;

South Province: Allocations

- (d) is it correct that the main proportion of cartage done by the above carriers would be in the Albany, Plantagenet, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Ravensthorpe, Nyabing, and Esperance Shires;
- (e) the figures of main roads grants to each of these shires for 1966-67 and 1967-68; and
- (f) the allocation of maintenance money to each of the above shires from the road maintenance tax fund during 1967-68?