

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 14th August, 1963

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

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

METROPOLITAN REGION PLAN

Availability of Copies to Members

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY asked the Minister for Town Planning:

Is it proposed that copies of this very fine plan which has been laid on the Table of the House will be made available to members for their permanent record?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

We are taking the risk, of course, that this scheme will be accepted by Parliament, and arrangements are being made for about 1,500 copies of the main pages to be printed, together with possibly 1,000 or more of the ordinary ones. These will be made available to members of Parliament together with a copy of the text, which I think they have in their possession at the moment. I cannot guarantee that bound copies, similar to the one on the Table of the House, will be made available to members.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

PASTORAL LEASES

Number Boundary-surveyed

1. The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) What number of the 1,888 pastoral leases comprised in the 558 stations in the State have been boundary-surveyed?

Stations Inspected by Officers of Lands Department

(2) What number of the 558 station properties in the State have been inspected by officers of the Lands Department in the past five years to ascertain condition of fencing, water supplies, and improvements, as well as the condition of the country?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Very few. In most cases parts of the boundaries only would be surveyed, usually to resolve disputes.
(2) 352 inspections covering 338 station properties.

CANNING HIGHWAY

Danger to Traffic and Pedestrians at The Esplanade Intersection

2. The Hon. R. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Mines:

What plans have the Main Roads Department to give relief to the difficulties and dangers at present being experienced by traffic and pedestrians endeavouring to enter or cross Canning Highway at the intersection of The Esplanade and Canning Highway, Canning Bridge?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The Main Roads Department has at present no firm proposals in respect of this section of Canning Highway. A number of alternatives are under consideration and these will be reviewed with the local authority before firm decisions are taken.

PROSPECTORS: GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY SCHEME

Number Assisted and Amount Paid

3. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) How many prospectors received assistance under the Government subsidised scheme for the year ended the 30th June, 1963?

(2) What was the cost and how much money was paid to the prospectors under the scheme for this period?

Gold Produced

- (3) What number of fine ounces of gold was produced in the year by prospectors working under the scheme?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) 42.
- (2) £12,269 8s. 4d. as scheme sustenance, but other forms of assistance such as cartage subsidy, loan of tools, etc., also apply.
- (3) 705 oz. 15 dwt.

PUMPING STATIONS*Establishment at Chidlow and Grass Valley*

4. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister inform the House—

- (1) Under the terms of contract for the construction of pumping stations at Chidlow and Grass Valley for the Goldfields and Country Water Supply Department:
 - (a) when is construction to be started; and
 - (b) when is it anticipated to be completed, at
 - (i) Grass Valley; and
 - (ii) Chidlow?

Extension of Power Line to Chidlow

- (2) Subject to terms of the contract for the Chidlow pumping station, when is it anticipated that the State Electricity Commission will be extending a power line to Chidlow for the pumping station?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) The contract date for completion is the 1st June, 1964, for both the Chidlow and Grass Valley pumping stations.

It is anticipated that preliminary work will begin on the sites in February, 1964.

- (2) Power will be required at the sites in May, 1964.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY*Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 13th August, on the following motion by The Hon. A. R. Jones:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator in

reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver:—

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

THE HON. J. DOLAN (West) [4.39 p.m.]: When opening the 29th Parents and Citizens' Association conference held on the 6th August, 1962, the Minister for Education had this to say—

More attention must be paid to education. It is primarily education which will decide whether we are going to rush on to doom, or to a better world.

Those remarks impressed me so much that I thought I would make some of the problems of education, not only in this State but also in Australia, one of the talking points of my contribution to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

I sought further authority to see whether these problems really did exist; to try to discover the place of education in the scheme of things. The first such authority I met was Dr. Evans of the South Australian Institute of Technology, who had this to say—

The future of the world is to those countries which have the best systems of education.

Looking a little further I noticed that Sir Mark Oliphant had this to say—

Education is a most important activity of living man, but receives far less attention than military and economic problems.

Before I start on my theme, I would like to point out that what I am about to say is perfectly non-political. I will neither offer nor imply any criticisms whatever of this Government, any previous Governments, the Education Department, or any of its officers. I feel that with the limited finance at its disposal over the years, the Education Department has done an excellent job; and I will also be perfectly fair and say that Government after Government has spent more money on education than on any other avenue of expenditure. So, from that point of view, I could never offer any criticism.

I feel we have to move now if we are going to prevent Australia from becoming a backward nation; and I would say that education is the greatest problem that is confronting us. This is not obvious to lots of people; so we should start in Parliament to educate the people and those who have

the purse strings in order that they will loosen them up and allow education to take its rightful place in this country.

What are those problems? Might I quote Dr. Jackson, who is a professor of research and head of the research department of graduate studies in Ontario, Canada? He spent four months in Australia in 1960, and the first of his criticisms—if one might call them that—was that in this country we have too many children in too many classes. I could quote figures of our own metropolitan area to indicate that this is a serious problem, but I would prefer to spend my time telling the House why it is a problem.

The other evening I listened to the new Archbishop-elect of Perth speaking on T.V., and in relation to religious education in schools he said he hoped he would get sufficient recruits so that in the State schools his teachers would be able to take classes of 20, 25, or 30—and that was the maximum number he mentioned. There are so few classes of 30 children in the schools of Western Australia today that a statement like that coming from such an authority should cause us to think about the benefits of small classes in the educational system of Western Australia.

I put these points forward so that members will realise what a problem it is. Members know that if one wishes to gain some information here, the easiest thing to do is to walk across the House and speak to the Minister or some member who can give that information.

With a big class that is an impossibility. I suppose the average time of a teaching period in a class would be 40 minutes; and if a teacher were in charge of a class of 40 children, members will realise that after teaching a lesson there would be very little time to devote to individual children who were finding difficulty. I would say that is the difference between good education and bad education. When teaching, one finds the child who experiences difficulties; and if the teacher is able to sit with that child for a moment in order to explain those difficulties, that child might be guided in the right direction with regard to its education.

If the children continue with doubts in their minds, it must be obvious to all of us that that will be the commencing point of their backwardness in education. The second point I make is this: The bigger the number of children—and this is probably where they are different from sheep—the bigger the problem of discipline. If there is good discipline in our schools some of the anti-social problems of today will be eliminated as a lot of those problems start by virtue of the fact that the children do not receive the proper disciplinary training in schools. We must realise, too, that if a teacher has 40 or 50 children in a class, most of his or her time is going

to be spent in additional marking, and that time would be better spent in giving individual instruction.

That leads me to say that more children in classes must be eliminated so that we can get down to small classes. Small classes mean more teachers; and more teachers mean more money. In regard to the financial point of view, I will return later and offer some suggestions to the House of ways in which I think the problem might be overcome, and ways in which I think we have a just claim on the Commonwealth for primary, secondary, and technical education. I noticed with a lot of satisfaction that a site for a new teachers' college has been selected, and it is proposed in the near future to start building that training college.

Might I say at this stage there will be no shortage of teachers for that college. Last year 109 Students who were well qualified academically were denied entrance to the teachers' college. If we supplement that figure by the number of children who will be leaving at the end of this year, and subsequent years, we can see there will be no problems so far as future teachers for this college are concerned.

I have had considerable experience in schools, and I would say the quality of the students coming from the teachers' colleges today excels the quality of any I have seen in my association of 40 years with the profession. The trainee teacher of today is academically superior to most of those over the last 40 years. They hold very high qualifications so far as University degrees and those things are concerned. They are very mature; and I feel they are more dedicated than the teachers have been in any other period over the last 40 years.

I have been particularly pleased at the end of the training period to call these teachers—men and women—to the office to have a few words with them. I have always congratulated them on the fine work they have done in school; and it was obvious they would be destined to have a successful career. It always gave me pleasure to say to them, "If you gentlemen, and particularly you ladies, care to come back to this school next year, you will be received with open arms." I think the lady members of the group always appreciated those remarks.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Did any come back?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Yes. There were two this year, and I would say they were two of the finest young teachers I have seen on any staff.

That leads me to the point of saying that when the new college is opened, the period of training will have to be extended to three years for all teachers. From the

time they finish their secondary education until they are accomplished teachers they will have to spend at least three years in training. There is an additional reason why this is necessary. In the United Kingdom the educational authorities, with regard to teachers who finish their training after 1963, will not accept them unless they have had three years' training. Therefore, if we do not institute a three-year training course, teachers from here will be at a disadvantage if they go to the United Kingdom to further their teaching experience.

I feel that the Commonwealth Government has shied off the question of finance for primary, secondary, and technical training. Under the Murray scheme it has accepted some responsibility for the financing of universities, and yet it will religiously not support the other branches of learning. I suggest that it has this responsibility.

Might I say that in the course of my travels over the years I have met many students who have been associated with the Snowy River Scheme and hydro-electric development in Tasmania who were trained either at our Perth Technical College or at the Goldfields School of Mines; and those students are held in the highest esteem wherever they go. Authorities recognise their qualifications just as they do those of University graduates. If we are prepared to support a university at the highest level, we must be prepared to support technical training which produces students who are at the same high level from the point of view of qualifications.

The second responsibility of the Commonwealth Government so far as technical training is concerned involves defence, which is entirely a Commonwealth Government matter. We know that in a modern defence scheme the number of technicians, artificers, technologists, and scientists is enormous, and this number cannot be trained in the schools which are run by the Army, Navy or the Air Force. It seems obvious that in connection with any great scheme of national defence, the bulk of the men who are going to be required must be trained in technical schools. From that point of view I would say that the Commonwealth Government has an obligation to provide funds.

Some of the biggest industrial concerns in Australia support technical training and provide scholarships for outstanding students. I could instance I.C.I., the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, and the Shell and the B.P. oil companies.

As a matter of fact only recently—within the last fortnight or three weeks—a young man whom I know very well—he is the son of one of our Education Department superintendents—was

awarded a scholarship worth £4,000 by the B.P. oil organisation. The scholarship is to enable him to study in Cambridge, England, at the Cavendish laboratories. He is an outstanding student. He took a science degree with first class honours and gained distinctions in each of his nine subjects. He was such an outstanding student that the B.P. organisation decided that although it was the first occasion it had provided money for students in Western Australia, it could not let the opportunity go by without helping such an outstanding student.

There are in Australia today industrial corporations and companies which are making enormous profits, running into millions of pounds. It might be interesting to find out what practical support they give to men who are being trained in our technical institutions and universities. It is about time those who run these big concerns were told that one of their greatest avenues for investment lies in education; because it is the educated man who makes their money for them. If we can persuade those companies to allocate a percentage of their enormous profits for the advancement of education in this country, the companies will reap rich dividends, and so will our country.

This country has played an enormous part in world affairs educationally. There are many names of world renown which come to my mind. I have here a list of names, and I am sure that Dr. Hislop would be able to add to it. I mention Sir Henry Newland, probably the father of plastic surgery and modern operational skills in Australia. We have had outstanding engineers, for instance, Sir John Monash, who established the Yallourn project and saw it brought to fruition; Dr. Bradfield, the designer of the Harbour Bridge in Sydney; Sir Marc Oliphant, the renowned nuclear physicist; Sir Harward Florey, the co-discoverer of penicillin; and Sir Macfarlane Burnett, who shared the Nobel Prize in 1960. What great names they are, and what a wonderful advertisement for Australia! But how many more men of such calibre could we have given to the world if we had a system of education which would allow our young men to receive better training. There is a platitude used among visiting physicians and surgeons, who say "there is no heart or brain operation, no matter how delicate, that top Australian doctors and surgeons cannot perform." If we can harness this immense potential which exists among our future citizens, we will make a worldwide contribution which will be outstanding.

Judged by world standards, Australia makes a very poor contribution to education. The only two countries of Europe which spend a smaller percentage of

their national income on education are Spain and Portugal. All other countries in Europe—and in North America—spend considerably more. Surely we can educate our people to make sacrifices! Surely we can educate the Commonwealth Government to loosen its purse strings so that Australia can hold its head high and say that on education it spends as much as any other country in the world! If we do that we will not be standing still; we will not be stagnating but will be making real progress.

Economists have said there are three factors which decide what the standard of living is going to be. The first factor is the fertility of a country, its water supplies, its minerals, its oil deposits, and so on. That is the first factor which determines our standard of living. It is obvious that all those things would remain inert unless we had qualified men to develop them. We have had to send for experienced men from overseas; we have had to seek elsewhere for men to develop our north. That should not be necessary in this country. We have the finest young people in the world, and we should not permit any wastage of that wonderful material which we have right on our doorstep.

The second factor is the labour one. The day of the ordinary labourer has passed. Men of the future have to be trained. There have to be competent technicians, and men competent in the field of automation. The ordinary "wood and water joey", as we used to call him, is receding further and further into the background. If we do not move forward we will be left out of the race for a supreme place in world affairs.

The third factor is capital. We cannot accumulate capital unless we have trained, educated men guiding our destiny; men who can make capital accumulate. From that point of view alone I make the plea that we should approach the great organisations and ask them to invest in education, because education is the biggest producer they will find.

Finally I would say this: We must never be narrow in our educational outlook. Some people are quite content to refer to the three "R's" as being the most important aspects of education. They have their place, of course, but all the other factors that go to make a completely educated person are an absolute necessity in the modern world.

We have to train the youth of today to occupy his or her leisure time profitably; that is why it is necessary in our schools to continue the teaching and the study of the arts, hobbies of all kinds, music, whether orchestral or instrumental, drama, and the various skills. All these things must be part and parcel of our educational system so that the children, when they leave school, will have something to occupy their time.

One of the greatest causes of delinquency is when people are listless and have no means of occupying their time profitably. In my view we must broaden the education given in our schools so that those who leave are more equipped to face the modern world.

I leave this sober thought with members—and I use the word "sober" advisedly—that in 1960-61 we spent on education in Australia less than £200,000,000. Yet I read in the paper the other week that for the year ended the 30th June, 1963, we spent £274,000,000 on liquor. If this country can afford to spend £74,000,000 a year more on liquor than on education I feel we have a case that we can put to the Australian people. The ordinary Australian will listen at any time if anyone can present a logical case to him and show that he must spend money in a certain direction. If the case is a good one he is prepared to follow the lead that is given, and we in Parliament should give that lead and if we do I am sure he will follow.

I believe there are many parents today who want all aspects of education for their children without being prepared to pay for it. I paid for my children's education, and there is a big percentage of the people who still do pay for their children's education. They feel it is worth while. One of the television shows I like to look at on Sunday nights is "Newsreel". On one particular night a film showed two little girls starting a day on a dairy farm. These two children jumped on their horses, brought the cows in, and helped with the milking. After having breakfast they got ready for school. They mounted their horses and with their father they went down to the river. I think it was the Shoalhaven River on the south coast of New South Wales.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: It wasn't South Coogee?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: No; it was not South Coogee. I thought I would leave that in the background and members could have their own thoughts on it. These children rode down to the river and when they reached there they dismounted from their horses, got on a flying fox and were carried across the river. It was quite a long way, too, and the flying fox looked like a magnificent piece of construction. Their father took them across the river and when they reached there they waved goodbye and they still had nine more miles to go to school.

I would say that man was a typical Australian citizen and he has had his interest aroused. We have so many Australian citizens whose interest is not aroused because we have never put the position fairly and squarely to them. If we put the position of education in this country straightforwardly before the Australian citizen I feel he will respond;

and if he has to make sacrifices to ensure that his children, and the rest of the children in Australia, get the benefits of an excellent education we will have no trouble in asking him to loosen his purse strings.

I leave that theme and would now like to discuss my second theme, which arises from a communication I received from the South Perth City Council in relation to hooliganism in that district. I am a little surprised that that sort of thing should be going on in South Perth. I could imagine people saying it about some other parts of the metropolitan area but I was always under the impression, even when a young fellow, that South Perth did not have that sort of problem. Evidently those problems come not only from the poorer class of home but also from homes where one would not expect that sort of thing. I answered the letter and told the council that during the Address-in-Reply debate I hoped to give my views on hooliganism and the anti-social aspects of that type of behaviour.

I noticed that in answer to a question asked in the other Chamber, with reference to the same subject, extra police patrols are being provided and it is felt that the problem will solve itself. That is not so. Policing never solves any problems. It is like a teacher being in a room. I could go to a room where a minister was teaching a class of 80 children, and if I sat at the back of the room there would be discipline. However, that is a form of coercion and it does not solve problems. As soon as the police leave a certain area the problem arises again. So we must get down to the real causes of these problems and see whether we, and the people in authority, can do something to solve them.

We hear, of course, that the trouble starts in the home. I should like to tell a little story in this regard so that I can show members how trouble can start in the home. It happened that one day I was in a store where all kinds of mechanical toys and things that interest children were sold. A well-dressed couple walked into the store and they had two very charming children with them. The lady started off by saying to the shop girl, "We both work and we want the children to get the things that will occupy them while we are away." The shop girl brought article after article which she showed to them, but the lady always found some excuse for not buying. Eventually she said to the girl, "I am afraid you don't know what we want, otherwise you would be able to suggest something." Then the girl said, "I know what the children want but I am afraid we can't supply it in this store. What those children want is a father and mother."

I say that that is one of the reasons why trouble sometimes ensues—it is not always the reason for it, however. The second

point is that many of these children who today are causing trouble—and I am referring to them as children although they would be more in the teenage group, and around the 18-20 mark—are the product of the last war. They were born either during the war or during that disturbing period in the world just after the war. During the period when probably they needed a strong guiding hand they were not getting it, and today we are reaping the crop, if I may term it as such, of what was then sown.

That is why I would say to the South Perth City Council that the problem is not solved when we provide police surveillance; the trouble is solved when we get down and solve the initial problems. In the long run that would be a more economic method than the one we are adopting today.

The child of today also has to contend with all kinds of rubbish that he can read, whether it be in sections of the Press, in books, comic strips, or in the pornographic literature that one sees in almost every newsagency. They are the sorts of things that are disturbing the children of today, and they are the influences that set them on the wrong track and cause many of the troubles with which we are faced. The sooner strong action is taken to remove some of these causes the sooner we will get back to the children living a fuller life.

Other problems such as housing also come into the question. If children have a good home atmosphere, and good parents, they can take their friends home and be happy to have them there. If the home is well furnished and has all modern amenities the children are not likely to be found on the streets or in milk bars causing trouble; they will find their pleasures in a good atmosphere. We should go further back and look at the problem from that particular point of view.

Films, of course, have been a contributing factor over the years. They glorify certain aspects of life, such as the neurotic type, the divorcee type, and the gunman type, which the native children enjoy so much, but which our children should not have to see.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: And the Christine Keelers.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The final point, of course, is the influence of TV. That is one aspect of education to which particular attention must be given. Audio-visual education is one of the greatest means of educating a child's mind, and in the schools today there is a wonderful system of moving pictures in which educational films, and films of interest, such as travelogues and those depicting life in other countries, are shown, and they have a marvellous influence on the children's minds.

We have to face up to the fact that no matter what we think of TV it is here to stay, and we should use it to the best advantage of the growing youth of Australia. We must educate them in the schools to use TV wisely. That can be done, of course. It can start with the Education Department, and it needs money, of course. I often think what a wonderful feeling a Minister for Education would have if he had unlimited money at his disposal; and what a wonderful feeling he would get when we went to him and asked for certain things and he was able to say, "All right; we can do that for you immediately." I know that the money is not available, but we must do something to see that we make it available; because we will always have these problems with us unless we face up to them and apply the remedies which are necessary.

We have to play a part; everybody in this House must give a lead if we are to advance the cause of education and make the people conscious of its great need. We must promote it—that is what we are here for. We must tell the people of education's needs and encourage them to make sacrifices. Might I suggest that on all occasions when any member goes anywhere—to a P. & C. meeting, a meeting of the mothers' league, or any other meeting—and the opportunity occurs, he or she should plug for the need for education. We must make the people conscious of the great need for education; and, if we do that we, as members, will be doing this country a great service. It will be one of the greatest services that we can render to the community, and Australia as a whole.

Before I resume my seat I would like to thank you, Sir, and all members of all parties, and all officers of the House for the great kindness and tolerance that you and they have shown to me as a new member. I realise I have a terrific lot to learn, but having been a scholar all my life, I am willing to learn. I thank all members when they put me on the right path. I support the motion.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: A very good speech.

THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON (Suburban) [5.14 p.m.]: I should like to congratulate Mr. Dolan on his maiden speech and welcome him as a new member. I also extend a welcome to the other new member, Mr. Dellar. I am sure, after listening to their speeches, that they will be an asset to this House. Mr. Dolan spoke on some matters that I too wish to discuss, and I shall speak on them this evening. In that way we get divergent views on a subject and it helps us to appreciate it.

One of the first notes I have is in regard to hooliganism. I am most disturbed about the development of hooliganism, vandalism, and larrikinism in our society

today. It is shocking. The adolescent delinquency which now exists had its genesis in the last world war; and contrary to what the Minister said recently in this House the parents are not solely responsible. War is the most destructive force which any society has to counter; it always brings about a destructive trait among the people.

The adolescent delinquents of today were born in the 1940's, immediately after the last world war. They were born under most insecure conditions, and some of them have not even seen their fathers. Our society went through a most devastating period in World War II. These people were born when the housing situation was extremely bad, and when the last thing couples seeking housing accommodation wanted was a child. These conditions must have an effect on the present-day society as a whole.

It is no good trying to pinpoint the blame and say the parents are at fault. Juvenile or adolescent delinquency is a sickness in our society, and it is a problem with which we have to grapple. We cannot say that no more police officers are required to preserve law and order, and put off the problem in that way. We all know that the Police Force is required to preserve the law, and that an adequate force is the first requisite for the preservation of order in our society.

The Minister for Police should consider very carefully the depletion of the Police Force in this State. I say that many more men are required in the force to maintain law and order. The adolescents of today who are causing all the trouble are suffering from a social sickness, just as surely as one suffers from influenza or a similar disease. We should tackle this problem through education, with a view to bringing about greater stability, because, after all, these very children and adolescents will be the parents of tomorrow. If the problem is not alleviated or solved, then the vicious circle will continue.

Unemployment is one of the most devastating aspects to be encountered by people in life. When a man cannot sell his labour to supply his needs, he has little indeed. Today in this State there are thousands of adolescents who cannot get a job. It seems they are not wanted by society. The worst form of social illness is to indicate to children that they are not wanted in our society; and that is done when society cannot offer them the means of earning a livelihood.

It is the job of Governments, irrespective of their political complexion, to find employment for their people. Any Government which cannot meet this condition does not deserve to govern. I do not agree with the idea which has been put forward that this or that economic condition

brought about the present unemployment position. Just as a good housekeeper manages her house efficiently, so a good Government manages the affairs of a nation. It is given the duty to find sufficient employment for the people; and that question cannot be begged. There would be work for all the people of this State if the Government was a good housekeeper. The first function of a Government is to find work for the people, and to avoid waste.

We waste more of our national income in handing out dole and sustenance to the people than if we created more work for them. It must be remembered that increased work brings about still more employment. That brings me to the question of adolescent delinquency, which is with us today. It has been brought about to a great extent by the lack of employment offering, by insufficient education, and by inadequate support of our University and technical colleges.

I know one family with six children, living not far from me. The children are brilliant and have all passed the Leaving examination, but their parents cannot afford to continue their education at the University or technical college. Such cases should not be permitted to occur, because education is the first prerequisite to a stable society.

We find that year after year the fees of the University of this State are increased and today university education has been priced beyond the working man's pocket. Children of working parents cannot receive higher education unless they are able to obtain scholarships. We all know of University students who have to take on part-time work to help to pay for the cost of their education, and we read about the tragic event which happened recently when a University student went out baby-sitting. A student going through the University should be able to put his mind fully to his studies; he should be given that opportunity, and he should not be forced to take on outside work.

Greater facilities for education should be provided for the people so that our society can be lifted to a higher plane. We are not short of brains for learning, but we seem to be short of brains in providing the things required by the people.

In 1954 when I became a member of this House, the Labor Government passed rents and tenancy legislation, and it was subsequently defeated in this Chamber. That was one piece of legislation which would have helped to prevent the growth of delinquency in our society.

At that time I was connected with the letting of flats and rooms, and I was able to see the misery which existed. What were definitely not wanted by landlords were tenants with children. Usually the first question asked by a landlord was,

"Do you have any children?" What happened to couples with children was this: they had to take back verandahs and substandard accommodation to house themselves. Under those circumstances one might ask, how would the children grow up? Well, how would a flower in a garden look if it was deprived of the things needed to make the plant grow strong?

The provision of a home is the first prerequisite of society, and it is the fulcrum from which all good things spring. If people cannot be provided with adequate housing and are forced to live in crowded and substandard conditions, then measures will have to be taken by the Government to remedy the position. When the previous Labor Government took office, the Minister for Housing (Mr. Graham) undertook to overcome the housing shortage in three years. He very nearly achieved that objective. In my view the greatest misfortune which has befallen Western Australia was the unseating of the previous Labor Government. Now we seem to be back to where we were in regard to housing, and there is as much misery around as there was in 1954.

I know that members supporting the Government do not like to hear these things said, but they cannot stop me. In 1954 when I first entered this House the Labor Government was rapidly overcoming the housing shortage, and it was indeed a black day when that Government went out of office.

I made some inquiries regarding the expenditure on education in various countries. I must have been on the same line of thought as Mr. Dolan. I found that 8 per cent. of the national income is spent on education in Russia; 4 per cent. in the United Kingdom; 3 per cent. in New Zealand; but only 1.8 per cent. in Australia. We should hang our heads in shame. I am sure Australia can do much better than that. In view of the paucity of the Education Vote, we should not place all the blame on parents for the delinquency of their children.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Would the 1.8 per cent. applying to Australia include the amount spent on education in private schools?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: These figures show the amount that has been spent on education in the various countries. They were arrived at after surveys had been made.

I now turn to the recent disturbances which took place at a snack bar in South Perth. I have read the reports which appeared in the Press, and I am of the opinion that the adolescents and children concerned do not all come from the South Perth district. I think they come from

all the suburbs. To cope with such situations the police force should be reinforced, and that is an urgent necessity.

Police officers should be trained in sufficient number so that they can be sent out in strength—not in pairs—to cope with disturbances such as these. It is most imperative to have more officers in the force to prevent the increasing outbreaks of larrikinism. I myself have seen girls being forced off the footpaths in the city by larrikins, and we will not achieve very much in preventing such acts unless we have a police force of greater strength.

I now turn to a subject I discussed earlier; that is, the bonds put up by female teachers. In a previous session of Parliament I introduced a Bill to alter the conditions of such bonds, but I was asked to withdraw it after the Minister had undertaken to take some steps to meet my requirements. I wanted no distinction to be drawn between a male and a female teacher, and under our educational set-up there is nothing to prevent a male teacher from marrying after he has left training college.

In New South Wales there is nothing to prevent a female teacher from marrying during the period of her bond. If she marries during that time she is given two more years in which to complete her bond. Should she have a child she is given something like four months leave of absence, two before the birth and two after the birth. That scheme has worked very well in New South Wales. My own granddaughter married whilst she was teaching, but that did not interfere with her work. She was able to work out her bond under the two years' extension.

The Minister for Education, for some reason, decided to halve the amount of the bond, so that if a female teacher marries within the period she is still liable under the bond, which, in some cases, still amounts to over £700. I want to prevent female teachers, in these circumstances, from being sacked by the department; I want them to be granted time to work out their bond if they wish.

If a person enters into a contract to train for a position and puts up a bond, there is no reason why he should not abide by it; but, biologically, women have a different function from men. That was the reason for my asking for the female teachers in this State to be placed on the same basis as their counterparts in New South Wales—to give them more time to work out their bonds. In New South Wales, if a female teacher bears a mentally-afflicted or crippled child she can be released from the bond.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Don't you think she should look after the child?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am making this speech, not the honourable member. I think this is a very wrong

thing the Minister has done. Of course I know the whole crux of the matter. Rather than have equality of any sort in the Public Service, the Government has skipped all around the place to avoid it. As I have said, a female teacher is immediately sacked and is still liable for the money. Whether she has to pay it or not is of no account; it is the principle to which I object.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What was the position in respect of this matter under your Labor Minister for Education?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I have already pointed that out; but what does that matter? We must move forward. I suppose if I had not been here no-one would have raised the matter even now.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I think you could well take a leaf out of the previous speaker's book and be fairer in your approach.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am here as a member in my own right and am entitled to make my own speech. I am taking a leaf out of no-one's book.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is a pity.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I will continue to make my speech unless you, Mr. President, stop me. This whole matter should be studied, and I will contemplate what I will do about it later. I am not very happy at all and believe I was let down by the Minister. He stated that if I withdrew my Bill something along the lines of my proposal would be done. But this was not achieved.

I come now to the very sad subject of flooding. I have here copies of the photographs which appeared in the paper. These photographs were taken of the flooding at Morley Park, and if anyone would like to see them they are available for perusal. A lady gave them to me today and asked me to bring them in. I told her that they had been in the paper and I did not think I would be able to table them but that I would make them available for anyone who was interested to see them.

I have been sent for day after day in connection with this flooding. When I spoke on the subject during the debate on the Supply Bill, Mr. Robinson asked me whether I knew that this water was being pumped out. However, the area where the pump is in operation is just as bad as ever it was. There were two pumps which were quite inadequate. The lady of the house and her daughter have been keeping three-hourly vigils all night to keep the pump going; and, I understand, they are supplying the fuel. Despite this, however, the position is just the same as it was before.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Why don't you be fair? The position is not the same as it was.

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

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: It is as bad today as it was before.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: You are trying to stir up trouble.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I do not know whether the honourable member thinks I am telling untruths. If he does he should take his car out there and look for himself.

On page 2127 of the third volume of *Hansard* for 1958, The Hon. A. F. Griffith, when a member of the Opposition, asked the then Minister for Railways—

When does the Government intend to commence the drainage of the Morley Park area, and also the area known as Brown's Swamp?

The Hon. H. C. Strickland replied—

Morley Park drainage cannot be considered until the Brown's Lake portion of this scheme is completed. Work has commenced on the Brown's Lake portion.

Brown's Lake is at the back of my place. Before this project was completed, the Government changed hands and evidently the present Government did not do any more about the very question asked by Mr. Griffith. This Morley Park section is the area which is very heavily and badly flooded at the moment. I went to two places today, one of them being Woodrow Avenue. It has been said that there is no health hazard in this area, but I would contradict this statement.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: You know more than the health inspector, of course.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I will give the name and address of the gentleman concerned if it is required. I went to Morley Park and it is just as bad as it was before, and Hampton Park is worse.

I want to say this—and this is my contribution to the debate: No Government, and I mean no Government, has a right to allow land to be sold in any area where it is known quite well that the people will suffer as these people are suffering in this area today.

The septic systems are flooded and are in an appalling condition, but the Minister today cannot do anything; but he asked what the Labor Government would do. We went ahead and drained Brown's Lake but the present Government did not carry on the project in Morley-Dianella. The area needs deep drainage; it is an urgent necessity to which the Government should give immediate attention, as there is no other answer. It is certainly no good putting

in a couple of pumps, because that has not solved the problem, and the people out there are on the point of revolution.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Nonsense!

The Hon. L. A. Logan: We can take the money from the Education Vote to do it.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I know it is not nice for those on the Government side to have to hear these truths.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: You are only bringing up rubbish.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I would ask for a withdrawal of that remark.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Let the honourable member make his own speech when he is on his feet.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: He hasn't made one yet.

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

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I take it that Mr. Robinson is implying that I am telling lies.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: I didn't say that at all.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I say that the position is terrible in Morley Park and is a health hazard.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: It is not a health hazard.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: When we are on the Opposition side of the House it is our business to be vigilant, and that is what I am being now.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Is that not where they are increasing the rates?

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Yes, according to tonight's paper.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: When Labor was in office, I invited Mr. Tonkin to visit the area, which he did, and he was responsible for the installation of the deep drainage, and he used the sewerage mains to drain the flood waters in the emergency in this area to which I have referred, and this did relieve the situation.

The folk in Kensington Street have lived for weeks under shocking conditions. If I were there I would just about go mad. One child has a bad throat and others are sickening. These people have to use planks to get out of their door. But in spite of all this, all that has been done is that a pump, which is absolutely inadequate, has been placed there.

An approach was made to Mr. Toms who rang up to try to obtain a big pump from the department, but he was told that there was not one available. I want to know whether the Minister can do something like that so that these people will be able to get outside their door without the use of planks.

I have not accused the honourable member in front of me, but if I stated everything I knew about him, you, Mr. President, would probably order me to resume my seat.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: What do you mean by that?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am referring to your rudeness to the householders.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: You know very well—

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

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I want some answer from the Minister and the Government. One deputation has already been taken to the Government. I have been asked to introduce another but it is no use doing this. I want some help and satisfaction given me. I want to know that these things will at least be relieved in some way and people will not be bogged down in their own homes.

When the question of subdividing this land was raised, the Minister was most vocal. Big business was involved. What was the use of telling a British migrant that there were ti trees and blackboys on the land? How would a migrant know that they were swamp trees? But this is what they said when they sold the blocks to these people.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: When you say "they sold the blocks" to whom are you referring?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am referring to any of the agents who sold them. They had no right to sell them when they knew the condition they were in.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I thought you were blaming me for that, too.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: That was nine years ago.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I want something done out there, urgently. I am being worried every day by these people and I can understand their misery. I hope some cognisance will be taken by the member of the Perth Shire Council in this House, and by the Government. I notice that the shire council rates are to go up.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: You do not live in the area, so why worry?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: This is my area.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: You do not live there, thank Heavens!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am the member representing most of those living in the shire of Perth. In tonight's *Daily News* appears the following article:—

Shire Rates Go Up.

Ratepayers in the Shire of Perth will have to pay more rates in the coming financial year.

The rate has been increased from 4.77d. to 5.33d. in the £1.

The increase in the rates was decided on at a meeting of Perth Shire Council yesterday. The rate-increasing motion was carried by seven votes to three with deputy president Dr. M. Starke and Councillors M. Lynch and A. Rigg opposing it.

Shire president H. R. Robinson M.L.C. was not present at the meeting which considered the 1963-64 budget and fixed the rate.

Sanitary charges were increased from £12 to £15 and the rubbish removal charge was increased by 7s. 6d. to £2 12s. 6d.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: You are paying sixpence in Bayswater.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am talking about the Shire of Perth at the moment. I say that if another penny was added and the flood situation was alleviated the ratepayers would be happy to pay the extra penny.

These are the things that are a worry in my district, and I am hoping that something reasonable and positive will be done by the Minister and by the members of the Government responsible for the area.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Most of the water is coming from Bayswater, you know.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I thought most of it came from the sky.

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

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I do not care whether it comes from Timbuctoo. What does it matter whether it comes from Bayswater, Mt. Lawley, or elsewhere? I am talking about the situation which exists now. There has been a deputation to the Minister from those in Bayswater.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: I was on it. You were not.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: When I was at Woodrow Avenue, a pipe was draining some water away and I want to know where it was being drained to. As far as I could see it was being drained on to someone else's land.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: You are completely wrong. It was going on to an unmade road, so you are completely wrong again.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I thought that Mrs. Hutchison was supposed to be giving the speech.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: It is causing flooding. Woodrow Avenue was widened and no cognisance was taken of the drainage problem with the result that it is now flooded.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: I will get my engineer to call and see you.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am sick of engineers lately.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): I will ask members to discontinue their interjections. They are highly disorderly, and members will have an opportunity of replying to the honourable member if they disagree with her views.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Mr. Ron. Thompson has already spoken.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I have a question I would like to put to the Minister: When will the drainage project at Morley Park be completed? If he will give me some information about that I will tell the people of Morley Park and Hampton Park, and I am sure it will relieve their minds very much.

I see that after five years of procrastination by this Government something has been promised to aid mental health. As everyone knows, this problem is a special baby of mine. I see that the female children at the Claremont Asylum are still housed with the adult patients.

Recently I went down to the Chief Secretary's office and inspected the plan of the building to be erected at Guildford. As yet only the foundations are being drained, but I would like the Minister to give me some indication of how long it will be before the building is ready to help relieve the children who are at present in Claremont. I wish the new controller every success in what he will be doing and if there is anything I can do to be of assistance to him, I will gladly help. I hope cognisance will be taken of what Dr. Moynagh had to say about the mental health problem of this State. His was a mind of progressive thinking on mental health.

I would now like to say a few words on the franchise of this House. It could not be expected that I would rise in my seat without bringing up the question that brought me into this Parliament. Of all the anomalies in the franchise I think the worst one is that a person must be 30 years old before he is eligible to stand as a member of this House. A man can go to a war and give his life at the age of 18 but to become a member of this House he must be 30 years of age. It does not seem common sense to me. It is an insult to our men and women that they should have to wait until they are 30 years of age before they are eligible to become members of the Legislative Council.

I think we might benefit by allowing people 10 years younger to come into this House. The age limit is an anomaly which makes us look absolute fools to people from abroad. When I was in England I was asked about our franchise and I said we did not have any dukes or lords who took their seats by right. I told them that we elect our members. There must have been some special reason

for our civic fathers to decide on the age of 30 instead of 21. I will have more to say on the franchise later.

I know I am rebelling at the present moment, but I cannot help it when I am talking about the franchise for the Legislative Council. It is a property franchise and is something that should not be in existence in a young State like Western Australia. We hear a lot of talk about how we are going ahead and about our rosy history; it is brought up every day by the Press, but the Press does not tell the people that the franchise for the Legislative Council in Western Australia is a guarded circle and that there has never been democracy since responsible government was initiated in Western Australia.

With those few words, I come to the end of my speech, hoping that we will see something brought forward in this House to allow a breath of democracy to enter it. If something can be brought forward by the Government to widen the franchise of this Legislative Council, it should be done because it is long overdue. I support the motion.

THE HON. G. BENNETTS (South-East) [5.51 p.m.]: I did not intend to speak tonight but noting that there is a lack of speakers I will take this opportunity—my last opportunity of speaking to the Address-in-Reply in this House—to say a few words. First of all, I would like to congratulate our two new members. From the very wonderful speech we had tonight by Mr. Dolan I know he will be a credit to this House. He knows his subject very well and his speech tonight will go down in history because of his long experience with educational matters. There is nothing about education he does not know. I have known both the two new members for practically the whole of their lives, and I feel they will be an asset to this Chamber.

I would like to thank all the civil servants who have given me assistance since I have been in this House. I have always been able to obtain information which helped me to carry on in my position as a member of Parliament. Being able to obtain information helps a member to help his district and the people he represents. In every department with which I have had dealings I have been very fortunate—and I think all members receive the same help.

We are fortunate to have such a wonderful staff as we have in this House. I think every member appreciates the heads of departments and the other officers who assist us. We all have to depend on these people for help. I would go a little further and say that I would like to see every member of the staff given a little privilege such as is allowed to railway workers. Perhaps once every three years they could

be given a privilege ticket to help them have a holiday. That would not be much for the service they render here and the long hours they work when we sit late into the night.

There are only three members left who have been with me during all of my period in this House, and they are Dr. Hislop, Mr. Heenan, and Mr. Logan. Many members have passed on and we regret their passing. I also want to thank all the members of this House for the help they have given me. We always work together. We have a little crossfire now and then but that is part of our job, and if it did not occur we would not be carrying out the wishes of the people we represent. But we are all friends. I have no ill-feeling towards anyone in this Chamber.

I am very pleased to be able to go out of this Parliament knowing that three matters for which I fought over the period I have been here are well under way. The main one is the development of the Esperance land. When I came here and started to speak about Esperance, members used to criticise me and tell me I was on the wrong track and that Esperance was not worth worrying about. Today we find it is one of the best places in this State; and it is growing and will have a fairly large population. When I was quite young my father told me that Esperance was the seaport of the goldfields, and he said to me, "George, if you can do anything towards the development of Esperance, do what you can. One day it will grow." I am pleased to see what has taken place there.

I am also pleased to see that the standard gauge railway is coming into existence in Western Australia. Members know that I have always had something to say on railways and I have always favoured standardisation as the only solution to the problem. I was in charge of the transshipping of goods at Kalgoorlie during the war and I saw the delays that were caused to vital material. If this country had been invaded, we would not have had a ghost of a chance of getting supplies here with the inadequate transport system we had. Standardising the railways is the only way we can handle the traffic and handle it thoroughly.

The other matter I wish to mention is our north-west. I have worked in the north-west and I have often mentioned the population of that area. We have a huge foreign population facing us there, and that brings me back to something one member said about being uneducated. Those people are easily led, and they can be led by an organisation that we in this country do not believe in. If we could only educate these people and bring them up to our standard, and the standard of other white races of the world, we would

not be bothered with wars. Those people are led into tragedies without knowing what they are being led into.

Now that the north is starting to develop I could wish to see the late Don Barker here in this House. He used to speak of the north-west, and I will never forget a speech he made one night and the laughter he caused when he spoke of the scraggy cattle of our north. He spoke about scrub bulls and about the north generally. If he were with us today we would not be able to sit him down; he could easily speak for five hours on the north.

I am pleased to see that our ordinary railway service has been brought up to a more desirable standard. A good service is provided on the *Kalgoorlie Express*. I have for years been trying to have a better service provided, and only last session I mentioned that we wanted different things to bring our railway system up to modern standards; and I do not think that today one could find a better narrow gauge service than we have in this State.

The buffet car on the *Kalgoorlie Express* is a big improvement; and I am pleased to say that the family units—the people who travel second class—have gained something in the improved service. I used to be worried about them when I was on the Commonwealth Railways. Everything was given to the first-class passengers, but if we ever suggested that something should be done for the second-class passengers we were told, "They are all right." The authorities were only worried about the first-class passengers. I can say that some of our leading Kalgoorlie citizens now travel second class; and that information will be very acceptable to all members.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It is very good.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Those people are travelling second class because it is superior to first class. The second-class passengers used to have two-berth cabins with power points for electric razors, the floors nicely carpeted, and everything else up-to-date. For the past few weeks some renovated carriages have been made available for first-class passengers. Those carriages have been modernised and brought up to a good standard with power points for electric razors in them; so we on the goldfields are very pleased that we have the things that we have been striving for.

I travel all over Australia, and I know the job that is done by the staff employed on the trains. Apart from travelling on the railways, I have worked on them; and only recently I was travelling in the Eastern States and the staff on the trains there could not come anywhere near the standard of our local men, who do everything they can for the passengers. In some parts of the Commonwealth, if the traveller had not a coin in his pocket

he would not be in the race to get anything; but our fellows go out of their way to attend to the women and children, and the elderly people. I have seen them do that, and I think that if anyone does something for family units and elderly people he is doing a good job.

The only worry I have about the railways concerns the fettle. In my opinion he is the main man on any railway. If we have not got a decent foundation, whatever we put on top is no good; and these men are the lowest paid of all.

Only the other day I said to the foreman of a local governing body, "How are you getting on for labour?" He said, "Well, George, we get the second choice." The mines get the first selection, because the rate of pay and the conditions are better than elsewhere. The local authorities get their men at a lower rate, and the overflow goes to the railways, because the rate of pay and the conditions in the railways are rotten.

Recently we had washaways on the Kalgoorlie line, and I saw the fellows working there day and night up to their waists in water on an engine that had turned over at Coolgardie. Those men were working from daylight to dark on a 24-hour shift, day in and day out. It is about time the unions responsible for those men saw that they got a higher award rate to compensate them for their work; and the Government should, on such occasions, pay a bonus for the services rendered by them. In the cold wet weather, many of the men were unlucky enough to contract colds and flu; but, of course, they received no compensation for those ailments.

Our railways have improved because now we have, largely, diesel locomotives which are built to haul bigger train loads than were hauled previously. The Commonwealth railway system, by which full loads are hauled with the large engines, is followed, and the trains are able to haul payable loads, which is responsible for the improvement in the railway revenue; and, of course, the previous Government lent a hand by re-laying the whole of the track to the eastern goldfields, which has meant that the present Government has been able to reap the benefit of that expenditure.

At this point I have a growl; and I am sorry the Minister for Child Welfare is not present.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I will pass it on to him.

Sitting suspended from 6.7 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Before dealing with the question of child welfare I would like to say that some of the statements I made on the railways, before the tea suspension, could quite easily be misconstrued. I said that some of the railways did not do very much for the people without payment. I would like to free the Commonwealth

Railways from such a charge, because that is one service which is recognised throughout the world as an excellent one, and it would be wrong for me to include the Commonwealth service in the remarks I made about some of the others.

I also forgot to mention a matter which has been exercising my mind in connection with our own railway system. As members know, when the buffet car system was inaugurated it was staffed with girls, who do a magnificent job. The car arrives at Kalgoorlie at 7 a.m. and departs at 7 p.m.; and the girls are given accommodation in an old storeroom on the platform; the accommodation is not more than 12 ft. x 12 ft. There are no ventilators in it at all. There was installed in it an old lounge suite which, I am sure, nobody in this House would like to see in his own home. The only means of ventilation was through a door which opened on to the bar, or very close to it, or through windows which were barred with metal. About five yards away was the entrance to the gentlemen's toilet. Around the back of the girls' quarters is the lavatory, and members can appreciate what that means; particularly as it is so close to the girls' quarters.

These conditions are a disgrace to the department. Although the girls are supplied with accommodation on the train, it is necessary for them to have somewhere to stay on arrival, particularly in the hot weather. The department should secure a flat—and there are plenty of them available. It would not cost the department very much for the flat, and the girls would be provided with decent washing facilities and somewhere where they could rest. I might add here that the girls have never occupied the rotten accommodation which is provided for them. The quarters provided by the department are very public; there is no privacy at all. The result is that the girls are compelled to stay in the cabin which they occupied on the train while coming up to Kalgoorlie.

Members will appreciate what is entailed when I tell them that the train by this time is in the carriage shed, where it is very hot. Quite apart from the girls having to put up with the heat, they are also in close proximity to the cleaners and the wheel examiners who attend to the train, and, of course, they are within earshot of any bad language which might be used.

I wrote to the Minister about this matter and he replied indicating that he agreed with the submissions made by the Commissioner of Railways. The Minister would not know what the conditions there are like. We want to maintain as high a standard of staff as possible on these trains, and we certainly will not do this by providing such facilities as are available at the moment.

With the introduction of diesel loco-

motives, our railways improved; and it was very pleasing to me to know that before the Labor Government went out of office it ordered the latest diesel locomotives. These locomotives are particularly good in regard to the loads they can pull.

I would now like to touch on the question of child welfare. Last year I mentioned several incidents which had taken place from time to time, particularly outside the State. However, I know of one or two which have taken place quite recently. I have reared seven children, and I have 28 grandchildren and a few great grandchildren, and I think it is essential that a person should rear a family, at least to the age of teenagers, before he is appointed as a welfare officer. Nobody without family experience should be given such an appointment. I suggest that the age of such an officer should be from 55 years upwards.

In this connection I would point out that recently in Kalgoorlie there was a case which did no credit to the department at all. It was discovered that the welfare officer was receiving money from the parents of a victim who had to pay maintenance for his children. The officer was receiving the money in his own office, knowing full well that it should have been paid to the clerk of courts. The victim in question was gaoled, whereas in my opinion he should have been helped. As I have said before, the fault generally lies on both sides.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Who was gaoled?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: A man named Keenan. I do not know how he was employed in the mines, but he was gaoled for about three weeks. The case was then taken to court. The welfare officer was found guilty of accepting £25 which was paid to him, and he was placed on a bond. If Mr. Keenan had been working as a timberman on the mines he would have been earning 100s. to 120s. a day. If he had been a machine miner he would have been getting 100s. to 150s. a day; as a train driver he would have been receiving 90s. to 120s. a day, and as an ordinary miner from 75s. to 78s. a day. He was put in gaol; the welfare officer had taken his money, and the case was brought to court.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: Wasn't he found guilty before he was put in gaol?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: He was put in gaol because he had not paid the maintenance. Now, of course, we find that by virtue of his having been gaoled he has lost his character; and to that must be added his loss of revenue. Had the case been taken to court and the welfare officer found guilty, it would have been necessary for him to repay that money.

In my opinion the Child Welfare Department should make good the amount that this man finds himself out of pocket, and it should also apologise in writing in order to repair the harm that has been done to his character by his being gaoled. The welfare officer was allowed to remain in Kalgoorlie for a further month. He also handled other cases during that time. The position got so bad that people asked me what sort of a situation this was; how could a man like this be permitted to deal with children of such delicate ages? I understand that the person in question was transferred to another place in the same position.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Not in the same position at all!

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I think he is.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: He is not.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Can the Minister tell me where he is now employed?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: He is still in the department, but not in the same position.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I do not wish to suggest that the man be dismissed; but I do stress the fact that when it comes to handling children we ought to appoint men who are 55 years of age or older to the job. It is not prosecutions that we want. We want these officers to be able to go to the parents and see if something cannot be done for their children, rather than that they be taken to court. As I have said, the people in Kalgoorlie were most disgusted because their children were being prosecuted by a person who himself had been convicted of an offence.

The other night I spoke about the Police Department, and I referred to cases of hooliganism which are occurring, not only in Western Australia but throughout the world. I am of a similar opinion to that expressed by previous speakers that a lot of the hooliganism apparent today is the result not only of the effects of the war but of general neglect in the home. Only last week in Kalgoorlie there was a family of four children, and the wife had left her husband, and the children were ordered to be boarded at somebody's place. The children comprised a boy of 8 and three girls of 14, 15, and 18 years of age. This person came down here to live with someone else. These little girls are thrown out on the world. What is going to happen to them? They will join the rat race that has been mentioned in the House.

Another serious matter is the lack of employment for young people, especially on the goldfields. I know a couple of families with boys aged from 15 to 17 years. These boys have been walking all over the place to try to find employment, but they have no chance in Kalgoorlie, because there is insufficient scope. Recently, the Minister for Railways sent an

officer to Kalgoorlie to see what could be done. However, he was able to do only what others have done—that is, contact the business people. The business people can only employ a certain number of people, and they always have the number they require. However, we must do all that we can to find work for these young people.

There must be some ways and means by which something can be done to teach trades to these boys. We are bringing labour into this country from all parts of the world, and included in the new arrivals are tradesmen. Yet our own Australian children are unable to get work; and when they do, they have to labour for foreigners. I see that the Premier has just visited General Nasser in Cairo. Perhaps he will get some of Nasser's countrymen here and our boys will have to work for them.

It has been mentioned in this House that we should buy Australian goods. However, whenever there is a vacancy in high office in this State we always import someone from overseas. If we want a Commissioner of Railways we go out of the State for him. If we want a Governor, we go to the Old Country. Has not Australia got people good enough to fill these positions? Parliament was recently opened by one of our worthy friends, the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator. He has performed that duty on many occasions, and has acted as Governor, so why not appoint one of our justices to the position of Governor instead of going abroad to get someone?

When a position became vacant in connection with our parks and gardens administration, it was filled by a man from another country. Why cannot we appoint Western Australians to these positions? Surely we have men good enough to fill them. Perhaps some of the money spent by people flying around the world—as our Premier is doing today—would be better spent if it were used to train our children.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are usually fair, but now you are being unfair.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Earlier today, a member said that education is one of the most important things. Of course it is. If all those in the countries adjoining us were educated there would be no wars.

At the moment trouble is being experienced at Merredin with regard to town drainage. The Government assisted Kalgoorlie recently by providing £10,000 towards a scheme to provide water to the parks. Now Merredin is in trouble and would like assistance with regard to the drainage of the town. It is a very important place, as it is one of our main farming areas. This town has grown in size and is situated on low-lying country. Therefore, something must be done.

Mention has also been made of the water supply in Esperance. I suppose two-thirds of the people in that town have already been put to considerable expense in providing their own water supplies, pumps, and windmills. In the first place, these people were told that they would be supplied with a softening plant to be used in conjunction with their water supply, as the water will be drawn from an area at Red Lake. Without the plant the water will become brackish when it is drawn off, and these people will be required to pay a water rate even though they do not use the water. They would not mind if the water were cured, but the water they are to get is the same as that in their own wells—and in some cases not as good.

Perhaps the Minister for Water Supplies, or his officers, could work out a scheme which would be acceptable to the residents of that area by which they would pay a small charge.

I noticed in the Press today, in connection with the Federal Budget speech, that the farmers are going to receive a £9,000,000 subsidy on super. I do not begrudge them getting that. Two or three years ago the mining industry received £1,000,000 and the dairy farmers received £7,000,000. There is a large population on the goldfields, and in the early days of the history of this State, that area was responsible for the whole of Western Australia. The goldfields pulled Western Australia out of quite a lot of trouble on two or three occasions. This applied equally to the Commonwealth Government during the war periods. Therefore, I hope the House will always give sympathetic consideration to the mining industry.

There are 22,000 people on the goldfields and they will have to be looked after, particularly when considering freight rates and such things. I say this because although the cost of production is going up, there has been no increase in the price of gold. In the farming industry a farmer is able to pass the buck and get back some of his increased costs.

We have just had the spectacle of the Bullfinch mine going out of existence, and also the Coolgardie mine. However, there are two good mining centres in Norseman and the goldfields; but with ever-increasing costs of production we do not know what will happen to the mines. They will have to look for better-grade ores in order to keep going and continue employing their present staff.

I understand the Minister kept his word and appointed a committee to look into compensation for miners who are suffering from silicosis. This committee has been to the goldfields and is now sitting in Perth; and I have met different people who have given evidence. I hope good results will come out of the appointment of this committee, because miners with silicosis are worthy of a lot of consideration.

I hope in the near future I will be able to see more womenfolk elected to the Parliaments of the States and to the Federal Parliament. Women generally are taking an interest in this regard as they know that women members will look after the interests of the womenfolk of Australia. We have a woman member of this House who always puts up a wonderful fight on behalf of her sex; and I hope when I come down to visit the city, perhaps in a few years' time, I will see at least half a dozen women in this House.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Are you saying that because you are leaving?

The Hon G. BENNETTS: Mr. President, I want to thank you for your tolerance in putting up with me when I have made my speeches. You have always been tolerant, and I hope you continue in office for a long time to come. I am sorry that I am leaving Parliament, but there comes a time when everyone has to get out or be forced out. When one reaches old age, it is time to get out in order to live one's remaining years in comfort without having to run around a large electorate looking after the interests of other people. I have always done my best for the people in my electorate and they have appreciated what has been done for them. I have much pleasure in supporting the Address-in-Reply.

THE HON. H. R. ROBINSON (Suburban) [7.58 p.m.]: I would like to join other members in congratulating Mr. Dellar and Mr. Dolan on their election to this Chamber; and I hope, too, that their stay in the House will indeed be a very pleasant one for them.

The first question I would like to speak on tonight is in connection with a matter on which I think all members here will agree with me. I refer to the Western Australian Institute & Industrial School for the Blind at Maylands. For many years now there has been a practice of providing a subsidy towards the running of this school, and I am of the opinion that the Government should have a look at this matter with a view to increasing that subsidy. The school has a great problem in providing the correct type of tuition and work for the people who are afflicted by blindness.

I feel that blind people should be provided with a pension so that they would not have to work at all, but in discussing this matter with the director of the Blind School, he assured me that a pension is not wanted because there would then be no incentive for the blind people to take an interest in life. Hence, we have the activities of the Blind School.

It is rather interesting to look at the figures in regard to the subsidies that have been paid since 1952. In 1952-53 the amount of the subsidy was £2,800.

The amount of subsidy is absorbed in the general account of the Blind School. Therefore, the kind of loss I am quoting now is the net loss.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It is a grant, not a subsidy.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: From information given to me, it is a subsidy. The net loss for 1952-53 was £4,894 15s. 11d.; in 1953-54 the subsidy was £3,750, against a net loss of £2,587 5s. 11d.; in 1954-55 the subsidy was £3,750, against a net loss of £2,209 9s. 9d.; in 1955-56 the subsidy was £3,750, against a net loss of £653 0s. 7d.; in 1956-57 the subsidy was £3,750, against a net loss of £4,644 10s. 8d.; in 1957-58 the subsidy was £5,750—in that year there was an increase of £2,000 in the subsidy granted by the present Government—against a net loss of £4,613 13s. 2d. In 1958-59 the subsidy was £5,416 13s. 4d.—I do not know how the 13s. 4d. came into the picture—and there was a net loss of £6,145 11s. 6d. In 1959-60 the subsidy was £5,750, against a net loss of £3,602 4s.; in 1960-61 the subsidy was £5,750, against a net loss of £4,717 17s. 4d.; in 1961-62 the subsidy was £5,750, against a net loss of £8,887 17s. 11d.; in 1962-63 the subsidy was £5,750, against a net loss of £5,118 15s. 11d.

Included in their general accounts each year is a certain amount which is contributed by the Lotteries Commission. After taking that into consideration there is an average of from £5,500 to £6,000 loss each year. There are 25 residents in the school itself and 120 blind workers employed in the factory there. It seems that this state of affairs has gone on for many years because the matter has never been brought forward. Four or five years ago it was necessary to open a branch in the city, and the institute purchased a property at 853 Hay Street. It was necessary to enter the retail trade because of competition from Asian markets.

The institute is subject to ordinary water rates and sewerage rates on that property, and is charged for the excess water it uses. For the Blind School at Maylands the institute is charged for excess water and it pays sewerage rates. I have taken the matter up with the Minister for Water Supplies, requesting that he look into the matter with a view to seeing whether some exemption could be granted on that basis. I have also taken the matter up with the Acting Premier to see whether something can be done to increase the subsidy to the Western Australian Institute for the Blind.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is a wonderful institution, and I will see what I can do to help it.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: I thank the Minister. The metropolitan region scheme—the submission of the scheme and

the report on the objections—was laid on the Table of the House yesterday. A great deal of credit is due to all those who have worked on this scheme. A lot of honorary work has been done, apart from the work undertaken by the paid officers of the Town Planning Board. Much credit is due to local authorities. Whilst the chairman of the regional authority receives a certain fee, he spent a considerable amount of his time in seeing that the report might be presented in the best form. Preparation commenced on the 7th April, 1960, and the stage has been reached where the report has now been laid on the Table of the House.

It is interesting for us to look at the number of objections which have been received. In connection with a scheme of such magnitude it is rather surprising that initially there were only 162 objections. Of those, six were withdrawn because they were not applicable and 97 were granted a hearing. Many of those 97 persons had objected when legally they had no right to do so, because their objections were not applicable to the scheme. Only about 50 or 60 objections were genuine, and a lot of those were dealt with by the authority itself.

Possibly it is not a perfect plan, but it would be quite impossible to provide a perfect plan which would suit everybody. However, in view of the large area covered by the plan it is a credit to the planners that only a comparatively few objections were received. I congratulate all concerned, including the Minister, who has given his departmental officers and others associated with the preparation of the plan every encouragement.

A few things were said this afternoon which require answering. In connection with Brown's Lake, Mrs. Hutchison said, "We went ahead and drained Brown's Lake, but the present Government did not carry on the project." Knowing that statement was not correct I contacted the Minister for Works to find out what happened in regard to Brown's Lake. The scheme was started in November, 1958, admittedly by the Labor Government. The present Government came into power on the 2nd April, 1959, and since then approximately £300,000 has been spent on the drainage of the area.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I said it was drained.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: You did not say anything of the sort.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Yes, I did.

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

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: The present Government carried on the work which was started by the Labor Government. When the honourable member was making her statement, surely credit should have been

given to this Government which had carried on the work which had been started. A few other matters need clearing up.

Mrs. Hutchison quoted from today's *Daily News*. The article concerned an increase in the rate of the Shire of Perth. The honourable member particularly mentioned the fact that I was not present. Of course I was not present. The rate was struck at 5.55 p.m. yesterday, and at that time I was in the House. Surely my responsibility to the Government is greater than to the Shire of Perth—particularly at that time; namely, 5.55 p.m. yesterday.

Mr. Strickland mentioned that the rate had gone up, whereupon Mrs. Hutchison took him up on the point and quoted from the newspaper. The rate last year was 4.77d. The Shire of Perth decided yesterday that the rate for this financial year should be 5.53d., being an increase of a fraction more than a halfpenny. Where Mrs. Hutchison lives—in the Bayswater area—there is a rate of 6d. in the pound on a similar valuation. If she lived in Belmont she would pay a rate of 6d. in the pound.

The criticism is levelled because I happen to hold the position of President of the Shire of Perth. The Kensington Avenue area is practically on the border of the Bayswater and Perth shire councils. We knew there had been flooding there. Immediately flooding was reported I sent my engineers to the area, and I went to have a look at the situation myself.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You were very rude to them.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: I was rude at the correct time. I went there, and on the advice of my engineers I found there was no way of pumping the water out. A Mrs. Jackson, after a lot of urging from certain people, called in the Press. A photo was taken of the flooding, but no photo was taken of the three blocks adjoining the one in question, and those blocks had 2 feet of fill on them. When there is 2 feet of fill on three half-acre blocks, there is bound to be flooding on the next block to them. This is a paper-bark area, and I do not have to tell you, Sir, what that means. The house in question was built 9 years ago, prior to the conditions which are now laid down whereby sub-divisions are required to have a certain amount of fill, and so on.

We all know that it has been an abnormal winter. We have had more rain this winter than we have had over the past seven or eight years. The people concerned were advised that there was no way of pumping out the water. We had this agitation all along the line; it was going on all the time. I was requested to authorise the council to supply fill for the property, and my engineer informed me that it would cost £600 to do the job. I told

them that I had no authority to order the fill to be supplied; that I had no authority to spend ratepayers' money on private properties.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: All you need is a deep drainage system.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: I do not know whether the honourable member knew that I did not have the authority. The complaints kept pouring in, and we were asked to start the drainage straight away. Members know that in the midst of winter it is not possible to undertake this drainage. Firstly, deep drainage would have to be put down. I immediately arranged for a deputation from my council to wait on the Minister for Works, who has arranged for his officers to have a look at what might be done in the area. Following a drop in the water level, I arranged with my engineers to have the sludge pumped out. It was useless to put pumps on the job, because there was no way for the water to go.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It would run back just as fast.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: Yes. I do not know whether Mrs. Hutchison knows more than my engineers. Turning now to Woodrow Avenue, subsoil water formed on the roadway in front of the Macabean sports centre. The water gradually started to destroy the road, which was beside an unmade road. My engineers decided that the only way of relieving the situation was by piping under the road and running off the water into a basin in the unmade portion of the roadway.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It smells to high heaven!

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: Our health inspectors check it regularly and they assure me there is no health danger. It is not doing anyone any harm and at least it has taken the water off the road. There was no alternative but to put a pipe under the road and take the water away; and the only sensible thing to do was to put the water on to this unmade road. Mrs. Hutchison is continually saying it is a menace to health.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: So it is.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: In the first place, she implied that we were running the water on to someone's property. She has not made any inquiries about it, but that is the position with the Woodrow Avenue area. As regards the area, I took a deputation to the Minister, and he intends to have a look at that also. In the district which extends from the point in Woodrow Avenue where the flooding occurred this year, near the Macabean sports centre, right through the Dianella area into Hampton Park, there is a high water table, and I agree with Mrs.

Hutchison when she says that in some parts the land should not have been used for building purposes.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: No.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: Unfortunately, prior to sane thinking in regard to town planning, people went out there and thought they were buying cheap land. Now they expect the local authority to expend a considerable sum of money in draining it for them.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Why shouldn't they? Isn't that what it is for?

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

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: I am trying to tell the honourable member it would have been far better to build either on higher land, or land with a better fall, rather than on this paper bark country.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Why didn't you stop them selling it?

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: We believe in free enterprise.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Oh, so that's the answer! Free enterprise!

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: They are the main points I wanted to mention this evening, and I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. C. R. Abbey.

House adjourned at 8.17 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 14th August, 1963

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