

A teacher who is under bond and who marries is not released from her bond obligations. If, however, after marriage she resigns to care for a child her remaining bond liability will be waived. A female teacher who resigns to be married after having served three years of her bonded period will not be required to serve the remainder of the bonded period and will be relieved of any equivalent financial responsibility.

Those conditions apply under a Labor Government, I am proud to say.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: How many years is the bond term here?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I think it differs. I am not *au fait* with it. I have a teachers' training scholarship manual which I intend to read. Going back to the case which I previously mentioned, the girl concerned was to have a child and she left the department, with the result that she has to pay the money back out of wages. What chance has a man when he has to pay £2 a week out of his wages in order to repay £1,500. It is a lifetime job. I tried to obtain some alleviation in this case, but did not get any satisfaction at all. This girl is liable to pay the bond, yet she is out of the Education Department. This couple have to pay the money whether the girl serves or not. If this girl is prepared to teach, why on earth should she have to pay a double penalty just because she got married? Those conditions need altering.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: There are three penalties if she has a bad husband.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Too right! I hope I have made a worthwhile contribution to the motion before the Chair. I think I have spoken long enough and have brought up quite enough subjects for the Minister to think about. Therefore, I conclude by offering you, Mr. President, my thanks for your patience in listening to a lot of varied subjects.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery.

House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 17th August, 1961

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****ROAD TRANSPORT***Gross Vehicle and Combined Weight Specification*

1. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:
  - (1) Has he made a final decision regarding the enforcement of a gross vehicle weight and gross combined weight specification?
  - (2) If so, what is that decision?
  - (3) If not, what is the present position?
  - (4) What States other than New South Wales and Victoria have adopted the regulation?
  - (5) Is he aware that local transport operators are strongly opposed to its introduction here?
  - (6) Does he appreciate that the proposed regulation would force certain operators out of business, increase costs, and therefore raise road haulage charges?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) to (6) The necessity for a new regulation results from the amending Traffic Act No. 74 of 1956 introduced to Parliament by the then Minister for Transport, as a result of which licensing of motor wagons was altered from a power load weight basis to just power weight calculations. Since proclamation of that amendment on the 14th January, 1957 no load is specified on the license and enforcement can be made only in respect of tyre or axle loading and therefore a serious anomaly is created between the operator of

a lighter wagon seriously overloaded and paying a comparatively small license fee as against the operator of a wagon designed to carry the particular gross load and paying the proper license fee. It has been decided that the gross vehicle weight will be—

Manufacturer's gross vehicle weight and gross combination weight, plus 10 per cent., plus an additional 10 per cent. tolerance and where a vehicle has been altered or modified after manufacture, the owner can apply for a higher aggregate weight subject to the provisions of the 10th schedule of the regulations in all cases.

The Queensland practice is to accept the maker's specification. If the owner desires, an increase can be given up to 25 per cent.

Some of the local transport operators are against the proposals but from investigation it is considered that very few operators will be seriously affected. Those affected will have until the 30th June, 1963 to meet the necessary requirements, that being the proposed date for promulgation of the regulation.

Mr. Graham: There will be a change of Government before then.

Mr. Roberts: That is wishful thinking; in fact, it is more than wishful thinking.

**NATIVE WELFARE DEPARTMENT***Offices at Carnarvon*

2. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Native Welfare:
  - (1) Is it the intention of his department to have new offices built at Carnarvon; if so, when?
  - (2) If new offices are to be built, will they be built on the same site?
  - (3) How many people occupy and work in the present office?
  - (4) What is the total floor space of the present office?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) and (2) It is felt desirable to centralise all Government departments in Carnarvon; but as funds are unlikely to be available for the work this financial year, efforts are to be made to obtain other temporary offices for the department.
- (3) Five.
- (4) Official office, 140 square feet. Room secured from Police Department, 100 square feet.

**SPEED OF MOTOR VEHICLES***Limit in Metropolitan Area*

3. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What is the speed limit in the metropolitan area for the following motor vehicles:—
  - (a) cars, utilities and vans;
  - (b) trucks up to 3 ton capacity;
  - (c) trucks over 3 ton capacity;
  - (d) trucks over 5 ton capacity;
  - (e) semi-trailers;
  - (f) motor buses?

*Suspensions for Speeding During July*

- (2) How many drivers have suffered suspension of license for speeding offences during the month of July, 1961, committed whilst driving—
  - (a) cars, utilities and vans;
  - (b) trucks up to 3 ton capacity;
  - (c) trucks over 3 ton capacity;
  - (d) trucks over 5 ton capacity;
  - (e) semi-trailers;
  - (f) motor buses?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) (a) 35 m.p.h.  
 (b) Gross weight exceeding 3 tons, not exceeding 7 tons, 35 m.p.h.  
 (c) Exceeding 7 tons, not exceeding 13 tons, 30 m.p.h.  
 (d) Exceeding 13 tons, not exceeding 20 tons, 25 m.p.h.  
 (e) Exceeding 20 tons, 20 m.p.h.  
 (f) 35 m.p.h., metropolitan area.
- (2) (a) 109.  
 (b) Nil.  
 (c) Nil.  
 (d) Nil.  
 (e) Nil.  
 (f) Nil.

**HILTON PARK SCHOOL***Protection for Children Using Adjacent Intersection*

4. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Will he cause an investigation to be held into the danger hazard existing at the intersection of Carington Street and Lefroy Road, Hilton Park, where children cross morning and evening to the adjacent school?
- (2) Will he give consideration to having a policeman stationed at this point to ensure the safety of children, or such other action that will give maximum protection to the pupils?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A decision in this regard will be made after investigation of the position.

**FRUIT EXPORTS***Shipping Freights*

5. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Does he share the view of Mr. De Pledge, of Manjimup, as expressed per medium of the A.B.C. on the 18th June, 1961, "that W.A. fruit growers are being priced out of world markets owing to the high level of overseas shipping freights," and that owing to the small profit return to the growers, there is no incentive to produce?
- (2) Is he aware that the freight rate is the same from Fremantle as from Tasmania and Victoria to Britain?
- (3) If he is aware of the above, does he not think that shipping companies have too much privilege when they are in a position to charge freight rates that are detrimental to the Western Australian economy?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Rising costs and reduced price from sales of fruit overseas have had a considerable impact on net returns to growers. Shipping freights are only one item in the cost structure.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A Royal Commissioner will shortly be appointed to commence an inquiry into all phases of marketing of Western Australian apples both locally and overseas and shipping freights will undoubtedly receive attention from the Royal Commissioner.

**TROPICAL ADVISERS***Gascoyne Research Station and Yalgoo-Murchison District*

6. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has a tropical adviser been appointed to the Gascoyne Research Station? If not, when will an appointment be made?
- (2) Does his department intend to appoint an agricultural adviser to replace Mr. Lawson, who recently resigned?
- (3) Does his department intend to appoint an agricultural adviser to the area covering the Yalgoo and Murchison Shire Council and adjoining areas?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) No; but it is anticipated an appointment will be made in November.
- (2) Yes, when suitably qualified applicants with appropriate experience are available.
- (3) These areas are at present covered by the adviser stationed at Wiluna. The appointment of an adviser to the Yalgoo-Murchison districts would depend on availability of and demands on suitable staff.

#### K.S.M. PTY. LTD.

##### *Directors, and Shareholders and Holdings*

7. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) Who are the directors of the company incorporated in this State, in the name of K.S.M. Pty. Limited?
- (2) Who are the shareholders of this concern?
- (3) How many shares are held by each such shareholder?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) K.S.M. Pty. Limited, incorporated on the 23rd June, 1961, is now named Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies Pty. Limited. The Companies Registration Office records show that the directors of the company are Archibald Stewart Kennedy and James Samuel Samson.

- (2) and (3) Those records also show that the shareholders of, and their holdings of £1 shares in, the company are:—

Archibald Stewart Kennedy—1.  
James Samuel Samson—1.

Thomas William Rowland Air—1.

Quinton Randolph Stow—1.

Hawker Siddeley Group Limited—249,996.

#### DWELLINGUP BUSH FIRE

##### *Details of Financial Assistance for Victims*

8. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the total financial assistance given to the victims of the Dwellingup bush fire by—
  - (a) the Commonwealth Government;
  - (b) the State Government;
  - (c) the Lord Mayor's Fund?
- (2) What was the total from each source in respect of homes, furniture, clothing, and personal chattels?

- (3) What was the total from each source for other losses of property, fencing, businesses, etc?

- (4) What was the number of family units assisted?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) £24,014 to be shared equally by respective Governments. In addition, the State contributed £10,000 to the Lord Mayor's Fund and has allocated a further £10,000 for housing loans.

(c) £101,615.

	Lord Mayor's Fund £	State £
(2) Homes .....	46,835	
Furniture .....	43,251	
Clothing and personal chattels ..	2,587	11,523

	Lord Mayor's Fund £	State £
(3) Property .....	1,825	5,950
	1,200	
Fencing .....	5,470	5,261
Fodder and Freight .....		656
Sundries .....	449	624

- (4) Family Units 197.  
Single Persons 126.

#### SEWERAGE

##### *Extension to Rivervale and Lathlain Park*

9. Mr. J. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Before approving of the extension of the sewerage service to Morley Park was any serious consideration given to the repeated representations that have been made during the past nine years to have the sewerage service extended to serve the urgent needs of the Rivervale and Lathlain Park areas?

- (2) What were the factors that influenced him in giving approval to the Morley extension when the Rivervale proposal has been with the department for years awaiting approval and action?

- (3) What would be the approximate cost of extending the sewerage main to serve the urgent needs of St. John of God Hospital?

- (4) Will he re-examine the representations that have been made in support of the Rivervale extension, and advise the House and those vitally concerned when a start is likely to be made with this extension?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Morley Park industrial and business centre sewer extensions are for a very limited area only. The magnitude, importance, and rate of development warranted preference last financial year. The Rivervale sewerage proposal is much more extensive and plans were concurrently made for commencement this year.
- (3) To extend the main sewer from Victoria Park so that St. John of God Hospital can be served without the cost of reticulating the whole of the intervening area is estimated at £120,000. Such expenditure would not be warranted until it is possible to proceed with reticulation either concurrently or immediately afterwards.
- (4) The matter was carefully considered and the proposed programme is to complete the main sewer in two years, the general reticulation to be carried out as funds can be made available either before or after the completion of the main. In the meantime temporary arrangements for disposal of the hospital wastes can cope with the situation. The matter was discussed with the hospital management.

10. *This question was postponed.*

### WITTENOOM SCHOOL

#### *Erection*

11. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has a decision been made to erect a new school at Wittenoom?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, when will it be commenced?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) to (3) This matter is still under consideration.

### STATE SHIPPING SERVICE

#### *Investigations*

12. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Premier:

- (1) In view of the Government's policy to sell State-owned enterprises, is it intended to sell the State Shipping Service?
- (2) What is the nature and purpose of the present investigations into State Shipping Service?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Captain J. P. Williams's examination will cover such things as the adequacy of the present State

Shipping Service fleet and what is the best policy to follow in respect of the size, type, and number of ships, as well as recommendations on the sailing and operational methods at present employed.

### COTTON CROPS IN NORTH-WEST

#### *Locality, Areas Under Cultivation, and Anticipated Yield*

13. Mr. KELLY asked the Premier:

As he was reported to have stated that he had seen cotton crops in the north-west which were more than comparable with anything grown in the Eastern States, could he advise the House the locality where these crops were to be seen, the areas under cultivation, and the anticipated yield?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Experimental plots of various size of cotton have been grown on the Kimberley Research Station for several years, and last season a test plot was sown on the pilot farm.

Twenty to thirty acres will be planted during the coming season at Kimberley Research Station and an area of 100 acres will be planted at the pilot farm. The experimental plots at Kimberley Research Station have given consistent yields of 2,300 lb. to 2,700 lb. per acre.

### WATER SKI-ING LANDING AREA

#### *Closure of Beryl Place, Mt. Pleasant*

14. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Works:

What decision did he reach in connection with the proposed closure of Beryl Place, Mt. Pleasant, as a landing area for persons engaged in the pastime of water ski-ing?

Mr. WILD replied:

I have had discussions with all interested parties, but no decision has yet been made.

### ALBANY DISTRICT HOSPITAL

#### *Use as Aged Centre*

15. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) As the previous Minister for Health had indicated that the Albany District Hospital would be used as an aged centre, on completion of the Albany Regional Hospital, can he advise whether this decision has been altered?

- (2) Has he been approached by any other department with a request to use the Albany District Hospital; and, if so, which department?
- (3) If the answer to No. (2) is "Yes," does he intend to cancel the decision of the previous Minister for Health; and, if so, what are his reasons?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The decision has not been altered.
- (2) Yes, by the Country High School Hostels Authority.
- (3) No decision will be made until the matter is discussed by departmental officers with the local authority and others interested. This discussion is to take place shortly.

### BUILDING SOCIETIES

#### *State Housing Commission Loans*

16. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

Is it in accordance with the terms on which moneys are made available to building societies by the State Housing Commission that in respect of a loan made to a client by a building society on the 1st December, 1960, at an interest rate of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum, the figure can be increased to  $5\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. per annum dating from the 1st March, 1961?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Under the loan agreement with building societies to whom loans have been made available from Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Funds, societies are obliged to make the loans available to home builders at the following rates of interest:—

- (a) On moneys drawn to the 21st February, 1961,  $5\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.
- (b) On moneys drawn from the 22nd February, 1961,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

### "V.I.P. HOUSE," WYNDHAM

#### *Weekly Cost and Daily Tariff*

17. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Premier:

Referring to the house known as the V.I.P. house, Wyndham, will he reply to the questions asked by me on the 15th August, as follows:—

- (1) What is the weekly cost of running the house—
  - (a) when occupied by V.I.Ps.;
  - (b) in the absence of V.I.Ps.?

- (2) What is the daily tariff paid by—

- (a) Ministers;
- (b) others?

#### *Receipts and Payments*

- (3) What are the total receipts and payments from the date of commencement to the present time?

#### *Previous Refusal to Answer Questions*

- (4) What are the reasons for his refusal to answer these questions on a previous occasion?

Mr. BRAND replied:

There is no V.I.P. house at Wyndham. Presumably the honourable member is referring to the Public Works Department transit house. If so, the information supplied to me by the Public Works Department is as follows:—

- (1) (a) When occupied £1 15s.  
(b) When not occupied—Nil.
- (2) Not yet decided. As stated in my previous reply, provisions and refreshments are paid for by those using the accommodation.
- (3) Receipts—Nil.  
Payments—£5 5s.
- (4) There was no refusal. The question was answered in general terms.

### MESSRS. W. W. MITCHELL AND K. SMITH

#### *Precise Duties*

- 18A. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Premier:

- (1) What are the precise duties of Messrs. W. W. Mitchell and K. Smith, the two journalists employed by the Government?
- (2) Is the writing of political propaganda on behalf of the Liberal Party included in these duties?
- (3) Did either of the Government-employed journalists write an article on behalf of the endorsed Liberal Party candidate for the Victoria Park by-election, which appeared in the suburban newspaper *Park Post*, of the 14th August, 1961?

#### *Assistance with Premier's Weekly Broadcast*

- (4) Did either of the Government-employed journalists write the Premier's weekly broadcast from 6IX and regionals each Tuesday night?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) (a) The duties of Mr. W. W. Mitchell are stipulated in his agreement. They are—

To promote under the the authority and direction of the Premier the advancement of the State of Western Australia through the field of public relations.

- (b) The duties of Mr. K. Smith were stated in a public advertisement published by the Department of Industrial Development. They are—

In association with Publicity Officer—

- (a) to collect and prepare material for monthly bulletin and contributions to trade journals in Australia and overseas;
- (b) preparation of brochures and special publications emphasising Western Australian industrial potential;
- (c) preparation of articles and departmental Press statements as required.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) No.
- (4) What is said in my weekly broadcast is entirely my responsibility. It is my prerogative to utilise the services of Government officers to assist where such assistance may be required.

#### PREMIER'S WEEKLY BROADCAST

##### *Source of Payment*

- 18B. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Premier: Does the Liberal Party or the Government pay for the time occupied each week by the Premier's broadcast?

Mr. BRAND replied:  
No.

#### PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

##### *Government Expenditure*

- 18C. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Premier:
- (1) Was the full-page advertisement that appeared in the 28th January, 1961 issue of *The West Australian*—which claimed Western Australia faced an era of dramatic expansion—political advertising, or was it paid for by a Government department?
- (2) How much was spent on Department of Industrial Development advertising in *The Australian Financial Review* during the last financial year 1960-61?

- (3) What was the total expenditure on publicity by the Department of Industrial Development during the financial year 1960-61?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) The advertisement was part of the publicity campaign in industries promotion by the Department of Industrial Development and was paid for by that department.
- (2) £1,296 4s. 8d.
- (3) £17,858 covering radio and press exhibitions, brochures, and miscellaneous publicity material.

#### WYNDHAM SCHOOL

##### *New Classrooms*

19. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Education:  
How many classrooms are to be provided at the Wyndham school this year?

Mr. WATTS replied:  
One.

20. *This question was postponed.*

#### EMBLETON HIGH SCHOOL

##### *Completion of Contract, and Number of Classrooms and Students*

21. Mr. TOMS asked the Minister for Education:
- (1) When is it anticipated that the present contract for Embleton High School will be completed?
- (2) What is the number of classrooms being erected?
- (3) If the school is ready for the beginning of the school year 1962 what is the anticipated number of students to be enrolled?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) The 9th February, 1962.
- (2) 14 classrooms;  
2 general utility;  
4 home science;  
6 manual training;  
4 science;  
1 library;  
2 art;  
1 craft;  
1 typing.
- (3) 900.

#### UPPER SWAN RESEARCH STATION

##### *Experimental Bore*

22. Mr. CRAIG asked the Minister for Agriculture:
- (1) Is it intended to equip the experimental bore at the Upper Swan Research Station for irrigation this coming season?
- (2) If so, what is the extent of the area to be irrigated?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Ten acres of vines.

**GERALDTON HARBOUR AND WHARF**  
*Dismissal of Maintenance and Repair Workers*

23. Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that the maintenance and repair workers employed on the Geraldton Harbour and wharf have been dismissed?
- (2) If so, will he have the other proposed work that will have to be done on the wharf and harbour commenced at once so that this work will not again fall into arrears, and so that employment for the workers will continue?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Other than minor maintenance, there is no other proposed work until harbour deepening commences early in 1962. Every endeavour is being made to place the men in question on other Government works.

**STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES**

*Use of Motor-Vehicle Number Plates by Hawker Siddeley*

24. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) For how much longer are the motor vehicles which were the property of the State Building Supplies, but have now passed to Hawker Siddeley, to be allowed to remain on the roads showing State Government number plates?
- (2) Have all such vehicles been licensed by the purchaser?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) As the date of sale was so close to the 1st July the company was permitted to retain W.A.G. number plates for a period not exceeding three months. The company has agreed to relicence within that period, and to pay normal license fees as from the 1st July, 1961.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

*Use of Name by Hawker Siddeley*

25. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

Has the Governor given his consent under section 24 of the Business Names Act for the purchaser to continue to use the expression "State Building Supplies"?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No. It has not been necessary as the company is trading under the name of Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies Proprietary Limited.

**BETTING TICKETS**

*Cost to Government Printing Office*

26. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

What did it cost the Government Printing Office to print the betting tickets for the Betting Control Board per 1,000 tickets?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The cost was 2s. 6½d. per book of 480 tickets.

27. *This question was postponed.*

**STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES**

*Purchase Price and Sundry Debtors' Accounts*

28. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) What is the estimated amount which the Government expects to obtain from the purchaser for the assets of the State Building Supplies and the Banksiadale mill which have been disposed of to Hawker Siddeley?
- (2) What is the estimated amount which the Government has calculated it will receive from the accounts of sundry debtors, the payments in connection with which are to be collected by Hawker Siddeley on behalf of the Government?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) It has been made clear in public statements that the total realisation of the assets of the State Building Supplies and Banksiadale mill is expected to produce about £2,200,000, and that the final figure is dependent on the result of collection of book debts and sale of stocks on consignment.

Likewise it has been made clear that the final assets realisation figure will come from the following sources covered by the agreement of sale—

- (a) The purchase price (as provided by clause 2 of the agreement) of £1,000,000 for the part of the assets as defined by clause 2 of the agreement.
- (b) The purchase price of brick stocks, work in progress, and general store trading stocks as at the 30th June, 1961, in accordance with clause 4 of the agreement.
- (c) The proceeds of timber and hardware stocks on consignment in accordance with clause 5 of the agreement.
- (d) Proceeds of book debts to be collected by the purchaser on behalf of the Government



and the proceeds paid over to the Government in accordance with clause 8 of the agreement.

For reasons which the honourable member will appreciate, it is not desirable to make public at this juncture the detailed allocation of estimates between items (b), (c), and (d) above.

Mr. Tonkin: What does that add up to?

Mr. COURT: The facts.

Mr. Tonkin: Why dodge the issue?

Mr. COURT: There is no issue to dodge. The honourable member is creating one.

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION CASES

#### *Perth and Kalgoorlie Hospital Charges*

29. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Health:

What minimum daily charge is made by—

(a) Royal Perth Hospital;

(b) Kalgoorlie District Hospital; for patients whose injuries are covered by workers' compensation?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(a) 68s. per day.

(b) 56s. per day.

### MILK

#### *Supplies to Kalgoorlie Schools*

30. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Referring to the answer given to part (3) of question 25 on the notice paper [part (2) of question 25B. in *Hansard*] of the 9th August, 1961, whereby the Minister for Agriculture claimed that the licensed treatment (milk) plant in Kalgoorlie refused to handle school milk in 1961, would he please indicate on what date, and by what means, the management of Firie Dairy, Kalgoorlie, communicated advice of this refusal to the Education Department?

(2) With reference to his answer to No. (2) of question 14 of the 9th August, 1961, would he please indicate whether a milk treatment plant, which is working efficiently, and which is licensed by the Milk Board of W.A., as being capable of executing the functions of a "treatment" plant as indicated in the definition of "treatment" in the Milk Act, 1946, would be capable of supplying milk of the required standard for school milk?

Mr. WATTS replied:

(1) and (2) The refusal was not conveyed to the Education Department.

The matter is one that can best be dealt with by the Minister for Agriculture, and it is thought that the honourable member should take the matter up further with that department.

### WATER METERS: READING

#### *Frequency, Cost, etc.*

31. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

(1) What is the reason for the reading of water meters much more frequently this year than formerly?

(2) How many consumers (actual or estimated) have already used their allowance and are now on excess consumption?

(3) What is the estimated additional cost involved for meter reading because of the new system of rating which has been adopted?

(4) As the new system of rating is supposed to be designed to reduce the consumption of water and can reasonably be expected to have some effect in that direction where is the fairness in the present practice of the department under which the current year's consumption is calculated as an average of the previous year's usage in those cases where the meter is found to be not registering?

(5) On the average, what percentage (approximately) of consumers are charged for water each year, on the basis of the average of previous consumption instead of actual meter reading?

(6) Will he endeavour to institute a more equitable system of charging in cases where meters are found not to be registering?

Mr. WILD replied:

(1) It is not a fact that water meters are being read more frequently this year.

Mr. Tonkin: Yes it is. There is no doubt about it. I can prove it.

Mr. WILD: Continuing—

(2) 534 domestic consumers at the 15th August, 1961, at which date 12,456 readings had been dealt with out of approximately 100,000 readings.

(3) The additional cost of actual meter reading is estimated at £3,500 per annum.

- (4) Last year's interim reading period is the only comparable one available on which to assess an average consumption. However, the department exercises discretion where special circumstances are in evidence. Furthermore, the consumer has the right to object to the average struck.
- (5) Over the triennial period from 1958-59 to 1960-61 approximately 9 per cent per annum. However, no average would be assessed for more than six months in any one consumption year.
- (6) On the present consumption trend alteration to the present method of averaging is not considered necessary, but the trend will be closely watched and a variation made if warranted.

#### MOOLA BULLA CATTLE STATION

##### *Tabling of Papers Regarding Sale*

32. Mr. BOVELL: In answer to a question asked by the member for Mt. Lawley yesterday I have here the files and papers relating to the sale of Moola Bulla Station, which I now submit so that they may lay on the Table of the House for one week.

*The papers were tabled.*

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

##### PREMIER'S WEEKLY BROADCAST

##### *Source of Payment*

1. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:  
Would the Premier clarify the answer he gave to the question asked today as to whether the Liberal Party or the Government paid for the time occupied each week by the Premier's broadcasts. His answer was "No". As there are two parts to this question, does that answer apply to each?

Mr. BRAND replied:

As far as I know, the answer "No" applies to both. This is a complimentary arrangement made between Station 6IX and myself for this period to be given to me each week to be used by the Government.

Mr. Graham: Did you say "given"?

Mr. BRAND: Arranged for, if the honourable member likes it that way. As far as I know the answer "No" applies to the Government and to the Liberal Party.

#### TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

##### *Member's Unanswered Questions*

1. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

Last week I asked the Minister a series of questions in connection with the Totalisator Agency

Board; and the questions totalled nine. The Minister answered questions Nos. 1 to 7, but did not group questions Nos. 8 or 9 with any of the other questions. He did not give any answer to questions Nos. 8 or 9. What I desire to know from the Minister is this:—

- (1) Was his failure to answer the questions due to an oversight or did he intend not to answer the questions?
- (2) If that was his intention, why did he not say so at the time?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) and (2) The member for Melville did not give me any notice that he was going to ask this question. However, to the best of my recollection questions Nos. 7, 8, and 9 were grouped together. There was one question asked to which I did omit to reply, but I do not think it was in regard to the Totalisator Agency Board. That was something that happened very early in the session.

3. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

If he will refer to *Votes and Proceedings* dated the 8th August, and upon satisfying himself that what I have stated is the position, will he supply the answers to the questions which have not so far been answered?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

I would ask the member for Melville to place his question on the notice paper, and if I am satisfied that he has asked a specific question I will endeavour to answer it.

Mr. Tonkin: That is against Standing Orders.

#### ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

##### *Promulgation of Commissioners' Recommendations*

4. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

In view of the fact that the High Court of Australia today refused the Government special leave to appeal against the decision of the court of Western Australia on the electoral districts case, will he give an undertaking that when the final report of the electoral commissioners is received the Government will advise His Excellency to promulgate the final recommendations in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Districts Act?

Mr. BRAND replied:

I think members will agree that I should be given fair notice of this question. The question is one which can be answered on Tuesday and will be answered on Tuesday. I do not propose to give an answer now.

Mr. Graham: Well!

Mr. BRAND: It is quite fair that I ask time to consider the question. I have no ulterior motive; but I would like to give a responsible answer to the question.

## STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES

### *Sale of Timber Stocks*

5. Mr. GRAHAM: Because of the importance of the question I am about to ask the Minister for Industrial Development, I would like to read a few lines from the agreement so he will appreciate the substance of the question. It says in the agreement—

The purchaser shall pay to the vendor at Perth upon the execution of these presents the sum of Two hundred thousand pounds (£200,000) by way of deposit and in part payment. The balance of the purchase money shall be paid to the vendor at Perth by seventeen (17) equal successive yearly instalments the first of which shall be paid on the first day of July, 1965.

Another portion of the agreement, consisting of two lines, and relating to the stocks of timber held by the State Building Supplies, reads as follows:—

Upon the purchaser acquiring or disposing of any such stocks the purchaser will become indebted to the Treasurer.

My question is as follows: Will the Minister admit that the timber stocks on hand at the date of take-over of the State Building Supplies by Hawker Siddeley may be sold by the company and paid for by the purchasers—the public—in its first year or so in business, but that any such proceeds payable to the Government will be paid in instalments only, commencing in 1965 and finalised in 1982?

Mr. COURT: In view of the fact that members on the other side of the House seem to feel I want to change my grounds in these things when they ask these questions, I think it is only reasonable that a question such as this be placed on the notice paper.

I have tried to be co-operative with the Opposition on all of the queries that have been raised across the floor of the House, but it just does not get one anywhere. I am going to insist, if I may, that a question of this nature be placed on the notice paper.

Mr. Graham: You are a disgrace to the name of Government!

Mr. COURT: If the honourable member would take two minutes to study the agreement he would see for himself.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

### *Amendment to Motion*

Debate resumed from the 16th August, on the following motion by Mr. Craig:—

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 to Parliament:—

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

To which Mr. Tonkin had moved the following amendment:—

That the following words be added to the motion:—

Finally we strongly condemn the action of the Government in selling State Building Supplies and the railway mill at Banksiadale at bargain prices and on extremely generous time-payment conditions to an enormously wealthy private company, and consider a Royal Commission should be set up to thoroughly investigate the transaction.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [2.45 p.m.]: As it is some time since the amendment was before the Chamber, I feel it may be desirable,—

Mr. Brand: Considerable time.

Mr. EVANS: —in order to refresh the minds of members as to its exact terms, to read it. It is as follows:—

Finally we strongly condemn the action of the Government in selling State Building Supplies and the railway mill at Banksiadale at bargain prices and on extremely generous time-payment conditions to an enormously wealthy private company, and consider a Royal Commission should be set up to thoroughly investigate the transaction.

I intend to give cogent reasons why I support the amendment and why, like my colleagues, I call upon the Government to set up a Royal Commission to enable the public of Western Australia to know the issues and the collateral involved in the sale of an asset belonging not to the Government but to the public of Western Australia.

There have been many speakers on the amendment; and arising out of the discourse it has been established beyond any doubt whatsoever that the Hawker Siddeley Group is a very wealthy company. It would be ludicrous to suggest that this company would be financially embarrassed if it had been asked by the Government to pay, not the true value of the State Building Supplies, but the value as shown in the agreement—and pay in cash. However, we find this financial tycoon in the business world—the Hawker Siddeley Group—is coming to Western Australia as a stranger to capitalise and monopolise what has been built up as an asset for the people of Western Australia.

This company is coming here on extremely generous terms. It will have a long period of repayment under the special conditions prevailing, particularly considering its wealth. These facts, which have been established, are sufficient to justify the setting up of a Royal Commission.

Mr. Court: You are guilty of tedious repetition. We have heard this 50 times in the last six days. It is the same old stuff.

Mr. EVANS: The Minister for Industrial Development is now setting himself up as an authority on judicial interpretation. Only last week we heard that he was the sole channel through which information could be obtained. Now he sets himself up as a judicial body and interprets what is "tedious repetition." If it is good enough for the goose it is good enough for the gander. I say that the Minister for Industrial Development is an expert on what constitutes "tedious repetition." I have heard him!

Mr. Rowberry: Hear, hear!

Mr. EVANS: The basic facts that have been elicited from the debate that has taken place are sufficient to warrant a Royal Commission. However, there is more; and this is something that has not possibly been given the emphasis it deserves: that is, the collateral issues that existed. The Government did not advertise its intention to sell the State Building Supplies. It has been claimed that there were others interested in the purchase of this group of activities belonging to the State, but we have not heard the names of those people nor their proposals or valuations or the propositions submitted by the Government. Why was this particular group of Hawker Siddeley finally chosen from those who were interested?

Mr. Court: The others would have been letting you know if they had not been fairly treated.

Mr. EVANS: All this would be revealed by a Royal Commission. If the Government persists in refusing a Royal Commission, at least let the representatives of the people of Western Australia—the 50 members in this House—have an opportunity of examining these other documents by tabling them here.

I would like to mention one particular clause in the agreement which I do not like, and that is clause 12, which reads as follows:—

In the event of any dispute or disagreement arising hereunder including any dispute as to a matter to be mutually agreed, the same shall in the absence of any provision in this agreement to the contrary be referred for a decision to a single umpire to be mutually agreed upon and failing agreement each party shall appoint an umpire and the two umpires so appointed shall themselves appoint a third umpire and the majority decision of three umpires shall be binding on the parties hereto. In the event of two umpires so appointed being unable to agree upon a third umpire, then the third umpire shall be the president of the Law Society of Western Australia then in office or his nominee and if he fails—

and these words are very important—

—or declines so to act then the president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia then in office or his nominee.

I took the trouble to find out something about the president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants; and although I could find very little, what I did ascertain is very interesting. His address is 125 St. George's Terrace, Perth, and his telephone number is 21 9031. This address and telephone number happen to coincide with the address and telephone number of a well-known firm of chartered accountants—Hendry, Rae & Court.

Mr. Court: You are very wrong. The president is not there.

Mr. EVANS: His address is in the telephone book.

Mr. Court: You are mixed up with the registrar. The president has never been there in his life.

Mr. EVANS: If the Minister would have a look at the telephone book where the Institute of Chartered Accountants is listed—

Mr. Court: You are talking about the president, not the institute.

Mr. EVANS: It is obvious that the president will be at the address belonging to the institute.

Mr. Court: Don't be childish.

Mr. EVANS: I am not being childish.

Mr. Court: Go and look it up and be factual.

Mr. EVANS: If a person set out to ascertain the name of the president and his telephone number and address he would look up the telephone book to find out where the institute was.

Mr. Court: When he found where the institute was he would ask where the president could be located.

Mr. EVANS: Yes; but I am mentioning the fact that the address is the same as that of a certain company; and we have heard accusations and insinuations as to the Minister's business associations with this one, that one, and the other one; and when we find this sort of thing in an agreement, is it any wonder that accusations are made and rumours are spread? These are the sorts of things the truth of which a Royal Commission would establish. They are collateral I will agree, but they are important to the people of Western Australia, because the Liberal Party will not be the Government of Western Australia for ever. It is only a temporary Government—a caretaker Government—and the members on this side of the House will be asked to assume the responsibilities for the people of Western Australia, and therefore these matters should be cleared up by a Royal Commission.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order! The honourable member had better return to the amendment.

Mr. EVANS: To get back to the amendment, we find that the Opposition is condemning the Government for giving away an asset of the public of Western Australia on very generous terms. The magnitude of the transaction would out-do any advertisement we might read in the paper. The Minister for Railways has left Tom the Cheap Grocer for dead. Tom is ranking a long way behind Charlie, the Give-Away-Grocer of Western Australia. Tom is well and truly left in the dust.

Mr. Court: Very funny! You would get a job writing the funnies. Rex Morgan, M.D., should be replaced by Tom Evans, Q.C.

Mr. EVANS: To return to the main agreement I find that the value of the State Building Supplies has been represented as being so low that it is regarded as a liability to the people of Western Australia, a drag on the taxpayers, and a reflection on Western Australian efficiency as a whole. Yet I find that in clause 1, subclause (1), is the following:—

The purchaser shall buy—

What does it buy? First of all, it buys the goodwill. The Minister for Railways must on this occasion have thought there was some goodwill, because of that clause. The first thing listed is that the purchaser will buy the goodwill.

Mr. Court: You know, or you should know, from the studies you are doing that all these items have to be listed even if they have no value.

Mr. EVANS: Yes; and the Minister would be an expert on that, as he has shown.

Mr. Court: It is no good making a song and dance about nothing.

Mr. EVANS: I would like to conclude by making two quotations from the Bible; and these will appeal to the Minister, because I know he is one who is versed in reading the Bible. The first one is: "Ask, and ye shall receive." I feel that the Hawker Siddeley Company certainly got the message when the Minister carried the gospel of his Government: "Ask and ye shall receive." The other quotation is: "Give and it shall be repaid to you one hundredfold." The Minister has certainly given the assets of Western Australia.

Mr. Hawke: Hear, hear!

Mr. Court: I thought the member for Warren was the expert on biblical quotations.

Mr. EVANS: All these things arise from a presumption of the fact that the Government has something to hide because it has refused the appointment of a Royal Commission. If the Government has nothing to hide it could easily be proved by a Royal Commission. It is only *prima facie*, I know; but the onus is on the Government, if it does not wish to stand condemned, to do something about it. The time is coming, I feel sure, when the people of Western Australia will find beyond all reasonable doubt that there was something shady in this business and will then put the Government well and truly in the shade.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Middle Swan) [3.0 p.m.]: It is crystal clear that this debate has been well worth while, and the spending of a few days in discussing this sell-out to Hawker Siddeley has been worth while. What is contained in the agreement has more than justified the attack which has been made on the Government in connection with this proposition.

I am certain that the bulk of the people I represent in my electorate would wish me to express my vote in favour of the amendment. Many things have come out in this debate which otherwise would never have seen the light of day. This concerns members on both sides of the House; and I am certain that we have all been considerably enlightened since this debate began.

So far as I am concerned, there are certain salient features which stand out. There is no question in my mind that as a result of the negotiation of this sale the company got preferential treatment over other citizens in the State.

Mr. Court: No it didn't!

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I would like the Minister to bear with me for a moment. It cannot be denied that the company got preferential treatment in respect of its commitments to the State as against other citizens who have commitments to the State. I refer to the fact that the company is not called upon to pay stamp duty and other expenses associated with this agreement. The poor struggling worker who goes to the State Housing Commission—and every member has had experience of this—may receive a loan to enable him to acquire or purchase a home under the Commonwealth-State rental homes agreement; but before he can take possession of his home he is called upon to pay stamp duty and other sundry expenses connected with the implementation of the document. These expenses amount to £30 or £35, and many workers have great difficulty in finding that amount.

The company concerned in this transaction is a wealthy one. It has a capitalisation of £300,000,000, and last year made a net profit of £31,000,000. To that company the State is being generous in the extreme in not asking it to pay stamp duty, which is a contribution to the revenue of the State—or other expenses associated with the agreement. To that extent I feel the Government is deserving of censure.

There are many aspects of the agreement which could be condemned. I am opposed to the sale of these public works, because they were important assets in this State. I do not think this sell-out by the Government to this wealthy company was justified. If the public of Western Australia was aware of the full facts as we know them today I am certain there would be a complete revulsion of feeling against the Government.

Mention has been made in this Assembly about the value of the brickworks. If I remember correctly, the brickworks were started for the purpose of supplementing the need for bricks when private enterprise had failed to supply the demand; and therefore the State came into the picture. A second brickyard was established at Armadale, in the electorate of the member for Dale. He said he did not start it, but he was the Minister who followed it up when the equipment was brought here from England. It was essential to secure bricks in this State, and the State Housing Commission had great difficulty in getting supplies.

There was a brickyard in my electorate of Middle Swan that was not producing bricks; and the State Housing Commission, under the auspices of the Minister, had to go out and try to get it to do so. Because of the essential need and the urgency for bricks for the housing programme of Western Australia, the State Brick Works was brought into operation.

As has already been pointed out in this Assembly, the State Building Supplies comprises an asset valued at a tidy sum, and Hawker Siddeley is receiving that valuable asset at a throw-away price. I have not had an opportunity of reading the agreement. I tried to get hold of it, but it has been circulating around the Assembly; when I sought to obtain it, the member for Subiaco had it. In order to give members an opportunity to read it properly, it should have been laid on the Table of the House earlier than it was.

From replies to interjections, there seems to be no definite assured amount that the State is to get for the sale of these assets in the shape of the brickworks, timber mills, and the Banksiadale railway mill. There is no definite assured amount so far as the contracts are concerned. The sale price is estimated at £2,200,000; but a good proportion of that is made up of book debts which the company has to seek and realise on behalf of the State. In fact, they already belong to the State in the capacity of book debts. When collected they will be assets of the State. In my opinion, the price that is being paid is out of all proportion to the value of these assets.

The State Building Supplies did not constitute a monopoly in the State. Other private companies operated and had their activities for years, such as Millars and Bunnings, and therefore the State Building Supplies was not a monopoly. It was a competitor; and it did have an effect on the price of building supplies that were sold, particularly in connection with buildings erected on behalf of the State, such as schools, hospitals, and so on. From now on there is no question that prices for building materials will be considerably increased.

The amendment that has been moved to censure the Government because of its activities in connection with this sale is, in my opinion, amply justified. I am certain the time is not far distant when a merger will take place between Hawker Siddeley and other private companies in Western Australia. We will then have a monopoly and consumers will be at the mercy of that monopoly. That is the trend all over the world. Mergers are taking place in England, in America, and in Australia. There is no question that once Hawker Siddeley gets into the saddle it will negotiate with other competitors in the industry and there will be a tie-up. Consumers will undoubtedly be at the mercy of this group.

Another rotten aspect of the matter is the fact that this company is protected for a period of 20 years so far as the State is concerned. Provision is made in this agreement whereby if any future Government decides, on behalf of the people, that it will look into the question of building supplies at some future date, it will be prevented from doing so. I

think it is reprehensible for a Government to bind future Governments, and to give that company protection for 20 years and say that future Governments should not take part in activities of this kind.

There is no doubt that the amendment which has been moved censuring the Government for its activities is well warranted. I think I should read it, because when one reads it one realises that it places more emphasis on what the Government has done in this matter. The amendment reads—

Finally we strongly condemn the action of the Government in selling State Building Supplies and the railway mill at Banksiadale at bargain prices and on extremely generous time-payment conditions to an enormously wealthy private company, and consider a Royal Commission should be set up to thoroughly investigate the transaction.

If a Royal Commission were appointed the whole position would be elucidated. A Royal Commission could examine the whole question and advise whether the Government did give these assets away, or sell them at bargain prices, as the amendment states, or whether it was justified in selling them to protect the well-being of the State.

I do not think the Government should be afraid to have the whole matter investigated, particularly as it would be an opportunity for the Government to clear itself. Many innuendoes have been thrown at the Minister for Railways, and the appointment of a Royal Commission would give him an opportunity of vindicating himself. In my view that would be all the better, because he is a man in the public life of this State.

Mr. Court: Your side wouldn't take any notice of the Royal Commissioner if it did not suit them.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: It is amazing how these stories travel around and can do harm to a man, particularly someone in public life. If the Minister has nothing to hide, what could be better than the holding of a Royal Commission to investigate the whole transaction? Therefore, in my view the appointment of a Royal Commissioner is justified on those grounds alone: it will give the Government an opportunity to justify its actions, and it will give the Minister an opportunity to vindicate himself. The calm and deliberate examination made by a Royal Commissioner would be able to show whether this business deal which has been made with the Hawker Siddeley Group was justified or not.

In addition, public statements have been made that Bunning Bros. offered a higher price than the Hawker Siddeley Group for the State Building Supplies; and I understand that Bunning Bros. was not successful because the Government

was actuated by a desire to bring in overseas capital to the State, most of Bunning Bros. capital having been invested by local people. In my view the time has almost been reached—maybe not so far as Western Australia is concerned but certainly as far as Australia as a whole is concerned—when something will have to be done about overseas capital coming into the country. If the present trend is to continue, Australia as a nation will be tied up with overseas interests—American, British, and Japanese—which, in my opinion, is undesirable.

I think it would have been far better to invite local firms to purchase the State Building Supplies rather than to invite an overseas company to invest its money in this State. When profits are made from this venture they will, as is the case with General Motors Holdens, be sent overseas. All profits from General Motors Holdens are sent to America; and although some of the profit made in Western Australia by the Hawker Siddeley Group may be used for the purpose of developing the industry, the biggest proportion of it will be sent overseas to be distributed among the shareholders.

It was disclosed this afternoon that all the shareholders in the Hawker Siddeley Group are resident overseas, and therefore the profits they receive will mean money lost to the State. It certainly will not benefit Western Australia. The present trend is to invite overseas capital to be invested in Australia; and if this policy is continued too far Australians will find themselves the pawns and slaves of vested interests in other parts of the world. I support the amendment.

MR. KELLY (Merredin-Yilgarn) [3.15 p.m.]: I can remember few occasions over the last several years that a censure motion in this House has been introduced with greater justification than on this occasion. The debate on the S.B.S. transaction has undoubtedly touched on many points that were little known to members on this side of the House prior to the amendment being moved. I think it can be said that the volume of matter that has been discussed has produced some remarkable disclosures. I do not intend to traverse the ground that has already been covered, in so far as an examination of many of the clauses of this agreement is concerned; but I would agree with the member for Middle Swan when he says that the debate has been fully justified, even if it has done no more than show how highly painted was the Press announcement based on a misleading Government Press hand-out.

I think other members will agree with me when I say that many disturbing facets have emanated from the information that we have been given in this House; and, strangely enough, as each disclosure is made it becomes more nauseating than its predecessor. Then, of

course, we had the spectacle where finally, under extreme duress, the deliberately withheld agreement between the Government and the Hawker Siddeley Group was reluctantly produced by the Government.

Mr. Court: There was no reluctance at all.

Mr. KELLY: There is no doubt in my mind that the agreement was deliberately withheld in the hope that the debate would collapse before the agreement had to be presented.

Mr. Court: Nothing of the sort.

Mr. KELLY: Here we have Chattering Charlie again! Whoever christened the Minister with that name was certainly right; because I have noticed that right throughout the debate the Minister has continued to chatter or talk *sotto voce*, while at other times he has sat there with a sickly smile on his face which denotes that he has not the State's interests at heart, and that this company has been treated far too generously.

Mr. Roberts: What about some of the speeches you have made?

Mr. Court: I will quote to you some of your speeches to show how much you have the State's interests at heart. I can remember a speech on tourism last year when you referred to Western Australia almost as a no-hoper State.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. KELLY: Apparently the truth hurts more than I realised.

Mr. Mann: Rubbish!

Mr. Roberts: There is no truth in it. You ought to read some of your own speeches.

Mr. KELLY: Members opposite have been almost entirely silent throughout this debate and have chimed in only occasionally with a very minute type of interjection; but they came in immediately I made the statement I did, including even the member for Avon.

Mr. Mann: That is not characteristic of you. You are generally milder than that, and I am surprised at you.

Mr. Rowberry: Nothing would surprise us about you.

Mr. KELLY: This monstrous agreement has been referred to by the Minister as a simply-worded document. If ever there was a travesty of justice it is contained in those few words. The Minister refers to it as a simply-worded document but it covers all the possible connivances one is able to imagine in its 27 pages.

Mr. Court: Keep on turning the old handle. That's all that is going on. The good old barrel organ.

Mr. KELLY: The Minister cannot have too many handles left to turn, because he has turned every one it is possible to turn during the two years he has been on the front bench.

Mr. Rowberry: Turning the thumb screws is more like it.

Mr. KELLY: Of course, all of the contents of this agreement have clouded the Government's transactions. Yet we still find that as each successive clause is examined there is another surprise in store for us and a still more revolting aspect emerges. A full assessment of the agreement which, as I have said, has been deliberately handed in belatedly, has given members on this side of the House merely a "hurry-scurry" opportunity of endeavouring to gain some knowledge of the true contents of the agreement. A complete analysis would be possible only after an extremely deep study of it, because it is a complicated agreement, and nobody could say otherwise. I am sure that if the Attorney-General were in his seat he would be nodding his head in acquiescence in that statement.

Mr. Roberts: He is within the precincts of the Chamber.

Mr. KELLY: That is quite all right if he is. What has emerged from all the discussions that have taken place here can be regarded as being nothing better than an indisputable indictment against the Government. I have no doubt that although the members of the front bench are not prepared to admit it—and perhaps there are some other members also who are not prepared to admit it—the confidence of the people in this House has been lost by the perpetration of an instrument such as this being submitted to the House for its approval.

I have discussed the subject with several members and have heard their reactions to it, and I am quite certain that many of the Government supporters are dumbfounded and sadly disillusioned at the contents of this agreement. I believe that the only thing which has prevented them from getting on their feet and having something to say is their loyalty to the leaders of the parties to which they belong. In fact, with few exceptions, the only speeches that have been made by rank-and-file Government members have been by interjections, and as they were more less in the form of red herrings drawn across the trail than true interjections, they could not be regarded as being a worth-while contribution to the debate.

In my mind three abundantly crystal-clear facts have emerged from this transaction. Firstly, the Hawker Siddeley Group outmanoeuvred and outsmarted the Minister for Industrial Development. Secondly, the Minister for Industrial Development pulled the wool over the eyes of his ministerial colleagues.

Mr. Court: Here it goes again! Keep the old handle turning! It is the same old record!

Mr. KELLY: Yes; it is the same record. But it is the record that is producing the words which the Minister has already put on record. I am merely stating facts.



The third point which has emerged from this transaction is that the Government misled the rank-and-file members of the Liberal and Country Parties. Thus we have a complete triangle of misrepresentation. The net result, unfortunately, is that it is also a complete and irrefutable sell-out of the people of Western Australia. It is a sell-out which will affect them not only now, but for the next 21 years.

I suppose my comments in that regard can be construed as having already been announced in this House on one or two occasions. Nevertheless, I think it is extremely necessary to remind the Government and its supporters that irrespective of who controls the Treasury bench in the next 21 years, their hands will be completely tied by the terms contained in this agreement. My blood boils when I think of this shocking document, which will go down in the annals of Western Australian history as a masterpiece of subterfuge and deceit. The Minister for Industrial Development has perpetrated the greatest scandal of all times. In fact, adjectives can hardly describe the abject depth to which this revolting agreement has descended.

Mr. Court: You are just trying to improve on the adjectives that were used last night.

Mr. KELLY: They are nothing compared to the adjectives used by the Minister for Industrial Development. When he makes a statement he really dwells on them and derives a great deal of satisfaction from their use.

I fail to comprehend the attitude of the Government in opposing this amendment for the appointment of a Royal Commission or an investigation into the matters surrounding this sale when reputations, if any, and also many other factors, are at stake because of the lack of any defence of this agreement from those on the other side of the House, and also because of the vast amount of harm that is being done, not only to the Government of this State, but also the Parliament of Western Australia. If the Government has no reputation at all, the reputation of Parliament is of far more importance to me, because this House, and the Parliament of Western Australia as a whole over a period of many years has always been able to hold its head high, and has been quite satisfied and happy with the arrangements that have been made by the Government in office. But not so with the present Government in the way it has handled this question.

Mr. Court: Any damage that has been done to the reputation of Parliament has been done by those on the other side of the House.

Mr. KELLY: Does the Minister expect us to sit here and allow this monstrosity to go on unhindered?

Mr. Court: No; just criticise fairly.

Mr. KELLY: The criticism has been fairly lodged, and it is upon the shoulders of the Minister for Industrial Development to give some reasonable explanation—better than that which he has given up to the present—to justify one-fiftieth of what is contained in this agreement as we have come to know it in the short period that we have had an opportunity to peruse it. I consider that we should not have any doubt whatsoever in arriving at a decision to enable a full-scale and unfettered inquiry to take place in the form of a Royal Commission. The Government owes it to Parliament to clarify this matter once and for all.

I am quite certain that if the accusations that have been levelled by members on this side of the House could not be justified as a result of such an inquiry, we would be the first ones to put our chins out and take it as men. However, we know that the grounds of the criticism which we have levelled and discussed during many hours of debate are thoroughly justified, and the Government has done nothing to elucidate the position in which it appears to have placed itself.

I will conclude by reading to the House one of the many opinions that have been expressed through the Press. Unfortunately, opinions of this kind are being voiced all too frequently, not only in the metropolitan area, but also in many country centres. Again, I say, it is unfortunate that this article is fitting in the circumstances, in view of the fact that we know the Government has put up no reasonable defence in relation to it. This short article appeared in *The West Australian* dated the 16th August, 1961. It is headed, "Politics and the S.B.S.", and it was contributed to the Press by one, Alastair I. M. Rae of Peppermint Grove.

Mr. Court: That has been read three times.

Mr. KELLY: I have listened to most of the speeches that have been made in this House on this amendment, and I do not remember this article having been read three times; but if it has, with your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I think there is good reason why it should go on record in four different versions, and perhaps the Minister would like it better that way.

Mr. Brand: It is tiresome repetition.

Mr. KELLY: This article to my mind, has not been read out here before, so I will read it for the information of members. It is from Alastair I. M. Rae, of Peppermint Grove, and reads as follows:—

Your editorial on the sale of the State Building Supplies was inconsistent.

This referred to a leading article that appeared in *The West Australian*. To continue—

You said that it was absurd to allege that the Government would wish to sacrifice West Australian interests for

the sake of "overseas capitalists," but you then admitted that the intrusion of Sir Halford Reddish into local politics had been "injudicious."

I would like to comment here and say that there is no doubt that his intrusion into Western Australian politics has been on an injudicious note, ever since he first became connected with Western Australia; and he has continued in that strain and is still endeavouring to intrude his ugly head into the politics of this State with reference to the sale of the State Building Supplies. The letter continues—

The facts of the case appear to be that the Government has sold a more or less prosperous industry to an overseas company at a price below its market value on terms which seem extremely generous to say the least. Where could a private individual obtain goods on credit terms paying only 5 per cent. interest and with payments deferred for three years?

I echo that sentiment. Where could one get terms of that nature granted to an organisation or a business interest in this State? We have a number of struggling industrial concerns in Western Australia which would be glad to have 1/50th of the concessions that have been poured into the hands of this very influential group without any apparent difficulty at all. To continue with the letter—

Whether your allegation concerning the Labor Party's relations with the S.P. bookmakers can be substantiated or not, it is a red herring as far as this case is concerned.

Since arriving in W.A. 18 months ago, I have become increasingly dismayed at the apparent lack of morality in political circles.

That exemplifies the remarks I made a while ago to the effect that it is not only the Government which is having to bear the stigma associated with the transactions of the Minister for Industrial Development in recent times, but the whole of Parliament and the politics of Western Australia are being brought into disrepute by the Minister's recent actions.

Mr. Court: You are on shaky ground when you talk about things like that, particularly in view of your party's association with S.P. bookmakers.

Mr. KELLY: I am not on such shaky ground as that occupied by the Minister. The letter continues—

The fact that a Government had to be made to fulfil its legal and moral obligations by a court decision, and now this present issue where there must be at least a strong suspicion that all is not what it ought to be, is hardly a good advertisement for responsible democratic government in this State.

I think that article analyses the feelings of very many people in this State.

Mr. Brand: Uninspired and unbiased, I daresay!

Mr. KELLY: Whether or not the Government is satisfied to behave like an ostrich and bury its head in the sand is no concern of mine; I am not in the least bit worried if it wishes to do that. But if it is doing these things deliberately, knowing it will court the displeasure of so many people in this State, then the sooner the Government is removed from office the better. I fully support the move for the appointment of a Royal Commission, because of the evidence that will be uncovered by such an inquiry.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—23.

Mr. Bickerton  
Mr. Brady  
Mr. Curran  
Mr. Evans  
Mr. Fletcher  
Mr. Graham  
Mr. Hall  
Mr. Hawke  
Mr. Heal  
Mr. J. Hegney  
Mr. W. Hegney  
Mr. Jamieson

Mr. Kelly  
Mr. Molr  
Mr. Norton  
Mr. Nulsen  
Mr. Oldfield  
Mr. Rhatigan  
Mr. Rowberry  
Mr. Sewell  
Mr. Toms  
Mr. Tonkin  
Mr. May

(Teller.)

Noes—24.

Mr. Bovell  
Mr. Brand  
Mr. Cornell  
Mr. Court  
Mr. Craig  
Mr. Crommelin  
Mr. Grayden  
Mr. Guthrie  
Dr. Henn  
Mr. Hutchinson  
Mr. Lewis  
Mr. Mann

Mr. W. A. Manning  
Sir Ross McLarty  
Mr. Nalder  
Mr. Nimmo  
Mr. O'Connor  
Mr. O'Neill  
Mr. Owen  
Mr. Perkins  
Mr. Roberts  
Mr. Watts  
Mr. Wild  
Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller.)

Majority against—1.

Amendment thus negatived.

*Debate on Motion Resumed*

MR. MAY (Collie) [3.40 p.m.]: I have perused the Speech which the Lieutenant-Governor delivered to Parliament. It is very little different from the Speeches which were delivered in previous years. However, I was pleased to see one reference in it which states that the outlook for Western Australia is extremely bright. I hope that remark applies to every part of Western Australia, and not only to the primary industries, but to the other industries as well.

His Excellency's Speech went on to say that in recent months we have shared with only one other State the lowest unemployment percentage in the Commonwealth. His Excellency said—

The State has weathered the recent difficult economic conditions much better than the rest of Australia. Although there has been some increase in unemployment, this has been less than elsewhere.

He rightly acknowledged that there was unemployment in Western Australia; yet that question is passed over very lightly in this House.

It is gratifying to learn that a Royal Commission will be appointed to inquire into the handling and marketing of apples and pears. Such an inquiry is long overdue, because according to my information the conditions in the fruitgrowing industry could be a lot better than they are at present.

Reference was also made in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech to the disastrous bushfires which ravaged the southern portion of the State earlier this year. It would appear from the evidence published in the Press during the sittings of the Royal Commission that our bushfire organisation is not as efficient as it should be. I feel sure I am expressing the hope of members of this House and of the general public when I say that some changes will come about as a result of the recommendations of the Royal Commissioner.

Further on in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech there is the following reference:—

New coal contracts have been entered into by the Railway Department and the State Electricity Commission. The considerable saving in the cost of coal has enabled a reduction to be made in the price of electricity.

I shall refer to this part of the Speech at a later stage.

I want now to draw attention to the tribunal which was set up by the Minister for Lands to deal with applications for the allocation of land in the south-west of this State, more particularly in the Collie catchment area. During the last 12 months Collie was definitely handicapped by the circumstances which eventuated in the coalmining industry. Many of the people who were affected decided to turn to rural activities. Representations were made on their behalf for the allocation of land which they required.

In view of the strong opposition against the alienation of any more land in the Collie-Wellington Weir catchment area, the Minister decided to set up a tribunal to see if the opposition was justified. Of the 30 cases which the tribunal considered in the Collie area not one was successful, and not a single square foot of land has been granted to any of the applicants. The report of this tribunal indicated very clearly the policy which has been adopted by the Forests Department and the Water Purity Committee.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.2 p.m.*

Mr. MAY: Before the suspension I was making a few comments on the tribunal which has been appointed to go into the question of the alienation of land in the Wellington Weir catchment area. I was saying that of about 30 cases—and there were others that did not go before the

tribunal—not one was considered suitable. The people around Collie have been saying that the Lands Department knew full well what the result of the findings of this tribunal would be. This all fitted in with the result of previous applications that had been made for alienation of land. Many of the 30 cases I mentioned were dealt with by myself and they were turned down either by the Forests Department or the Water Purity Committee.

In view of what has already happened in Collie it is difficult to realise why such a restriction on rural industry in and around Collie is necessary because of the Wellington Weir. I realise that the salinity of the water has to be safeguarded. However, I have said this in the House before: If one goes to England one will find that the water from the River Thames is being treated and people are drinking it. Therefore, if the engineers are not here already, they should be obtained and consulted to see if something like that can be done in regard to the water which runs into the Wellington Weir—water which is used by the people for drinking and other purposes. Some effort should be made by those whose responsibility it is to see if something can be done whereby the salinity of the water can be safeguarded in a way that will not restrict rural development in the Wellington catchment area.

I said earlier that I would have something to say on the terrific reduction made in connection with the supply of electricity to consumers. In this connection I want to quote a few figures; and I will be surprised if, when I have finished, anyone can tell me that a saving could be effected. The new contracts and reduction in the price of electricity go together.

In 1959-60 the amount of local coal used was 275,298 tons to a value of £763,952. In 1960-61 there was less used, the amount being 233,574 tons at a value of £575,059. This was a decrease of 41,724 tons at a value of £188,893. The amount of imported coal in 1959-60 was 9,814 tons at a value of £80,552; and in 1960-61 the amount was 10,480 tons at a value of £87,592. This was an increase of 666 tons at a value of £7,040. There is certainly no saving there as far as coal is concerned.

In 1959-60 the amount of oil used in the State instrumentalities was 3,472,953 gallons costing £304,505. In 1960-61 the quantity was increased to 4,616,473 gallons at a cost of £398,097, this being an increase of 1,143,520 gallons at an increased cost of £93,592.

In regard to firewood, there is no record of any tonnages for either of these years I am quoting, but the cost for 1959-60 was £1,911 and for the year 1960-61 the price paid was £6,316, an increase of £4,405.

On the strength of these figures it is quite impossible to imagine how the cost of electricity to consumers had been reduced .25 per cent. as a result of the saving of Collie coal and the new tenders for Collie coal.

Now let us have a look at rail freights. I am quite sure that members will call to mind the debate which took place in this House on that matter last session. The Premier, the Minister for Electricity, the Minister for Industrial Development, the member for Murray, and a few others all took part in it. I stated that according to figures published in the paper, the freight on coal was going to be increased by 20 per cent. There was an absolute denial of that from those members I mentioned. They said there was to be no increase in the freight on coal. The Minister for Industrial Development said—

It is going to cost the State and the Electricity Commission precisely nothing extra for coal as far as freight is concerned.

I said that I could not swallow that. I said I knew that the Minister was a marvellous mathematician, and he should realise that if the State Electricity Commission took the same quantity of coal as it did the previous year, because of the increase of 20 per cent. the commission would have to pay £143,000 extra. The Minister for Electricity said—

If the 20 per cent. applied, it would. The Minister for Industrial Development said—

It is not going to apply to the State Electricity Commission.

I then repeated that it would, and the Minister for Electricity said that I was then being challenged by the Minister. At this stage the Leader of the Opposition jumped in and said—

He is not looking us straight in the eyes.

The Minister for Industrial Development then asked, "Which eye?" There followed a whole lot more dialogue, during which the member for Bunbury butted in—which is nothing unusual—and said that the statement would be in *Hansard* the next day.

What I wanted was something in writing to the effect that the 20 per cent. proposed increase on other traffic on the railways would not apply to coal, and it is interesting to see what was said. After I had asked the Minister for Industrial Development for a letter he asked me who I wanted to sign it. I told him that I preferred the Premier, and he asked me whether the Acting Premier would do. That is the conversation which took place. The reason I wanted the Government to make a statement in the Press or to give me a letter to the effect that there would be no increase in the freight on coal was so that I could tell the people at Collie, because

other undertakings had been given by this Government at various times but they had been completely ignored when the occasion arose.

I was pressing at that time for something in writing so that it could not be ignored when the situation arose. However, I did not get anything in writing, and it was just as well for the Government. I can see now why I did not get it. It is interesting to observe what has transpired since. I want the House to realise that each Minister in turn guaranteed that there would be no increase in the freight on coal.

Prior to September, 1960—and this applies to the South Fremantle Power House—ex the Co-operative Mine the price was 40s. 7d. overall. After September, 1960, the price was 43s. 6d. overall—an increase of 2s. 11d. or .40 per cent. The freight on coal for the South Fremantle Power House before September, 1960, was 41s. 2d.; after that date, 44s. 1d., an increase of 3s. per ton, or 7.32 per cent. East Perth Power House, Co-operative Mine, 40s. 10d. After September, 1960, the price was 43s. 7d., an increase of 2s. 9d. per ton or 6.71 per cent. Cardiff Mine, before September, 1960, 41s. 5d.; after that date, 44s. 3d., an increase of 2s. 10d. or 6.63 per cent.

I turn now to private consumers—and this will startle members. Perth private consumers, Co-operative Mine, 40s. 10d.; after September, 1960, 50s. 6d., an increase of 9s. 8d. per ton, or 23.17 per cent—never mind about the 21 per cent. mentioned! I had at least half a dozen assurances from the other side of the House that there were going to be no increases. Before September, 1960, Cardiff Mine, private consumers, 41s. 5d. After that date, 52s. 0d., an increase of 10s. 7d. per ton, or 25.30 per cent. Centaur Mine, 42s. 8d. After September, 1960, it was 57s. 6d., an increase of 14s. 10d. And we have Ministers on that side of the House saying that not one penny increase was going to be imposed on coal freights!

Kalgoorlie private consumers, Co-operative Mine, 66s. 10d. After September, 1960, 82s. per ton, an increase of 15s. 2d., or 22.38 per cent. Cardiff Mine, 67s. 1d. After September, 1960, 82s. 6d., an increase of 15s. 5d., or 23.13 per cent. Centaur Mine, before September, 1960, 66s. 5d. After that date, 86s., an increase of 19s. 7d. per ton, or 29.33 per cent. Kalgoorlie Power Company got off a bit lightly. Co-operative Mine, 71s. 7d. before September, 1960; afterwards, 74s. 11d., an increase of 3s. 4d., or 4.90 per cent. Cardiff Mine, 71s. 9d. After September, 1960, 74s. 11d., an increase of 3s. 6d. per ton, or 4.89 per cent. Centaur Mine, before September, 1960, 71s. 1d., increasing after that date to 79s. 3d., an increase of 8s. 2d., or 11.26 per cent.

[*The Acting Speaker (Mr. Crommelin) took the Chair.*]

I was given an assurance from at least four Ministers that I was barking up the wrong tree in regard to the 20 per cent. proposed increase—and this is what happened after I got the assurance! Is it any wonder that members on this side of the House are not prepared to accept any assurance given by the present Government?

I would point this out to members—and it is something in the Government's favour—namely, that for the Collie Power House before September, 1960, the rate was 13s. 6d. from any one mine. It is now a special rate of 6s. per ton, inclusive, from the Western No. 2 colliery. I do not know what it costs for the increase with regard to the Railways Department. I was staggered when I obtained these figures and saw what happened after I was given the assurance that there would be no increase in the freights on coal. To quote the words of the Minister for Industrial Development, he said—

There will be no increase to the S.E.C.

I said, "Why not make an announcement? It will be in the Press now that I have drawn attention to it. If there were a midnight edition, it would appear in it. I want it in writing or published in the Press that freight on Collie coal has not increased 20 per cent." I was given that assurance repeatedly from the other side of the House. Members know the result, because I have told them. I think it is a shocking thing. Heaven knows, the coal companies are battling with regard to their coal supplies reaching the consumers; and these companies should, like any other organisation, be given some encouragement and some concessions in regard to the freights on coal.

I have no desire to go any further than that. However, before I sit down I must point out that the figures I have quoted are not my own figures. I have obtained them from the Railways Department, and the letter contains the signature of the Secretary for Railways. I do not want any member to think I have composed these figures out of my hat. I have the figures from the Railways Department concerning the increase in the price for the cartage of coal since September, 1960. I do not think there will be any argument about that.

I desire now to refer to another matter which is of vital importance to this State; namely, the result of litigation concerning the redistribution of State electoral boundaries. This subject has had a very rough passage from the time the proclamation was made by the Hawke Government right up to the present time. It now appears to have found a very nice resting place. Immediately this Parliament was called together after the last

election, action was taken by the Liberal-Country Party Government to annul the proclamation that had been made by the Hawke Government.

There is no doubt that it was the intention of the Government not to take any further action as regards a redistribution of seats. However, when a lot of other people had the same idea about it, pressure was brought to bear on the Government in connection with the matter. But, in spite of that pressure by the Press and from members in this Chamber, still no further action was taken by the Government to have an alteration made to the electoral boundaries, until it became necessary for someone or some organisation to take action in the courts in order to make the Government carry out the laws of the State. It is a disgraceful situation when an organisation has to go to the courts to ensure that the Government of the State will carry out its own laws. It is a shocking state of affairs when the Ministers of any Government fail to carry out their duty. What was the result of the court action in this State? A verdict was given that the Government should carry out its obligations.

Mr. Norton: It was a unanimous verdict, too.

Mr. MAY: I am coming to that. The verdict was that the Government should obey the laws of this State, and it was requested to appoint a commission to go into the question of electoral boundaries; in other words, the decision was against the Government. The Government was told in no uncertain terms by the Full Court, composed of three judges, to go back and do its job and carry out the laws which the Government itself had made. The Government expects other people to obey the law and yet it is not prepared to do the same thing.

The Government was not satisfied with the Full Court decision and decided to appeal to the High Court. What happened? The Government did not even get leave to appeal: it was completely wiped off by the High Court of Australia. What a story to tell the electors! That their own State Government was not prepared to carry out laws that it had made itself; yet, at the same time, the Government expects other people—the general public—to obey the laws of the State. It is a terrible situation! I wonder what action the Government will take now? I know what I would do if I were a member of the Government. I would urge the Government to resign, and if the Government had any decency at all it would take that step.

Mr. Toms: The Government has a hide like a rhinoceros.

Mr. MAY: Not on your life; the Government would not resign. As a matter of fact, I think that if some members of the Government were put into gaol—I do not suggest that they should be, but let us

suppose that they had done something which warranted their being put into gaol—they would calmly come back to this House and take their seats again. That is the sort of cheek and effrontery that the Government has. It is an insult to the people when a Government has to be told by the Full Court that it is disobeying the laws of the State. Yet the Government had the effrontery to appeal to the High Court.

Mr. Tonkin: Not effrontery; stupidity.

Mr. MAY: When the Government appealed to the High Court of Australia it was told, "No; go back and do what you have been told to do and what you should do for the people of Western Australia." I would say that everybody on the Government side must feel very happy!

Mr. Bovell: We are always happy over here.

Mr. MAY: If I were a back-bencher on the Government side, I would feel like getting down behind my seat and hiding my head in shame for what the Government has done.

Mr. Rowberry: They have no shame.

Mr. MAY: I do not think it is anything to laugh about. If I were a member on the Government side I would want the Government to go to the country to see whether the people approved of its actions. It is a shocking state of affairs when the Ministers of a Government are prepared to evade a law which they themselves have made; and they have to be taken to court to ensure that they will obey their own laws. The decision given by the three judges was unanimous; and then the Government had the effrontery or the stupidity to go to the High Court to appeal against the decision of the Full Court of Western Australia. Did anyone ever hear anything like it? If I were a Minister in the present Government I would not sleep after that lot. I would say, "We will go to the country and see what the people think about this." I do not want any members opposite to feel uneasy about this; I do not want them to go home to-night and have a restless night.

Mr. Bovell: We won't.

Mr. Curran: There is no fear of that.

Mr. MAY: I am pointing out to the Government and, in fact, to all members in this Chamber—

Mr. Tonkin: Dereliction of duty means nothing to the Government.

Mr. J. Hegney: They say the member for Claremont has some concern about it.

Mr. MAY: I am trying to be as lenient as I possibly can to members of the Government in connection with this matter, but I feel that the people of the State should know what actions this Government has taken in the matter. I could not imagine such a course of action being

taken by any other Government, except this one; and, as I said last night, the McLarty-Watts Government was a king compared to this Government. At least we could rely on the McLarty-Watts Government, whether it was right or wrong. If it were wrong, we could rely on the fact that it was wrong, but with this crowd we never know when we have them. We had an assurance that there would be no increase in the freight on coal. Three or four members opposite gave us that assurance; even the member for Bunbury chipped in and got on the band wagon, but I suppose by now he is probably sorry that he did.

Mr. Roberts: No; he is not. I am proud to be a supporter of this Government.

Mr. Brand: Hear, hear!

Mr. MAY: I should think the honourable member would be ashamed to tell the people of Bunbury that he supports this Government—a Government which defies and refuses to obey the laws of the State.

Mr. Roberts: What rot!

Mr. MAY: It is not rot, and the honourable member knows it.

Mr. Brand: When was the freight on coal increased?

Mr. MAY: I will guarantee that the people of Bunbury will not think it is rot if the honourable member tells them what this Government has done.

Mr. Roberts: What rot!

Mr. MAY: It is not rot at all.

Mr. Brand: When was the freight on coal increased?

Mr. Watts: He doesn't know, because it wasn't increased.

Mr. MAY: If the Premier had been listening, instead of talking to someone over the other side of the Chamber, he would know all about it.

Mr. Brand: It was far more interesting over there.

Mr. MAY: The Premier can get his information from the same source as I got mine.

Mr. Brand: Where was that?

Mr. MAY: I have already told the House.

Mr. Brand: Come again.

Mr. Watts: You do not mind repeating yourself about other things, so do oblige the Premier.

Mr. MAY: He did not even hear that. However, I will probably leave the cutting in front of him, so that he will know what I am talking about. It was not so much the Premier as the Minister for Railways from whom I was trying to get an assurance. But we know what has transpired with respect to the various assurances given by Ministers on previous occasions. The statement made to the Press by the

Minister for Railways was regarded as a joke. He said, precisely, that there was not going to be an increase in freights on coal in Western Australia. Anyone who wants to know what happened will find it in *Hansard*.

That again shows the assurances of this Government cannot be relied on. It is a shocking thing. When a Government of any State, or any country, makes up its mind about a certain matter, and makes a decision about it, it should see that it is carried out. I am quite sure in my own mind that the Minister in charge of the operations of the State Electricity Commission did not know, until I told him recently in this Chamber, that the freight on coal had gone up.

Mr. Jamieson: You would not think the member for Avon Valley would continue to support such a Government.

Mr. MAY: The member for Avon Valley is only interested in sheep and wool and such things. I see the member for Avon Valley returning to his seat, and I am glad I have broken up one little school which is not taking a scrap of notice of what I am saying. The member will not have many more opportunities in this Chamber, I am sorry to say, of supporting me in my quest for assistance in connection with the coalmining industry.

Mr. Roberts: Are you resigning?

Mr. MAY: I am not resigning. I will be here in the next Parliament.

Mr. Bovell: You will still be sitting where you are now.

Mr. MAY: And I will still be quite as happy. I would still be happy if I were just an ordinary member. This ministerial business does not worry me one iota. I am quite as happy without it. As a matter of fact, I can speak my own mind more openly as an individual member than I could as a Minister. It is more than I can say of members on the other side of the House. With the exception of the member for Narrogin, not one member on the other side has opened his mouth in connection with this matter.

Mr. I. W. Manning: It is very nice to hear you expressing satisfaction.

Mr. MAY: Who woke the honourable member? He will have the opportunity to make his speech later. It is obvious that the back-benchers on the other side of the Chamber are not game to get up and speak their minds.

Mr. Roberts: Those who did get up did not do a bad job—the member for South Perth and the member for Subiaco.

Mr. MAY: We will be the judges of that. But I cannot say the same about the member for Bunbury. The member for Narrogin did, however, have the guts to get up and say what he thought. With that exception, not one of the back-benchers on the other side has spoken.

Mr. Tonkin: Ask the member for Bunbury to speak about the plug.

Mr. MAY: Members opposite have not the sense to see that they must express their minds on matters that are subjects of debate. Most of them are quite satisfied to sit in their seats and collect their money at the end of a fortnight, or a month, or whenever they are paid.

Mr. Mann: And make a darned nuisance of ourselves.

Mr. MAY: Why don't members opposite take an intelligent interest in what is going on throughout the State? There are plenty of matters on which they could get up and speak.

Mr. Tonkin: The member for Bunbury has been very silent about the plug since he has been on that side.

Mr. MAY: As a matter of fact, were it not for members of the Opposition in this Chamber, we could almost do away with *Hansard*. I bet that members on the other side of the House will be glad to get up during election time and say that they have said certain things in support of the State. I would like to be there when they say that. Why should all the fighting be done from this side of the House?

Mr. Bovell: You are fighting a losing battle.

Mr. Tonkin: That is wishful thinking.

Mr. MAY: There is no reason why Government members on the other side of the House should not get up and have something to say. It need not necessarily be against their own Government.

Mr. Nalder: Actions speak louder than words.

Mr. MAY: I'll say they do! They would need to in the case of most members opposite. In their case there are no words and very little action.

Mr. Nalder: You must be blind.

Mr. Roberts: For two days we have been listening to you grizzling about some action.

Mr. MAY: Nobody stopped the honourable member from getting up to speak. The only time he speaks is when he interjects, or when he is moving the gag.

Mr. Roberts: Did the Deputy Leader of the Opposition move it in 1954?

Mr. MAY: I have no desire to continue this conversation across the floor of the House. Somebody should restrain the member for Bunbury from interjecting.

Mr. Roberts: Very well; I will leave.

Mr. MAY: I am sorry the honourable member is leaving, because I think he should sit here and listen intelligently to what members on this side of the House have to say.

Mr. Roberts: Very well; I'll stay.

Mr. MAY: Having fixed that, I will now get back to the redistribution of seats.

Mr. Tonkin: That is a sore point.

Mr. Nalder: Needless repetition.

Mr. MAY: We would like to know, and we would like the people of the State to know who is going to foot the Bill for all his recent litigation undertaken by the Government.

Mr. W. Hegney: That is a pertinent question.

Mr. MAY: The Minister for Works does not care a hoot who foots the bill. I would certainly like to have his disposition. Who is going to foot the bill? Is the State going to pay for this litigation, or is each member of the Government who was responsible for it going to pay? The people will want to know something about that also.

Mr. W. Hegney: So will we.

Mr. MAY: It will be interesting to know what the position will be; and if the bill will ever be paid.

Mr. Tonkin: It will be paid all right; we will see to that.

Mr. W. Hegney: The Government will not be able to get it from the State Building Supplies.

Mr. MAY: I do not know what it will cost; but I do know it was a completely lost cause. It was lost before the case was even started. The Full Court could make no other decision. In spite of that, the Government had the cheek to appeal against the Full Court's decision.

Mr. Tonkin: No; the stupidity.

Mr. MAY: After that, I would say the present Government has cheek enough for anything. I now wish to speak about the situation that has resulted in Collie as a consequence of the new coal tenders which were accepted by the Government.

The last figure I obtained in regard to houses was that 120 Housing Commission homes in Collie were vacant. I do not know the figures for war service homes and private homes, but I would say there are roughly 200 houses vacant in Collie as a result of the new coal contracts which were entered into at the end of last year. I would like to know what it is costing the State Government or the Commonwealth Government in regard to the Housing Commission homes and war service homes that are vacant. I will omit private homes, because they have nothing to do with either Government. That cost should be added on to the price of coal in order to see how much the Government is making as a result of the new coal tenders. Members should work it out for themselves.

Mr. Jamieson: They made a nice old mess of that, too.

Mr. MAY: The effect of the new coal tenders has not yet been fully realised by those who were responsible for them.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Crommelin): The honourable member has five more minutes.

Mr. MAY: The miners' representatives were told by the Government at a conference at which I was present that if they could get a permanent job after the 24th December, 1960, they should take it, because the situation looked black: it was impossible.

I know of one man who paid a deposit of £900 on a war service home; and his case is typical of many others. He could have paid a smaller deposit, but he wanted to avoid paying a high amount of interest, so he paid a deposit of £900. That man could not get a job in Collie so he went to Geraldton, where he obtained a permanent job. He took his wife and family to Geraldton, where he had to rent a home. He found it impossible to let the war service home in Collie, because of the number of empty houses in the town. Therefore he had to pay monthly instalments on the war service home at Collie in addition to paying rent at Geraldton, with the result that he had to give up the Collie home. It was impossible for him to pay rent in Geraldton, maintain monthly instalments in Collie, and support his family. Everything that man saved over the years has been lost; and that is a typical example of what happened in Collie as a result of the new coal tenders.

Mr. Toms: That is almost the life savings of a man.

Mr. MAY: Many people at Collie were buying their homes, motorcars, and amenities for their wives; and these things they were entitled to do because they were earning on an average about £20 per week. The people undertook these commitments on hire purchase because they were in a position to do so. I do not blame the Government for this. However, it said to the men, "We are going to put you in other work," which was fair enough; but the discrepancy in the amount they obtained per fortnight for working on the mines and the amount they received for the work offered by the Government was around £10 per week. On an average, an ordinary miner would be losing £10 per week as a consequence of being placed on the basic wage after years of service in the mines on a respectable wage. These people lost their cars: they lost everything, because they could not afford to pay for those things out of the basic wage. That is the seamy side of the change made in Collie.

I would like to pay a tribute to the representatives of the men in the Collie mines who handled the conferences held between the unions and the Government in order to try to find some satisfactory basis on which the Government and the men working in the industry could agree.



Some of the Ministers in this House were present at those conferences and they should be able to bear me out when I say that those representatives put forward the best propositions possible for the consideration of the Government. I take my hat off to them because they worked very hard—day and night—in order to put those proposals forward. In one week during which the conference was held, I travelled up and down from Collie four times—and the representatives of the men were with me. I say they did a wonderful job in their efforts to arrive at a solution.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Crommelin): Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

#### *Extension of Time*

Mr. NORTON: In accordance with Standing Orders, I have much pleasure in moving—

That the honourable member's time be extended.

Mr. Brand: I oppose the motion.

[The Speaker (Mr. Hearman) resumed the Chair.]

Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

#### *Ayes—22.*

Mr. Bickerton  
Mr. Brady  
Mr. Curran  
Mr. Evans  
Mr. Fletcher  
Mr. Graham  
Mr. Hall  
Mr. Hawke  
Mr. Heal  
Mr. J. Hegney  
Mr. W. Hegney

Mr. Jamieson  
Mr. Kelly  
Mr. Molr  
Mr. Norton  
Mr. Nuisen  
Mr. Oldfield  
Mr. Rhatigan  
Mr. Rowberry  
Mr. Toms  
Mr. Tonkin  
Mr. May

(Teller.)

#### *Noes—23.*

Mr. Bovell  
Mr. Brand  
Mr. Cornell  
Mr. Court  
Mr. Craig  
Mr. Crommelin  
Mr. Grayden  
Mr. Guthrie  
Dr. Henn  
Mr. Hutchinson  
Mr. Lewis  
Mr. Mann

Mr. W. A. Manning  
Sir Ross McLarty  
Mr. Nalder  
Mr. Nimmo  
Mr. O'Connor  
Mr. O'Neill  
Mr. Owen  
Mr. Roberts  
Mr. Watts  
Mr. Wild  
Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller.)

Majority against—1.

Motion thus negatived.

#### *Debate Resumed*

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [5.1 p.m.]: The episode which has taken place is a disgrace. It appears to me that the Premier has definitely got a sore head over the judgment which was given today in respect of boundaries.

Mr. Brand: What was wrong with the judgment?

Mr. NORTON: There was nothing wrong so far as we were concerned; but the Premier knows the Government has lost its appeal and it now has to obey the law.

Mr. Brand: We obeyed the law.

Mr. NORTON: I think that must be getting under the Premier's skin when he will not agree to a small extension of time to enable a member to put forward the case for his district. I think the Government is letting its ego run away with it in its effort to get big industries, and big financial industries, into the State; so much so that it has overlooked the small man, the individual person, the small company.

Mr. Court: That is not so.

Mr. NORTON: If the Minister for Industrial Development—

Mr. Court: More time is spent on small industries than on the large ones. Two thirds of the department's efforts have been spent on small industries.

Mr. Graham: Yes, in saying "No" to them.

Mr. Court: Ask some of those whom we have helped.

Mr. NORTON: If the Minister for Industrial Development will listen to what I have to say, and allow me sufficient time to say it—

Mr. Graham: He will contradict whatever it is.

Mr. NORTON: —he will know that what I have just said is correct. I was first of all, to deal with the water conservation problems of the Gascoyne River. I made the statement just now that the Government has become so wrapped up assisting big companies, and goes so blind ahead, that it does not take into consideration a proper analysis of what the companies are going to return to the State in comparison with what the small man or company returns. It was only recently—the end of last year—that I saw a report in *The Daily News* concerning Associated Rural Industries of New South Wales.

Members may not know who the people are, or what they are. Actual I do not know; but I do know that it is big concern in the Eastern States, and the present time it has two subsidiaries, the North-West. One of them is Northern Development Holdings Limited, a company which is developing Liveringa rice. The report of the chairman of directors is rather

interesting. I will quote from *The Daily News* of the 20th November, 1960, which says—

Directors were gratified with progress made on the Fitzroy River property. Fodder produced there last year had resulted in considerable quantities being sold locally.

Rice produced there had been exported to England as cargo rice for milling in London, and had been well received on that market.

The West Australian Government had been most co-operative and had spent, or was committed to spend, more than £1,000,000 on this project. I do not think we have heard of that in this House before: that this Government, or any other Government, was committed to spend over £1,000,000 on the Liveringa rice project.

Whilst I agree that the north-west must be developed, there is no reason why the Government should not take into consideration some of the economics of agriculture. The same company, under a different name—Northern Developments (Ord River) Pty. Ltd.—was last year granted by this Government 2,000 acres of land on the Ord River, plus £100,000; and, as I understand the agreement, all the machinery at the end of five years. This is a subsidiary of Associated Rural Industries of New South Wales.

When looking at the value of the crops which can be produced in those areas, we find it is not so very great, especially when we realise that rice can be grown only once in every four or five years. It returns a total of about 1½ tons per acre—it may be a little bit more; but its money value is £45. Safflower is another crop which is grown, and it will show a return of one ton to the acre at a value of £50. Cotton will produce from £60 to £100 per acre; and so on.

The Furphy report estimates the production value per acre on the Gascoyne River to be a few pounds short of £1,200, per acre which is a great difference between the maximum of £100 as shown for the Ord River and other projects. Yet, on the Ord River and on the Liveringa rice, we find that thousands—in fact, millions—of pounds have been spent to assist, so far, only one company.

Coming back to the Gascoyne River, there are approximately 180 people who own their own land, comprising in all some 4,000 acres; and we find that only 540 acres are being used. We can therefore see there is a tremendous difference between the economics of the two set-ups.

Studying the Furphy report a little further, we find it says that if water were procurable there would be another 256,000 acres available for production at the same level. I wonder how that would compare

with Liveringa and the Ord River in area. I know how it compares with the amount of money being spent.

The Furphy report seems to me to have been one of those delaying actions used by this Government to stave off the evil day. It has taken approximately 18 months for the report to reach the Government; and when it finally reached the House, what did we find? There was very little in it other than what we originally knew. We found that the Furphy recommendation was one which had been adopted over three years ago and in connection with which plans were already made—to supply water from a series of bores and wells upstream from the bridge. The Furphy report amounts to exactly the same thing. The following are the Minister's own words:—

The construction of a series of bores or wells along the banks of the river both upstream and downstream of the project and the equipment thereof with suitable pumping machinery.

That was agreed to three years ago. But what has happened? It has been put on the shelf in the "too-hard" basket. Now it is intended to construct a pilot scheme and to equip wells upstream of the bridge to supply settlers downstream of the bridge; and the work is planned for completion early in 1962. In other words, the plan is due for completion within six months. Yet a start has not been made on it.

I wonder how many bores and wells will have to be sunk, and how much equipment will have to be brought in. The Furphy report envisages 100 wells. It envisages a diesel electric plant, and so on. I wonder what Government is going to carry out the recommendations which the Minister said this Government would do. I asked the Minister the following question:—

Has he and his department made a full study of this report? If so, has any decision been made regarding the possibility of conserving water in the Gascoyne River?

The answer was "Yes." My next question was—

If the answer is "Yes," will he advise the House of the scheme to be adopted?

The reply was that, following the report, investigations covering the possibility of conserving water in the Gascoyne River had been put in hand and a decision in this regard should be possible within 12 months. Furthermore, in keeping with the report, it was proposed to augment the existing water supplies from sands upstream of the bridge to growers by early 1962. The Government appears to be in no hurry to get on with the job, and it does not expect to get a full decision on water conservation in the Gascoyne for at least another 12 months.

I cannot see the reason for the delay. The Government looks for outside advice, and in the end it gets exactly the same results. The Government is still hanging back because, in my opinion—and, I think, in the opinion of most members on this side of the House—the industry is one run by individuals and is not a big company. I think that stands out a mile.

In order to show members that the district has developed over the past six years and that production has risen in spite of the adversity of weather conditions, and so on, I propose to read a report I have obtained from the Bureau of Statistics in Perth. This is in respect of vegetable and banana production on the Gascoyne River.

For the year 1954-55, some 320 cwt. of pumpkins were produced, and the amount has progressively increased until last year there were 11,134 cwt. produced and sold on the market. In 1954-55, there were 9,175 cwt. of beans produced, and in 1959-60 the production amounted to 42,420 cwt. In regard to tomatoes, in 1954-55, there were 90 half-bushel cases produced, and in 1959-60 there were 41,397 half-bushel cases. Some 3,000 dozen cucumbers were produced in 1954-55, and last year 43,783 dozen cucumbers were grown. No capsicums were produced in 1954-55, but 58 cwt. were grown in 1955-56, and in 1959-60 there were 1,162 cwt. No egg fruit were grown in 1954-55, but in 1959-60 some 700 dozen were produced. In 1954-55, some 20 dozen rock melons were produced as against 15,168 dozen in 1959-60. Bananas have shown a fluctuation in production over the years. In 1956-57 we produced 34,138 bushels of bananas, and in 1959-60 we produced 107,896 bushels.

Members can see that in spite of adversity, and weather and other conditions, this industry has gone ahead in leaps and bounds; and that land at Carnarvon is producing, on an average, nearly £1,200 worth of produce per acre of land used—far more per acre, probably, than one could anticipate that land in any other part of the State could produce. If that industry is not worth while stabilising by the spending of money on water conservation, then it is not worth while spending money on water conservation for any other industry in the State.

Yesterday I asked the following questions about flood control of the Gascoyne River:—

- (1) Has a definite plan been formulated to reduce the intensity of the flooding of the Gascoyne River at Carnarvon?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes," will he outline what action is to be taken and when?

- (3) Has any consideration been given to the clearing of Whitmore Island and the islands between the river mouth and the motor crossing, or any other island west of the Gascoyne Bridge?

The following is the Minister's reply to the first question:—

- (1) No. Investigations covering possible dam sites are not yet complete.

Whilst I admit that a dam might control the flooding of waters in Carnarvon, and would result in great conservation of water, it is not the only thing that is required to reduce the floodings in that area. The Minister replied to questions Nos. (2) and (3) as follows:—

- (2) Answered by No. (1).

- (3) Some consideration has been given to clearing the islands, but it is considered that any possible benefits, which are doubtful, would not warrant the expense involved.

I claim that the islands in the Gascoyne River constitute one of the main causes of the excessive flooding that has taken place over the last two years. When I first went to Carnarvon there were, near the river mouth and up to the river for three or maybe four miles, a series of small islands with large channels through them. During the past 20 years, these channels have become filled with silt and clay so that now what used to be many islands has become a land mass, which has, of course, restricted the flow of water in that part of the river.

When the flow of water is restricted, only one thing happens: the water takes the line of least resistance and forces its way around the obstacle; and that is what has happened at Carnarvon. The waters of the river have gone to the north and the south of these islands and, because of the excessive floodings, are eroding the banks of the river in the plantation and the town areas.

There is another island mentioned in these two questions: Whitmore Island, which is at the mouth of the river in line with the jetty. This island splits the water which comes from the north mouth of the river and diverts it to Babbage Island where it is causing extensive erosion; and, at the same time, it is causing silting along the jetty. Yet the Minister says that the cost involved in clearing would not be warranted.

I wonder what the cost would be. Does the Minister know? I do not think he knows how the islands have been formed. Has he ever seen them? I do not think so, because he never has time when he comes to Carnarvon: he slips through too quickly. Sometimes he is not even seen when he is there. These islands are just

silt masses built up by vegetation catching the silt from the flow of the river. It is only a matter of clearing the vegetation and burning it, and the river would do the rest, because the river would simply melt away the banks of silt.

One wonders whether the Minister has ever considered the cost involved in repairing the damage to roads, and other damage around the town, because much of this cost could be saved if the water had a free flow to the ocean. The manager of Doorawarra Station told me that this year there was a cement block on the bank of the river near his homestead, and around the cement block a tremendous hole had been formed by the water that had eddied around it. Whilst the flow of the water could not shift the block, it was able to dig away the sand and leave a tremendous hole there. That is what these islands are doing: diverting the water and causing it to swirl, thus tearing down the river banks and creating new channels. If a little consideration were given to these matters, instead of passing them off in a haphazard manner, far more would be achieved, and at less cost.

When I was last in Carnarvon, I had a look at the new schoolsite, and I inquired from the engineers and the contractors whether any scheme had been set up to protect the schoolground from erosion. The ground is too high to be flooded; but in the course of levelling and extending it, it was necessary to bulldoze down some sandhills; and these hills were the main flood-water outlets. What is going to happen if no protection is given to those banks? They will simply melt into the main stream and be washed away; and probably half the playground will go with them.

There was some airy fairy idea of planting couch grass along the side of the bank; but how much erosion will couch grass prevent? For the purpose of holding the banks against a flood, it would be a waste of time to plant couch grass, and it would involve a waste of money and a waste of good water out of the town supply. When one realises that just across the flood drain the Department of Civil Aviation has constructed a levee bank which is 25 ft. through at the bottom, and that during the last flood one-third of that bank was washed away in many places, one can realise what would happen to couch grass planted on loose sand; and that levee bank was put in by special machinery and was specially packed so that it would not erode. Therefore, how is the sand around the schoolground going to stand up to a flood if consolidated clay will not stand up to it?

I would like to return for a moment to the Furphy report and make a few comments on appendix 5 of that document.

It is very interesting to read this report, because Mr. Furphy is an engineer—a man supposed to be one of the best authorities on irrigation and water conservation in Australia. In this appendix he sets out what is known as the co-ordinated pumping and distribution scheme. As I said before, he considered that 100 wells would be necessary to supply sufficient water for the industry in its present stage; and he said that 30 pumps, each with a capacity of 150 gallons a minute, would be required.

This is the point I want to stress: Each of these 30 pumps would deliver 9,000 gallons per hour, so that the 30 would produce 270,000 gallons an hour; or 2,750,000 gallons in a 10-hour day; or, taking a seven-day week, they would produce 18,900,000 gallons. But the same gentleman says, in this report, that the industry at the moment is using 30,000,000 gallons of water a week; and he goes on to say that without increasing the number of planters, this consumption could rise to 40,000,000 per week. This means that the 100 wells would have to produce, in a day, somewhere in the vicinity of 5,400,000 gallons and the pumps would have to work an average of 20 hours a day. It also means that many of the planters would have to work practically all night to complete their watering—and this is on the basis of a seven-day week.

I cannot understand why a person of the calibre of Mr. Furphy, with his knowledge of pumps, machinery, and water, should make such a recommendation: that it would require only 30 pumps with a capacity of 150 gallons per minute, each, to supply sufficient water to this industry at Carnarvon, when he knew very well that over 30,000,000 gallons of water would be used per week.

If the Minister is going to adopt these recommendations he will probably find himself in trouble, because the amounts that are mentioned would not be nearly enough to meet the requirements of the industry in its present state, let alone go towards developing the industry further and even supply water to many of those people who have had to cease production on their properties on account of salt water. It is those persons who would be among some of the first to obtain water from these pumping schemes if they were put into effect.

I wish to continue my remarks on water supplies and speak of those householders who reside in East Carnarvon. I have written to the Minister and I have received replies of sorts which are all extremely evasive. For some two years now I have been endeavouring to have water reticulated to those people in East Carnarvon who have nothing but salt water available to them. The proposed scheme is not large or expensive. Moneys have been

allocated for the work, but never spent. The material has been lying idle waiting to be used, but nothing has happened. People have been buying blocks at East Carnarvon from the Government because they are the only building blocks that are available. What is more, they have to purchase them under more or less conditional purchase agreements. One of the conditions is that an intending purchaser must spend so many hundreds of pounds on the block in three years; otherwise a title will not be granted. But what is the use of erecting houses on those blocks if there is no water?

Supplies of underground or reticulated water cannot be obtained, so one cannot live there; but those people could be supplied with water from a reticulated scheme to enable them to build and live there. However, nothing has been done. Further, the Carnarvon Shire Council has been desirous of going ahead with septic tank installations, but it is prevented from doing so because there is no water available for flushing purposes.

On Wednesday last I asked a question on this matter in this House, and the Minister told me that this scheme would be put in train and the pipes laid before the 31st October, 1961. If no commencement has yet been made, is the Minister going to put men on to the job to complete it? Are the materials still there waiting to be used; or what is happening? The Minister's replies are so evasive that no one can gain any definite information from them. As is known, members have to repeat their questions to obtain any semblance of an answer to them.

In this same area, where a number of coloured people live, it is planned to erect some "V"-class houses at Carnarvon provided suitable land is available. That was the information the Minister for Native Welfare gave me yesterday in reply to a question. I am quite sure he was not aware of the answer that was given to me last year by the Minister for the North-West in reply to a similar question. I addressed the following questions to the Minister for the North-West on the 3rd November last year:—

- (1) Has any decision been reached in respect of the land to be utilised at Carnarvon for the building of houses for coloured people?
- (2) If so, how many houses are to be built?
- (3) When is it anticipated that tenders will be called for the supply of materials and the erection of houses?

The Minister replied as follows:—

- (1) to (3) Owing to the difficulty of arranging transfers of various pieces of land to the natives concerned and the delay expected in

the completion of a suggested subdivision, a decision has been made to erect four of the five houses on lot 44, which is owned by the Department of Native Welfare.

Each house will have a frontage of one chain on Shellcross Street. This decision has been made subject to the approval of the local authority and provided suitable arrangements can be made for water supply. These matters are being investigated.

Therefore it can be seen from that reply that the matter is handed back to the Minister for Works to arrange a suitable supply of water. The answer to this question by the Minister for the North-West continues—

It is proposed to erect the fifth house on a piece of land which is part of the Sonny Beasley Estate, subject to transfer of the title.

Provided no obstacles are encountered, tenders will be called in late November or early December.

I will now quote to the House the answer that I received from the Minister for Native Welfare.

Mr. Perkins: Some policies have been changed to the extent that we do not like erecting many native houses together; personally, I prefer to spread them through the community.

Mr. NORTON: Yet it is stated that this was Lot 44, which is a 4-acre piece of land. That is not a small piece of land.

Mr. Perkins: If you had been a little more co-operative and discussed the matter with me we may have been able to work out something; but you have never been near me to discuss it.

Mr. NORTON: That is what the Minister thinks! If he had listened last session and had been more observant, he would have heard what I had said or seen my remarks printed in *Hansard*.

Mr. Perkins: You should have looked at it yourself.

Mr. NORTON: The Minister is the one that should have looked at it.

Mr. Perkins: You have been very unco-operative. Many other local members did a lot better than you did.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): There is too much cross-talk going on, and I advise the member for Gascoyne to address the Chair.

Mr. NORTON: Very well, Mr. Speaker; but I wish you would restrain the Minister so that I can get on with my speech. Another matter I wish to raise is in regard

to roads. As is known, the people in the north-west depend entirely on roads for their transport. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Main Roads Department and also the local authorities in that area on the excellent way they have co-operated after the recent floods by getting the roads into trafficable order. They did a wonderful job over the many miles of road they had to repair.

It is interesting to know that the Gascoyne-Manilya Shire Council has 1,664 miles of unsealed roads to maintain, whilst the Upper Gascoyne Shire Council has under its control 1,566 miles of unsealed road. Those are two shire councils which were seriously affected by the recent floods because their roads pass through either catchment areas or ground which was on the receiving end of the floods.

It has become clear that it is no use having good roads in these areas unless the people are able to travel over them; and the reason they are prevented from doing so without a lot of trouble lies in the number of river and creek crossings which are encountered in this district. Although there may be a perfectly good road up to the river or creek crossings it has been found on many occasions that the rivers or creeks are almost impassable. In many instances it would not require a great deal of money to put those crossings into such a condition that traffic would have no difficulty in getting over them.

Mr. Perkins: Have you forgotten that you prevented me from obtaining assistance in the way of matching money for this purpose?

Mr. NORTON: I am talking of river and creek crossings now, which has nothing to do with matching money.

Mr. Perkins: Where is the money to come from?

Mr. NORTON: It is obtained from grants from the Main Roads Department. Where does the Main Roads Department get the money?

Mr. Perkins: From matching money.

Mr. NORTON: What is the amount?

Mr. Perkins: It is £2,000,000.

Mr. NORTON: For where? The whole of the State?

Mr. Perkins: Yes.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order! The member for Gascoyne will address the Chair.

Mr. NORTON: I am trying to, Mr. Speaker; but the Minister continues to interrupt. These creeks and rivers are responsible for holding up transport; and at the present time it is essential for road

stock trains to move cattle to the rail-heads and also right down to Perth without encountering any difficulty at these rivers and creeks, because it is only by getting the stock to Perth in prime condition that it can be sold at the price it should command. A considerable amount of money should be made available to construct a permanent crossing. It is a job that could be done in stages, and it would greatly assist the industry as a whole and all those who travel throughout the north.

I now wish to refer to fishing activities around Carnarvon. I hope I have enough time to say all I want to say on this question, but I am afraid I will be disappointed. As is well known, some two years ago a company went to Carnarvon to investigate the prawn and scallop industry. It spent over £100,000 of its own capital endeavouring to develop that industry, which is one that could be a dollar-earner and also one that has even attracted the attention of a big American firm.

However, when the representatives of this Australian company approached the Minister for Industrial Development and the Minister for Fisheries for assistance they received very little encouragement. They were told that the matter would be investigated to ascertain what could be done. Finally, as members know, the company was unable to obtain berthing facilities to unload its catches, and it has now left the State and returned to Queensland to carry on its prawning operations there. I asked the Minister for Fisheries quite a few questions regarding this matter, and some of the answers were very enlightening. This is one question, in particular, which I asked—

(1) Is he aware that the Australian Pearling Company has decided not to trawl for prawns and scallops in the Shark Bay waters this year, and has taken its plant and equipment back to the Eastern States?

(2) If the answer is "Yes", does he know the reason for this; and, if so, will he advise the House of those reasons?

The Minister replied as follows:—

(1) I know the company has abandoned its plans for Shark Bay, but neither I nor my department knows what has happened to its plant and equipment.

(2) The reasons given by the company for its failure to persevere in its efforts are:—

(a) mismanagement at the outset of its operations;

Does any member believe that the company would admit that? The Minister continued his answers as follows:—

(b) lack of suitable berthing in rough weather;

That is quite correct. He then said—

(c) lack of slipping facilities;

Again, that is quite correct. Continuing—

(d) Divided control of the company's activities between Perth and Carnarvon.

That could have been quite true, also; but the company had intended to establish itself permanently at Carnarvon if it had been granted berthing facilities. The Minister, in his answer, then said—

(e) insufficiency of capital.

Does anyone think that the company would admit that? We will find out what the company did say.

I have here a copy of a letter addressed to that company, dated the 26th January, 1961, from the Minister for Fisheries. One paragraph is as follows:—

As far as the provision of facilities at Carnarvon is concerned, I might say that the most careful consideration has been given by the Department of Industrial Development and by the Fisheries Department to the representations made by your company. The high cost involved has directed our thinking along the line that if your firm could find a basis of co-operation with the North-West Whaling Co. which already has facilities at Carnarvon, it would be to the advantage not only of yourselves but also of the North-West Whaling Co.

There the Minister told this company to approach a private company for berthing facilities. He knows very little about fishing and about the jetty of the whaling company. If he did know, he would be aware that the jetty is located in open water and at most times would be too rough for the trawlers to use. Last year it was used by the company for certain activities—mainly to put personnel on the trawlers.

This is a letter dated the 26th June, 1961, which the Minister for the North-West received from the Australian Pearling Co. Ltd. It states—

We wish to inform you that we have decided against continuing with our prawning activities in Western Australia and therefore will not be requiring the berthage subsidy you advised us would be available to us this season.

The company gave no reasons. It simply advised us that it would not require the berthage subsidy.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: On the question of mismanagement, you should know there was mismanagement of the company.

Mr. NORTON: I am not here to criticise the company. I am here to put forward the facts. The company found out about the mismanagement and rectified the position.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That was the point which I made.

Mr. NORTON: This company was trying to obtain berthing facilities at the same time as the Liberty Fish Company of Philadelphia indicated that it wanted to start fishing for prawns in Western Australia. That was reported in three different newspapers under big headlines, and all appeared in the same week. Those reports indicated that the Liberty Fish Company of Philadelphia was willing to come to Australia; it was willing to fish for prawns off our coast; and it was willing to form a company in this State so that it would be able to operate tariff-free. It was stated that the Minister intended to apply to the Minister for Customs in Canberra for assistance to bring in the trawlers duty-free. But the Minister did not take the trouble to apply to that Federal Minister for assistance to help an Australian-owned industry.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You realise the Commonwealth Government does not make funds available for that purpose.

Mr. NORTON: It is interesting to note that the Liberty Fish Company was going to fish in our waters and process all the fish at sea, and the only condition was that all the processed fish was to be landed in Australia before being sent away. This appeared in two of the newspaper reports. The Minister said further in one report—

No elaborate port facilities would be necessary as the trawlers would transfer their catch to the processing ship at sea.

In *The West Australian* of the 9th January the following is reported—

The company aimed to use new trawling methods to catch prawns and scallops. The catches would then be transferred to the mother ship at sea and brought back to base to be cleaned and packed for export.

Mr. Hutchinson said that the establishment of the company would provide the necessary development for the great fishing potential of the North-west.

It would also provide employment for Australian trawling crews and for technicians in the company's proposed research station at the base.

Yet the reports in the other two newspapers mentioned nothing about a research station at the base.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Do you regret that the company did not come to this State?

Mr. NORTON: I do not regret it. The company would have been of no use to the development of the north-west.

It would be in no different position from the snapper boats which are fishing off Carnarvon. It would not produce one source of employment in the north-west; neither do the Japanese fishing fleets, which take our fish and process it in ships at sea.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I am sure your view was not held by my predecessor in office, the member for Merredin-Yilgarn.

Mr. NORTON: Processing of fish in ships at sea is no use to the development of the district or to the north-west. What is the use of an American company coming to this State and operating in our waters, where the ships make a catch, process the fish at sea, and send it away? How much would Western Australia get from such an enterprise? We would derive no profit at all.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What completely narrow thinking! You do not allow your mind to get out of its narrow rut.

Mr. NORTON: I understand the Minister has a right to speak in this debate. He can then reply to what I am saying.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There is nothing for me to reply to.

Mr. NORTON: I asked the Minister about snapper fishing off the North-West Coast, and whether the department was carrying on with the investigations which were conducted last year. He said it was intended to carry them on because that was the recommendation in Report I on the Shark Bay fishery. In this report Mr. Bowen went into detail in a very workmanlike manner. He confirmed what had been anticipated by a number of commercial fishermen: that the use of traps and anchor chains would damage the coral patches, and the snapper would change its habitat. That is clearly verified by a report in the *Weekend News* of the 12th August last. It has also been made very clear by two people who have been fishing in that area for perhaps the last three or four years by the use of traps and hand-lines.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What happened to Pupazzoni's catch?

Mr. NORTON: They are now satisfied they have to find new grounds for catching snapper. They both agree that the traps had broken up the coral patches and destroyed the fish eggs; and that the use of traps had driven the snapper to new patches, which have to be found. Coral does not grow overnight. It takes years for it to grow, especially in these waters. The fish in this area would be driven further and further away by the use of traps; thus, the shore-based fishermen at Shark Bay will be driven out of the industry.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You have no regard for the answers which I gave to your questions.

Mr. NORTON: I have them here. Perhaps the Minister does not know what they contain. Both Mr. Cicerello and Mr. Pupazzoni confirm what Mr. Bowen said on p. 14 of his report.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Read the recommendations.

Mr. NORTON: I can do that. The report reads—

The snapper habitat is damaged by the traps and anchor chains as invariably pieces of coral are adhering to them when pulled to the surface. However, it is impossible to assess the extent of this damage or the effect on the schooling snapper. It has been suggested that, as a result of the damage, the snapper will not school on their old patches and that the fishing will deteriorate as a consequence. The extremely poor production in the Cape Inscription area during the 1960 season has been cited as an example of the result of trap-fishing. However, 0.68 million pounds of snapper were caught in the Koks Island area in 1959, mainly by traps, and in 1960 the production was almost doubled. It is difficult, therefore, to explain the various fluctuations which occur, but it is doubtful whether we have sufficient information available to postulate that the habitat damage will really cause the fish to avoid their favourite schooling patches.

We have the answer now because this year in Koks Island the fishing greatly declined. Therefore I think that proves that what the Minister says—that the snapper catches vary from season to season—is altogether incorrect. They do not vary to the extent they have varied this year, because on the old original patches, where they get the very big catches usually, very little is being caught now.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. W. A. Manning.

*House adjourned at 5.56 p.m.*