

early stage of the session so that both Houses will have an opportunity to consider it and suggest any amendments they think fit. I also hope that the Companies Bill will be proceeded with. The Government is deserving of credit for the action it has taken in extending technical education, but it has not gone far enough. It is a difficult matter which has been sorely neglected for many years, and not only by this Government. Today neither teachers nor buildings are available. The Government should regard it as one of the most important features of its educational policy and extend it, particularly in the country districts, to the high schools where they will have a certain foundation for that type of work.

We hear a good deal about reconstruction after the war. My only hope is that the reconstruction will be on sound principles and will aim at permanent and general, and not merely temporary and local, improvements. I trust that we shall see the wisdom of maintaining our alliances after this war and not breaking them up as we did after the previous war. I read with a great deal of satisfaction certain remarks of the Right Hon. R. G. Menzies dealing with the high protective tariff of Australia, and also the remarks of the chairman of the Tariff Board, Mr. McConaghy. Both of them recognised that Australia must observe the post-war conditions of the Atlantic Charter and Lease-Lend Agreement. It must frame its future economy, having regard to the rights and interests of other countries. It is particularly refreshing to find a realisation of the necessity for placing in a better position the primary industries of Australia. The political stability and the economic welfare of every country depend upon the man on the land being in a prosperous position. This applies perhaps more in Western Australia than in the other States, but it certainly does apply fundamentally to the economy of Australia as a whole.

On motion by Hon. V. Hamersley, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.1 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 4th August, 1942.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (6).

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE RELATIONSHIPS.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON asked the Premier: 1, Is it the intention of the Government to give the House an opportunity to discuss Commonwealth and State relationships, more particularly covering economic and supply problems, before the departure of the State's representative to the forthcoming Loan Council meeting? 2, Will the Government, for this special purpose, arrange for the suspension of the Standing Orders?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (for the Premier) replied: (1) and (2) The Address-in-reply debate furnishes the opportunity suggested.

BANK CLOSURES IN COUNTRY.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Premier: In April last I notified the Government that certain banks were closing some country branches, which necessitated their clients transferring their accounts to another bank. In the case of debtor clients this involved the discharge of a mortgage and the registration of a fresh one, charges for which the bank client was in no way responsible: 1, Has any arrangement been arrived at between the banks to enable such mortgages to be transferred by indorsement or otherwise free of cost to the client? 2, If not will the Government take early legislative action to enable that to be done, or, alternatively, amend such Acts as may be necessary to free such mortgages of Title Office fees and stamp duty?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (for the Premier) replied: 1 and 2, I am advised by the chairman of the Associated

Banks in this State that negotiations are still proceeding to enable transfers of mortgages between banks to be effected by indorsement, and it is hoped that finality will be reached within the next two weeks.

UNIVERSITY.

As to Chair of Veterinary Science.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, What amount of money would have had to be obtained in order to permit of the University authorities taking advantage of the £18,000 bequeathed by the late Mr. J. MacCallum Smith in order to establish a Chair of Veterinary Science? 2, What efforts were made to obtain the money required? 3, In view of the uncertainty as to when the whole of the amount bequeathed would be available, and to the difficulty of obtaining money for other than war purposes, the latter a difficulty that could not have been foreseen by the testator, was any effort made to get the consent of the Court to extending the period for accepting the legacy beyond three years? 4, If not, why not? 5, Is it too late now to make an effort to obtain this money for the establishment of a Chair which would be of such value to the farming community? 6, If not, will the Minister take immediate action?

The MINISTER replied: 1, A bequest of at least £50,000 cash would be necessary in addition to the £18,000 bequeathed by the late Mr. MacCallum Smith. 2, The Government, at the request of the Senate of the University, examined a proposal to supply portion of the salary for a Professor of Veterinary Research and also erect research laboratories estimated to cost £9,000. 3, 4, 5, and 6, Legal opinion obtained by the Senate of the University upon this aspect indicated that an extension beyond the period mentioned in the late Mr. MacCallum Smith's will could not be obtained.

DEFENCE.

Precautions at Schools.

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Has any decision been come to regarding the strengthening and roofing of school air-raid trenches? 2, If so, what was the decision? 3, Are children to go home when a warning sounds?

The MINISTER replied: 1 and 2, An examination is now being made of all school shelters and when the report is received the whole question will be carefully considered. 3, Children are to remain at school when the warning sounds.

Mr. TONKIN (without notice) asked the Minister for Mines: May I ask whether there is any exception to the rule stated by the Minister that children shall remain at school? Is that a hard-and-fast rule, and are no circumstances whatever to be taken into consideration?

The MINISTER replied: It is the general instruction issued by the Director of Education that the children will remain at school. It is impossible for the Civil Defence Council or any other body to say what might or might not happen at any given moment.

Mr. TONKIN (without notice) asked the Minister for Mines: Is he aware that there is an anti-aircraft battery within 200 yards of the Fremantle school, and, if aware of that fact, is he still prepared to stand by an instruction that the children are to remain at school during air raids?

The MINISTER replied: I am not aware that there is a battery alongside the school; but if there is, I am glad to hear it, because planes are apt to keep well up in the air clear of a battery.

BASIC WAGE ADJUSTMENT.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON asked the Premier: 1, Is it the intention of the Government to take immediate advantage of the National Security (Economic Organisation) Regulation 17A and arrange for the Minister to exercise the power given under such regulation and make such adjustment and amendment of the basic wage as would place it in accordance with the change in the cost of living as indicated by price index numbers prepared by the Government Statistician? 2, Is there a danger that neglect to make such an immediate declaration may deny to the workers an increased basic wage for a period of three months longer than would otherwise be the case?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (for the Premier) replied: 1 and 2, At no stage has the Government been able to take the action suggested. The Government is advised by its own legal advisers and by the Commonwealth Attorney General that National Security (Economic Organisation) Regula-

tion 17A does not authorise it to take any action in connection with quarterly adjustments due but not made before the issue of the regulation. As no such adjustment has been due since the regulation was issued, the State Government has so far had no power to make any declaration. Its power will become exercisable for the first time when the next quarterly adjustment is due.

MINERS' FLANNEL SHIRTS.

Mr. MARSHALL (without notice) asked the Minister for Mines: Can the Minister state whether any appreciable progress is being made in the Eastern States as to the supply of flannel shirts for miners?

The MINISTER replied: I am not able to state at the moment what the position is, but the Government is doing everything possible to obtain a supply of flannel shirts for miners.

SITTING DAYS AND HOURS.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS [2.28]:
I move—

That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, at 2.15 p.m.

The reason for the motion is fairly obvious, although possibly there may be controversy in the House as to whether we should prepare to sit at night. In parts of the House certain precautions have been taken to enable its functions to continue in some places after dark, and to have portions of the building blacked-out or browned-out. It is considered desirable, however, at this stage that daylight sittings should commence at 2.15 p.m.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (York): I want to know what the intentions of the Government actually are. Are we, as we did during the last two short series of sittings, to meet early in the day and finish at 6.15 p.m., or are we to have the usual tea adjournment at 6.15 p.m. and sit on afterwards? If we are to sit on late into the night arrangements will have to be made for conveyances. Many of us cannot walk home after buses and trams have stopped. There should be some understanding as to whether the Government will provide cars. I for one do not intend to drive a car on the roads at night under the present regulations.

Members: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL (Murchison): The Leader of the Opposition is on the wrong track.

Hon. C. G. Latham: He is sure to be!

Mr. MARSHALL: I oppose the motion because I consider it an incorrect procedure to commence the day's sitting at so late an hour in the day. Why cannot we follow the procedure adopted during the last series of sittings? Why should we not begin at an earlier hour of the day and conclude before sunset? From whatever angle the motion may be viewed it must of necessity curb discussion in this Chamber. If there was no compulsion to cease sitting when darkness fell, there would be no strong objection to beginning at 2.15 p.m. We know, however, that the building is not adequately served as regards brown-outs or black-outs. We should be setting a very bad example to the public if this building, situated on one of the high points of the city, were illuminated while citizens were compelled to live in houses browned-out or blacked-out.

Apart from those aspects, there is the objectionable feature mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition. But, I repeat, what prevents us from sitting earlier in the day? For some unknown reason, ever since I have been a member of this House, the practice has been to commence particularly late in the day. That practice no-one seems able to justify. It appears that some people who may be members of Parliament make Parliament a side issue, demanding that we should begin on the important business of the State when it suits them after having laboured in offices or elsewhere. We are paid to be here and to do our job to the best of our ability. We have no right to make Parliament a side issue. On that ground alone a late start is unjustifiable. Is it not reasonable to urge that we would be able to give much better service if we started earlier in the day, holding our deliberations during the period when, naturally, everyone is capable of giving of his best, rather than during a period when everybody has become fatigued? In my opinion the House should revert to the 11 a.m. commencement. That, I consider, is a reasonable hour. It may be argued that there is a proposal to pass Federal legislation extending the daylight period of the day by speeding up the hours. If we start at 2.15 p.m., it is only reasonable and right that we

should stop for our evening meal at some time—let it be 6.30 if desired.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Or 7.30 p.m.

Mr. MARSHALL: In that case, however, we shall derive no advantage whatever from any daylight saving legislation, because by the time the evening meal is over darkness will have fallen. To me it seems absolutely wrong, in the absence of special justification, to begin our sittings later than 11 a.m. Then we shall have six full hours of daylight in which to discuss matters of State—or possibly seven hours with a break for a meal. The motion seems to play right into the hands of persons who argue that State Parliaments do not matter and that they accomplish nothing. It is playing into the hands of such critics to begin our sittings at 2.15 p.m. when we must cease our proceedings at sunset.

In all my years here I have known it to happen only on one or two occasions—very rarely indeed—that the session did not close until there had been ample discussion of all the business on the notice paper. Invariably some member—I have done it myself—has forfeited his right to express his ideas and represent his electors correctly because of the pressure of time. That is not the way the work of this State should be done. Almost every session the Government introduces a motion that on Wednesday—private members' day—Government business shall take precedence over private members' business. Yet now it is proposed to throw away something like three hours of daylight when we know that the sitting must end at nightfall. I have viewed the matter from all angles and would like to be considerate and agree to the motion. If members agree to 2.15 as the commencing hour, knowing that business must cease at dusk, they will have no justification for complaining later when the Government takes up all the time of the session in order to get through its business. It is entitled to do so and I shall vote in its favour. Members need to be careful. I do not like the House starting so late, because there is no real justification for it. I agree with you, Mr. Speaker, that if there is an aerial attack on Perth it will take place in daylight, but I do not know that members of Parliament should have greater consideration shown them than is shown to the ordinary individuals who have to go into a factory to work, or to the employees of the East Perth

Power Station who in the course of their duties may have some experience of enemy attacks. I contend that it would be reasonable for the sittings to commence at 11 a.m. and that would give us a reasonable time to get through our business. There is no harm in our adjourning if there is no business to be done, but I am fearful that there will be far too much business to be done in the limited time that will be given us if this motion is passed.

MR. STUBBS (Wagin): The member for Murchison would probably have been justified in the discourse he has given this Chamber if we were living in normal times. I venture to say that this motion would not have been introduced but for the fact that we are not living in normal times. I appreciate some of the sentiments that have been expressed by the hon. member, but I cannot see eye to eye with him and hope the House will agree to the motion.

MR. McDONALD (West Perth): All I wish to say is that it seems to me that there are very good reasons for the spread of hours proposed. Those reasons will doubtless be given by the Minister, and I support the motion.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (in reply): I would first like to reply to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition as to the intention of the Government in regard to sitting hours. The purpose of the Government is to endeavour to have each day's proceedings terminated within daylight hours. It will be noticed that the motion fixes the commencing hour at 2.15 p.m. "unless otherwise ordered." Assuming that we sit until six o'clock and, when daylight saving is introduced, until a later hour to suit the business of the House, we will not be losing anything in point of hours as compared with what has been the normal practice in the past. In the early part of a session it has been customary for the House to meet at 4.30 p.m. and sit until 6.15 p.m.—giving members an hour and three-quarters for debate—and sometimes at that hour to adjourn until the following day. When the House has resumed after tea, at 7.30 p.m., it has frequently not sat later than 9 p.m.

Mr. Doney: Only in the first couple of weeks.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The proposal is to sit from 2.15 p.m. onwards in the early part of this session and, if there is a demand—that is to say, if the House otherwise orders—the hour can be adjusted not merely to suit any individual or the Government but to suit the business before the House. With regard to the points raised by the member for Murchison, many good reasons could be advanced, from the Government's point of view, for the commencing hour being at 2.15 p.m. One, however, is sufficient. Those of us who experienced sittings commencing at 11 a.m. found how difficult it was to cope with both the business of the House and administrative duties. It will be extremely difficult for us, if our mornings as well as our afternoons are to be taken up in the House and its precincts, to give the required attention in these days to matters of State. No other argument is necessary for the House meeting at 2.15 p.m.

Question put and passed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, PRECEDENCE.

On motion by the Minister for Lands, ordered: That on Tuesdays and Thursdays Government business shall take precedence of all motions and orders of the day.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

On motion by the Minister for Lands, sessional Committees were appointed as follows:—

Library.—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tonkin, and Mr. Patrick.

Standing Orders.—Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Doney, Mr. Withers, and Mr. North.

House.—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Needham, Mr. McLarty, Mr. Stubbs, and Mr. Wilson.

Printing.—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Triat, and Mr. Thorn.

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1) £2,350,000.

Standing Orders Suspension.

On motion by the Minister for Lands, resolved:—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees, and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day, and to enable the business aforesaid to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-reply is adopted.

Message.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

In Committee of Supply.

The House resolved into Committee of Supply, Mr. Marshall in the Chair.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS [2.45]: I move—

That there be granted to His Majesty on account of the services of the year ending the 30th June, 1943, a sum not exceeding £2,350,000.

On this occasion, the Supply is required in the customary manner, to carry on operations of the State pending the passing of the Estimates. The Estimates for all departments are in course of preparation, and as soon as practicable will be presented to Parliament. The Supply now required is as follows:—

	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund ..	1,850,000
General Loan Fund	200,000
Advance to Treasurer	300,000
	<hr/>
	2,350,000

Expenditure has been curtailed to essential requirements, and particularly close scrutiny is being made of all amounts and accounts because of war circumstances. The provision in this Supply Bill is £150,000 less from the General Loan Fund than the amount asked for in the first Supply Bill of last year. The amounts required last year were—

	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund ..	1,850,000
General Loan Fund	350,000
Advance to Treasurer	300,000
	<hr/>
	2,500,000

The amounts now sought are otherwise the same as those granted last year. Every endeavour is being made to keep expenditure to essential requirements, and it is closely watched. The war conditions, however, are responsible for increased expenditure in some departments, and even there a very careful watch is kept. Expenditure has been increased, particularly, for such purposes as air-raid precautions; protection of essential services; superannuation contributions on behalf of State employees enlisted for Military, Naval, or Air Forces, and concessional fares to soldiers.

The expenditure for the first three months of last year out of Consolidated Revenue,

not including special Acts, amounted to £1,781,674. The expenditure under special Acts includes interest and sinking fund payments. So that although the Supply asked for in this Bill appears to be an amount very much lower than one quarter or three months' supply of the total expenditure of the year, the variation is in the main due to the money appropriated from special funds and by special Acts of Parliament. The amount asked for out of General Loan Fund is to meet essential services in conformity with the arrangements entered into with the Commonwealth Government.

The Advance to the Treasurer is to meet expenditure for immediate needs which cannot, for the time being, be charged to special votes or accounts. It is easily understood that there are many sums which, on presentation, are not allocated to a special fund or department, or special expenditure, and such sums as those are made up from the Advance to the Treasurer. Last year it was estimated that there would be a deficit for the year of £198,297 but, as members are aware, by the careful watching of expenditure, together with increased revenue, the year's actual operations resulted in a surplus of £1,768. It is not necessary to deal with particular items in connection with such a Bill.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (York): A new departure has been made this year in connection with revenue. We have allocated to the State a sum of £2,576,000, plus £23,000, or a total of £2,599,000. That is what we may call our ordinary revenue, raised from taxation. Previously it was raised from income tax, companies dividend duties, and such taxes, and in addition from the hospital tax. I would like the Acting Treasurer to tell me what arrangements, if any, have been made by the Commonwealth Government in respect to the payment of that sum of money to the State. Is it to be made by annual payments, or will monthly or quarterly payments be made? The Treasurer will certainly want to know how he is going to receive this money.

Most of the money we are now authorising is money which will come in in the form of revenue from utilities, departmental revenue, and suchlike things. I would like the Acting Treasurer to give me some idea how he is going to make up the amount he is now estimating. He has told us that there has been careful control of expenditure. I do not

agree with that. There is no more control of expenditure today than there was three years ago when the State had not the same financial worries as at present.

Mr. J. Hegney: What reason have you for saying that?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The hon. member always interjects.

The **CHAIRMAN:** Order!

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The hon. member does not even give me an opportunity to tell him.

The **CHAIRMAN:** The Leader of the Opposition will kindly address the Chair.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: We should have done what I asked the Government to do in the early stages of the war—three years ago—and carefully watched expenditure for the benefit of the Commonwealth Government. After all, that Government—not this Parliament—has the big financial responsibility today. A great deal of revenue is coming into the Treasury of this State, not from income tax but from other sources, and it is being distributed from Commonwealth expenditure. Revenue from trams, trains, traffic fees and all sorts of things is coming in. The expenditure of Federal moneys has relieved the State Treasurer concerning considerable sums of money which might have been expended had not those payments been made. In this morning's paper the deficit for July is published. Had it not been published I probably would not have raised the question, but this is what it says—

The temporary effects of the new uniform taxation legislation were shown in the Consolidated Revenue Fund last month, when the deficit totalled £241,862, compared with a deficit of £64,543 for July, 1941. Revenue last month amounted to £848,427 as against £960,048 for the same month a year ago. Expenditure in July, 1942, was £1,090,289 and in July, 1941, £1,024,591. The increase in the deficit was principally due to a falling-off of £78,045 in income tax collections.

That may be accounted for quite easily. Some moneys will certainly be coming in from the Taxation Department from income and other taxes. The hospital tax will be paid into a trust account pending its return. There may be some reason for that. An additional payment may have been made to the civil service for July of this year.

The Minister for Lands: There were three instead of two.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I will allow that, but still the deficit is much in excess of July

of last year. The department of the Minister for Labour has brought out a most expensive book, titled "Industrial Development in Western Australia." It has been published at a most inopportune time. I do not know what it cost. It is a valuable book, but it would have been even more valuable had it been brought out, up to date, immediately after the war when our new industries were developed and could have been included. I do not know how many copies have been printed, but I would not be surprised if the publication has cost at least £500. There seems to have been no check there. Far too much money has been spent.

Mr. Rodoreda: Is there any advertising in it?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I do not think so. Some firms are mentioned, but I do not know whether they paid to have their names included. It will not be up to date at the end of the war.

Mr. Rodoreda: Neither will the history books!

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: We are not printing history books today.

Mr. Rodoreda: They are being used in the schools.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Then we must be short of material for school books, because quite a lot of this matter will be obsolete at the conclusion of the war. The expenditure of this money shows lack of control, whereas we should curtail it in every way. Those things which are necessary should be done. The uniform taxation was to a large extent due to the fact that the Federal Treasurer felt that the State Governments were not properly controlling expenditure.

Mr. Patrick: They waste millions themselves.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I would not say that, but neither are they controlling it. A good deal of revenue was coming into the State Treasury which under normal conditions would not have come in.

I am not going to oppose this Bill because it is necessary to enable the State to meet its financial commitments from month to month, but I am going to continue to impress upon the Government that it must carefully watch expenditure. If we were doing very much today I would not mind, but we are not. We are, indeed, doing very little. That is because we have not the manpower to do a great deal. It is all absorbed in

works paid for out of Commonwealth funds. I propose to give instances, when I speak on the Address-in-reply, to show how carefully we should watch expenditure and ensure that those industries which will be vital to us after the war will be carried on.

MR. McDONALD (West Perth): This is a usual and essential motion to enable the Government to carry on the affairs of the State. All I wish to do is to emphasise that it is more than ever necessary that the utmost economy should be applied to State expenditure. We have had some additional expenditure, as was mentioned by the Acting Treasurer, in the way of superannuation payments to civil servants who may be on military service and a certain rising of costs in the outlay involved for civil defence, but on the other side of the ledger we have had some very substantial advantages that were not previously available, since the financial liability for unemployment has not been so great. This is a time when a large amount of money is being circulated, and though it is not comparable with the amounts being circulated in the Eastern States, it is, compared with ordinary times, a very large sum indeed. I feel that we must exercise all possible economy in the forthcoming year.

Although, under the uniform tax Acts we may obtain a certain fixed sum, we must not regard it as certain that we shall get the advantages we have enjoyed in past years. In 1940-41 the Commonwealth took 18 per cent of the national income for war expenditure; in 1941-42 it took 32 per cent, and this year it is expected that the Commonwealth will take 60 per cent of Australia's national income, which is equal to the percentage being taken by the Government of Great Britain. Some authorities believe that the national income this year will fall below the peak of roughly £1,000,000,000 which was reached in 1941-42, because there are many businesses and incomes that are ceasing or being reduced on account of economic conditions and of people joining the defence services of the country. What I wish to stress is that whatever may be the good-will or ill-will of the Commonwealth Government towards this State, its commitments may be so urgent that it will be no longer possible to give assistance to the same extent as it has given in the past and, whatever the Commonwealth

Grants Commission may recommend, the Commonwealth Government may not be able to give as much as it did previously. Further, whatever we may ask or expect in the way of loan expenditure, it may be beyond the power of the Loan Council to grant anything like what was formerly given us.

Therefore, as regards both grants and loan funds, it seems that the paramount obligations of the Commonwealth may necessitate this State's being reduced in the forthcoming year below what it has been accustomed to expect and below even what it might legitimately and reasonably ask. This being so, we should endeavour to keep our expenditure down in order to have some reserve against any financial shocks of that kind. If we do not get those shocks, so much the better; if we do, they will not have the same serious impact as they otherwise would. In the state of uncertainty as to revenue in the forthcoming year and to assist the Commonwealth war effort, as the Leader of the Opposition has stated, it is certainly our bounden duty to keep our expenses down to a minimum in exactly the same manner as the private individual has to do, and thereby release as much money as possible for the services that are essential to our continued existence.

MR. CROSS (Canning): I hope that in the desire for a reduction of expenditure members will not carry their efforts to such a pitch of parsimoniousness as to lead to necessary requirements being neglected. I have been over a few so-called main roads lately; some of them have pot-holes a foot deep. It would not cost very much to put them into a state of repair.

Mr. Sampson: Where are those roads?

MR. CROSS: In the hon. member's electorate.

Mr. Thorn: What were you doing there?

MR. CROSS: There are some forms of expenditure that even in these times are warranted, because it would be a case of a stitch in time saving nine. I know of at least one school that is overcrowded. It is an A.R.P. centre and is lumbered up with a lot of stuff belonging to the A.R.P. authorities, and children have to be taught in a hall outside. We should insist upon proper facilities being provided for the children. I am referring to the school at Como where a new room should be built.

It is important that a room be provided; the children are entitled to have it. I hope that in the desire to keep down expenditure those in control will exercise plenty of commonsense.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan): The member for Canning is adding to his reputation for unreliability.

The **CHAIRMAN:** Order! The hon. member must not reflect upon any other member.

Mr. SAMPSON: I desire to challenge the member for Canning.

The **CHAIRMAN:** Order! The hon. member must proceed along the ordinary lines of debate. He is distinctly out of order in challenging or reflecting upon another member.

Mr. SAMPSON: A statement has been made that I claim is utterly unsupported by fact.

Mr. Cross: You show that you do not know the facts.

Mr. SAMPSON: I was very interested to hear the reference by the Leader of the Opposition to the book which has been recently issued, and I believe had been in course of preparation for nearly two years. I understand that the publication has been produced for sale, but to say that it is as uninteresting as an auctioneer's catalogue is not under-stating its virtues. The object is a good one, but to give a series of names without any real story—

The Minister for Lands: Like some of those travel stories?

Mr. SAMPSON: There is need for a better story. I should be surprised if anybody almost entirely bankrupt of reading matter could be prompted to wrestle with it. If I were sufficiently venomous I should like to prescribe that the Minister should read this book within the next fortnight. If he did so, he would suffer a real penance.

The Minister for Mines: Have you read it?

Mr. SAMPSON: I have glanced through it; I could not read it. I challenge the Minister for Mines to read it.

The Minister for Mines: As it happens I have read it. It is well worth reading.

Mr. SAMPSON: It all depends upon one's ideas of values.

The Minister for Lands: It was not printed by your establishment.

Mr. SAMPSON: The printer has turned out a good job from the mechanical side, but judged from the standpoint of readability it is a minus quantity.

The Minister for Labour: There was no profit in it for R. S. Sampson.

Mr. SAMPSON: Not for anybody, least of all for those who endeavour to read it. I hope that any member desirous of reading it will be supplied with a copy, particularly if he occupies a seat on the other side of the House, because some of those members need literary medicine.

I was interested to note the sum of money referred to by the Minister. I hope, before the Bill is passed, the Minister in charge of Civil Defence will give us information as to whether a decision has been reached regarding the local authorities not comprehended within what is known as the prescribed area. I refer to those districts that have not been promised a recoup of 50 per cent. of their outlay for A.R.P. and associated works. People in all the districts have to pay taxes, and a broad view should be taken of the actions of the local authorities that have provided for the taxing of their own people. If the Minister has a statement to make I shall be glad to hear it. All districts should receive fair treatment. Local authorities should receive the consideration that is theirs by right and by virtue of the services that have been and are being rendered by them.

Mr. BERRY (Irwin-Moore): I should like to dissociate myself from the criticism that has emanated from this side of the House of the manual or publication issued by the Department of Industry. For two years we have been urging the department to get on with the business of promoting secondary industries in Western Australia, and I think this particular brochure or whatever it is called—it is not an auctioneer's calendar—

Mr. Sampson: I said catalogue.

Mr. BERRY: Nor is it a catalogue. I think the publication will form a basis of advertisement for the potentialities of Western Australia and particularly its capabilities in the direction of making munitions and doing war work that many of us claim should have been undertaken long ago. I had no intention of speaking on this Bill, but I desire to dissociate myself from the remarks which have been made and to pay

a public compliment to the Minister responsible for the booklet. I congratulate him upon it.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Middle Swan): I listened carefully, as I always do, to the statements and criticisms of the Leader of the Opposition, because he is the Leader of His Majesty's Opposition. He said that in his opinion there had not been a close scrutiny of the finances of this State for the past three years, and that a more careful scrutiny was required today than three years ago. He also said that revenue was derived from sources other than income taxation. I asked him to give specific instances and he replied that I was always a little premature, but that if I waited I would get the instances. I listened carefully but, in concluding, the Leader of the Opposition said he would give the instances when speaking to the Address-in-reply. We are discussing a Supply Bill now. It was his duty to point out in what direction there was a lack of scrutiny of the State's finances and to give us specific instances, so that consideration could be given to the points he raised.

I disagree with the Leader of the Opposition that there has not been a careful scrutiny of the State's finances. In my opinion there has been a fairly close scrutiny and, in respect of schools, there could have been a good deal more expenditure. The playgrounds of the schools in my electorate could be considerably improved with advantage to the children. Some of the schools are a disgrace and should receive immediate attention. The Leader of the Opposition also said that uniform taxation was introduced because of the drift that was alleged to be taking place in the control of State finances. We all know, however, the paramount reason for the introduction of uniform taxation; it was to get additional revenue from States like Victoria and New South Wales, where income taxation was not as high as it was in Western Australia and Queensland. I therefore think the reasons advanced by the Leader of the Opposition are unsound, especially in the light of the knowledge that each member has. He also said that State money should be spent to the best advantage, and that in such departments as the Education Department, Police and Railways, there was evidence that money had been mis-spent.

As regards the Education Department, I point out that schools and their equipment are in an unsatisfactory condition. Ever since I have been a member of Parliament, I have been urging that money should be spent on the maintenance and improvement of our schools. I raised the matter last year on the Address-in-reply or on the Estimates, but nothing has been done. I especially drew the department's attention to the Redcliffe school and the state of the playing ground there. The land should be drained and the building put in a proper state of repair. I understand that the Acting-Premier is proceeding to the Eastern States to represent this State at a meeting of Premiers.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You mean the Acting-Treasurer?

Mr. J. HEGNEY: Yes. I have drawn his attention to one important matter. I asked him to make strenuous representations on behalf of Western Australia to get a better share of Commonwealth expenditure on munitions manufacture. During the recess I had the opportunity, in conjunction with other members, to visit the munitions factory at Welshpool. That is really but a camouflage; there is not a complete process carried out there. Much expense has been incurred on the factory, but there is little activity because of the absence of machines to complete a process. This State ought to be engaged in the manufacture of munitions of war in the same way as are the Eastern States.

In New South Wales huge sums have been spent on the establishment of munition works in the metropolitan area and in various parts of the State. Our State, however, has been neglected in that respect. I find the same conditions prevailing at Midland Junction as prevail at the Welshpool factory. Men complain that they are put off shifts because of the lack of material to carry out processes. That is not as it should be. If we do not fight strenuously for a greater share of Commonwealth expenditure in order to build up industrial establishments in this State, we shall find that our soldiers and sailors, when they return to civil life, will become hewers of wood and drawers of water. They will not have the same opportunity as will their comrades who return to the Eastern States. These will be able to secure employment in established industries. Therefore, we must

make our protest and continue to agitate for the establishment of industries here.

We have been urging an improvement in that respect for years past, but without much result, notwithstanding that we have an aggressive Labour Prime Minister and many other representatives in the Commonwealth Parliament. I hope the Minister, who will be proceeding to the Eastern States to represent Western Australia, will put our protest vigorously before the Commonwealth. Too long have we sat down quiescently while the other States have been securing the greater share of Commonwealth expenditure upon munitions. Many other subjects of vital importance to Western Australia will be discussed later, but the matters I now raise are of paramount importance to us. I regret that the Leader of the Opposition in his criticism merely indulged in generalities. Had he given us specific instances we could have analysed them to ascertain whether or not they were sound.

HON. W. D. JOHNSON: (Guildford-Midland): I express regret that I have to butt in at this stage. I have just returned from the country and have not beside me exactly what I would like to have. I am glad the member for Middle Swan raised the question of this State's relationship with the Commonwealth from the points of view of industry, war expenditure and gaining some permanent reform or result from war expenditure in Western Australia, compared with the enormous advantages gained by the other States of the Commonwealth. I thought that a question which I submitted to the Government would be significant enough to make it realise that at least one member—I know there are other members, the member for Middle Swan has indicated that—feels that something more must be done by the Commonwealth in that respect, as our previous methods have failed miserably. It is time that Parliament, in addition to the Government, accepted responsibility, because, after all, it is Parliament that will be held responsible, although the Government must also accept responsibility. In times of a national emergency like this we are all equally responsible.

I asked a question today purely to give the Government an idea that it would be wise, in existing circumstances and in view of the State's position, to afford Parliament

the opportunity to review in a dispassionate way, dissociated from other issues, a resolution that could be drafted and that would be creditable to us, dealing with the State's position. That resolution could be handed to the representatives of this State for use at the forthcoming Loan Council meeting. The matter is vital now. It is, generally speaking, vital at all times, but now it is particularly vital if we are to continue to exist. I do not mean that there is to be any attempt at unification but we must appreciate this fact that, if things are left as they are, it is a public scandal that we should be drawing our salaries. The position should not be allowed to rest where it is.

Either we are superfluous or we should continue to function in the best interests of the State. I am sorry I could not make preparations before this moment because of the urgency of other matters. I am prepared to admit that they were private matters; I am not ashamed of that, because it is but seldom that I neglect public duties to attend to private matters. It was, however, essential for me to leave the city for a few days. Before I left I took the opportunity to make representations to the Government, and I did expect today that I could let the matter rest and that I would get a commonsense reply to my question. What did I get? The question I asked is on the notice paper for members to read. It dealt with a matter that has become particularly acute since the introduction of uniform taxation and asked whether we should concentrate upon an expression of opinion on this State's position before the next gathering of State Premiers. The reply I received was that it could be done on the Address-in-reply. I have referred to that address as a social debate, where we may raise social matters; but, in order to get practical results, we must have facts and figures put before us; otherwise we must proceed by means of a substantive motion. I thought the Government would welcome the opportunity of being fortified from this Parliament before the next meeting of the Loan Council.

It should be possible for Parliament by getting behind the Minister to enable him to make more vigorous representations concerning the needs of this State. I am convinced we are too passive, that our representation has not been vigorous enough, that we have accepted promises and relied on them so

long that we are now too late because those promises have not come to fruition. That which was promised to this State has now gone to other States. The reason for that was that we did not get the promises in writing. We got promises of a kind that even if they had been put in writing could have been got round in such a way that those who made them could not be pinned down. We were unable to say that such and such a thing would be done at a given time. Let me take as an illustration the question of the distillation of alcohol spirit from wheat. It will be recalled that at a given period it was stated an alcoholic distillation plant was to be established in this State. It was said most definitely—this was endorsed by the Minister concerned—that the first plant in Australia would be established in this State. We know that that has not been so.

We know that the Federal Minister concerned has expressed pride in the fact that plants have been established elsewhere, and he has justly claimed that additional petrol supplies are now being obtained within the Commonwealth as a result of Australia's concentration on that particular commodity. The promise was made that Western Australia, where we have the big bulk of Australia's surplus wheat, would have the first distillation plant so that the surplus wheat could be put to economic use. In that way the needs of the State were to be attended to and an additional supply of spirits would be available for the whole of Australia. That promise was made. We were told that the plant would be established at Collie. There is a lot to be commended about the decision to go to Collie. Other places were mentioned, and I claim to have played some part in suggesting some of them. When we consider practical commonsense business lines we have to appreciate that Collie holds definite advantages in justification of the Government deciding to put up a plant there. Is the plant to be erected there? Why has it been delayed so long? How has it come about that plants are being established in other States when the promise was made that the first plant to be erected in Australia would be erected in Western Australia?

Mr. Wilson: Two men are engaged on the job now, so that it will not be long before the plant is erected.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: So two men are at work there! That is a matter on which the Acting Premier should have all the detailed information. I have the utmost regard for the capacity and the ability of the Acting Premier, who I assume will have to attend the meeting through the unfortunate illness of the Premier. Whilst I know the ability of the Minister, who may attend the meeting, and whilst I give him credit for possessing a wide knowledge of this State and a desire to see that justice is done to it, I point out that he may well go along to the meeting in the same old way. Parliament will have no say in what is done there. We have no opportunity of advising our emissaries and we receive practically no reports from them when they come back. It is just one of those trips of a schoolboy nature. They attend lectures at the colleges and come to conclusions, and that is that. I have spoken in the House before in protest against that sort of thing. I have already referred to the fact that we are not over-worked. Surely in a matter of this kind Parliament should be given the opportunity to express its views before the Acting Premier goes to the Eastern States, so that he may go there with a mandate from Western Australia. He could then say "I have a resolution that was framed by Parliament. The Standing Orders were suspended to give Parliament an opportunity to instruct me, and assist me by its instruction to make adequate and effective representations to those in authority."

Hon. P. Collier: McKell went to the Council meeting with a mandate last year but did not get any further.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I do not know about that, but in respect of uniform taxation he did fairly well.

Hon. P. Collier: He got less than half what he asked for.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: But he did get half.

Hon. P. Collier: Less than half!

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Possibly the hon. member knows better than I do that we never get all the facts concerning what happens at Loan Council meetings. We do not know what arrangements are arrived at or what adjustments take place afterwards that were not publicly decided at Loan Council meetings. There are always adjustments and arrangements amongst the Eastern States people who can meet so regu-

larly, who can attend their club meetings, their gatherings at Menzies Hotel, and so on.

Hon. P. Collier: The Yarra bank and other places.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: If we had a little more of the Yarra bank—and I trust we shall have a little more of the Esplanade—there would be a public awakening of the conditions that prevail today. It is on the Yarra bank and the Esplanade where these things are exposed, and where the people take notice. We recall that the member for Claremont has made wonderful speeches in the House dealing with economic and other questions. I have appealed to him to make those speeches on the Esplanade where we would get results, instead of delivering them in Parliament to people who cannot make use of them because they do not go to the Esplanade for the purpose. These things cannot be got into the Press today because that is not done.

At Loan Council meetings we do not get all the information, but we do get the results. The results are that the Eastern States receive the maximum amount of consideration compared with what is given to this State. Reference was made by the member for Middle Swan to the Midland Junction Workshops. We know that an annexe was promised at Midland Junction. This munitions annexe was advertised and there was a tremendous lot of political propaganda associated with it. Ministers, particularly the Minister for Industrial Development, rejoiced at the wonderful things that were coming about. A huge building was required and the State joined in by providing money for its establishment. From memory I think the cost was £56,000. The building was used for a period to a limited extent but is less in use today. I have asked questions in the House, and have always been told that I am wrong.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Do you say it is in less use now?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: There is a lot of camouflage connected with the matter. The hon. member knows more about it than I do because he moves in the circles where some of these things are arranged. I go to Midland Junction, and I know from moving amongst the workmen what a huge farce the whole thing has been from its inception. True, we have to a certain extent

made shells, but we have not made shells as we know them but shell cases. We have the machines for the shell cases, but the raw material is sent over by boats from the Eastern States, if boats are available. The amount of money that has been wasted on that building is—I was going to say scandalous—a reflection upon this Parliament, and is definitely a reflection upon the Minister in charge of munitions manufacture.

I have raised this question of the munitions annexe at party meetings and have asked questions in the House concerning it. I have always been told to leave it alone, to wait and see. We have been living too long under this "wait and see" policy. Mr. R. O. Law goes to the Eastern States to arrange contracts and to ascertain why we are not receiving consideration in this State. He makes his representations and on his return says, "Wait and see." He is told he cannot give information to the enemy. Apparently members of this Chamber constitute the enemy because we do not get the information. He returns to Western Australia and tells us to have patience. This has been said to me over and over again, "Look, Johnson, have patience! You know very well our difficulties; use your common-sense and judgment. You must realise that if things cannot be done today they will be done in the future." It is time we realised that there is no future, that it is too late.

Mr. Boyle: Have we not had contracts for £6,000,000 in this State?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: What did we get as a result of the appointment of a Federal Committee of inquiry in connection with our industries? I think the present Prime Minister was a member and that Col. Collett was chairman of that committee.

Hon. C. G. Latham: About three-quarters of a million then and we were given another million later on.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Specific indications were given where justice could be done to Western Australia, and instances were quoted where economic use could be made of this State in the manufacture of essential products. The committee outlined in detail what money should be made available immediately and what works could be deferred until a later period. The recommendation was advanced that an industries expansion commission should be set up and that that commission should be responsible

for putting into practical form the recommendations of the committee, either at once or a later period. The Industries Expansion Commission was then appointed. It consists of good men, possibly better men than I am, but they had not the necessary punch or push. They are entrenched in certain positions. The atmosphere they move in is not the kind of atmosphere in which it is possible to get results of the kind we require.

Professor Mauldon, for instance, is an outstanding personality. For me to criticise him in his particular sphere would be akin to an ant tackling an elephant. On the other hand, in relation to a matter such as that under discussion, I would not give way to Professor Mauldon, seeing that I am a practical man living amongst the workers engaged in these activities and therefore claim to know something about the subject. I repeat that Professor Mauldon is not the type of man to deal with a matter of this description and obtain results. The same remark applies to Mr. R. O. Law, who is a most estimable man against whom I would not say one word, but he is in an entrenched position that, in my opinion, tended to contribute towards the delays and vacillation that have taken place where the interests of Western Australia are concerned. Then there is Mr. Ellis. One would not expect him to be a vigorous critic of a neglectful Commonwealth Government, nor would we expect Mr. Mills to be an adverse critic of a neglectful Federal department. As soon as I ascertained the personnel of the Industries Expansion Commission, I realised that its investigations would represent another dud affair because those carrying them out were not the type of men who would demand results, failing which they would tender their resignations.

The Minister for Works: Are you quite sure you know the personnel?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I think so. I have mentioned Professor Mauldon, Mr. Ellis and Mr. Mills.

The Minister for Labour: Mr. Mills is not a member.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I think he is.

Mr. Thorn: Anyhow, he would be the wrong type.

Hon. P. Collier: Even if he were, he would not be the right type.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I am speaking without notes—

The Minister for Works: And without knowledge.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: At any rate, I do not speak with my tongue in my cheek. I speak my mind and say what I mean. I know something about these matters, and the Minister must not tantalise me.

The Minister for Works: You are very much mixed.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I know Mr. Lancaster, the secretary of the Commission, and the first time I met him I asked him to write out for me the names of the members of the Commission. I may be wrong, but I am pretty certain that both Mr. Ellis and Mr. Mills are members.

Hon. C. G. Latham: There are so many boards that you are likely to get mixed up.

Mr. North: Which member of the Commission has some punch?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The members of the Commission have not yet got one. That is why I am bringing the matter before Parliament, for Parliament should not be neglectful in accepting its responsibilities. It should not be content to sit down and allow these things to go on. It is the task of Parliament to grapple with problems and for every individual member to do his share. We may criticise the work of the Commission, but it is useless to adopt the attitude that because no one has done anything we shall not take some action. We will get kicked when we go before the electors at the next election if we do not do the job for which we are paid.

We should see to it that industries are established in Western Australia that will have permanency. Those activities that are designed to secure a maximum immediate production for war needs must be so constructed as to deal permanently with our requirements when hostilities cease. The position at the Midland Junction munitions annexe is today worse than ever before. Unless the position has changed considerably since I was there a week or two ago, the number of men employed at the annexe has been reduced. Two excellent men who had been trained as process workers at the Technical College were put off recently. They had been employed in the early stages on certain machines in connection with process work, but they were put off and they approached me with a view to securing other employment.

Mr. Cross: During the last fortnight several have been paid off and have secured work in Perth.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I hope the two men I refer to were able to secure the jobs for which I recommended them. About these matters, members of Parliament should not be silent. We should accept the responsibility of promoting investigation and action. Upwards of £55,000 was spent on the provision of the annexe, of which the State supplied the major part, and it has not yet been really used in the manner for which it was designed. There have been much camouflage, make-believe and promises ever since the work was started there. The men at the Midland Junction workshops are seething with criticism: in fact, the annexe is to them a great joke. Men who know the work ridicule the idea that the annexe was ever taken seriously in connection with the general manufacture of munitions of war.

Mr. Thorn: Why are the men working night shifts there?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: That is a most extraordinary position. At a meeting of the Midland Junction A.L.P. recently, one of the delegates got up and, addressing me—I was chairman of the meeting—said, "You must excuse me; I have to go to work. I work overtime, but strangely enough I am told that I and others need not go to work on Saturday mornings unless we want to do so. Where are we getting to?" I told him I could not offer an explanation. At any rate that was the position, and the man had to leave the meeting to go to work. Members can see that the situation is really hopeless, and it would certainly be wrong for us to sit down and allow matters to rest where they are.

It is futile to suggest we can rest content because representatives are sent across East, for those men are the representatives of the Government. True, officially they represent Parliament, but it is impossible for such men to represent Parliament when the views of members of Parliament have not been expressed, and no opportunity has been afforded them to discuss the subjects to be considered at subsequent conferences in the Eastern States. If such opportunities were afforded members and their points of view were embodied in resolutions that could be conveyed by the Ministers concerned when they went to Canberra, the position would be different, and that is why I ask for a special resolution of Parliament. It could not be arranged without suspending the

Standing Orders. I want that course adopted because I do not think the Address-in-reply debate will furnish the opportunity to do what I suggest. I desire any action taken to be effective, otherwise it will be too late. The debate will go on for several days, and in the meantime the Loan Council will meet and the matter will have been dealt with. Any action we could take would then be ineffective, just as is any course that Parliament can take when dealing with the financial position of the State on the Estimates.

Another phase of the problem affects the machine tool shop. I shall not say much about that subject because it is sub judice. I do not know whether the hearing is proceeding, but the case was to go before a special Federal representative. I shall not say more than that elaborate buildings were erected and accommodation for a large staff was provided—but no machines were installed. Surely if anyone was about to proceed with the manufacture of some article, he would get the machinery ready as well as erect the necessary building, so that he would secure production as early as possible to enable him to meet commitments due to the capitalisation of the undertaking. In this instance, one or two machines were provided, but they were of no particular value from the standpoint of precision tools. I know that when a Parliamentary visit was paid to the works, there was not very much to see. The men regarded the proceedings as a huge farce as they were engaged in operating machines that had not worked before.

Hon. C. G. Latham: And were not worked again?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: That is another instance of this State having incurred huge expense, with regard to which the country has been most unfortunate. We have received promises that have not been fulfilled. Before the Minister attends the next conference we should make it clear that on his return we want something more than an intimation to "wait and see." We require some definite indication that industrial activities in this State will take practical shape.

Regarding operations at the Welshpool factory, we know what tremendous propaganda was indulged in. So much was said and promised that evidently the authorities thought it would be as well to make some sort of show. They bought

some land and erected a very fine fence around the property. Then they proceeded to build everything but the factory. The ladies' retiring room is a beautiful building and a large mess room was provided. We hope that these buildings will ultimately be used, but at present all that can be seen is evidence of the expenditure of an enormous amount of money. Nothing is being produced there because what is available for work is very limited. The office is most up-to-date and is housed in a magnificent building. I hope that in time the services of the large staff for which provision has been made will be fully availed of, but at present I do not think it would be possible for the authorities to utilise the services of the staff that is employed there.

Mr. Cross: Some changes have occurred since you were there; the number of machines has been increased.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Are they making cartridge cases?

Mr. Cross: Yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Let us analyse that piece of good news. The factory is situated in the electorate of the member for Middle Swan, who should know something about it.

Mr. Cross: I have been there since you were there.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: A little committee of us went out to have a look. We were introduced to Mr. Constantine, the engineer-in-charge. I, being the spokesman, said to him, "We don't want any of your pretties; we want to see your factories." He replied, "We have no pretties." I said, "We are not concerned with the nice buildings; don't take up your time letting us see through those. Let us see the factories." Before starting on the trip I had seen the Premier in his office, and he had shown me a part of the production of a cartridge case as a proof that I was wrong in stating that the Welshpool factory was not in production. The Premier took from the drawer of his table a little portion of a cartridge case. I knew perfectly well, having had the whole thing explained to me some considerable time ago, that there were two processes.

One was the envelope portion, the part containing the bullet. The other process deals with the envelope that encloses the bullet. The cartridge case is tapered down, and at the end of the taper the bullet en-

velope is inserted in the reduced portion that is tapered down, and inside that is the bullet, which causes destruction. That envelope comes from the cup made of hard metal. It is of special strength and texture, and is made from this special little cup just about as big as the top of a man's thumb, and about three-sixteenths of an inch deep. The cups are made in South Australia and sent over here. The raw material is produced in South Australia. The cups are put on the machine at a given stage, and the cartridge envelope is the result of a special function. However, those cups have to be made by a special machine and have to go through a certain process. I said to Mr. Constantine, "Where are you making the cartridge cases? Let us start at the beginning. Where is the machine that is making the cartridge cases?" He replied, "This is all part of it." I said, "Yes, but it is not the beginning of it." He tried to explain what we wanted to know, and ultimately we decided to go through and see the envelopes being made, where they are drawn from the cup, where the cup is expanded, where the envelopes are annealed several times and ultimately get down to where they take the bottle shape, the thing seen at the end of the cartridge. That goes on until the machine is reached, where the bullet is created. Then the lead is inserted in the envelope, and thus we have the little part of the cartridge case.

What happened was this: Mr. Willcock had got that portion, and he proudly produced it as proof that the place was in production. That is the kind of thing that is being put over us all the time. They try to make out they are doing things when they are not. I venture the opinion that the Federal Minister for Munitions, when he was here, made inquiries as to when the factory would be in production. I submit that if a Minister asks for production he means production of the finished article; the cartridge case ready for use. If an engineer misled me in replying to such a question, I think I would have a word with him and a show-down. That would be my procedure if an engineer led me to believe that because a little part was being produced he could assure me, as Minister, he would be in production within two months. Members may have read in the "Sunday Times" that the Federal Minister, Mr. Makin, when here was told that the place would be in production within two months, or

something of that kind. When the two months were up, the "Sunday Times" challenged Mr. Makin on the matter. The "Sunday Times" offered to contribute a certain sum to a hospital if it could be proved that the engineer's promise had been fulfilled. The little committee of which I was a member went out on the Thursday, and the "Sunday Times" representative had gone out on the day before, the Wednesday. Constantine, of course, put it over us. He produced a cap, showed the machine in operation and where the bullet was inserted into the envelope by a special arrangement. He also showed us the annealing plant, and a great portion of the paraphernalia, machines intricate and delicate, that would be used for the production of the cartridge envelope. The "Sunday Times" paid the amount it had stated.

Hon. P. Collier: The Minister took the "Sunday Times" down for £25.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I regret to say that I have not always got leisure to read the "Sunday Times." I read that journal when I have leisure; but if the garden calls the "Sunday Times," is left. However, it is not often that I do not read the paper. Somebody told me about this happening, and I got the "Sunday Times" and looked the matter up. I immediately rang up the office and asked, "What happened about your claim that the factory was in production?" The reply was "We lost that, sir." I then asked to be put on to the man who had gone out. I will not give his name. I inquired, "What happened when you got there?" He told me. I said, "That is exactly what was put over us." He was there the day before. I said, "They bluffed us, and the Minister, had he realised his full responsibility, would have said, 'We will be producing cartridges in a given time.'" To say that the factory was in production, when but a small part of the process was being done, was of course misleading to the general public. The position is that the "Sunday Times" was misled, just as the Premier was.

Hon. P. Collier: And the public, too.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: That is so. Mr. Constantine, who is not an Australian, but who has had experience elsewhere in the diplomatic service, was astute enough to place a broad interpretation upon "production." Ultimately we got to the end of the envelope. We then inquired about the

brass cups that create the case and, of course, ultimately contain the explosive matter. Then Mr. Constantine had to admit that he did not have the cartridge case machines; they were not there. In other words, the machine was there to put on the finishing touch, but not the machine nor the material to start the commodity. The machine to make the caps was not there.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Do you mean the end of the cartridge case?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: No, the cartridge case, the taper end. The cordite is between that and the cap. There is a machine that makes a lock. I had intended to bring in a sample so as to give members an actual demonstration. I took one to the party meeting and showed it to the Premier. The process is a delicate one; when the thing is locked, it is complete.

Mr. Cross: The factory has all the machines now.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I am glad to hear the hon. member say so. As the member for Middle Swan said, the Welshpool factory is pure camouflage. Up to a week or a fortnight ago, it definitely was camouflage. It is an outrage that men and women should be employed there. The member for Subiaco will doubtless appreciate better than we other members what I am about to say. Some 20 or 25 women were actually employed on machines making envelopes. I said to Mr. Constantine, "This work will grow frightfully monotonous, because the women are employed on manufacturing something that cannot be used." He replied, "It will be used." I then said, "You cannot test these. They must be specially tested and you may find, when they are put through your delicate, intricate testing plant, that the envelope is not exactly in proper line or of the proper dimensions; it must be right to the thousandth part of an inch. You have no means of testing it." As a matter of fact, the machinery for making the envelope was not complete enough to finish the envelope, because of the absence of the small delicate machine that fastens the envelope at the end as the bullet is inserted. The bullet was put in while we were there. The end of the envelope was not grooved to hold it. That work has to be done very carefully, and the machine to do it is not available.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Is the cordite filled in?

Hon. D. W. JOHNSON: No.

Hon. C. G. Latham: But you said the bullet was put in.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: There is a long line of lead cable. The machine cuts off portions, and these are picked up, shaped by the machine and gradually put into the envelope.

Mr. Thorn: Are lead bullets used?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I think lead was used; it might be some other composition.

Mr. Tonkin: Lead is being put inside the envelope.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I took it to be lead. The envelope is not complete. There is another delicate part which is not being made. A wad has to be inserted very carefully at the pointed end of the envelope. As far as I know, the wads were not being inserted.

Mr. Cross: They are put in as the cartridge is being filled. The wads cannot be inserted without the cordite.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: That proves that the lead inserted into the envelopes was camouflage and must be taken out again. We were shown the girls working on the machine putting the lead into the envelope. The member for Canning now says that the wad cannot be put in until the cordite is inserted. The wad would be put in afterwards. I was pointing out that the unfortunate girls to whom I referred, as well as a number of men, were employed merely to make a show that the factory was in production. The sad part is that the Minister made a promise that the factory would be in production. It is not in production. It is useless saying so in the circumstances. Possibly some of the work already done will go for naught. I venture the opinion that much of the material made up will have to be re-smelted, because I cannot see how the envelopes already constructed can be effectively used when the time comes to get into actual cartridge production.

I may be wrong in that statement, or my knowledge may not be quite up to date. The extraordinary thing is that all of the testing plant is there. There are machines—most delicate and magnificent machines—at which it is a treat to look. They take up the cartridge and measure its circumference, diameter, weight and texture, indicating where it is faulty. The machines almost speak in regard to testing. Afterwards we discovered that there was no case machinery,

that the actual cartridge cases were not in production. I ventured the opinion that it would be 12 months before they would be in production. Evidently the member for Canning thinks I am wrong.

Mr. Watts: I think you are more likely to be right!

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: We will check that. When we found what the actual position was we went to the back of the factory close up to the building where the difficult, delicate and dangerous part had to be loaded. The cartridge case is loaded with cordite, and the whole thing, complete, comes back to a given spot, and there are the machines—two of them, I think—absolutely ready to do all the testing. They complete the article, and if it is satisfactory the machine passes it through the fence and that line of fence is the division between factory and Army. When the cartridge goes there it is certified to be usable, and that is where delivery takes place. The extraordinary thing is that the beginning of the cartridge case where the cup had to be used the machines were not there to fabricate, yet the highly expensive and delicate machinery to test was already in position.

I have spoken at some length on this matter because I want to bring it right home. I am not prepared to sit down and let this kind of thing go on. I feel that I have some kind of responsibility because of the position of Midland Junction. I have been told over and over again by Mr. Mills, "Let it go, Johnson! You are wrong. It is going all right. We are not proceeding as fast as we would like, but you wait and see." Then Bob Law goes over and, coming back, he makes the statement, "We cannot tell you all because it might help the enemy, but you wait and see." We have waited and there is nothing in production. It should not be my task to bring this matter under public notice. It is true that I have an individual responsibility, but I say in all sincerity to the Government of which I am a loyal supporter—I am critical but honest with it—that it should have realised its responsibility in this connection.

The matter has been discussed at party meetings and we know where we stand. I urged that pressure should be brought to bear on those in authority, and I regret to say there was a refusal to comply with the request I made. Industry has not been firmly established in this State. Federal Ministers

have misled us but our own Minister for Industrial Development has been over-optimistic. He has accepted promises as representing things actually accomplished, and has led us to believe that permanent industries would be established here as a result of Commonwealth expenditure during the war period; that industries would be established which, during the post-war period, would put Western Australia in the position of having up-to-date secondary industries to employ labour and give us an opportunity to cater for those returning from the conflict. That will not be the actual position unless we do more than we are doing.

A certain amount has been done at the State Implement Works. I wish to pay a tribute to the member for North-East Fremantle who has done a maximum amount of good in this connection. I would like the public to know the part he has played. The way he did it—and the way we should be doing our job also—was to get on the job, establish contact with the men, form committees among them, take a hand with the management and make representations of the kind that bring results. He has obtained results. The Implement Works are active; but just as they got busy the Midland Junction Workshops went quiet. There is evidently not enough orders to satisfy both works, and as one is stimulated the other goes slack. I suggest to the hon. member that he should go further with his organisation and arrange for idle men, whose capacity and time are not being utilised 100 per cent., to be taken from Midland Junction, and put for the time being into the Implement Works where that type of work is sorely needed. There is not enough to satisfy both plants; therefore we should organise one properly and not unduly inflate expenditure on the other.

Mr. Boyle: Could not the Midland Junction workshops repair engines?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The Loan Council calls the tune in regard to repairs for engines. Those repairs are purely a State responsibility, but the Loan Council decides what amount of revenue we shall get for that purpose. That is another point that could be raised in a debate of this kind. Everybody knows that our engines are in a deplorable condition. The position is that the Implement Works and the Midland workshops are functioning in this way, one

speeding up today and slackening tomorrow, and the other speeding up tomorrow and slackening the next day. What is the position with regard to private shops? They are expanding. Hoskins is expanding on practical lines. There has been no humbugging, no putting up of buildings and having them vacant. The company has secured the machine and then erected the building to accommodate it. Its members have approached the matter as hard-headed practical businessmen, and have so organised their plant that they will have a stronger combination after the war than before it. That is because they have been particularly efficient in making necessary representations. I had my ideas about these representations. The Munitions Board of Area Management deals particularly with munitions.

Hon. C. G. Latham: It is known as the "Board of Area Management."

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: It deals with munitions which is why I used that word. The representation on that board is not the right type. Mr. Law is there again, and he has a different conception from what I have in regard to State needs and State claims. He does not approve of my ideas. We have got £55,000 expended in one building at Midland Junction, and we have a huge plant at the Implement Works. We want to see these places extend, but unfortunately it is the private factories which, generally speaking, have extended. Hoskins and Tomlinsons are quite good establishments and are turning out good material, but they are getting an undue percentage of the requirements; and the type of job they are receiving is more easily manufactured and more constantly in production than the articles which come to the State establishments.

The Minister for Lands: Do you think the Board of Area Management favours private enterprise?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Yes. Mr. Trainer is on that board, but he is not the type of man I would select for such a job. He is a personal friend of mine and is an able man in many ways, but in matters of this kind a hard-headed engineer is needed. The type of man I would appoint to that position is one like J. F. Newman. He is a capable engineer and has the courage of his convictions. He would stand up against any odds and advocate his claim even though

he got the sack or gaol for doing so. He has courage and knowledge. Unfortunately that type of man is not picked out today. It is the passive sort of chap who is selected.

Mr. Cross: Is he a fascist or communist?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I would rather he were a communist than a fascist. I do not know that I am not a bit of a communist myself.

Mr. Hughes: You have some capitalistic instincts, too.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The member for East Perth will give me this much credit, that I am working for my capitalistic instincts now seeing that I have a job to do. If my Parliamentary salary stops with uniform taxation, "W.D." will be in a bad way.

Hon. N. Keenan: There will be others.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Yes. There is not the right type of representation. The Labour movement has to accept responsibility to a large extent, but unfortunately there has not been vigorous representation, nor sufficient from the militant and turbulent sections, which, after all, are not only honest in their actions but determined to get the results they are put there to get, or else resign, and expose the fact that nothing is being done. What I have said about the production of munitions in this State and the equipment for war purposes by the State works and private enterprise reflects no credit on Mr. Trainer, nor the rest of the Board of Area Management. The Midland Workshops men ask me—what am I doing about it? When I turn round and say "Mr. Trainer is on the board," they simply laugh and say, "Have you got down to that kind of representation? Is that the kind of work you want done?" Therefore it is my duty to reflect in this Chamber what I am paid to do—the opinions of my constituents. They are very definite on the point that Labour representation on these matters has been inadequate and the boards and commissions which have been created in this State are the kinds that will get us exactly what we have got—practically nothing.

I asked a question about the basic wage. Again I am out of step. When the first declaration was made after the 20th February—when wages were pegged by the President of the Arbitration Court—he neglected to give what the statistician's figures indicated was an increase in the basic

wage of 1s. 7d. I admit that he had the right to decide whether it should or should not be paid.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Was that a quarterly or annual adjustment?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: A quarterly adjustment. The President decided to ignore the 1s. 7d. Now, the quarterly adjustments were introduced by the Leader of the Opposition and his associates. They were definitely brought in because there was a lag between the time of the wage fixation and the reduction in the cost of living. They said, "It is quite wrong for a basic wage to be left for 12 months after a review of index figures showing a reduced cost of living." Parliament passed the necessary legislation to arrange for quarterly adjustments.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You know it is very fair today.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I am just giving facts. The Leader of the Opposition was in the Government which took the responsibility of seeing that adjustments were proportionate and given quarterly in accordance with the reduced cost of living figures. The first reduction, as a result of the quarterly adjustments, was 8s. a week.

Mr. Tonkin: I think that is so.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: We arrived at the stage quite recently—since the 20th February—when the cost of living went up, but then that principle did not apply.

Mr. Cross: Regulation 76 exempted it.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: It is Regulation 17A with which I will be dealing. When it came to the 1s. 7d. increase Mr. President Dwyer—for reasons that he is perfectly sincere and honest about, in regard to the danger of inflation and looking at it, I think from an Australian point of view—forgot that his point of view should be a State one only as it is a State basic wage, and that the workers of Western Australia should not be penalised because there was a danger to the economic position of Australia by automatic increases of wages. He tried to set an example to Australia. It would have been all right if he had set an example at his own expense, but it was set at the expense of the workers of Western Australia. Mr. President Dwyer, in denying that, had the right to do so, but I submit that, compared with the time when the figures were falling, it was not a just decision and should not have been made.

Those of us who are active in industrial matters got busy and said "This is wrong. It should not be tolerated." We had a meeting at the Perth Trades Hall and it was agreed, on legal advice, to test the decision. Personally I did not have much confidence in that course; I did not think the opinion was sound. However, it was a definite decision. The legal advice to the State Executive was that the decision of the President could be upset by the Supreme Court. Action was taken in the Supreme Court and it failed. We then decided to try to get the Commonwealth to realise that the increase in the cost of living was being paid to every worker in Australia except those in Western Australia. When wages were pegged on the 20th February, they were pegged as at that date, but to have regard to the cost of living figures—the increase or decrease in the cost of living.

Automatically, the workers in the other States got their increase, but our law was slightly different and again the President of our court neglected his opportunity. The anomaly was created that the workers in the Eastern States received the increase and those in Western Australia were denied it. We then appealed to the Commonwealth Government to grant by regulation that which had been denied to the workers of this State. The Commonwealth Government was not prepared to take the responsibility for doing that. In this I think the Commonwealth was quite sound; I did not think it was a Commonwealth job.

The Minister for Mines: Why was it the Commonwealth's job to peg wages?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: That is where we get all at sea. The wage was to apply to Australia, and the regulation was to peg it for Australia, but it also conveyed that the increased cost of living would receive consideration in any further adjustments. The trouble was that we in this State were a little out of step with people in the other States. A representative of the State Executive went to Canberra and, as a result of his representations and of other representations made by individuals, the Commonwealth issued a regulation. It is the regulation that was referred to in my question today—National Security (Economic Organisation) Regulation 17A. The marginal note to the regulation made it clear that the State Premier was given the power to fix the basic wage.

The Minister for Mines: No!

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The Minister is not interested in this.

The Minister for Mines: Much more than you are.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister will keep order.

The Minister for Mines: Well, do not let him say those things.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister should not interject.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The regulation definitely gives power to the Premier to fix the basic wage.

Mr. Needham: He has no such power.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I can produce the regulation. The marginal note says that the power is given to the Premier. The member for Perth, who is Chairman of the State Executive, was present.

Mr. Needham: You are wrong.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The hon. member would like to prove me wrong.

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the hon. member to resume his seat for a moment. I have called for order several times. I point out that all interjections are highly disorderly and only interfere with orderly debate and certainly are not dignified. I ask members to refrain from interjecting while the member for Guildford-Midland peacefully and properly addresses the Chair.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I have not the regulation before me.

Hon. C. G. Latham: I have sent for it.

Mr. Needham: You do not understand it.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: If the member for Perth would give me an opportunity to ventilate this matter, mine would not be a lone voice speaking on it today. I am satisfied that the necessary power was given to the State Premier. Then the regulation goes on to relate the power. There is one paragraph that has caused all the trouble. It provides that the Premier, after certain happenings, at the right time and for the period, can declare the basic wage. To me it is as clear as daylight that Regulation 17A gave the Premier full power. True, the Crown Law authorities differ, but I differ from them so often and have proved them wrong so often that I am not influenced by their opinion. I have found that they are not as reliable in matters of this kind as one would like them to be. The fact of an announcement being made to the effect that the Crown Law Department differed

from me did not influence my mind because I had read the regulation, and I say that any member of this House, reading a regulation and applying a commonsense interpretation to it, is invariably right. Constitutional law is commonsense law; and to me, using my commonsense, this regulation said as clearly as possible that at the time and for the period the Premier could have fixed the wage.

At the time the regulation went through, there was another increase of 10d. in the basic wage, making a total of 2s. 5d. When we got the regulation it was not possible to fix the 2s. 5d., since under the law an increase must be not less than 1s. before it will apply. Therefore the 10d. in question had to be cast aside. But at a given period the Premier could then declare the 1s. 7d. The reason he had that power was that the next declaration had been made, and that there were three days between the gazetting of that regulation relatively to the declaration by Mr. President Dwyer. The Government neglected to use those three days. There was argument as to whether the proceeding was rightly practicable. The Government doubted the wording of the regulation, and the Crown Law Department encouraged the Government in that doubt; and in the interim the opportunity passed and the declaration was made.

According to my reading of the regulation, that omission cannot be put right until the next declaration. The Premier has time again to get in when the cost of living figures are put before the Court. The Premier uses the time factor, and then makes a declaration covering the period before the Court. The Premier himself missed in not granting the worker the 1s. 7d. Later he missed again, and he will miss yet again. I want members to realise the seriousness of this, that the next declaration will be on Thursday, the day after tomorrow, and that unless the Premier makes the declaration we shall not get an increase, because Mr. President Dwyer is not going to stultify himself. He has stuck to his guns right through, and I assume that he will stick to them again. It is true that the cost of living figures may be reduced; we do not know whether they will be.

Mr. Raphael: Not according to the prices of goods now purchased!

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I realise that the cost of living undoubtedly has increased. I am assured that those figures will show an increase, and not a decrease. The Premier now could fix the 2s. 5d., because in the meantime the 2s. 5d. has become the increase. If a declaration is not made almost immediately, and another increase given, the total increase might reach 2s. 10d. or 3s.—some-where around those figures. The point is this, that according to my reading, which differs entirely from the Crown Law Department's reading and that of the Acting Premier, not only has the Crown Law Department made a declaration but that declaration has been endorsed by the Attorney General of the Commonwealth. Still, I am prepared to question that.

The reason for the misunderstanding between the Federal Crown Law Department and the Western Australian Government arises from the fact that Regulation 17A is so clear and so definite that when our Government started to question it, the thought arose, "Those people are not sincere; they do not want to use the regulation. Evidently we have given those people a power that they are not prepared to exercise, and they are trying to get out of exercising it." All sorts of representations have been made.

The Minister for Lands: That is a very unfair inference to draw.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I will not tolerate interjections which question my competency in a matter of this kind. I know more than the average know about it, because my centre is an industrial one and discusses the subject.

The Minister for Lands: I say you are unfair in drawing that inference.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The regulation reads—

I, the Governor-General in and over the Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, hereby make the following regulation under the National Security Act, 1939-1940. Dated this fourth day of June, 1942. Gowrie, Governor-General.

After regulation 17 of the National Security (Economic Organisation) Regulations the following regulation is inserted:—"17A. In the case of any State the law of which permits but does not require the quarterly adjustment of the basic wage following on a variation in the cost of living, the Premier of the State, if satisfied that it is desirable so to do in the interests of the defence of the Commonwealth or the more effectual prosecution of the war,

may, by order published in the "Government Gazette" of the State, adjust and amend the basic wage declared under the law of the State in accordance with the change in the cost of living as indicated by price index numbers and other information prepared by the Government Statistician of the State under any such law. That is very clear; and the marginal note clinches it, saying—

Power of State Premiers to amend and adjust basic wage.

The next paragraph reads—

"(2) Any such adjustment and amendment of the basic wage shall be made at such time, and shall be for such term, as are prescribed under the law of the State and shall for all purposes have the same force and effect as if made by an Industrial Authority under the law of the State."

The Government, in my opinion—and after all I can only express my own opinion—and the Crown Law Department and the State Executive have all failed to realise that the full power is theirs; that they could have fixed the 1s. 7d. had they used the three days intervening between the 4th June and the actual date of declaration by the President. But according to my reading the time to make the declaration is when the Court makes the declaration; and if the declaration is made from quarter to quarter we cannot do it for a term beyond the time; and therefore we have to do it at the time and for the term. That has caused all the trouble and that is where the misunderstanding comes in. Members are aware that if the basic wage is declared, say, this morning, it applies to the previous midnight; it is retrospective to the starting-time of the morning shift of the day of the declaration. If the Premier does not make it at that time, it cannot be declared again until the time arrives three months later. The workers have lost 1s. 7d., plus 10d., and will lose the next increase if Mr. President Dwyer sticks to his guns.

There is no possible chance of recovering what has been lost, and there is no possible chance in life of securing retrospective legislation, although the State Executive of the Labour Party is seriously urging its introduction. I have been told by organised workers that they are making a demand for an increase of 5s. 4d., which they claim to be, roughly, the increase in the cost of living. On their calculations, the increase is 2s. 11d., plus 2s. 5d., making 5s. 4d. They are actually saying that, either by Commonwealth or State authorities, they will be

given this 5s. 4d. That is nonsense. It is constitutionally impossible for the Commonwealth to grant it, because the Commonwealth cannot pass a law giving Western Australian workers an increase of 5s. 4d. in a matter of this description. A regulation of that character would consequently be ultra vires the Constitution. The workers are trying to get what they have lost, but that has gone and they cannot recover it. Their fight for it is but camouflage. The right thing to do is to tell the workers, "The past is gone. Up to the next declaration your wages will remain the same as they were on the 10th February."

If the Premier will do what I want him to do—I make this public now—he will declare the increase, 2s. 10d. or 2s. 11d., as soon as the statistician's figures are available. In that declaration the period would be fixed. The Government and the State Executive of the Labour Party apparently misunderstand the Commonwealth regulation, which is as clear as it can be. It gives us the authority we want and the Commonwealth Crown Law Department cannot understand what is wrong with us because we do not make use of that regulation. I do not subscribe to the workers' claim for the 5s. 4d., and I want the workers to know that. There is no chance of misleading them in that respect. If they succeed no-one will rejoice more than I, but I cannot see that it is constitutionally possible. I am told by the court officials that the next declaration will be made, they think, on Thursday; and unless the "Government Gazette" contains the declaration it cannot be made for another three months or until the Commonwealth promulgates another regulation. Exactly how that regulation would be worded I do not know. There is just a question whether Regulation 17A would be constitutional, but it would be so obviously just that I doubt whether anyone would test it. This monkeying about with a vital matter of this character is wrong. We must not be misled by the Crown Law Department. What is certain is that the regulation is as clear as daylight. The workers of this State are being penalised because the Government has been misled by Crown Law officers on a matter that could have been put right by a special issue of the "Government Gazette" fixing the basic wage at the time for the period.

There are one or two other matters I intended to touch upon, but I shall not do

so. I candidly admit I am tired. I have talked longer than I thought I would. When I came to the House I intended to go home; but having heard the reply to my question I thought it was so definitely unfair to me and to the Labour movement, as well as to the workers of the State, that I made up my mind to raise my voice against the injustices we are labouring under today. One is that we have failed in vigorous representation as to the requirements and claims of this State with respect to the establishment of industries, so that these would be available for our returned men when the war ends. We have failed, and failed lamentably. I know I shall be asked, "What are you growling about? Look at the representation you have in the Commonwealth Parliament! You have the Prime Minister, the President of the Senate, the Assistant-Minister for the Army——"

Hon. C. G. Latham: And the Speaker!

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I am referring to members of my own party. I do not know the others. It is true that our representation is increased if we include the other Western Australian members. I shall be told, "You must realise what a wonderful job is being done." But that does not appeal to me at all.

Member: You have the Prime Minister.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: That is true. I am proud of John Curtin. I know him intimately, and a better man never stood in a pair of boots. A more honest soul it would not be possible to find, but he can make mistakes and can be overloaded. He can be misled. I was told that he had promised to send over some stirrup pumps. Mr. Curtin, in a perfectly honest way, accepts information given to him by responsible officers. He said that the stirrup pumps would be sent and that several A.R.P. matters would be attended to. They were not, but Mr. Curtin was not dishonest when he said they would be, because he accepted the word of his officers; he accepts what is put before him at its face value. We have other representatives in the Commonwealth Parliament, it is true. Senator Fraser visited this State. He is an energetic, active worker who inquires into matters and gets information for himself. But he must have been blind when he inspected some battle stations and did not find soldiers who had never used a rifle, and had not even been given one at the battle stations.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Where did he visit?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I do not know. He said he went to battle stations, and if he made a personal inspection he would have found that was so.

Hon. C. G. Latham: He visited Moore River and stayed ten minutes.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Are we going to let them go on in this way? It is a frightful thing to be told that men are being put on battle stations who have never used a rifle, have never had any training at all and have not got a rifle. I said to one young fellow, "What are you going to do?" He replied, "There is a lot of cowdung around. We will pelt the enemy with that." We have a Minister who knows these things and has admitted as much to me. But we do not get reform. I have known them for a long time, and representations have been made to the Prime Minister and to the Minister for the Army. Then General Sir Thomas Blamey comes here and says everything is all right! He knew that everything was not all right and that he was misleading the people of this State.

Then we have the Minister for Munitions, Mr. Makin. I went to a lot of trouble—and I hope I have convinced members that I have delved into the details—and I got all the facts ready for him. I marshalled the brains of the Midland Junction Workshops, and got into touch with other workshops that were sympathetically concerned about the position. I sent to Mr. Makin at Kalgoorlie exactly what we had, an outline of the circular and questionnaire and so on, so that he would realise that if he came to Midland Junction he would have a practical illustration and a stepping off point that would give him an opportunity to inquire into matters. But he did not go to Midland Junction.

I wrote to him and the member for Hannans delivered my message. Mr. Makin replied, "Thursday night inconvenient; suggest Friday." Naturally I fixed Friday for the meeting. I got in touch with his secretary at the Palace Hotel. I found that his secretary had arrived at ten o'clock on the Thursday night. I explained things to him and he said, "The Minister is busy with a deputation." The Minister himself had actually arrived. I think he had travelled by car or plane, but he could not see me. His secretary said, "I will

make representations to the Minister. Where can I see you tomorrow?" I said, "I will come here." He said, "Do not do that. I will meet your convenience." So I told him I would be at Parliament House at 11 o'clock the next day. At that hour he arrived and said, "I am sorry but the Minister cannot work that in." I replied, "That is extraordinary treatment to mete out to me. What is behind it? What is causing it?" He answered, "I cannot discuss that. My duty is to inform you that the Minister has other obligations or interviews tonight and cannot work in yours."

The facts are that when we started work at Midland Junction we decided to make it a special job, and in order that there should not be any misunderstanding we brought in the Midland Junction Municipal Council. The members of the Council are not Labourites. At any rate, only one or two are. We brought in the Mayor and the other members of the Council in their capacity as municipal administrators. They formed part of the committee that conducted the investigation. Senator Cunningham and Senator Clothier were making inquiries in Western Australia somewhat on the same lines but not in the same detail as we were. I established contact with Senator Cunningham and showed him the preliminary circular that had been issued. He said, "That is the job we are here to do." He congratulated me, and he is not a man who says a thing he does not believe. He said, "That is the job that wants doing. That is the kind of thing that will help me a lot. Can you give me a copy? I would like one for the Minister also." I told him I would get him two or three copies. The two Senators did make a survey.

To make assurance doubly sure I arranged with the workshops that when Senator Cunningham arrived there with Senator Clothier I was to be put in touch with them. I contacted them and invited them to meet me in the Council Chambers at Midland Junction in order that we might make further progress and arrive at an understanding. Senator Cunningham said, "It is no use going on the way you are going. There is only one thing to do and that is to bring Mr. Makin, the Minister, to Western Australia. You write a letter inviting him. Get it drafted tonight. I am going away by train tomorrow. Give

me the letter, and I will personally deliver it to him and urge him to come to Western Australia, post haste." We wrote the letter and he took it with him to Canberra. I received a reply from Mr. Makin and I have outlined what happened when the Minister arrived. I know there was a bit of sabotage. Members know that I am not popular in many places, and my unpopularity does not ensure me the co-operation which would be in the best interests of this State. There is no doubt that it was put over me. The member for Northam might be able to tell the Minister something about it. There is the position we are up against. I have a committee at work. Mr. Fernie would not be in it in comparison with the men at Midland Junction in the matter of ability and knowledge. We had the whole matter ready but did not have an opportunity to launch it.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The bird had flown.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: It did not fly; it would not attend.

Mr. Hughes: It was sabotage from the top.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Yes, and away up at the top, too. We had a conference. The representatives of different engineering firms were present but we were all disappointed. I was frightfully disappointed. This was one of the knocks I get regularly, but it was one of the most miserable things I had had done to me and one of the worst things that has been done to the workers of this State. I appeal to members to realise that the game is not fair. I do not want to be popular. I do not want to crawl to anyone. I propose to express my views fearlessly. Because I happen to be a little unpopular with a certain section why should they penalise all the people of the Midland Junction workshops? Why should the boots be put into those people because a certain section does not like me? My constituents elected me and I have to take a certain position. Because I condemn certain people on a question of this kind I am referred to as being not too reliable and as one who should not be encouraged.

The Minister is informed that he would be ill-advised to attend the Midland Junction conference! That is the kind of thing that is going on and members will appreciate why, with all that knowledge, I asked for a special discussion in Parliament. It

cannot be held on the Address-in-reply. Moreover, the Address-in-reply would be too late, and our representatives would simply go to the Federal conference in the same old way and come back with the same old promises. I have entered my protest, and I have only just started. The responsibility for action to protect this State against a continuation of the injustices which have been perpetrated over the last 18 months or two years, is Parliament's, and Parliament's alone. Promises that industries would be established have been made, but little has actually been accomplished by the expenditure of war funds in this State.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (in reply): Many matters to which I do not intend to refer, have been raised by the member for Guildford-Midland. I wish to reassure him on the point that, wherever there are deficiencies and wherever there has been inattention and neglect by Commonwealth authorities, the State Government has not merely taken action, but has continually drawn attention to such matters and insisted upon a drastic alteration of the circumstances surrounding them. I do not wish to speak in plain terms of the deficiencies in munitions and those sort of things, but simply to sound a note to the Chamber that the Government is aware of what the hon. member has said, some of which is entirely in accordance with fact, and the Government is determined that everything that should be done in the interests of the citizens of this State, and through the citizens of this State for the welfare of the Commonwealth, will be done. We will not approach the matter in any other way than with frankness and determination to get remedial effect in connection with all these defects in munitions supplies.

I can quite understand that the hon. member is aggrieved over one or two happenings on the occasion of the visit of a Commonwealth Minister. He may have every reason to be aggrieved, but I do not like his using such temper to flay this Government on matters which he did not properly represent, and which specifically are in connection with the basic wage. In his question today he asked whether it was the intention of the Government to take immediate advantage of National Security Regulation 17A and arrange for the Premier to exercise his powers. The answer was frank and said that at no

stage had the Government been able to take advantage of it.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: I did not object to that answer. It was the other answer.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That answer is strictly in accordance with fact.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: With legal fact.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It is strictly in accordance, not only with fact, but with the legal interpretation of the law by the man who framed it. This is not Johnsonian law or interpretation, but the interpretation of the Attorney General himself.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: I would like to see all the correspondence.

Mr. Hughes: Do you mean to say that he framed a law and then said it was ineffective?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I said nothing of the sort. The member for Guildford-Midland referred to the marginal note, and quoted the words, "Powers of the Premiers to adjust and amend the basic wage." Firstly, the marginal note is not law. It draws attention to the specific powers or points dealt with in the particular clause.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: It is a glorious thing on which to build your case.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It would be a flimsy case.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: We will take that risk.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The powers, restricted though they may be, or complete though they may be, appear in that section of the regulation. Dr. Evatt was asked the direct question—whether the powers conferred on the Premier of the State under Regulation 17A gave him authority to declare at any time, other than at the time of a declaration, the adjustment according to the increase in the cost of living on the statistician's figures? The answer was definitely that the powers conferred on the State Premier did not, whereas I have heard the hon. member argue this point that we should have done that at the time of the last announcement or adjustment of the court.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: That is so.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: To show how entirely wrong he is. I point out that the National Security Order was not issued until the 4th June of this year. The increase for the current quarter—

Hon. W. D. Johnson: There is no increase.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I refrained from interjecting while the hon. member was stating his case in his roundabout way. At no time since the powers in that order have been conferred on the Premier of this State has the Premier had the opportunity to vary the basic wage in accordance with the increase in the cost of living figures for the past quarter or the two quarters preceding it.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: You could not make it retrospective.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: What is all the fuss about?

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It is definite from the Commonwealth Attorney General that the Premier may exercise his powers at the time and for the term of the declaration.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: That is so.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Our legal advice from two State sources, and from the Attorney General, is that the Premier can exercise the powers, whatever they may be, at the time of the next declaration which, the hon. member advises the Chamber, is next Thursday. That is the first time since the issuing of the order that the Premier will have had the opportunity to exercise his authority, under Regulation 17A.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Did the Acting Premier say—

The CHAIRMAN: Will the member for Guildford-Midland maintain order? Any further interjections made by him will be noted by me.

Mr. Hughes: That was very bad drafting on Dr. Evatt's part.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: It may have been, but we have been anxious to interpret the regulation as it was intended to be interpreted. We have been careful to get explicit and clear explanation as to the extent of our powers and the time when they can be exercised. There is no doubt on the point. We are fortified by the point involved in this case having been presented to the Commonwealth officers for interpretation. We are not only buttressed in that way, but we have the opinion of two eminent legal men in this State on the same point. The hon. member has not acted fairly. If it can be proved that one is wrong, why launch accusations against us who have honestly and determinedly endeavoured to have this matter made explicit and get a

clouded position clarified—clouded not by any action of the Government, because every intention and action of the Government has been to clarify the matter. I do not wish to silence the hon. member. Freedom of speech is important, but when we exercise that freedom, let us be fair in our conclusions and deductions even of our own interpretation of the law. I wish it to be clearly understood that whatever the intentions of the Government may be at the time of the declaration of the quarterly adjustment, the Government will be acting with the full force of legal advice and authority, not merely of its own Crown Law officers but also of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth. It is not a matter of deciding to do it before the announcement of the court. The point is to do it at the proper time, and to give effect to it in the way the Government thinks effect should be given to it.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: The Lieut.-Governor's Speech prepared us for doing it the other way.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: There have been some wild and extravagant statements, and it is unfair to cloud an issue of such importance with extravagant statements and unfair inferences.

Let me now refer to remarks by other members who have addressed themselves to the Supply Bill. The Leader of the Opposition asked what would be the means of financing should the anticipated collections not be realised. He drew attention to the point that in July, 1941, we had a deficit of only £64,000, whereas for July, 1942, the deficit was £241,000. The deficit for July of last year was unusually low for that month because of the extraordinary lag in income tax collections during the previous month or two, and the tremendous increase in the month of July on account of the merging of the taxes and the excess collections made in that month. In the month of July there is always a very big lag in collections that is caught up later in the year. Since the hon. member spoke, I have had figures taken out which show that in almost every year the deficit for the month of July has been round about £240,000 to £250,000, and down to £218,000. This applies to the last ten years. The average for the month of July has been round about £200,000. If revenue is insufficient to meet expenses, we have to obtain from the Com-

monwealth Bank, by the issue of Treasury bills, the amount that is in deficit. Such bills, of course, have to be redeemed from revenue during the 12 months. Then trust funds may be used to meet current expenses, and there is an advantage in this connection in that the interest payable on trust funds is lower than that on Treasury bills.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Is not that dangerous?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: No, it is simply a current matter that is almost immediately adjusted. The funds are fluid to that extent only, and for the term only until the revenue coincides with the expenditure for the period.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You can use loan funds if the necessity arises.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: Yes, there is that avenue, too. Consequently there is no need to worry even if the public concerns do not produce the anticipated return. The hon. member also raised a question about the method by which the Commonwealth will pay State income taxation as now collected. This is not to be a twelve-monthly or six-monthly arrangement. The payments will be made monthly; there will be 12 monthly payments of equal amount, less of course, so far as our revenue is concerned, the amounts of hospital tax for which the Commonwealth is responsible. This amount will be deductible from the £2,800,000 odd which the Commonwealth must pay to us to counter our ordinary income-tax collections. The member for West Perth gave us no commendation at all for having ended the financial year with a surplus, but offered some sort of reprimand in the event of our slipping back.

On the point raised by the member for Canning, it might be a good idea to start a list of requests by members. In the course of a year, such a list would reach almost inconceivable proportions. Some of the items would be for thousands of pounds, such as the amount for the Como school mentioned by the hon. member, but other items would be for millions of pounds. It is always interesting to compare the remarks of members, who consider that we should be reprimanded to ensure our carefully watching the finances, with the remarks of other members who contend that money is urgently required for their constituencies. If we started a list headed with an item of £1,000 for the Como school,

by the end of the session we would have a list of probably £10,000,000 expected from revenue for current expenditure to meet the needs of the collective electorates. I appreciate the comments of members who have spoken, and hope that my explanation of the points raised has been explicit.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

In Committee of Ways and Means.

The House resolved into Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. Marshall in the Chair.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: I move—

That towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty for the services of the year ending the 30th June 1943, a sum not exceeding £1,850,000 be granted out of Consolidated Revenue, £200,000 from the General Loan Fund, and £300,000 from the Public Account for the purpose of temporary advances to be made by the Treasurer.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

All Stages.

In accordance with the foregoing resolutions, Bill introduced, passed through all stages without debate and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 5.44 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 5th August, 1942.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (2).

TRAFFIC ACT, ACCIDENTS.

Hon. G. B. WOOD asked the Chief Secretary: 1, How many traffic accidents have occurred in the metropolitan and suburban areas during the hours of darkness for the three months ended the 31st July? 2, How many fatalities resulted from such accidents? 3, How many people were injured?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, Accidents occurring in the metropolitan area during the night-time for three months ended the 31st July were 372. 2, Fatalities arising out of such accidents—23. 3, People injured in such accidents—101.

RAILWAYS.

Standard Gauge, Kalgoorlie-Fremantle.

Hon. A. THOMSON asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Has any estimate been prepared by the State railway engineers in consultation with the Commonwealth Railway Department for continuing the 4ft. 8½in. gauge from Kalgoorlie to Fremantle? 2, If so, what was the estimated cost?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, Yes. 2, £5,500,000, on basis 1935 costs.

MOTION—COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY [2.20]: I move—

That the following members be appointed to serve on the sessional Committees during the present session:—

Standing Orders.—The President, the Chief Secretary, Hon. J. Cornell, Hon. C. F. Baxter, and Hon. H. S. W. Parker.

Library.—The President, Hon. C. F. Baxter, and Hon. E. M. Heenan.

Printing.—The President, Hon. E. H. Gray, and Hon. W. J. Mann.

Joint House.—The President, Hon. J. Cornell, Hon. E. H. Gray, Hon. V. Hamersley, and Hon. G. W. Miles.

HON. G. B. WILLIAMS (South): I am opposing the motion.

Point of Order.

Hon. J. Cornell: I rise to a point of order.

The President: Mr. Williams will resume his seat.

Hon. J. Cornell: Will the hon. member not—

Hon. C. B. Williams: Is the hon. member in order? Is he not anticipating anything I might have to say?

The President: The hon. member said that he was opposing the motion.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Am I to be stopped from opposing the motion? I may have good grounds for doing so.

The President: I think Mr. Cornell is entitled to raise a point of order.

Hon. J. Cornell: The point I wish to raise is this: If Mr. Williams or any other member is permitted to debate the motion, will it