

present a serious problem, especially when such locks have to be fitted to the steering of old vehicles. Could the Minister give us some indication of the cost of fitting such a steering lock? I quote as an example old farm utilities which have to be licensed but which are rarely driven into the town.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Continuous investigations are being made.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: The statement which appeared in the Press made it quite clear that such locks would be fitted to all vehicles. This, of course, brings me back to the remark made by Mr. Berry on publicity. I consider that many remarks made are over-publicised in the Press and we do not gain the correct impression from them. I believe that in several instances the newspapers are rendering a great disservice to the community. Mr. Berry quoted an example a while ago in regard to a statement made about Carnarvon.

I would also point out that I have a daughter in Rabaul, New Guinea. At the height of the riots in that town we were very concerned, because my daughter was living in an area which was right in the thick of the scene of the riots. However, she sent us a wire which we received on the same night we were watching reports of the riots on the TV news. From her telegram we realised that Press and TV reports on the riots had been over-exaggerated. Therefore, in my opinion, such publicity does a lot of harm in the community.

I believe greater control should be exercised over the release of reports on such matters. I do not think I have missed anything I wanted to say during this debate, and with those few remarks I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply which was so ably moved by Miss Lyla Elliott.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan (Minister for Police).

House adjourned at 9.05 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 4th August, 1971

LIQUOR

Sale of Low Alcohol Beverages: Petition

SIR DAVID BRAND (Greenough—Leader of the Opposition) [4.32 p.m.]: I have a petition for presentation to the House from the Women's Christian Temperance Union of W.A., and it reads—

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly

of the Parliament of Western Australia.

We the undersigned petitioners express our concern that beverages of low alcohol content are being put on sale in stores and milk bars in W.A.

Makers of beverages containing Alcohol are pressing hard to win new markets. They are exploiting a law which permits beverages with less than 2% alcohol content to be sold in milk bars and stores. The legal limit is used to its furthest point because Shandy drinks contains 1.99% alcohol.

Your petitioners therefore pray that your House will take this petition into consideration and take whatever action is needed to restrict the sale of the said beverages as to licensed premises.

I have placed my name on the top of the petition which contains nine signatures and I have certified that it is in accordance with the Standing Orders. I ask that the petition be tabled.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

QUESTIONS (47) : ON NOTICE

1. BUILDING BLOCKS

Guilderton

Mr. HARMAN, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) When was the last sale of lots at Guilderton?
- (2) How many lots were—
 - (a) offered;
 - (b) sold?
- (3) What prices were obtained—
 - (a) maximum;
 - (b) minimum;
 - (c) average?

Mr. DAVIES (for Mr. H. D. Evans) replied:

- (1) 24th February, 1968.
- (2) (a) 50.
- (b) 45.
- (3) (a) \$2,350.
- (b) \$800.
- (c) \$1,151.

2. WATER SUPPLIES

Thompson's Brook Dam

Mr. REID, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) When will construction commence on the Thompson's Brook damsite near Donnybrook?
- (2) If no date is known, what priority does this work command?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) and (2) A proposal to construct a dam in the Thompson Brook area was one of eight projects

submitted last year for consideration by the Commonwealth for inclusion in the \$100 million water resources development programme. From all the proposals submitted by the States, the Commonwealth is to select schemes for more detailed studies. To date, no decision on the application for the Thompson Brook dam has been made by the Commonwealth.

3. "INDIAN PACIFIC" RAILWAY SERVICE

Western Australian Wines: Promotion

Mr. GAYFER, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) As our Western Australian wines are gaining world prominence and when available are much appreciated by tourists, why cannot they be advertised by name and by origin on the wine list on the *Indian Pacific* train?
- (2) Realising that only a limited amount of wines can be carried on *Indian Pacific*, could not the ordering of those wines be apportioned equally to the States through which the train travels?
- (3) In the interests of the Western Australian wine industry, would he endeavour to promote the suggestions contained in (1) and (2) with his counterparts in the States concerned?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (1) and (2) When wine lists were arranged it was decided that the type of wines only would be shown and not named brands.

This allows for brands to be varied either by choice or by circumstances without reprinting lists.

Western Australian wines have proportionate representation with wines supplied by other States.

There are thirteen variations of table wines ("Still" and "sparkling") and as four railway systems are concerned this State's products are at present represented by: Red Burgundy, White Burgundy, and Sauterne.

- (3) Yes.

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATING

Urban Land

Mr. R. L. YOUNG, to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

Does the Government intend to take any action to implement Labor policy that local authority rating on urban land be assessed

on the unimproved capital value of the land and not on annual rental value?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

Not at present.

5. *This question was postponed.*

6. QUAGAMIRUP BROOK BRIDGE

Construction

Mr. REID, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Who is constructing the bridge over the Quagamirup Brook eight miles from Bridgetown on the Brockman Highway?
- (2) What is estimated cost of the bridge?
- (3) What are the commencement and completion dates?
- (4) How many men are working on the project?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) S. M. Newton & Son under contract to the Main Roads Department.
- (2) \$15,600.
- (3) The construction of the bridge was commenced early in April this year and under the contract was due for completion by 11th June, 1971. However, an extension of time for completion to 3rd September, 1971, has been granted.
- (4) Two.

7. ROCKINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Construction

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

Relating to the new Rockingham High School—

- (1) When will the buildings be ready for occupation by the staff and students?
- (2) When is it intended to transfer the present school from Kwinana?
- (3) Is it anticipated stage II of the building programme will be ready for second year students in February, 1972?
- (4) To what extent has the contract for playing grounds been completed?
- (5) If the grassing of the oval, etc., has not been completed, will this be carried out during August?
- (6) If not, when?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Approximately the end of October.

- (2) No decision has yet been made as to the timing of the transfer.
- (3) The specified completion date is for the opening of the 1972 school year and at this stage it is anticipated that this will be achieved.
- (4) At this stage overall ground development is about 75 per cent complete.
- (5) No.
- (6) It is anticipated that this will be carried out in October.

8.

CROSSWALK*Albany Highway, Kelmscott*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Will he approve a fully lighted and sign-posted pedestrian crosswalk across Albany Highway in the Kelmscott shopping area?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Should a decision have not been made on my application and request for this crosswalk, when can this be expected?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) No. The application for this crosswalk was referred to the Commissioner of Main Roads who does not recommend a crosswalk.
- (2) Experience has shown that generally safety at pedestrian crossings is dependent on sustained volumes of vehicles and pedestrians. Information gathered by the local authority shows that necessary volumes have not been attained.
- (3) When the established warrant for such a facility is met.

9.

PRIMARY CLUSTER SCHOOLS*Canteen Plan*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the departmental canteen plan available for primary cluster schools?
- (2) If "Yes" will he let me have a copy?
- (3) If "No" when is the plan expected to be finalised?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) A preliminary plan has been prepared by the Public Works Department, and, following discussion and approval, working drawings will be prepared. It is anticipated that detailed plans should be available in about eight weeks.

10. JUSTICES OF THE PEACE*Court Service: Travelling Allowance*

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Is he aware that women Justices carrying out duties on the Perth relief court receive \$1 per day for fares?
- (2) Does this apply in respect of Fremantle?
- (3) In view of the fact that those on limited income have to pay bus fares, and in at least one instance a taxi fare, will he ensure that Perth and Fremantle women Justices of the Peace are treated alike in this respect?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

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

11.

HOUSING*Natives: Standard and Rental*

Mr. LEWIS, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) For what category of provision for housing for natives, i.e., primary transitional, standard transitional or conventional, is the State Housing Commission now responsible?
- (2) Has there been any alteration of the requisite social standards hitherto insisted on by the Commission for conventional housing?
- (3) What will be the scale of rental to be charged to natives under the new housing policy?

Mr. MAY (for Mr. Taylor) replied:

- (1) to (3) Transfer of functional responsibility for housing to State Housing Commission is currently being organised. In the meantime, past policies of the State Housing Commission and the Native Welfare Department are being continued.

12.

EDUCATION*Non-Government Schools: State Aid*

Mr. LEWIS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What scale of assistance is now given to non-government schools?
- (2) From what date did this apply?
- (3) What was the estimated value of this assistance in—
 - (a) 1969-70;
 - (b) 1970-71;
 - (c) 1971-72?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) (a) Payment of interest charges on capital borrowed for the building of residential accommodation.

- (b) A subsidy of 25% of the total cost of swimming pools. The maximum subsidy payable is \$2,000.
- (c) Administrative and general equipment including writing and cleaning materials.
- (d) Equipment grants to a maximum of \$750 depending on enrolments.
- (e) Matriculation issues to a maximum of \$250 depending on enrolments.

In addition to the payments made to schools, assistance is also given to pupils in the form of boarding allowances, scholarships, textbook and travel allowances, student and tuition allowances, and Education Department publications.

- (2) (a) to (c) Since 1966.
- (d) and (e) From 1st January, 1971.
- (3) The estimated cost of all forms of assistance was—
 - (a) 1969-70—\$2,501,000.
 - (b) 1970-71—\$2,700,000.
 - (c) 1971-72—\$3,149,000.

13. MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Subsidies to Country Doctors

Mr. LEWIS, to the Minister for Health:

Reverting to question No. 33 of 21st July, 1971, are the two doctors being subsidised the same in each year?

Mr. DAVIES replied:
Yes.

14. COUNTRY PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Enrolment Decline

Mr. LEWIS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) By what percentage range has the enrolment at country primary schools declined in 1971 as compared with the previous year?
- (2) How many schools have experienced this decline?
- (3) How many teachers have been withdrawn from these schools as a consequence?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Enrolment has increased by 1.03% overall.
- (2) 143 schools experienced a decrease.
- (3) 9.

15. *This question was postponed.*

16. LEOPOLD MINERALS N.L.

Inquiry: Companies Act

Mr. COURT, to the Attorney General:
With reference to my question No. 28 regarding Leopold Minerals N.L. on 29th July—

- (1) Would he please advise when inquiries under section 124 of the Companies Act commenced, and why he said in response to my question without notice that the inquiries are not at an advanced stage?
- (2) When does he expect the inquiries to be completed?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (1) Inquiries, commenced on 24th March, 1971, have been delayed because of the need to avoid likely conflict with inquiries being made under the Criminal Code and duplication thereof.
- (2) It is not possible to determine a date at this time.

17. LEOPOLD MINERALS N.L.

Inquiries: Police

Mr. COURT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

With reference to my question No. 28 on Thursday, 29th July, addressed to the Attorney General, would he please advise—

- (1) What is the nature of the inquiries that have been made and are in progress by the police into the operations of Leopold Minerals N.L. and any persons associated with the company?
- (2) What stage have these inquiries reached?
- (3) Are these inquiries being undertaken independent of inquiries under the Companies Act?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) Inquiries are being made concerning an alleged false statement by a company director and activities in general of Leopold Minerals N.L.
- (2) A company director has been charged under Section 420 of the Criminal Code and the hearing has been listed for the Beaufort Street Police Court on October 12th, 1971; therefore the matter is *sub judice*.
- (3) No. Company squad detectives and Commonwealth police officers are assisting in the investigation. As the matter is *sub judice*, no further information can be given at this stage.

18. **ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES***Kwinana-Balga Power Line: Proposed Route*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Has he requested the State Electricity Commission to inquire into and report to him with respect to the proposed 330 KV transmission line under section 27(a) (i) ?
- (2) In any event, has the S.E.C. in fact inquired into the transmission line and reported to him thereon under section 27(a) (i) ?
- (3) If the S.E.C. has not reported to him under the above provision, will he request such a report to be provided and table the report in the House before the S.E.C. takes a decision on the routing of the transmission line?
- (4) If the S.E.C. has reported to him under the above provision, will he table the report in the House before the S.E.C. takes a decision on the routing of the transmission line?
- (5) What investigations have been carried out by the S.E.C. in connection with the proposed transmission line in accordance with section 27(d) of the State Electricity Commission Act?
- (6) Has the S.E.C. made any report to him concerning such investigations?
- (7) If the S.E.C. has made such a report will he table the report in the House before the S.E.C. takes a decision on the routing of the transmission line?
- (8) If the S.E.C. has not made such a report will he call upon the S.E.C. to provide such a report and table the report in the House before the S.E.C. takes a decision on the routing of the transmission line?
- (9) As it has been estimated that the costs of the proposed line will be in the vicinity of \$12.5 million, will he inform the House as to the proposals of the S.E.C. and/or the Government as to the financing of these costs stating what portion will be financed from—
 - (a) S.E.C. revenue;
 - (b) S.E.C. reserves;
 - (c) S.E.C. loan;
 - (d) Government appropriations?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) No. I do not consider that this subsection is applicable to the construction of the 330 KV transmission lines.
- (2) No. See (1).

- (3) No. I do not consider this subsection applies to the transmission lines.
- (4) No report has been made under the provision quoted.
- (5) The Commission's officers have carried out an investigation into the necessity and types of lines and into alternative routes, and have surveyed those routes.
- (6) No. The result of the investigations has yet to be considered by the Commission.
- (7) See (6).
- (8) No. Section 38 (2) of the S.E.C. Act sets out the procedure to be followed.
- (9) The Commission's capital assets are financed from loans raised by the Commission, from general loan funds, and from internal funds such as depreciation and profits. The costs of capital works are not separately charged against any of these individual sources of funds.

19. **BUTTER AND CHEESE***Price Increases*

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he aware of proposed price increase of butter and cheese?
- (2) Will producers of dairy products receive any benefit from these increases?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not immediately but it is anticipated that an increased payment to producers might be possible in the future.
- (3) An immediate increase in the producers price is not possible as the increase in wholesale price received by the dairy companies for butter and cheese sold, is returned to the Commonwealth Equalisation Pool as increased reclamations by that body.
Eventually, if the funds in the pool permit, increased progressive payments to producers should be possible. However, the pool funds are also dependent on the price received for produce exported, and the ability of the pool to provide funds for increased payments is therefore dependent on the prices obtained for butter and cheese sold overseas as well as locally.

20. *This question was postponed.*

21. DAIRY PRODUCTS

Inquiry into Transportation

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Who requested the Director General of Transport to inquire into transportation of dairy products in Western Australia?
- (2) Have the interested parties been advised of progress to date, and, if so, when?
- (3) What companies were asked to assist the inquiry?
- (4) Did any company assist the inquiry, and, if so, which company?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) The dairy and wholemilk sections of the Farmers' Union of W.A. Inc.
- (2) Yes—the dairy and wholemilk sections were informed on 11th March, 1971 the study could not proceed because not all milk processing companies would agree to provide essential operating data. The companies indicated that such a research project had now become an industry matter and one to which they were giving their attention.
- (3) Watsons Foods Pty. Ltd.
South West Co-op. Dairies Ltd.
Peters Creameries (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.
Masters Dairy Ltd.
- (4) No company assisted because the study was not undertaken.

22. WATER SUPPLIES

Albany District

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What was the average daily draw of water in the Albany town and shire for the year ended 30th June, 1971?
- (2) What is the maximum daily amount that would be available?
- (3) For how long, is it estimated, will this meet the present and immediate needs of the town?
- (4) What plans are there for developing future supplies?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) 1,400,000 gallons a day.
- (2) 2,700,000 gallons a day from headworks, plus augmentation from service storages of 6,500,000 gallons as necessary.
- (3) The position is under constant review and works programmes are co-ordinated to meet the increasing demand.

- (4) Continued development of the south coast source to its ultimate potential is planned and is calculated to be capable of supplying Albany, in conjunction with the source from Two People Bay, until near the end of this decade.

23. SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

Curtailment

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it correct that all school bus services are under review with a view to re-routing and effecting some curtailments?
- (2) If "Yes" when was this review authorised?
- (3) What will be the maximum number of miles children will be expected to travel to catch a school bus?
- (4) If extra distances are to be travelled by country school children, how does he reconcile this policy with the election promise of sympathetic consideration of the needs of rural people?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The policy has not been changed. The distance travelled is dependent on the length of any extension required and the effect this would have on other children along the bus route.
- (4) There has been no variation in policy concerning the distances to be travelled by country school children.

24. LYNWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Overcrowding

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In view of the extensive development of the State Housing Commission building project in Langford, coupled with the continued development by Realty Development Corporation Pty. Ltd. in the Bannister Creek area, what arrangements will he undertake to ensure that Lynwood Primary School is not embarrassed by overcrowding?
- (2) Is he aware that toilet facilities at the school are only sufficient for the present enrolment?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Temporary classrooms will be used at Lynwood until the new Langford primary school opens in February, 1972.

- (2) At this stage no major difficulty is anticipated, but, if necessary, temporary toilet accommodation will be provided.

25. TRAFFIC

Barbican Street: Parking Ban

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it his intention to place a parking ban on Barbican Street from Riverton Bridge to where it joins Leach Highway?
- (2) If "Yes" will he advise when this ban is to take effect?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) The Main Roads Department is investigating the placing of an all time parking ban on Barbican Street and Leach Highway between Riverton Bridge and the Melville City Council boundary.
- (2) Dependent on completion of the investigations by the Main Roads Department.

26. TOWN PLANNING

Maddington: Rezoning

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Has the north side of Kelvin Road, Maddington from Albany Highway to Bickley Road been rezoned from rural to light industry?
- (2) If "No" when is it anticipated this rezoning may become effective?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No indication can be given until the local authority submits a formal application.

27. STATE FINANCES

Wage and Salary Increases

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Treasurer: What was the total cost to the State Government of wage and salary increases as from the date of the introduction of the last Budget to the end of the 1970-71 financial year?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:
\$17,328,000.

28. COASTAL HIGHWAY

Works Programme

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What amount of finance is required to complete the coastal highway to the bridge over the Irwin River?

- (2) How much is to be made available during this financial year?
- (3) What is the schedule of works planned at this road for this year?

- (4) Is there any truth in the suggestion that the construction of the road through Eneabba has been held up because of pegging of mining leases over the proposed route?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) In the order of \$1 million.
- (2) \$294,500.
- (3) Formation improvements and gravelling on the section between Jurien Bay Road turn-off and the Coorow-Greenhead Road and also between Eneabba and the Arrow-smith River. In addition, construction of some small bridges is planned and also the extension of priming work south of the Cliff Head Road turn-off for a further 9 miles, as well as placing of aggregate seal over the 13.3 mile section to the south of the Jurien Bay turn-off.
- (4) Yes. There is some uncertainty about the final location of the road because of the recently announced extensive mineral deposits in the general area southwards of Eneabba.

29. KWINANA POWER STATION

Generating Units

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Since the first 120,000 K.W. unit was brought into load on 15th September, 1970, at the Kwinana power station, has it operated for the majority of the time at maximum capacity?
- (2) When was the second unit brought into load?
- (3) When was the second unit operated at full capacity?
- (4) Since the second unit was first brought into load, will he advise—
 - (a) the periods it has operated at full capacity;
 - (b) the periods it has been operated at a capacity less than 120,000 K.W. and the reasons why the machine has been operating at these levels?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The second unit has not been brought on load.
- (3) and (4) Answered by (2).

30. RAILWAY ROAD SERVICE

Ilmenite: Tonnages

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Railways:

What were the tonnages of ilmenite carted by the Railway Road Services from Capel to Bunbury for the years 1969-70 and 1970-71?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

As recently indicated by the Minister for Mines in reply to a similar question, to publicise the details as requested would divulge the volume of business of a client of the Railways Department and this is against long standing policy.

31. DROUGHT RELIEF

Loans: First Mortgage Priority

Mr. W. G. YOUNG, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Have any requests for drought relief delegated agency loans been refused because of the first mortgage priority requirements since 20th February, 1971?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

Five.

32. LAKE KING-NORSEMAN ROAD

Upgrading

Mr. W. G. YOUNG, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has the Main Roads Department any plans for the upgrading of the Lake King-Norseman Road?
- (2) Were any special grants made to the Shires of Lake Grace-Ravensthorpe or Dundas for this purpose?
- (3) If (2) is "No" would he consider such a grant owing to the fact that this road is so isolated and is not an all-weather road?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) No. However, the Main Roads Department has made \$19,500 available to the Lake Grace and Ravensthorpe Shire Councils for minor improvement works.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).

33. SHOPS

After Hours Trading

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Labour:

In regard to illegal after hours shop trading, is it correct that the Government is at present con-

sidering the adoption of the system used by the last Labor Government in New South Wales, by which informants about illegal after hours trading could claim half the fines imposed?

Mr MAY (for Mr. Taylor) replied:

Definitely and emphatically no! I am unaware of any such practice as alleged—but in any case the answer is definitely and emphatically no.

34. TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGES

Function and Intake

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Treasurer:

- (1) When will the fifth teachers' training college be ready for use?
- (2) Will Claremont and Graylands both continue to function as training colleges after Churchlands is functional?
- (3) If not, what will be their respective functions?
- (4) What is the estimated intake of students for each of the years 1972 to 1982 inclusive?
- (5) When Churchlands is operative, what will be the student capacity of all teachers' training colleges in Western Australia and the number of—
 - (a) students in primary teacher training;
 - (b) students in secondary teacher training?
- (6) What percentage of student teachers would be from country areas?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

This question should have been more properly directed to the Minister for Education who has provided the following answers.

- (1) February, 1972.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) 1972—1,380.
1973—1,505.
1974—1,580.
1975—1,780.
1976—1,855.
1977—1,980.
1978—2,110.
1979—2,190.
1980—2,280.
1981—2,370.
1982—2,460.
- (5) Student capacity—3,750.
 - (a) 1,850.
 - (b) 1,450.
- (6) 26% approximately.

35. **TRAINEE TEACHERS***Future Requirements*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Education:

What are the anticipated requirements of the department for trainee teachers in—

(a) primary;

(b) secondary,

fields for each year 1972 to 1982 inclusive?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

Anticipated total numbers of teachers in training—1972 to 1982 inclusive—

	Primary	Secondary
1972	1,850	1,450
1973	2,260	1,530
1974	2,630	1,594
1975	2,830	1,670
1976	2,970	1,870
1977	3,110	2,060
1978	3,350	2,230
1979	3,600	2,380
1980	3,830	2,470
1981	3,950	2,600
1982	4,050	2,750

36. *This question was postponed for one week.*

37. **ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL***Radiologists: Payments*

Dr. DADOUR, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many part-time radiologists were employed at Royal Perth Hospital for the year ended 30th June, 1971?
- (2) What was the total of salaries paid to these officers for the year ended 30th June, 1971?
- (3) What additional payments were made to these officers during that year?
- (4) From what source did these additional payments come?
- (5) What additional services were rendered in respect of these payments?
- (6) What is the formula for payment of radiologists?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) 10.
- (2) and (3) To give a total figure for amounts paid to the radiologists would invite an averaging of salaries which would not in any way accurately reflect the individual earnings of the persons concerned.

I believe, and the Board of Management of Royal Perth Hospital agrees with me, that these people

are entitled to have their earnings kept confidential. I will, however, be agreeable to supplying the Member with the names of the persons concerned and if, when approached by him, they agree to having their earnings disclosed then this can be arranged.

- (4) The additional payments represent an agreed proportion of fees collected by the hospital for radiological procedures.
- (5) Additional payments represent fees for services rendered to paying patients.
- (6) I refer to the answer given in reply to question 3 of 29/7/71 in this regard.

38. **ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL***Shenton Park Annexe: Staff*

Dr. DADOUR, to the Minister for Health:

What were the numbers of—

- (a) all employees;
- (b) permanent medical staff;
- (c) residents;
- (d) registrars;
- (e) nursing staff; and
- (f) administration staff,

at the Royal Perth Hospital annexe (Shenton Park) for each of the years ended the 30th June, 1965 to 1971 inclusive respectively?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

The research required to obtain this information will form part of the research required to obtain the reply to question 12 of Tuesday, 3rd August. As with that question, the information will be supplied direct to the Member as soon as it is available.

39. **ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL***Investigation by W. D. Scott & Co.*

Dr. DADOUR, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will he table the W. D. Scott report on the Royal Perth Hospital?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) and (2) As explained to the Member in reply to question 13 of Tuesday, 3rd August, 1971, the firm of W. D. Scott carried out a complete survey of the hospital's organisation as a whole and in all its parts during the period November, 1961 to December, 1964, inclusive. Their findings were contained in a series of approximately 200 reports, of varying sizes and importance, submitted over this period and it is not considered practicable to table them.

40.

FARMERS***Minimum Incomes, and Wool Deficiency Payment***

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) As the Government is pledged to face up to all farmers' problems, especially debt problems, is it proposed that an endeavour will be made to institute a form of payment from the Treasury to bring farmers' net incomes to a stated minimum?
- (2) If this is not done will the Government endeavour to prevent farmers with no real alternative from being forced off their properties?
- (3) In the event of a farmer being forced off his farm and offering his farm for sale, will the Government purchase the property?
- (4) Does the Government subscribe to the belief that primary producers must "get big or get out"?
- (5) Is it the intention of the Government to fully support the "deficiency payment" scheme for wool growers which is now being proposed by the Federal Government?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) to (3) The funds needed for rural reconstruction are beyond State resources and must come from the Commonwealth. There is no provision under the existing Commonwealth-State agreement for a payment to bring farmers' net incomes to a stated minimum. The funds available under this scheme also do not permit the purchase of those farms which are offered for sale. The Rural Reconstruction Authority will, however, consider proposals for farm build up where a purchaser has made arrangements to buy a property. It is clear that many farmers are in a financial position which will necessitate them leaving their properties. In an endeavour to assist the Government offered emergency carry on loans and \$571,000 has been loaned to 303 farmers this year. These loans will, it is hoped, give farmers time to re-assess their future prospects.
- (4) No. The viability of an individual farming enterprise will determine its continuance or failure. Size is only one factor affecting viability.
- (5) Official information about any Federal Government financial assistance scheme for woolgrowers has not yet been received.

41.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION***Interest Rate on Loans***

Mr. O'NEIL, to the Minister for Housing:

Since the answer given to question No. 7 on Tuesday, 3rd August, 1971, indicates some action is proposed relative to interest rates being charged to purchasers of homes under both the State Housing Act and the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, could he indicate the action proposed?

Mr. MAY (for Mr. Taylor) replied:
Not at present.

42.

PIG RESEARCH STATION, MEDINA***Experiments***

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What experiments are being conducted at the pig research station at Medina?
- (2) Does he anticipate an early conclusion to any of the experiments?
- (3) If "Yes" will the results be published in the Department of Agriculture Journal?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Trials are currently being carried out on the value of lupin seed meal as a protein source in pig feeding, either alone or with other protein feeds available in W.A., on techniques of artificial breeding, on evaluating commercially available protein concentrates and on a genetic improvement programme using growth rate and carcase quality as the criteria.
- (2) Early conclusion can be anticipated to trials on commercial protein concentrates and on techniques of artificial breeding but not on other trials mentioned.
- (3) Yes.

43.

TEACHERS***Political Propaganda***

Mr. R. L. YOUNG, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it true that regulation 26(b) of the Education Act prohibits a teacher to "inculcate or attempt to inculcate in any student any sectarian denominational or party political propaganda"?
- (2) If "Yes" is he aware that a Young Labor Association Propaganda Sheet was recently handed out by a member of the teaching staff of a metropolitan high school?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.

44. FILMS

Classification: "R" Certificate

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) In view of the wishes of the Federal Minister for Customs and Excise and the expressed approval of other States, will he take the necessary measures required to introduce the "R" certificate for movie pictures in Western Australia?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) Steps have already been taken.
- (2) Answered by (1).

45. STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

Commissioners: Replacements

Mr. O'NEIL, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has an appointment been made to the State Housing Commission to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. R. J. Stoddart?
- (2) If so, who is the new appointee; and if not, what action is being taken to fill the vacancy?
- (3) Is any consideration being given to replacing any existing members; if so, whom?

Mr. MAY (for Mr. Taylor) replied:

- (1) and (2) No, but ex-servicemen nominees have been interviewed, and an appointment will be made shortly.
- (3) Yes—Commissioner White.

46. PERPETUAL POOLS PROMOTIONS

Investors: Losses

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Crown Law Department any knowledge of the affairs of Perpetual Pools Promotions?
- (2) What action must investors take against George Evans or Perpetual Pools Promotions to recover their losses?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (1) George Evans, who operated Perpetual Pools Promotions, was convicted in the Court of Petty Sessions, Perth, on 23rd September, 1968 for a breach of Section 81 of the Companies Act. A Warrant of Commitment has been

issued in default of payment of the fine and costs. The defendant is outside the State.

- (2) Creditors obtained a bankruptcy order against Evans on 13th May, 1969 and should ascertain progress position and the rights available to them from the Registrar in Bankruptcy.

47. POLICE STATION

Kulin

Mr. BROWN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

When is it proposed to call tenders for the erection of a new police station at Kulin?

Mr. MAY replied:

A new police station for Kulin was listed in the loan works proposal for 1970-71 but no funds were available. It has been included in the 1971-72 list and work will commence when funds are available.

QUESTIONS (3): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Establishment in Western Australia

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Industrial Development and Decentralisation:

Does he agree with the opinion of the South Australian Premier (Mr. Dunstan) as reported in today's issue of *The West Australian*, that there was little likelihood of Japanese involvement in petrochemicals in Australia, as this opinion seems to be at variance with the very patient and painstaking negotiations of the Japanese with the Western Australian Government over a long period, which negotiations would have been brought to a successful conclusion had power been available in sufficient quantity and at a low enough price?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

The answer is "No," and I wish to inform the honourable member further that only yesterday, very patiently and painstakingly, I informed Mr. Dunstan accordingly.

2. COASTAL AREAS

Mr. Hiller's Survey and Comment

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Town Planning:

Relating to Mr. Hiller's comment in *The West Australian* of the 4th August, 1971, of the survey he has

conducted for the State Government over the last two years on the use of the coastal areas—

- (1) Has the survey been completed; and,
- (2) If "Yes," will he make a copy of the survey report available to the House?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

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

3. STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Construction of Kwinana-Balga Power Line

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Electricity:

I preface this question by saying that at a public meeting held at Kalamunda on the 7th June, this year, the General Manager of the State Electricity Commission announced that a decision would be made, within two months from that night in regard to which of two routes under survey by the commission would be adopted for the construction of the 330,000 volt power line from Kwinana to Balga. Will the Minister say whether the decision is to be announced by the 7th of this month? If not, when will it be announced?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

I cannot give very much additional information. Mr. Gillies still has three days to contact me. As soon as I have any information it will be made available.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. JAMIESON (Belmont—Minister for Electricity) [5.05 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is for the purpose of giving the State Electricity Commission more flexibility in the investment of funds which the commission may be holding but which are not immediately required.

It will be appreciated by members that the commission raises a substantial portion of its funds by private loans. Most of these loans are offered to the commission by banks, superannuation funds, insurance companies, and similar bodies. The commission, of course, must accept these moneys when they are offered, and not at the time when the commission needs the money to pay contractors and other accounts. As a result, it occasionally has funds on hand that can be reinvested for short periods at reasonable rates of interest.

Most of the institutions that offer money to the commission are of the type that will themselves accept deposits on which, because of their short-term basis, the institutions pay a lower interest rate than that offered by the commission. If the commission can lend money back to the institutions, the difference in interest rates makes this lending back of money attractive and provides an added incentive to those bodies to invest with the commission funds which otherwise would not be offered to the commission.

Loan raising is a difficult and competitive business and any additional incentives that can be offered to lenders by way of short term reinvestment is an advantage to the commission in raising loans.

The commission's power to invest funds that are not immediately required, is set out in section 49 of the State Electricity Commission Act. At present the investments are limited to securities which are approved by the Treasurer and in which moneys in the Public Account may lawfully be invested.

Investments of money in the Public Account are restricted to those set out in the Public Moneys Investment Act of 1961. This provides that money held in this account may be invested as bank deposits, in the short-term money market, and in certain securities guaranteed by the Commonwealth or the State. These avenues of investment are, however, not sufficiently wide for the purposes of the commission.

The Treasurer has already approved of the commission making temporary investments with banks, but there are other sound institutions which are prepared to lend money to the commission and would appreciate the commission reinvesting those funds with them on a temporary basis. At present, the Treasurer cannot approve of them as an avenue of investment by the commission.

There is, for example, an increasing flow of funds now available from building societies. Because these societies must keep at least 7½ per cent. of their funds in reasonably liquid form, some of them are looking for relatively short-term well-secured investments for part of their funds. These societies have, therefore, a source of funds that could be available to the commission. It would probably help the commission to attract loans from this source, if it were possible for the commission to reinvest money temporarily with the building societies, and possibly with other bodies of a similar type which may lend money to the commission, but which are not of the type referred to in the Public Moneys Investment Act.

For this reason, the Bill proposes to delete from section 49 of the Act the words "in any securities wherein moneys in the Public Account may lawfully be invested."

It is considered this amendment will give the commission access to a wider source of funds. It must be stressed that the temporary investments will be only with institutions approved by the Treasurer and, in any case, will be restricted to bodies that have already lent money to the commission.

If section 49 of the State Electricity Commission Act is amended as proposed in the Bill, it will give the commission powers to invest funds similar to those powers now possessed by the Fremantle Port Authority under section 58(j) of the Act governing that authority. In other words, the Bill allows one lot of money to be used to some extent for public purposes in two different ways.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Nalder.

STAMP ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. T. D. EVANS (Kalgoorlie—Treasurer) [5.12 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This small measure has three purposes: these are to repeal the exemption given to official short-term money market transactions; to extend the time for objections and appeals; and to remove doubts about the interpretation of an amendment made in 1969.

Subsection (2) of section 16 of the Stamp Act provides that no stamp duty will be imposed upon any instrument which contains or relates to a transaction in the official short-term money market.

This exemption was inserted into the Act in 1961 shortly after the market first commenced. The main reason for amending the law was because at that time receipts duties were imposed at the rate of 3d. per £100. The difficulty encountered in the early period of operation of the market was that no official dealer would set up offices in the State because of the requirement to pay receipts duty on an *ad valorem* basis.

It will be appreciated that transactions involving as they did hundreds of thousands of pounds, and often for short periods, attracted very heavy duty. Consequently, as the dealers operated on very fine margins, this tax rendered their transactions unprofitable. As a result, dealers carried out all transactions in the East where the duty was either on a flat basis or not imposed at all.

Without offices in this State it was difficult to arrange transactions at call because of the then delays in telephone communications to the East. Investments in this market of the State produced substantial returns to the Consolidated Revenue Fund from moneys which would

otherwise be idle. It was, therefore, to the advantage of the community generally to remove this imposition of stamp duty and, in any event, it was not being collected.

The exemption was primarily framed to relieve dealers from duty imposed on receipts, but was drafted to give exemption to all instruments because there were a few dealings on the official market which attracted other forms of stamp duty.

Receipts duties have now been abolished, and this has removed the main purpose of the exemption. In addition, it has now come to notice that the exemption is being used to the disadvantage of locally based merchant banks and is therefore anomalous. As the subsection now stands, the exemption applies only to official dealers. These are dealers who have been approved by the Reserve Bank which acts as a lender of last resort, thereby giving gilt-edged protection to investors with those dealers. With the increased sophistication of the money market in Australia new forms of security have been introduced and dealings are not limited to the official dealers but are also carried out by others, such as merchant banks' finance organisations which, for the purpose of this explanation, I will describe as unofficial dealers.

In addition, the sophistication and extension of money market operations have made it impossible to clearly isolate official market transactions. One of the forms of security now used is the commercial bill of exchange which is used as security for loans and is discounted to raise funds. When dealers are quoting interest rates in open competition for business, where commercial bills are to be used as security, the stamp duty plays a significant part in the rates quoted. The rate of stamp duty on term bills of exchange is 10c per \$100 or part thereof of the amount of the bill. This *ad valorem* rate has no regard to the term of the bill.

Thus a bill for three months attracts the same duty as a bill for 12 months, assuming both are drawn for the same amount. This means that the shorter the term, the higher the amount of duty becomes when expressed as a percentage of the principal. As the law now applies this results in interest rates quoted by unofficial dealers inevitably being higher, all other things being equal, than those quoted by official dealers. This is because the unofficial dealer needs to cover the cost of stamp duty as he is liable to pay it on the bill, whereas an official dealer escapes liability by virtue of the exemption now provided in the Act.

Under Commonwealth stamp duty law and that of other States in Australia, except Queensland, there are no provisions exempting official or unofficial dealers. They are all on the same footing as regards this tax. Our exemption was placed in the Act to encourage the development

of that market in this State and in the main to remove the impost of receipts duties. As receipts duties no longer apply to any transaction and the market is firmly established and, more importantly, the exemption is now creating an anomalous situation between taxpayers, it is appropriate that it be repealed. The Bill now before members provides accordingly.

Under the provisions of section 32 of the Stamp Act a taxpayer is given the option of objecting to the commissioner's assessment and then, if he so desires, proceeding to appeal to the court, or appealing direct to the court. The period allowed in every case is 21 days. There is no power in the Stamp Act for either the court or the commissioner to extend the time. Consequently, unless an objection is received or an appeal lodged within the time limit the taxpayer loses his rights.

The Law Society has drawn attention to difficulties which arise as a result of this limited period. The society has pointed out that a client may be temporarily out of the State, or the matter may be complex, requiring considerable research. Because of the limitation of time the legal adviser may not be able to obtain instructions or complete his research and as a result the taxpayer is unable to seek the remedies provided by law. An examination of the periods allowed in other States discloses that these range from 60 days to 30 days. Under our other major tax laws, the following periods apply:—

Probate duty: Twenty-eight days are provided, with the right of the commissioner to extend the time.

Land tax: Forty-two days are allowed. In view of the periods allowed in other States, those provided in other taxing laws of our own State, and the difficulties mentioned in the Law Society's representations, it is considered desirable to extend the existing period. Accordingly the Bill provides for a change in the time limit from 21 days to 42 days.

In addition, provision is included to empower the commissioner to extend the period of 42 days to be allowed for objections and to empower the court to extend the period in which an appeal may be lodged beyond the 42 days.

I come now to the final proposed amendment. In 1969 the Stamp Act was amended to extend the duty of 1½ per cent. levied on hire-purchase agreements to all forms of credit and rental business, subject to certain conditions. Section 112P of the Act, which was added in 1969, provides that where a person who is domiciled or resident in the State transacts business with a person carrying on a credit or rental business who is not a registered person, the person who is domiciled or resident in the State is required to make a note or memorandum in writing of the transaction and pay stamp duty at the prescribed rate. The

section provides that a note or memorandum, however, is not required and stamp duty is not levied where the business transacted or offered to be transacted is with a person carrying on business outside the State if none of the negotiations leading to the transaction of, or the offer to transact, business were carried out in the State, or if the amount obtained or the goods obtained by him were obtained for the purpose of being wholly expended or wholly used outside the State.

Recently a case has come to the notice of the commissioner where a firm has borrowed a very large sum of money from Eastern States finance companies. However, this money is to be partly expended by the borrowing company on developments being carried out in this State. In this case the facts are that all the negotiations leading to the loan were made in the Eastern States—that is, outside this State—and that the company lending the funds is not a registered company within the State but is engaged in the business of lending money. It therefore follows that, although the transaction can comply with one of the conditions for exemption—that is, all of the negotiations leading to the transaction being carried out outside the State—it does not comply with the second requirement that the money must be wholly expended outside the State; because in this case the money is to be partly expended within Western Australia.

On being asked to comply with the law, the company claimed that the requirements in section 112P are not cumulative, and if one is satisfied then the loan is not subject to duty. The Crown Law Department does not agree with this interpretation and states that even as the law now stands it is arguable that the requirements are cumulative and, therefore, the company is liable to duty. This situation can be resolved only by seeking a court interpretation and this is being done in respect of this particular case.

When section 112P was enacted it was based on similar legislation in Victoria. However, in the law of that State the conjunction "and" appears between the two conditions. This word does not appear in our legislation, but the intention was that the requirements were to be cumulative and both satisfied before a transaction could qualify for exemption. Whatever may be the outcome of the case now being placed before the court for determination—and it will not be affected by any legislative amendments we may or may not effect—it is desirable to remove any possible doubt in future cases and, accordingly, the Bill provides for the insertion of the word "and" between the two requirements in section 112P. I commend the Bill to members.

Mr. Court: Before you sit down, can you give us an idea of the effect of this Bill on the revenue?

Mr. T. D. EVANS: I will obtain the information and make it available to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Sir David Brand (Leader of the Opposition).

LAND TAX ASSESSMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. T. D. EVANS (Kalgoorlie—Treasurer) [5.27 p.m.]: Whilst speaking last week during the Address-in-Reply debate my good friend and mentor, the member for Boulder-Dundas, in an excellent speech and a very fine debut reminded us of the words of an American Governor of the State of Massachusetts. When that Governor was chided for making certain election promises he said, "Those that I can keep I will keep, and those that I cannot keep I will renew." The Bill before members to amend the Land Tax Assessment Act fulfils a promise made by the Government prior to the last elections. So if this Bill is passed it will give effect to one promise, in respect of which the Premier will not have to renew. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to add two further concessions to the Land Tax Assessment Act. These are—

To implement the policy that land comprising one-half acre or less on which a home is erected be exempted from land taxes provided that the land concerned is the only land owned by the householder.

To provide a measure of relief for owners where their homes are erected on parcels of land of one acre or less, the values of which have been increased as a result of rezoning. This relief is to apply only where the land concerned is incapable of subdivision.

As the law now stands, all persons who own improved land which has been assessed at a value of \$10,000 or less are exempt from the payment of land taxes. This covers the majority of homes in the metropolitan area. However, there are cases where land on which a home is erected is valued in excess of \$10,000 and, therefore, land taxes are payable by the owner.

Prior to the election an undertaking was given that where the only land owned was that on which a person's home was built, exemption would be granted in all cases, provided the area of land concerned did not exceed one-half of an acre. A provision for this purpose is included in the Bill now before us.

Under section 8B of the Land Tax Assessment Act, where a person owns land not exceeding one-half of an acre in area on which a residence has been erected

and that land is rezoned for a higher use—for example, the erection of flats, or for industrial purposes—the commissioner is empowered to disregard the value added to the land as a result of the rezoning, provided the owner continues to reside on the land. This means that the land is then assessed as if the rezoning had not taken place, or, in other words, is valued as if it were zoned for ordinary housing purposes.

The present concession has worked well in providing relief to the many householders who have been affected by rezoning provisions, largely in the metropolitan area. However, cases have come to notice where there are areas of land of up to one acre which have been rezoned for higher use, particularly as flat sites or for industrial purposes, by the appropriate town planning authorities. In these cases there is generally a substantial increase in the value of the land because, by virtue of the rezoning, its earning capacity has been greatly increased. As a consequence, the taxes levied on that land have likewise increased substantially. For example, there are cases where land has risen in value from \$10,800 to \$22,500 as a result of rezoning, and the annual level of land taxes has increased from \$5.50 to \$102.81.

In a number of these cases the incomes of the persons who own land are not great and the burden of land taxes is beyond their financial capacity. It might reasonably be argued that these people should sell the land and allow it to be developed for its appropriate purpose, but in many cases they have erected their homes on this land and are well established with their families in the district.

It also may be suggested that as they obviously must have a great deal of land surplus to their normal residential requirements, it would be appropriate for them to subdivide the land and sell off that portion which they do not require. If such action can be taken—and this, of course, depends on the approval of the relevant authorities—then they have a solution at hand and the surplus land can then be developed by the purchaser.

However, in many cases subdivision is not possible or practical, because of lack of amenities such as access or services, and, therefore, the person concerned is placed in an untenable financial position through no fault of his own. For this reason it has been decided to extend the type of concession granted to persons who are similarly placed on half-acres of land, but with the added proviso that the land be not capable of subdivision.

A survey has been made and this shows that there are approximately 200 cases of people occupying land of the type I have described. In these cases the land is generally up to one acre in area.

The Bill, therefore, proposes to give the commissioner power to provide the type of relief I have detailed for the cases I have described.

I commend the Bill to members.

Mr. Court: I could not quite follow from your explanation as to what would happen where somebody has built a house that straddles two *bona fide* titles. How does he get on?

Mr. T. D. EVANS: This is a question which arises out of the Transfer of Land Act rather than the Land Tax Assessment Act.

Mr. O'Neill: There is the impracticability of subdivision.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Sir David Brand (Leader of the Opposition).

OFFENDERS PROBATION AND PAROLE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn—Attorney-General) [5.36 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is made necessary by reason of the existence of certain minor problems which have caused doubts about the powers of the Parole Board to deal with certain classes of prisoners and persons within the provisions of the Offenders Probation and Parole Act.

The Parole Board is required, pursuant to section 34 (2) (a), to report annually to the Attorney-General in respect of each person who is ordered pursuant to section 652, or section 653, or subsection (4) of section 693 of the Criminal Code, to be kept in strict custody until Her Majesty's pleasure is known, and who is for the time being in safe custody during the pleasure of the Governor.

Frequently the Governor makes an order pursuant to section 48 of the Mental Health Act that such a person be admitted as a patient to an approved hospital, and thereafter the Governor may order the person to be liberated upon such terms and conditions as he thinks fit. Crown legal officers are of the opinion that such release should be made under the provisions of the Mental Health Act, and this being so there seems to be no point in the Parole Board having an obligation to submit annual reports on these persons.

This Bill will place beyond doubt the fact that these persons become the responsibility of the Mental Health Services when Her Majesty's pleasure is made known by the Governor under section 48 of the Mental Health Act.

Section 19 (6) (a) of the Criminal Code provides that juveniles who are convicted on indictment of an offence punishable by imprisonment may, instead of being

sentenced to imprisonment, be ordered to be detained in strict custody until the Governor's pleasure is known.

An offender who is dealt with in this way is not a prisoner within the meaning of the Offenders Probation and Parole Act and this means that he is not able to be considered for release under that Act.

This Bill provides that the offender can be dealt with by the Parole Board and this, of course, is desirable in the interests of the rehabilitation of such a person.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 3rd August, on the following motion by Mr. A. R. Tonkin:—

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

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

MR. WILLIAMS (Bunbury) [5.41 p.m.]: Earlier this session I congratulated you, Mr. Speaker, on attaining your present position, and now I would like to congratulate the Premier on attaining his position and winning the Government. I also extend my congratulations to the members who have been selected to serve as Ministers.

I would like to congratulate the Premier on his recent marriage. No doubt, this occasion has lightened the load on his shoulders, and he seems to look happier for it. I am sure this is attributable to his good wife. Let us hope they live happily for many years, to enjoy their association.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: Thank you very much for those remarks.

Mr. WILLIAMS: On looking around the Chamber as it is constituted, it is rather interesting to see there is a large number of members who are at present sitting on the Government side, but who before the last elections sat on the Opposition side. Similarly, there is a large number of members who used to sit on the Government side, but who now sit in Opposition.

I have checked the dates relating to the membership of members in this House, which appear in the *Parliamentary Handbook* that is supplied to all members. Give

or take a member or two, it appears that of the members now sitting on the Government side of the House only nine have sat on the Government side of the House previously. On the Opposition benches only five Liberal Party members and three Country Party members have sat in Opposition previously.

If I remember rightly, on the 24th April, 1958, the member for Pilbara just scraped into the Government side before it was defeated; and the member for Moore, on the 20th September, 1958, just scraped into the Opposition side before it became the Government.

It is an experience for me to be in the Opposition, because I was elected to this House when my party was in Government. That is my experience, as well as the experience of many other members. Of course, many members now on the Government side will have the same experience in, perhaps, three years' time when they will be sitting on the Opposition side of the House. However, that is a matter for the public to decide. We can argue as to whether or not that ought to be the position, but the people are the ones who decide these matters; and that is how the position should be in a democracy.

Although the Minister for Health is not in the Chamber at the moment, I would like to take this opportunity to compliment him. When he was in Bunbury recently to open the new permanent care centre, as an annexe to the Bunbury Regional Hospital, he made a lot of friends there, but I have no fear of that. In his remarks he made reference to the efforts of the previous Minister for Health (The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon) in bringing about the establishment of this permanent care centre, which is the first of its kind in Australia. The present Minister for Health was very courteous and generous in his remarks in praise of the former Minister for Health.

I will become fairly parochial tonight, as it is our privilege to be, when I speak in the debate on the Address-in-Reply. Over the last 12 months or so there has developed, and there continues to be developed—and I hope it will continue to be developed—a new State housing area known as Withers Park, in Bunbury. This is a medium housing area which I am sure, when people get used to it, will be a very pleasant centre in which to live. With the introduction of new housing areas and new types of designs, some people get a little upset from time to time; and it takes them a little while to become accustomed to the new area and the new designs.

No doubt, these remarks apply to the Withers Park development. I believe that for a few years to come some people will not be happy to be living in that sort of

environment and that type of housing—whether it be the normal types of houses, terraced houses, duplex units, or flats of two or three storeys. Of course, the flats will not suit everyone, but they provide a staging spot for people to live at reasonable rentals. Whilst the people are living in those flats at reasonable rentals they will be able to save some money and, eventually, to buy homes of their own.

However, some problems have presented themselves in this housing area; in this regard I have had conversations with the Minister for Housing, and I have asked questions of and written letters to him. One matter is the installation of gas hot water systems in these State Housing Commission units.

The area was researched by the State Electricity Commission and the State Housing Commission—because of the new design—prior to the construction of the buildings. There was liaison with the local authority—the Bunbury Town Council. I have no argument whatsoever with the installation of gas stoves or gas room heaters. I believe a gas stove is an economic unit when compared with a wood stove, but this would depend on how the gas stove was used.

If a housewife cooked a roast in the morning and a cake in the afternoon, she would have to light up the stove on two occasions. However, if she practised a little economy she would cook the roast and the cake at the one time, and the stove would be used once only. That is something which people have to get used to after using the appliances for some time.

In our climate a gas room heater would probably be used for three or four months of the year only. If the tenants think that gas is too expensive they have the alternative of purchasing another type of unit, such as a kerosene heater. However, the gas hot water system is a different matter, because it is a very expensive unit to run.

I have yet to find out why the State Housing Commission installed gas hot water systems. I have received some explanations, but I am still not convinced. I believe that whoever carried out the investigation before the houses were constructed had very little knowledge of the cost of operating a family unit, or they wanted to create a situation where it would be economical to put gas into this particular area of the town.

I have received many complaints from residents in the new area. Those people have moved in only during the last four or five months and, of course, on the 28th June they received their first quarterly accounts for their electricity and

gas. I have copies of some of the accounts with me which I will relate to the House at a later stage of my speech.

A gas hot water system—or any hot water system at all—is used for 12 months of the year. The people living in the Withers Park area are in the low income bracket, and mostly they have young families. All of us who are married, and have had young children, know that children use a lot of hot water. The children get dirty and they have to be washed, and their clothes have to be washed. If they want a drink of water, they just turn on a tap and nine times out of ten it is the hot water tap. Each time the hot water tap is turned on the gas lights up and that costs a few more cents.

After receiving some complaints, I spoke to one gentleman who works for a firm which is an agent for L.P. gas. He is a salesman for a gas appliance company, and I asked him some questions about gas hot water systems. He told me quite plainly that if he received an inquiry for a gas hot water system he usually asked the person a very personal question. The customer could answer the question if he wanted to, but the question was a warning. It was, "Have you two incomes coming into the home, or if you have only one income, is it \$100 a week or more? If not forget about a gas hot water system because it is too expensive to run." Those remarks came from a man who earns part of his living by selling gas appliances; hot water systems being one of them. He believes it is his duty to the public at least to warn them that the gas hot water systems are very expensive to run.

Obviously, no-one asked a similar question regarding the tenants who would be going into the State Housing Commission homes. The State Housing Commission would know the approximate income of its tenants because it is well known that people who go into commission homes have an income below a certain figure. That figure varies between the metropolitan and country areas.

I do not blame the Minister for Housing, or the previous Minister for Housing, for the situation which has arisen. One of the reasons given to me for the installation of the gas hot water systems was that in this particular area of Bunbury the water has a very high salt and manganese content. This fact is well known to anybody who has lived in Bunbury because the water comes from an underground supply. This is one of the unfortunate situations with which we have to live.

The local authority, through the Bunbury Water Board—it is part of the local authority—is doing its best and has done quite a good job in upgrading the quality of the water supplied to the townspeople. The local authority is also upgrading the

water which is being supplied to the Withers Park area. An aeration plant and several sand filters are being used.

Apparently an investigation was carried out by the State Housing Commission prior to its decision to install gas hot water systems in the Withers Park area.

In the old part of the area, which is some five or six years old, solid fuel hot water systems were installed. However, those units corroded and burnt out within a year or two of being installed. The hot water units were, I suggest, the same as the one I installed in my own home at about the same time. I have no doubt that the units installed in the older homes did corrode and burn out. I will not name the firm concerned because that would be unfair, but the model which came out at that time was a very bad one. In my own case, my unit burned out after only eight months' use.

I complained to the firm which supplied me, and the unit was replaced free of charge. That was not done because I am Maurie Williams, a member of Parliament. I would have received the same treatment had my name been Joe Blow—or should I say Joe Bloggs.

Mr. Court: If you say Joe Blow you could get into the same trouble as I did.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I do not want to get involved in anything like that because my throat would not stand it tonight. To return to the subject: the firm replaced the solid fuel hot water system. Two years later the unit developed a leak, and the firebox used to get wet. The leak was not sufficient to put the fire out, but it did interfere with the performance of the unit. As the unit was two years' old after reinstallation it was not under warranty, so I got a plumber to have a look at it. I asked the plumber to dismantle the unit and if he found any signs of pitting in the copper tank, not to bother putting the unit together again.

The plumber dismantled the unit, and said that the interior was as clean as a whistle. There was no build-up of salt, or any sign of corrosion so he reassembled it. It seems to me that the State Housing Commission, when it carried out its investigations into hot water systems for that area, must have run into the same sort of problem as I struck. The commission must have observed the poorer type of hot water system. As I have said, the fault has now been rectified. I believe the State Housing Commission made its decision on the hot water systems which were produced at that particular time.

I know of some people living in older areas who have solid fuel hot water systems, and they have had no trouble. The State Housing Commission claims that it decided to install gas hot water systems because the solid fuel systems burned out too quickly. It was claimed that the solid

fuel systems burned out in two, three, or four years, whereas the gas hot water systems would last for about 15 years. We know that no-one gets anything for nothing, and the tenant would therefore be paying for the dearer unit.

The gas units have caused so much concern that people have asked me whether they could install solid fuel hot water systems in their homes. I passed the request on to the Minister and the Minister replied that the State Housing Commission would give consideration to such requests provided the tenants paid for the units.

I will quote a few examples to give members an idea of the cost of gas hot water units at Withers Park. I will not mention the names of the people concerned, but they all live in the new medium density area. The accounts show separate amounts for electricity and gas, and I will read out the amounts for gas only. The first account for the quarter ended the 28th June is for \$32.33. A quick calculation will show that the cost of gas for the quarter works out at about \$3 a week. Other accounts show \$38.40, \$46.48, and \$45.47 for gas, while some show an average of between \$32 and \$33. One account is for \$25.26, but I believe this particular person had not been living in the area for the full quarter. Other accounts show \$38.40, \$34.36, and \$32.33. One account which I have not seen, but which I believe to be correct, is something in the order of \$70 for the quarter.

It does not seem fair that people should have to pay those high charges for their gas, when they are expected to pay \$16 or \$17 a week for rent. The usual rent is approximately \$16.75 a week, let alone the additional cost of gas and electricity. As I said earlier, the majority of the people living in the area have young children. Bringing up a young family involves the use of a great deal of hot water, not just for a couple of months of the year, but for the full 12 months.

Some people, for one reason or another, are probably quite happy with the gas hot water units, but the State Housing Commission should give some assistance in replacing the hot water units for those people who are not happy. The solid fuel hot water systems are much cheaper to operate and, of course, the average family can take a drive into the bush and get some wood for the heater.

I believe the quality of the water in the area will improve in the very near future because of the treatment facilities provided by the Bunbury Water Board.

I believe the problems will be overcome because the water that is being supplied to the Withers Park area will be no worse, and could be better, than the water that is supplied to the rest of the town. Most of the people in the rest of the town, particularly the State Housing Commission

area, have other types of hot water systems, such as solid fuel hot water systems, which do not seem to cause a great deal of trouble.

While I am speaking about the Withers Park area, there is another matter I would like to mention. A quite attractive brochure has been produced by the State Housing Commission, giving a general rundown on "Withers Park, Bunbury, W.A." The brochure gives a general idea of what is expected of people when they move into that area. The last item on the inside of the pamphlet is headed "Sale of Homes." I will quote this small section, which reads—

Pending the completion of all the Town Planning Conditions which the Commission undertook with the Bunbury Town Council it is not possible for the Commission to sell homes to occupiers.

Occupiers desirous of purchasing can lodge an application which will be determined when legal aspects of the Planning Conditions are completed.

Earlier this year I wrote to the Minister about this matter, and he replied saying that it was being investigated. No doubt the investigation will take some time but I sincerely hope that in the very near future many of the units in Withers Park will be made available for purchase by the tenants, as has been the case with normal State Housing Commission houses.

As I understand it, at the present time Withers Park is a large State Housing Commission area and, being a park, it is not subdivided. I believe this problem can be overcome under our existing legislation dealing with strata titles and so on, so that the people in this area will be able to purchase their homes as individual houses. Individual houses do not cause any problems and they are being sold at the present time. It is a matter of forming a subdivision within that park.

I should think titles could be issued for the terraced houses and duplex units. I do not think it would be necessary, or perhaps even wise, to give strata titles in the flat areas because those areas would probably consist of staging accommodation for people who want to get a roof over their heads temporarily and eventually buy a block of land in the town on which to build a house, or buy a spec-built house or a house that is on the market, or for transient people who are in the town for a certain time while their jobs continue, after which they will move on to the next place. I hope the Minister for Housing will hasten this matter and make it possible for tenants to purchase their homes if they so desire.

For some considerable time people in the Withers Park area have been looking forward to the time when they will have a shopping centre. The nearest shopping centre at the present time is three and a half to four miles away. If Dad has

gone to work in the car and Mother is left at home to look after the children, it is not easy for her to catch a bus because buses are rather infrequent in that area and it would take several hours to travel in and out by bus to visit the commercial centre. I hope this matter will be speeded up and tenders or proposals will be called for in relation to the development of a shopping site. The site is already available and it is a matter of obtaining proposals and sorting out which proposal will give these people the best opportunity to shop on foot, as it were, in order to save congestion in the town area.

Last year I spoke about a matter on which at the time I thought I was achieving some degree of success. I do not specifically blame the new Government for the matter I am about to mention, although perhaps some people are not quite so much aware of the situation as were the Ministers concerned in the previous Government. I refer to what is called, in Bunbury, the *Leschenault Lady*, which is a vintage train. The Minister for Tourism has heard a great deal about this matter in the last couple of months. The Minister for Railways has also heard something about it, and a letter has been sent to the Premier as well.

As I explained to the House last year, this vintage train came about through the efforts of a very enthusiastic gentleman by the name of George Baxter, who happens to be the manager of the tourist bureau in Bunbury. Mr Baxter departed yesterday on a tour of the Eastern States, a trip which he won for being the best and most enthusiastic tourist manager in the whole of Australia. This he certainly is, even to the sideburns and whiskers which he grew some time ago because, as a member of the Historical Society, he played the part of Lord Forrest on one occasion. Everyone thought Baxter looked very presentable with sideburns, moustache, and the works, so he retained them as a gimmick. He is the man who has been behind the establishment of this vintage train, which has proved very popular with local people, people from overseas and from the Eastern States, and with Ministers in the previous Government. Up to date, it has not proved to be very popular with the present Ministers but I hope this evening to convince some of them that it is a good move.

The local group, comprising the tourist bureau, the Bunbury Town Council, and myself, is very appreciative of the support given to this project by all concerned in the Railways Department, from the commissioner down to the local people who inspect the locomotives in the Bunbury yards. The Railways Department has been very co-operative.

From the 3rd March, 1968, when this train was initiated, to the 25th July, this

year, the train had made 35 trips. It had carried 5,668 passengers, and an amount of \$6,824 had been paid to the Western Australian Government Railways for the hire of the locomotive and coaches and for the wherewithal to run the train. The local people have spent \$1,000 in restoring the coaches, this being the \$1,000 profit that has been made from the 35 trips. As an economic set-up, it is virtually paying for itself.

The local volunteers have spent more than 2,000 man-hours on the restoration of these coaches. They have done a terrific job. There are six coaches which have been painted in their original livery colours, and they look quite smart. A previous Commissioner for Railways (Mr. Horrigan), once made the comment that it did the Railways Department very proud to have these old coaches in such good shape, although he was not so sure what they were like to ride in. Having ridden in one myself, I believe they are quite safe, although sometimes one wonders whether they have the old square wheels that used to be on the W.A.G.R. coaches. They rattle a bit. However, as a gimmick, people like to ride in something that is old, whether or not it is rough.

The numbers of the two locomotives are G.123 and G.233. Locomotive number G.123 is now ready for reboiling, and it will not be long before G.233 is in the same condition—it has about 90 operative days left, depending on how it is used. If it is used for hauling the vintage train, it could be two and a half years before it has to be repaired; if it is used for general railway work around Bunbury, as in the past, it will require reboiling in much less than two and a half years.

The vintage train has come about through the enthusiasm of the local people in their desire to have something of an historical nature, something that is useful and enjoyable for the public, and something that is a tourist attraction to Bunbury and to Western Australia. If we can keep this train going, I believe that within the next 10 years people will be queueing up for trips on it because there will not be another steam locomotive left in Western Australia owing to the dieselisation of the railways. A vintage train is a great novelty, as has been proved in the Eastern States and in other parts of the world.

A problem has arisen in connection with the major maintenance of the locomotives. One of the locomotives is due for reboiling now, and the other one will need reboiling in the near future. I think it is fair to ask the community to pay something towards restoring the coaches and doing the necessary work to make them useful, but I think it is drawing a long bow to ask the local community to raise \$6,000 to reboiler a locomotive which will be of some benefit to the whole State.

I have asked the Minister for Tourism whether he will provide a subsidy from the Tourist Development Authority. He has replied that owing to shortage of funds he is sorry that he cannot help us. I have written to the Minister for Railways and asked whether the Railways Department can help us in the reboiling of the locomotives, or at least one of them, and the answer was that this was a problem for the local community.

We understood from the start that this would probably be the situation but we worked on the basis that at least we could try the Railways Department, and if that department was good enough to come forward with a few bucks to help us we would accept them. As I said before, the Railways Department has been very co-operative in this matter. However, as this train has a great tourist potential for Western Australia, I believe it is a little rough when the Minister for Tourism says, "We are short of funds," and does not make an alternative offer.

I now put an alternative offer to the Minister for Tourism. If he cannot come forward with the \$6,000 required to re-boiler the locomotive, will he give the local people a subsidy of \$2 for every \$1 raised locally? If he cannot come at that, will he come down the scale and subsidise us dollar for dollar?

There is so much feeling about this matter in Bunbury at the present time that the tourist bureau is calling a meeting on the 14th August, with the mayor in the chair. The sole purpose of the meeting is to discuss the raising of funds to carry out the necessary maintenance on the locomotive. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition suggested we might take the hat around on the 16th September. I do not know what is the significance of the 16th September; perhaps it is something about a salary rise. We might try it.

The local people are trying to raise some extra funds in the hope that the Minister for Tourism will give them a subsidy to enable the reboiling job to be done. I hope the Minister will agree to do this, preferably on the basis of a subsidy of \$2 for every \$1 raised locally. If not, he might consider going half way and providing a subsidy on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Before tea I was putting a case for some assistance from the Tourist Development Authority, through the Minister for Tourism, for the *Leschenault Lady*—a vintage train at Bunbury. If the Minister for Tourism feels that he can do nothing directly under his portfolio or, subsequently, through the Tourist Development Authority, I would point out to him that I was speaking to the Director of the Museum today and he said he saw no reason why this train could not be covered by the Museum Act,

because the locomotive itself is a museum piece and will become even more so as time goes by. As I said earlier in my speech; as steam is gradually phased out this will virtually be the only G-class steam locomotive running on the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge.

The locomotive in question and its coaches have gained world-wide publicity over the past three years. Indeed, the three top men in tourism—Graham Tucker, Director of the Australian National Travel Association, Mr. Basil Atkinson, Manager of the Australian Tourist Commission, and Harry E. Mercer, Publicity Manager for North America of the Australian Tourist Commission—all consider this to be an excellent tourist attraction which could lift Bunbury and the State to something above the ordinary in the way of tourist development.

That is what these gentlemen think of this locomotive and its coaches; they consider the train will be an asset to tourism in Western Australia, and, of course, to tourism in the south-west.

Recently the Minister for Tourism replied to a question I asked about the cost of setting up a karri log on the side of Eyre Highway. He said the Tourist Development Authority was prepared to support this project to a maximum of \$1,333. If the Tourist Development Authority can support the placing of such a log on the side of Eyre Highway surely it is not too much to seek its assistance for the restoration of the locomotive to which I have referred. The only cost involved will be that concerned with the major maintenance of the locomotive; it is not something that will be asked for year after year, because this particular train is self-supporting, including the operating costs and the costs that have to be paid to the railways.

It is, as I have said, only a matter of meeting the immediate major maintenance costs; and surely it is not too much to ask that this train be subsidised to the tune of \$2 for every one raised in the area—or even on the basis of \$1 for \$1—to a maximum of \$3,000 or \$4,000; particularly when we are told that the Tourist Development Authority is prepared to advance up to \$1,333 for a karri log to be placed alongside Eyre Highway.

The train to which I refer will not sit on the side of the road; it will be operative; it will provide the people with fun and will be of great advantage to the State—it will be unique both in Western Australia and in Australia.

The previous Premier (Sir David Brand) in a letter to Mr. Baxter, Manager of the Bunbury Tourist Bureau, said that the locomotive—G.123—and the coaches were to remain in Bunbury and that the locomotive was to be the motive power for these coaches.

In actual fact locomotive G.123 is older by several years than Victoria's *Puffing Billy* on which that State has spent more than \$20,000 by way of housing facilities. Our train is much older than Melbourne's vintage train. Accordingly, I think \$4,000 is not too much to ask of the Tourist Development Authority.

We have heard something about broken promises during this session of Parliament and I would now like to hark back to a speech I made last year while dealing with broken promises. Actually I was chiding the member for Collie and the Opposition of the day about certain statements that were made around 1954, 1955, and 1956.

The details to which I refer can be found on page 1625 of *Hansard* of 1970. On that page I mentioned the fact that the *Collie Mail*, on the 17th June, 1954, published an article headed, "Miners' Delegate Board attacks Government." There was also a subheading which reads, "Allegation of Broken Promises." I mentioned several other points and strangely enough the present Minister for Railways (Mr. Bertram) interjected at one stage and said, "Let us progress a little." He said this when I was referring to the dates 1954, 1955, and 1956.

It is strange the Minister interjected at that stage, because in the *Collie Mail* of the 1st July, 1971, while addressing a meeting convened by the Trades and Labor Council, Mr. Coleman said he was also concerned at—

Mr. Bertram's failure to honour his promise to the railway workers that before a decision was made to transfer anyone he would advise them.

Accordingly I find it strange and humorous that the Minister for Railways should have interjected on that occasion, particularly when he is accused by one of his own supporters of having broken one of his own promises.

It was interesting to see in the Governor's Speech that the Government was making efforts to reassure the Japanese that they would be looked after. As we know, the Government subsequently sent two Ministers overseas to Japan for this very purpose—to reassure the Japanese that their interests in this State would be looked after.

I was surprised to hear the Deputy Premier say on television that he could not remember the particular piece of propaganda, when he was asked a question about a certain advertisement that appeared in *The Sunday Times* of the 14th February, 1965, concerning a Japanese flag flying over Western Australia.

If the Deputy Premier looks at *The Sunday Times* of the 14th February, 1965, he will see the Japanese flag flying over Western Australia. In this advertisement and under the flag is the caption, "Iron Ore Scandal, £175 millions of your money

given to Japanese interests." I wonder whether the Deputy Premier had anything in common with the person who authorised this advertisement—this particular piece of propaganda—because it was authorised by F. E. Chamberlain, Trades Hall, Perth.

I do not know whether this was done with the knowledge of the Deputy Premier, but I now refresh his memory about the matter and should he want a copy of this advertisement I would certainly be glad to lend it to him.

MR. NALDER (Katanning) [7.40 p.m.]: It is not my intention to go over the ground that has been traversed by other speakers. I do, however, want to congratulate the new members who have taken their seats in the Parliament of Western Australia in this year of 1971.

I trust they will have an interesting session. I do not know whether it would be fair for me to wish them a long and interesting career, because though such a wish might apply to some members it probably would not apply to all of them.

It would, however, be fair to say that we trust they will have an interesting period in this House during the present session of Parliament and that they will gain some satisfaction from the debates and from the work they, as members of Parliament, are elected to do.

I can recall some very interesting and humorous incidents that have taken place in this House. I do not intend to make a detailed reference to that aspect, but I feel sure the new members will find that the debates in Parliament have their lighter sides, and that this helps to break up what could otherwise be termed monotony.

Some members—and I do not criticise them for this—have their own special interests, and they concentrate on a particular line in which they are interested. They are, of course, perfectly entitled to do this. To those members whose interests may sometimes differ such debates could become boring. I daresay, however, that all this is for the record and that members are entitled to make any comments they wish.

In the position I hold on this side of the House there are so many things to which I could refer but which if I did so would take up more time than I have at my disposal this evening. I do wish, however, to concentrate on several matters which I believe are in the public interest. Before doing so I want to make some comment—and I think this is the right place to make that comment—in connection with the responsibilities associated with Ministers who might visit the electorates of other members and also with reference to the responsibilities connected with their meeting deputations introduced by other political parties in this House.

I am sorry the Premier is not in his seat this evening, because it is he whom I am about to criticise for something he did which I consider to be a discourtesy to myself. I must first indicate that I have no cause at all—and I am sure this would be so with other members—to criticise the activities of the other Ministers of the Crown in this regard. In every instance when travelling into my electorate these Ministers have been enthusiastic to let me know they are doing so. They have also been quite reasonable in their approach to invitations extended to them to visit areas represented by members of the Opposition.

As a matter of fact, I think the Minister for Agriculture went very much further than he need have done; because he notified me that he was going to attend a branch meeting of the Labor Party at Woodanilling on a particular weekend.

That did not interest me in the least. I told the Minister that he could go to as many branch meetings of the Labor Party as he liked without telling me about it.

Mr. Bickerton: You could have gone along.

Mr. NALDER: I did not receive an invitation to do so. I am not like the member for Pilbara who, in similar circumstances, would just barge in.

Mr. Bickerton: Did not he give you an invitation?

Mr. NALDER: No, he did not.

Mr. Bickerton: It was very remiss of him. The next time he will send you an invitation.

Mr. NALDER: That might be an interesting exercise, because I might mention that I have received quite a few letters from that part of my electorate.

Several weeks after I had returned from the Eastern States I was informed that the Premier had met a deputation from the Wagin Parents and Citizens' Association. I dropped a note to the Premier, because I did not know the exact date on which he received the deputation, although I had a fair indication that it was one or two days prior to my writing. The following is the letter I wrote to him:—

I have received information from Wagin that you intend visiting that centre shortly to discuss education matters. I have also been informed that a deputation from the Parents and Citizens' Association and the Parents and Friends' Association has already waited on you.

I would be pleased to know if this is correct.

I do not know whether the Premier received the letter, but I had no indication whatsoever that he did receive it, and therefore I was not extended the courtesy of being so informed. I simply had to

wait until Parliament assembled to ask questions in the House and I discovered that a deputation was received by the Premier and Minister for Education and that it did include representatives of the Wagin Parents and Citizens' Association.

I think that in such circumstances the Premier should at least have notified the member for the district that the deputation was to be received. However, that is not the complete story. I asked who arranged the deputation and who introduced it to the Minister for Education. I found that the person who did arrange it was the Labor candidate for the Katanning electorate at the elections held on the 20th February, last. The latest information available indicated that he was a representative of the Wagin Parents and Citizens' Association, but as far as I know he has never been a member of that association and has never attended any of its meetings.

The Minister for Education fell for an old political trick in meeting a deputation which was organised by a section of the community interested in education, and is highly regarded, when the member for the district was completely unaware of the deputation being held. I have never heard of a similar situation occurring before and I hope that no other member of this House will be placed in such a position in the future. I also hope the Premier will follow the example that has been set by his fellow Ministers and at least let the local member know when a deputation from his district is to meet him.

Mr. Davies: Be fair; you did know it was on.

Mr. Bickerton: That procedure has not always been adopted. He may have overlooked the fact that you were a private member because you had been a Minister for a long time.

Mr. NALDER: No, I think it is a courtesy which the member for Pilbara himself would expect to be shown to any local member.

Mr. Brady: When the previous Government was in office, quite often the local member did not know when Ministers were receiving deputations.

Mr. NALDER: As far as I can recall they did.

Mr. Brady: You will find that 50 per cent. of the deputations that were met by Ministers were not introduced by the local member.

Mr. NALDER: I make the point that in my view it is a courtesy that should be extended to the local member. At least the Minister should know the area that is being represented at the deputation and give the local member an opportunity to be present at the deputation if he so desires. However, I have made my point.

Mr. Davies: I think you knew the deputation was to be held because I was in Wagin with you the day before.

Mr. NALDER: The deputation I am referring to was held on the 12th March.

Mr. Davies: Was there not another one?

Mr. NALDER: Yes, but the situation in regard to that one was quite all right. I am referring to the deputation that was held in Perth on the 12th March, three weeks after the elections.

Mr. Davies: I am sorry; I thought it was another one.

Mr. NALDER: I have no comment to make on that one at all. I now wish to make a few points which relate to the agricultural industry. Firstly, I wish to comment on a member of Parliament using my name and criticising a situation which has developed in Western Australia.

Mr. McPharlin: Can you tell us where this was said?

Mr. NALDER: I am sorry I cannot, because I would be breaching the Standing Orders. I would refer the honourable member to Standing Order 124 which reads as follows:—

No Member shall allude to any debate, during the current Session, in the other House of Parliament.

So I cannot say where this debate took place.

The SPEAKER: I thought you got around that rather well.

Mr. NALDER: This criticism was referred to by the honourable member in question, and I consider it is wrong for a person to stand up and criticise without allowing the one who is involved in the criticism at least an opportunity to study the facts. So I take the opportunity tonight to indicate that the information that was given in this particular place at a particular time was not correct.

I also want to give reasons why this situation occurred. This particular person in offering up the criticism used my name, suggesting that I should take the blame for the chaotic condition that exists in the Midland Junction Abattoir. In my opinion the statement was not clearly expressed, because although it referred to Midland and the abattoir, it did not indicate directly that he was blaming me for the situation. However, because of a recommendation that had been made by two organisations representing farmers and a political organisation, and in view of the fact that I had refused to take any interest in the proposal that had been submitted—that is, to establish a meat marketing authority—I think the member concerned became a little confused, because in the first instance he referred to the beef industry.

If, in the first instance, he was referring to the beef industry, I wish to inform him that when Minister for Agriculture I had a number of discussions with the United Cattle Breeders' Association and it requested that we should establish a marketing authority on lines similar to the lamb marketing authority proposal which had already been discussed on many occasions by representatives of the Farmers' Union. I gave the association every support and indicated that if we continued to be the Government we would proceed with the lamb marketing authority proposal and also consider the establishment of a marketing authority for beef, mutton, and pig meats, if it were so required.

So there seemed to be some confusion on that score. However, with reference to the meat marketing authority which, from time to time, had been advocated by several groups, I want to make it quite clear that I take full responsibility for not instituting immediately the proposal for a meat marketing authority that was recommended by two investigators who were appointed in 1970 to investigate the situation relating to abattoirs in Western Australia. I had good reason for this.

When the report was issued I made investigations in the other States of the Commonwealth. I sought advice and one Minister for Agriculture in another State strongly advised me not to take any action to set up a meat marketing authority in this State. He said, "Should you reach the stage where you think it is advisable to establish such an authority, I suggest you send a group of interested farmers who represent the organisations concerned to my State and I will make available all the facilities to permit them to see what is operating in my State so that they may judge for themselves whether the establishment of such an authority is warranted."

Mr. Gayfer: Did your Cabinet colleagues know of this?

Mr. NALDER: I know some of them, including the then Premier, did, but I am not going to ask him to confirm this, as it was some time ago. It might easily have been forgotten by this stage. However, in the light of the situation as it then existed—and there were other difficult problems associated with agriculture in Western Australia at that time—and in view of the advice that was offered by a Minister in another State who had long experience of such matters, does any member think that I should have ignored this advice and pressed ahead to set up an organisation which, perhaps, could have had some value at that particular time?

I would point out that I did not disregard the situation altogether, but I do not think that was the answer. The answer was to find as quickly as possible

a solution to the problem we had on hand. When the report was issued it was investigated thoroughly by the officers of the Department of Agriculture and also by the management of the Midland Junction Abattoir Board, and they submitted a recommendation which was acceptable to the Government. Action was taken and, as indicated by the Minister in answer to a question I had on the notice paper one day last week, the programme instituted last year will be completed on time and this will make extra killing facilities available at Midland.

So I felt the record should be put straight, and I take the opportunity to do so now, because I believe that when people hear bits and pieces and are prepared to condemn somebody without knowing all the facts, an opportunity should be given to the person who has been criticised to correct the statement that was made.

Another point that was made in the speech to which I have referred also deserves some comment—that is, that some private enterprise had made requests to the Government then in office for a license to establish a private abattoir in the metropolitan area. I think the majority of people know the history of what went on, because the matter was reported in the Press from time to time. However, I will relate in a few words the situation that existed at that time. The fact was that any private business enterprise that was thinking of establishing an export meatworks in Western Australia was told that it did not have to hold a license to establish an abattoir for the export of meat from Western Australia. Provided any enterprise complied with the health regulations and with local authority regulations it was at liberty to go ahead and build abattoirs in the metropolitan area without seeking Government permission.

Mr. McPharlin: Why did they not go ahead?

Mr. NALDER: I do not know. Although from time to time a number of business people were interested in the meat business, which indicated that they intended to set up private abattoirs in the metropolitan area, I understand there were no starters, despite the fact that the Government offered every assistance and encouragement, and everything possible was done, as requested by them, first of all to find a site.

I wish to appeal to those who have had a long association with the industry in Western Australia because I believe it is the duty of private enterprise to accept some of the responsibility for the establishment of abattoirs in this State as it is accepted in the other States. In my opinion it is necessary for those concerned to act fairly quickly because there is a place for private abattoirs in this State. With the advent of diversification which has been preached by so many

people throughout the length and breadth of the agricultural areas the numbers of stock available for slaughter will further increase and I do not believe the sole responsibility for the establishment of the necessary abattoirs should be the Government's.

The two main abattoirs in the metropolitan area—the one at Midland and the one at Robb Jetty—are service abattoirs. Their facilities must be available at all times when stock is sent for slaughter, and the number of sheep available varies as has been illustrated very clearly in recent times. The number varies from week to week, a record of 70,000-odd being available one week and the next week the number being down to 30,000. However, the abattoirs must be ready to accept the killing which is required by those who are registered to slaughter in those establishments. This creates an added burden of cost.

Unless the Government assists the board to cover some of its expenses which it has no way at all of meeting, we will be faced with a grave situation, and I base this statement on what has occurred over the last few years. Last year a series of strikes were held and glut markets occurred. In order to overcome this difficulty we appealed to farmers to send to the abattoirs only stock which could be slaughtered. In its appeal the Department of Agriculture suggested that no sheep be sent to Midland for slaughter unless it would when dressed be 26 lb. or 27 lb. I understand that a similar request has been sent to farmers recently, but in this case the figure has been increased to 30 lb. which indicates that the costs are rising to such an extent that it does not pay farmers to send animals to be slaughtered unless they will weigh 30 lb. when dressed.

What will be the position in five to 10 years' time? It will not pay to send a 40 lb. sheep for slaughter if these costs continue to rise. Therefore it is the duty of private enterprise to accept some of the responsibility in connection with abattoirs if costs are to be maintained at a reasonable level so that the stock which is produced can be slaughtered.

Mr. Court: I think one of the problems with the private sector was that every time we went near a local authority to obtain a site, the local authority threw up its hands in horror and told us—I will not tell you where they told us to go, but you can guess!—

Mr. T. D. Evans: It is a four-letter word?

Mr. Graham: The local authorities have turned over a new leaf then since the change of Government.

Mr. Court: No. After much negotiation we arranged for a site south of Medina, but that was only after several years of a special committee's work.

Mr. NALDER: I did ask some questions of the Minister for Agriculture hoping that I would obtain information to use in this and other debates because I believe the information should be on record. I am referring to the number of sheep that go into our saleyards and the percentage of that stock which is actually slaughtered. The Minister indicated that these figures were not available.

I asked questions concerning the number of sheep which were sent to Midland for sale and the number which were bought privately by various interested people; that is, wholesale butchers and, maybe, retailers. Those concerned go into the country and purchase privately or through agents. However it is interesting to note that these figures are not available; but I have been able to obtain some figures which do indicate a situation which in my view must be watched closely. I am referring to the numbers of stock which are to be made available for slaughter as the years proceed. I have some figures that reveal the total yarding of sheep and lambs in Midland and the total number slaughtered, covering the financial year in each case.

In 1967-68, a total of 2,292,432 sheep and lambs were sold at Midland, but of that number only 936,248 were slaughtered, which means that 1,356,184 went out of the yards, either back to the country as stores or breeding sheep or to other abattoirs. Maybe some went to Robb Jetty, but I have not been able to ascertain those figures. This same trend is obvious in the figures I have for the following years. In 1968-69 a total number of 2,498,469 sheep were offered, but only 1,083,997 were slaughtered at Midland, which means that 1,414,572 went out of the yards. This is a big percentage of the total number of sheep which are sent to the Midland sheep yards for sale.

In 1969-70 a total number of 2,730,783 animals were available of which 1,322,703 were slaughtered, which meant again that 1,408,080 went out of the yards without being slaughtered.

Mr. Norton: Perhaps dealers were taking advantage of the price.

Mr. NALDER: That could be.

Mr. Norton: The dealers come in because the stock is not killable.

Mr. NALDER: That could be. I was trying to ascertain the percentage of stock which was not killable because this is the point I am trying to make. I believe that a lot of the stock which is going into Midland at the moment, and certainly a big proportion of the stock which was available at the record yarding, should never have been sent to Midland because thousands were not killable as a result of the drought conditions. In a number of areas the available food is not sufficient to enable the farmers to develop the animals to a killable condition.

The final year for which I have been able to ascertain figures is 1970-71 when 2,586,995, animals were yarded at Midland, of which only 1,191,852 were slaughtered and 1,308,080 went elsewhere. In other words, less than half were slaughtered. I do not know whether there is an answer.

The point I make is that the problem with which we are faced has been brought about by abnormal conditions; and I think it is only fair that those who are prepared to criticise should look at the situation squarely. The problem first arose in July 1969, and I can recall that only too well because we had record yardings at Midland. What was the reason? The reason was that drought conditions were emerging and many people had overstocked. They started to pile the animals into Midland and the abattoirs were just not able to handle them.

The situation was not so bad last year, but to aggravate the position, in September, 1969, and again last year, two strikes were held which involved up to five weeks of slaughtering time on each occasion. This accounted for over 200,000 sheep which is one-fifth of the total number killed at Midland during one year. What was to become of those animals? Where were they to be killed? This position was the result of abnormal conditions.

I ascertained the position in South Australia and it was to the effect that for four years in that State the authorities have restricted the movement of sheep into the abattoirs. It has been stated that the abattoirs can handle only a certain number of stock and that is all that is to be sent to them. The authorities have commenced a programme to extend the abattoirs and, if the information given to me is correct, those facilities will very shortly be available to cater for the slaughter of increased numbers of sheep and lambs.

I emphasise that the situation in which we find ourselves has been brought about by abnormal conditions, these being two years of difficulties associated with drought and two years during which strikes involved 10 weeks of killing time. It is not possible to make up lost time in abattoirs. If a day is lost it is lost, but the stock which would have been slaughtered in that time must be slaughtered somewhere.

Mr. W. A. Manning: Or die.

Mr. NALDER: Yes, or die. I want to emphasise my next point because I think it is only fair that all the facts should be known when people are prepared to blame someone for a situation which exists; that is, that the answers to questions I asked indicate that the abattoirs hope to be able to cater for an extra 20,000 sheep a week by the end of this month—and I was very pleased to learn this.

Mr. Graham: Is there not an overall shortage of abattoir facilities in the State?

Mr. NALDER: If the sheep were fed onto the markets throughout the year the abattoirs would be able to handle them.

Mr. Graham: You think there is no requirement for additional facilities?

Mr. NALDER: I believe we must look to the future and ensure the abattoirs will be capable of coping with the increased numbers of stock which will be available.

Mr. Graham: I ask the question because currently people have made applications in respect of Wanneroo, Pinjarra, Merredin, Katanning, and a centre in the south-west for the construction of abattoirs. That surely indicates there is a gross shortage?

Mr. NALDER: They can see the value of this in the future. Anyone making an application now must realise that it will be 12 to 18 months before operations could commence.

Mr. Graham: The applicant for the facilities in your home town wants to be in operation for the next lambing season.

Mr. Gayfer: The last lambing season!

Mr. NALDER: I hope this would be the case.

Mr. Fletcher: There is the possibility of increasing the capacity at Robb Jetty or Midland but of finding that it subsequently becomes redundant because abattoirs are built at, say, Merredin.

Mr. NALDER: Of course it is possible to argue this way but I think we have to realise that we are getting close to the maximum capacity at the existing abattoirs. It is obvious that Midland cannot be extended any further. It is at its capacity. If more and more buildings were added on the whole system would bog down. It would not be economical or practical to go on extending the Midland abattoir. To what extent extensions could be made at Robb Jetty depends on future development.

Mr. Moiler: That was the case a few years ago. Extensions should not have been made at Midland but abattoirs built in other areas.

Mr. NALDER: It is quite easy to say that abattoirs should have been established elsewhere. At that time our Government had what appeared to be promises from private enterprise which was interested in establishing abattoirs. Consequently, there was no good reason for the Government to go ahead and build elsewhere.

The advice has been accepted and, as I say, this will obviously cater for the next one or two years. Nevertheless we must look to the future so far as abattoirs are concerned.

Mr. Graham: I think the farmers of Katanning have agreed to subscribe about \$500,000 towards the cost of erecting an abattoir in that centre.

Mr. NALDER: Yes?

Mr. Graham: That is a tremendous performance.

Mr. NALDER: That is so.

Mr. Graham: That would be because of the dire need for additional abattoir facilities.

Mr. NALDER: If they have made this contribution, I give them full marks. I certainly hope this will be emulated elsewhere in the future so that facilities will be available in areas where stock are produced. I am sure this would encourage farmers to diversify. I have already referred to this aspect. If a contribution has been made, it is a worthy move and we should give those concerned as much encouragement as possible.

Mr. Graham: The honourable member may rest assured that the Minister for Decentralisation is giving all the encouragement imaginable.

Mr. Gayfer: Who is that? Stand up!

Mr. Blaikie: I hope the Minister can keep the men in the abattoirs working.

Mr. Graham: There are no difficulties there.

Mr. NALDER: May I ask how much time I have, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has seven minutes.

Mr. NALDER: I wish to refer to two other matters. I would have liked to make some further comments on agriculture but I will probably wait until a later stage. I wish to refer specifically to the farm debt, but the figures I have been given require further study. I hope to be able to make use of these figures at a later date.

Very much has been said over the last few years, over the last few months, and in fact continually on the problem of fatal accidents. I do not intend to say more than this at the moment, but I hope to be able to link up my remark to another matter in due course. Firstly, I would like to refer to an article which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 27th February, under the heading, "Heart surgery could save many—doctors." It says—

Heart surgery may save a big proportion of the 33,000 Australians who would otherwise die each year from coronary artery disease, according to three members of the cardiac unit at St. Vincent's Hospital.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member now has five minutes.

Mr. NALDER: The article continues—

But they say that Australia will have too few heart surgeons to perform the operations.

I notice in this morning's paper a picture of a nurse with a patient who has been in the intensive care ward of the Royal Perth Hospital. Reference is made to the latest equipment in use, possibly in Australia, but certainly in Western Australia. The article suggests that some of these units will be operating in regional hospitals in this State in a short time. These are likely to save the lives of many people.

As time will not allow me to go much further, I want to pay tribute to the work of the Heart Foundation in Western Australia. I want to appeal to the public to take a much greater interest in the work of the foundation, because it is in their own interests to do this.

I had some interesting figures which I cannot for the moment locate. I can remember them sufficiently well to indicate that the figure of 33,000 which was mentioned in the article of the 27th February is only a fraction of the number of people who are expected to contract various types of heart diseases during each year. Over a 12-month period some 60,000 people are expected to contract some form of heart disease. This figure is on the increase all the time. We talk of fatalities which occur through accidents on the roads, but in my view these figures are just as important as automobile fatalities. Each day nine people in Australia die on our roads, but 159 other people die each day and, of these, 52 per cent. die of some form of heart disease. These are tremendous figures. According to the information which I have found over the last few days, a big percentage of these deaths could be obviated one way or the other. I know within the last two or three days some publicity has been given to overweight, which seems to contribute to heart disease.

I appeal to the Minister for Education, because this is a field in which some work can be done. Every effort should be made to inform senior students in our schools of the factors which cause heart disease. There are many indications that disease can be obviated if people are prepared to face the situation early in life and prepare themselves for the future. I consider this is terribly important. Every effort should be made to assist the Heart Foundation to get its story across to the public. I believe a very good story was told last night on television. The story is being told to the public with the idea of warning them of the difficulties associated with heart diseases. I leave it at that for this evening. I hope everything will be done to encourage the foundation. I visited its offices the other day and I am sure anyone would be in difficulty if he had to work under the conditions that exist.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member's time has now expired.

Mr. NALDER: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope I will have the opportunity to expand on this subject at a later stage in the session.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [8.25 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I think you and other members must be heartily sick of receiving congratulations. Consequently I shall only endorse what others have said so far as congratulations are concerned.

During this debate we have heard quite a deal on the problems of the farmers. We have heard this on other occasions, too, but we hear very little said about pastoralists. They seem to be out on a limb, as it were, as they are away from the hub of things. Probably their numbers are not so great and, consequently, it is more difficult to make their voices heard. However, they are gradually being heard as in my opinion their position today is worse than it was in the 1930s.

We have the heartening news that there may be a guaranteed price for wool of 35c to 36c per lb. As far as I can work out this is merely the cost of production. If a person is a long way from the centres of marketing, costs of transport will cause a deficit.

In some cases pastoralists are right on the headline, one might say. I know of one station which is running in the vicinity of 10,000 sheep but it has been allocated an amount of \$700 to run the station for 12 months. It is not uncommon to hear of a manager being told that he has to subsist, as it were, on \$20 a week.

Mr. Gayfer: Who tells him?

Mr. NORTON: This came from the pastoralists themselves.

Mr. Gayfer: Who tells him that he has to live on \$20 a week?

Mr. NORTON: The stock firms.

Mr. Gayfer: Thank you.

Mr. NORTON: I thought the member for Avon was asking who told me this. The stock firms hold the mortgage over the stock. A mortgage cannot be held over a station because it really has no potential value.

Mr. Gayfer: I was wondering whether it was the bank or the stock firm.

Mr. W. G. Young: Or both.

Mr. NORTON: That is the position. In some cases the Development Bank holds a mortgage but it does not dictate what the carry-on revenue will be for the year. I have heard of one station which was unable to pay the shearing contractor this year, which is practically unheard of in the pastoral industry.

Mr. Bickerton: Private enterprise.

Mr. NORTON: The conditions in the pastoral industry are reflecting quite seriously on the shires in the areas. In my electorate two shires are, one might say, without any towns at all. They rely entirely on pastoral leases for rates. In one shire there are 1,500 miles of road which take a great deal of maintaining.

One of the smallest shires in the State is in my electorate and it is feeling the pinch very badly because none of the pastoral leases in the area will pay any rates whatsoever this year. The total rating in this shire, Shark Bay, in any year is only \$12,000. Of this amount 50 per cent. comes from pastoral stations. This means that the shire will have to exist, as far as rating is concerned, on \$5,500 for the year. This is barely enough to pay a shire clerk.

As members know, the gypsum and salt works are also in this area. If we look at their rating possibilities, we may think that the situation is quite reasonable. I hope to get the exact figures tomorrow, but I know there are 14 mineral claims and just under 20,000 acres of special leases. However, the maximum rating that can be obtained from these industries is \$140.60 per annum, as far as the shire knows. These industries have a number of houses there and other facilities as well as a factory, which should have some ratable value. As it is now, the shire gets \$140.60 for having them in its area. This does not seem to be right.

I understand one of the reasons the shire is unable to rate one particular property is because of the special lease of what was a portion of the seabed. As the shire boundary does not extend into the seabed, the shire is not permitted to rate the property, although the sea has been evaporated and is used for the production of solar salt.

In the same area mineral leases have been pegged in the seabed. As the Act stands, if these leases do start producing it may be that the shire will not be able to get any rating value from them, but the shire would have certain obligations in respect of the company's operations, particularly on the health side and in other similar directions. As well as this it would have certain responsibilities in respect of roads.

I feel that the Local Government Act may need amending to allow the shires to include within their boundaries portion of the seabed which is used for industrial purposes. I have reason to believe that the Ashburton Shire might be another shire where this could apply. It could also apply in any salt producing areas, which are virtually on the seabed. I think it will be very important to these areas in the north to get some extra rating from somewhere else if the pastoral industry is not going to be able to contribute as it has done in the past.

I want to pass on to tourism, and here I would like to congratulate the Minister for Tourism on forming various regional councils throughout the State. He was recently in my electorate and organised a council there. The council's area took in Shark Bay, Carnarvon, Upper Gascoyne, Exmouth, and Onslow. They have tourist attractions and each district has something different to offer, so that they can all work together and recommend tourists to go from one place to the other.

As the fishing drops off in Shark Bay, the area is becoming more reliant on tourists, and it is hoping to develop extensively in this direction. Like many towns in the north-west Shark Bay is at a dead-end as far as a road is concerned. Although Carnarvon is not a dead-end, Shark Bay, Exmouth Gulf, and Onslow are. If tourists go to these areas, they have to come out some distance to get back onto the highway before they carry on to the next town. It would be better if they could have a road which went through the town and on again, but this does not happen in the north-west as most towns seem to be situated on peninsulas or islands. My point is that whilst we have a good arterial road going right past Onslow, the tourist has to deviate off the bitumen road for all these towns, with the exception of Carnarvon. Shark Bay is 82 miles along a dirt road and a person has to travel 100 miles off the main highway to get to Exmouth, of which 70 miles is a dirt road. This will be considerably reduced this year.

These days tourists are travelling with quite expensive caravans and boats, and they do not like travelling over these rough roads to the tourist spots. The road to Kalbari is gradually being bitumised and more tourists are being attracted there. I feel if we could upgrade these roads we would attract more tourists to these particular areas.

Mr. Rushton: How do you think they will be improved when the road maintenance tax cuts out?

Mr. NORTON: The improvement will probably be greater.

Mr. O'Connor: How?

Mr. NORTON: I feel that the Minister or those in Perth responsible for tourism should seek a special grant to upgrade the roads to Shark Bay, Exmouth, and Onslow, so more tourists would be attracted there. I feel this would greatly increase the potential of the towns because people have a tendency to go further every year, as these places get known.

Members will have noticed that Exmouth has been advertising extensively in regard to its fishing week. It has produced a very attractive brochure on fishing, and is advertising very substantial prizes for fishing contests. As a matter of fact, there are a couple of prizes of \$1,000 each.

Mr. Thompson: Are you going to have a go at it?

Mr. NORTON: I am afraid I cannot keep up with people like Mr. Agnew with his big boat.

The next point I wish to deal with is education. Members will be saying I am always harping on education, but it is probably one of the most important items in the development of the north and the remote areas.

I would like to say "Thank you" to the Minister for Education for the upgrading of the Carnarvon High School over the next two years to a five-year high school. I can assure the Minister and the department that this move will be more than justified.

The Exmouth Parents and Citizens' Association recently made representation for the upgrading of their junior high school. If we look at the situation at Exmouth it is rather peculiar. One never seems to know what is going to take place or develop in that particular area from day to day. As members know, it started off with the U.S. Navy communications station with supporting Australian civilians. For a time it looked as though the town would become static. However, the American Navy is now increasing the number of its personnel there and this will call for an increase in the Australian personnel as well. The R.A.A.F. is now moving in also and is building approximately 70 houses within the town itself, plus the single men's quarters at Learmonth aerodrome.

The fishing industry is also hoping to develop and instead of a short season for prawns from March to September, the industry could now run for the greater part of the year if its expectations develop.

The bay fisheries are trying to develop an oyster industry there; that is, the edible oyster. They are harvesting small oysters at the present time and putting them on racks. The result is that the oysters are developing much more quickly.

Experiments are being carried out quite extensively in regard to sprat catching. One of the big problems in the north has been to catch the sprat so that the oysters can be grown. Extensive experiments have been carried out at Shark Bay and Exmouth, and to date these experiments have not been as successful as was hoped.

Although this seems to be getting away from education, I wanted to point out that the fishing industry is expanding and this could lead to quite a number of families coming into the district. I understand the fishing industry has applied for an area of 30 acres on which to develop.

I believe it is also more than likely that Exmouth Salt, which is on the eastern shores of Exmouth Bay, will bring its salt

across to Exmouth to be shipped from the north of Cape Murat. If this is done it will mean that at least another 50 families will be brought into the town and, at a cost of some \$7,000,000, the port will be developed. One can see very readily that the school numbers are likely to grow quite substantially over the next two or three years.

To get satisfactory personnel into the area, the education facilities must be adequate to encourage families to come and remain in the district without sending their children away. I know the living-away-from-home allowances have been increased and extra can be obtained in special cases, but the breaking-up of the home comes all too soon without having to send children away to be educated. I feel that a second look at the request from Exmouth for the upgrading of their school is warranted.

Another problem in our primary schools, probably not only in Carnarvon but also in a number of other areas, is that there is a large number of coloured children attending the school. This has necessitated establishing special classes. At the present time there is only one special class in Carnarvon for the two schools, whereas it is admitted that an extra three special classes are needed almost immediately. These are needed because of the high percentage of coloured children who cannot keep up with the normal rate of learning, and therefore they tend to put a brake on the speed at which the other children are able to learn.

It is felt special classes should be provided to look after the children who are backward so that the other children will not be hampered. I feel these classes are absolutely essential at Carnarvon and probably they are essential in every school in the State to a greater or lesser degree.

I would like now to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate the Department of Agriculture, and particularly the members of the Gascoyne Tropical Research Station for the work they have carried out over the past years, and are still carrying out. A number of members will know of, and probably a number will have read an article which appeared in the paper on the 14th July regarding the Carnarvon Research Station, where the staff has been trying to grow pineapples for years. In fact, in 1934 two experts from Queensland came to Carnarvon and put in quite large acreages of pineapples hoping to establish the industry but they never harvested a pineapple. The plants would grow, but they would not produce fruit.

Experiments have been carried out for quite some time and it now appears that at last the Department of Agriculture has found a solution to the problem. The officers now forecast that some excellent crops will be produced from pineapple

planting in future. Just before I came down to Perth I inspected the experiment and I can say that every plant had at least one pineapple on it, and that was really a sight to see after all the years of experiments.

One of the main steps forward is that the pineapple plants are now treated with a hormone to induce the development of the fruit. It has also been found that the use of plastic sheeting along the banks helps considerably not only in keeping down the weeds, but also in containing the moisture which results in the use of less water—and that is a most important consideration.

Sir David Brand: Does the hormone treatment cost a great deal?

Mr. NORTON: No, it is applied as a spray and it is quite economical to use. If the treatment produces the crops which are indicated at present, then it will be a money-maker and not a liability. In the article to which I referred, the writer mentioned the dropping off of the bean crop in Carnarvon, and he mentioned the quantities. I agree with him that the crop has dropped inasmuch as the quantity marketed is concerned, but the writer attributed that to salt which is not the case. The dropping off is not due to salt water, it is due to the diversification of crops being grown at Carnarvon.

As members know, at Carnarvon we have only a certain amount of water from which to maintain our production. Therefore, if we move out of one crop into another we must reduce one in order to propagate the other. Over the past few years Carnarvon has taken over from Geraldton with respect to tomato growing. If we compare the production of tomatoes against the production of beans we see that the production of beans has dropped, but the production of tomatoes has risen. The same amount of water and land is used, but different crops are being produced.

If Carnarvon is to keep up with the fast-growing demand for winter vegetables in this State, there is no doubt that more water will have to be supplied very quickly, and especially if we are to keep the small amount of exports to the Eastern States we have at the moment. I feel that if Carnarvon cannot keep up with the demand the only result will be higher prices in the city and, therefore, higher prices to the housewife. If Carnarvon can keep up with the demand then, of course, prices can be maintained at a reasonable level.

The price of tomatoes earlier this season was absolutely astronomical. For over a week the top price was \$16 a three-quarter bushel case, which is 34 lb. of fruit. I think that works out at somewhere around 45c a pound wholesale which makes the product too expensive for the housewife who has to pay an even higher retail price.

It has also been proven that citrus fruits can be grown successfully at Carnarvon. I refer not only to grapefruit but also to oranges and mandarins. Once again, if we could develop our citrus fruit industry we would not find it necessary to import grapefruit from Israel, as was done last year. We would not find it necessary to import South Australian oranges into Western Australia in large quantities. I think Carnarvon could meet the Western Australian demand if the industry was properly developed.

The rate of citrus production per tree in Carnarvon is about four times that in southern areas of the State, and the juice extraction rate is over 50 per cent. of the fruit weight. So a really good commodity is being produced at Carnarvon in large quantities in relation to the area. If the fruit can be produced earlier it could compete on the market and overcome the present import situation. We could develop an export market in Singapore for our grapefruit. Over the past two years the research station has exported grapefruit to Singapore. This year the station netted \$3.50 a case, and last year the price was about the same. I believe that the price of Carnarvon grapefruit in Perth is up to 35c or 36c, and that price is ridiculous. It is far too high, and if the fruit was produced in quantity it could be put on the market much cheaper. I feel I have put up a case for the expansion of the industries at Carnarvon, and I would say, "Give us the water and we can do it."

A chemical came onto the market just recently which I think will assist not only Carnarvon but also a large part of the fruit industry in Western Australia, and probably in the Commonwealth. The product is named Tecto, and it consists of the chemical thiabendazole, which for many years was used as a drench for sheep to rid them of worms. I understand it is used for humans also. This chemical is now used on bananas, citrus fruits, and peaches, and experiments in relation to its use on rockmelons were carried out in Carnarvon last year. The chemical has the effect of stopping blue mould developing on the fruit. As soon as citrus fruit is bruised or becomes damp, it develops blue mould. This also applies in the case of peaches. The chemical thiabendazole controls the fungus spores and allows the fruit to be kept far longer. It is claimed, and I think rightly, that it will extend the period that bananas can be kept by up to 10 days, which is a long period for that type of fruit.

The C.S.I.R.O. pamphlet I am holding up for members to see contains a photograph of peaches which have been injected with blue mould fungus. The peaches in the middle have been treated with this new chemical and members can see that there is no mould whatever on them

whereas a breakdown has occurred in the others. There is a similar photograph in respect of bananas. I feel this chemical will make a great difference in that the fruit can be forwarded with confidence in the knowledge that it will not break down before it reaches the consumer. In regard to citrus fruit, I think this chemical could be a lifesaver as far as our overseas trade is concerned because if we can control blue mould we are half way along the road to good markets. I support the motion.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [8.55 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to congratulate you because I did so a few days ago. I think that in the few days you have occupied the Chair you have indicated you will be a most tolerant Speaker indeed. I hope members of this House realise that because I think it would be most unfortunate if any member took advantage of your fairness and tolerance. I want to congratulate the Chairman of Committees, and also the new members whether they be on this side of the House or the other. I wish also to congratulate the new Government. I think the test of any Government is whether it does the best possible thing for the people of the State in the existing circumstances. In the normal course of events the new Government has three years in front of it, and it has a job ahead of it to stand up to the test I have mentioned. We will see with the effluxion of time whether the Government is good or otherwise.

I wish to touch on only a few matters in this debate. The first is one about which I spoke a few days ago, and that is the question of the incidence of venereal disease among the Aborigines of the eastern goldfields. Of course, this is something which is a long way from my electorate and it is not something I have had a great deal to do with.

Mr. T. D. Evans: It is not far away from my electorate.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I raise the matter for only one reason and that is about three or four weeks ago, together with the member for Murchison and the member for the Upper West province in another place, I visited the eastern goldfields. We spent a number of days in places such as Laverton, Leonora, and Wiluna. Of course, this area is reasonably well known to me because I have mined in many of the towns and also inspected mines there. I also mention that a Select Committee inquired into Aborigines in the eastern goldfields in 1956.

Therefore, with that background behind me I was perturbed when responsible individuals in Laverton pointed out to me that there is an extraordinarily high incidence of venereal disease amongst

Aborigines on the eastern goldfields. I was incredulous and I drew the attention of other members in the group to the fact that the statement had been made. I asked them to come over and the person repeated it. He was a member of the Police Force in Laverton and he informed us that the incidence of venereal disease amongst the Aborigines at Laverton was about 50 per cent., and that was confirmed by other authorities in the town.

Mr. Lewis: How would they know?

Mr. GRAYDEN: That is a reasonable question. I would imagine that when a person expresses an opinion of that kind he is making a rough estimate, and no individual in his right mind would accept the statement in any other sense.

Mr. Lewis: Based on hearsay?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I would not imagine that is so. After all, there are four policemen in Laverton—a sergeant, and three constables.

Mr. Lewis: How would they know?

Mr. GRAYDEN: For a start, the police always have a number of people in the lock-up. The police are most zealous in their duties in relation to the people who frequent what passes for the local hotel and I imagine that in a town like Laverton the police would have a reasonably good idea of what is the incidence of disease. At all events, I regret having to mention that in the first instance my source of information was the police in Laverton. However a few days ago *The West Australian* published a small statement which with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will read out because it abbreviated the situation and caused me a deal of consternation.

The report appears under the heading of, "V.D. rate in natives shocking." It states—

Mr. W. L. Grayden (Lib., South Perth) told the Legislative Assembly yesterday that about 50 per cent. of Aborigines in the Warburton Range area had venereal disease.

I did not say that at all. What I did say I have just repeated. When we were there a few weeks ago we were told by most responsible individuals in the town that this was the incidence of venereal disease. I emphasise the fact that we had been told that that was the position.

As a consequence of that report in the newspaper a letter by Mr. Cotterill to the editor was published in *The West Australian*. I have known Mr. Cotterill for 17 years, but I have also had a dispute with him over the 17 years. He wrote to *The West Australian* in strong terms and said what I was supposed to have said was absolute tripe.

Mr. Brady: Do you know his wife or this person's qualifications?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I know his wife, but not his qualifications. I have known her for 17 years and I found her to be a very fine woman.

Mr. Brady: She was the matron of the Leonora Hospital, and she knows what she is talking about.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Apparently you are talking about the wrong person. The matron of the Leonora Hospital is a very fine woman, but she is not Mrs. Cotterill.

Mr. Brady: She may have remarried.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Mr. Cotterill wrote to *The West Australian* and said what I had stated was absolute tripe. It might be, but I would point out that I have just visited Leonora and in the presence of three individuals I was told that the incidence of venereal disease among the natives was 50 per cent. That was a startling statement.

Mr. Lewis: Don't you think it is unfair to pass on information like that without absolute proof of its authenticity?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I do not think that was unfair. What a disservice one would be doing to persons afflicted with venereal disease if one refrained from making the statement because one was not absolutely certain.

Mr. Lewis: What an injustice you would do when you were not certain.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I told the honourable member what sort of injustice we would do if we refrained. I qualified the statement I made: I said that we had been informed, and surely that is sufficient qualification to anyone who is in his right mind. The situation is as simple as that. I said that we had been told; and nothing else. Yet we had the letter appearing in *The West Australian*. I have not been to the Warburton Range for 17 years, but when I was there the matron told us that there was a relatively high incidence of syphilis. When we get a statement from the Police Department in Laverton, and it is backed up by other responsible authorities which I will not name, it is reasonable to assume that the position is as I have outlined.

We can turn to the Annual Report of the Native Welfare Department for 1970, to see what the department says about venereal disease in the north-west of the State. The report states—

A growing concern is the incidence of venereal disease which is affecting an increasing number of the Aboriginal population. Trachoma is endemic as is pediculosis.

Let us see what it has to say about the position in the eastern part of the State—the area I am referring to. The following appears:—

Venereal diseases are also affecting an increasing percentage of the Aboriginal population.

That is confirmation of what the Police Department in Leonora has said.

Mr. Lewis: Is the incidence of venereal disease confined to the Aboriginal population?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I do not think so. If it is it would be the only place in the world where it was so confined. I had occasion to ask a question of the Minister for Health on the 22nd July. My question was—

- (1) As far as the Public Health Department is aware, what is the incidence of venereal disease among aborigines in the following areas—
 - (a) Laverton;
 - (b) Leonora;
 - (c) Wiluna;
 - (d) Warburton Ranges?
- (2) What action is being taken to eliminate the disease?

In part, the answer was—

- (1) Notifications of venereal disease do not include information on the racial origin of patients. For this reason the precise incidence of V.D. among aborigines in the areas listed cannot be provided.

The Department of Public Health does not know what the incidence is.

Mr. Harman: To be fair you should read the rest of the answer.

Mr. GRAYDEN: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will do so. I did not want to take up the time of this House unnecessarily. The full answer is—

- (1) Notifications of venereal disease do not include information on the racial origin of patients. For this reason the precise incidence of V.D. among Aborigines in the areas listed cannot be provided. Nevertheless inquiries from the flying doctor covering the area do not suggest a major problem. So far as the Warburton Range Mission is concerned no patients with V.D. have been brought to the attention of the doctor over the last 18 months (despite regular visits to the Mission).
- (2) The diagnosis and treatment of venereal (or any other) disease is a routine commitment undertaken by general medical practitioners. The treatment of indigent

patients in the country is subsidised on an individual "fee-for-service" basis. When sources of infection are notified to the Commissioner for Health appropriate action is taken to ensure that these are dealt with.

The inference is that the Public Health Department was telling me, as a member of Parliament, that the incidence of venereal disease in the eastern goldfields and Warburton Range areas was virtually nil. No attempt was made to determine what the incidence of venereal disease was among the Aborigines. That was what I was told. Yet, the Department of Native Welfare is able to say in respect of the northern division of the State that there is a growing concern with the incidence of venereal disease which is affecting an increasing number of the Aboriginal population.

Mr. Lewis: Does it indicate that the incidence is anywhere near 50 per cent.?

Mr. GRAYDEN: We did not hear that argument from the Police Department.

Mr. Lewis: Who did you believe—the Police Department or the Native Welfare Department?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I will deal with that. We have been misled by the Public Health Department before. This is what the Native Welfare Department said in its annual report in regard to the eastern division—

Venereal diseases are also affecting an increasing percentage of the Aboriginal population.

I ask: How does the Native Welfare Department know that there is an increasing incidence of venereal disease in the north-west and the eastern division of the State, when the Public Health Department stated a few days ago that no attempt had been made to distinguish between the native population and the white population? How did the Native Welfare Department find out?

Mr. Lewis: It certainly would not rely on hearsay.

Mr. GRAYDEN: But the department makes the statement that there is an increasing incidence. From where did it get the information? Obviously not from the Public Health Department. I would ask the member for Moore as an ex-Minister for Native Welfare from where would he get the information?

Mr. Lewis: I would not get it from the sources that you have got it.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The honourable member should not be asking from where the department got the information. I should be asking him that. The Public Health Department has virtually denied that there is an increasing incidence.

Mr. Lewis: And you lapped up the 50 per cent.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I did not lap up that figure. I qualified what I said. Only a nut would go so far as to say that a member in this Parliament could not make a statement and qualify it, as I did. Only a nut would regard that as an improper thing! It is not. If that is the incidence of the disease amongst the Aborigines on the eastern goldfields it is about time something was done about it.

We can go a lot further on this question and I would like to hear what the ex-Minister for Native Welfare has to say about it. However, before continuing I would like to say that everywhere one goes in this State and encounters natives, one finds they have runny noses. Every Aboriginal child one meets is in the same state and the sight is shocking. It is often not possible even to look at the children because their noses are all runny. We know that the incidence of trachoma is 80 per cent. among the Aborigines on the eastern goldfields, and that used to be the situation in the Kimberley.

Let us study the latest position concerning trachoma. I am referring to information issued by the Public Health Department, and it is startling information and contains facts which no-one in this House would know. I have here the report of the Public Health Department for 1969. This was tabled in Parliament only a couple of days ago, but is not available to members because it has not yet been printed.

Mr. Davies: Things will change now there has been a change of Minister.

Mr. O'Connor: Yes, they will get worse.

Mr. Davies: You will get your report.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Let us hope so. As I have said, let us see what this report has to say about trachoma because I know the information will enlighten a few people in the outback areas of Western Australia. On page 6, under the heading of "Trachoma," is the following:—

No figures have been kept this year because of the time consumed in doing this statistical work. The impression gained by the local D.M.O.'s is that the incidence is decreased. The public Health Sisters carry out periodic blanket treatment on appropriate groups and all other cases seen are treated individually at the time of discovery. The treatment used is either Sulphamezathine and an antibiotic eye ointment or the oily Achromycin eye drops. These latter are not so favoured by some Public Health Sisters because they cause a sticky periorbital area to which dust and flies adhere.

It is of some interest that we have been using an antibiotic Cortisone eye ointment for some time in conjunction with Sulphamezathine tablets.

Mr. O'Connor: Speak up because *Hansard* cannot hear you.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I will speak up when I come to the important parts. To continue—

In general it is stated to be wrong to exhibit Cortisone in a viral disease but the trachoma virus belongs to the largest size family of viruses and Cortisone is a useful adjunct to the treatment in this case. I have spoken to Mr. Lamb about this and he is in agreement.

Listen to this—

Also while discussing trachoma it is interesting to note that the majority of dirty noses in natives is due to trachoma infection.

I just want to interpolate here. I repeat that everyone in this House who has ever been to a native mission has seen that all the Aborigines have runny noses. Everyone in the past—and this includes doctors and nurses—has believed that these runny noses were due to a respiratory infection, but now for the first time a doctor from the Public Health Department is indicating that the cause is the disease trachoma the incidence of which is 80 per cent. in the eastern goldfields. Let me continue—

Presumably the virus attacks the epithelium all the way down the lacrimal duct and sac and hence to the nasal mucosa.

Mr. Jones: Translate all that please.

Mr. GRAYDEN: This will startle members! The report continues—

Also women with trachoma often have a concurrent vaginal discharge, the Trich virus also attacking the cervix and vagina. Perhaps some cases of trachoma are venereal in origin! !

Listen to this: People in the past have seen the runny noses and have attributed this to some respiratory infection. In actual fact the cause has been trachoma; and it goes far beyond that as the second point of the last passage I read indicates.

The interesting point to note is that on the eastern goldfields at the present time there is probably not a doctor—and certainly not a nurse—who could have any possible chance of distinguishing by visual means the difference between one form of venereal disease and trachoma. They certainly would not have any chance of telling the difference between syphilis and yaws.

Mr. Bickerton: Whose?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I am referring to the disease called yaws. They could not make the distinction without a blood culture. I recall that when we went to the Warburton native mission in connection with a Select Committee in 1956 the

matron there emphasised that there was a tremendous rise in the incidence of yaws and syphilis and she also emphasised that she was not capable of distinguishing between the two diseases. With the disease yaws sores develop and eventually the person's nose, arms, and feet rot away. It is that type of disease. I have seen many natives like this as a consequence of yaws.

Mr. Bickerton: I beg your pardon!

Mr. GRAYDEN: The situation is that the symptoms of syphilis and yaws are apparently the same. After a few weeks with syphilis sores break out and then a few years later the situation is more serious. This is the sort of thing that happens and the matron told us she could not distinguish the difference between syphilis and yaws.

Mr. May: She should not be a matron then!

A member: She had not seen it!

Mr. Davies: Don't point over here when you say that!

Mr. GRAYDEN: She was not competent to take a blood culture. The situation goes far beyond that. It is not possible to tell the difference between trachoma and the other disease. It cannot be done because the symptoms, to a point, are the same. This is what has occurred on the goldfields and it is a silly situation. I am mentioning all this to justify the information we originally obtained from the police.

It does not matter whether the information is obtained from a policeman, a matron, or any other person. If those concerned do not go to the trouble of distinguishing between the venereal disease syphilis and the disease yaws they will not have the faintest idea of what they are treating. However, strangely enough the treatment for all these diseases is virtually the same. It is more prolonged in the case of syphilis and unfortunately when these people get the type of treatment they are getting it simply masks the disease.

With trachoma the victims are given various types of tablets. I could name them, but there is no need. The course consists of tablets taken orally for a fortnight. The same tablets will cure gonorrhea and apparently also mask the disease syphilis.

The same thing applies in respect of the disease yaws. The people concerned have sores all over them and the standard treatment is two injections of penicillin. That treatment would mask syphilis or, alternatively, if it were one of the less serious venereal diseases, it would cure it.

So I repeat: We have the situation wherein the eastern goldfields has an incidence of 80 per cent. trachoma. The people in the area, with the exception of a doctor who was prepared to go much

further with an examination, would not know whether an infected person had venereal disease or not.

I will not pursue this matter. I mentioned it, firstly, to emphasise that the police at Laverton were concerned with the incidence of venereal disease in the area, and the police passed that information onto the three members who visited the area. The information was that in their opinion the incidence of venereal disease amongst the Aborigines at Laverton was of the order of 50 per cent. That is where the information originated.

Mr. Davies: Was that information passed on to any Government department?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I do not think it was. I think the standard treatment is to give a couple of injections of penicillin, or prescribe tablets. The penicillin will cure or mask the four diseases. It has to be remembered that with this type of treatment the infected person can go back and infect others.

I would like to emphasise there is a growing incidence of venereal disease in the metropolitan area, and this is shown to be the case in the Public Health Department's report. The aspect I am referring to was published in a newspaper, so, I will not refer to it at length. In the report Dr. Davidson, the Commissioner of Public Health, stated that the infection of venereal disease had increased to 1,028 cases, the highest figure since 1933. In other words, we have the highest incidence of venereal disease in the metropolitan area since 1933.

After visiting Laverton and listening to what the police officers had to say about the situation, and after listening to other authorities in the town, I can quite understand why the rate has increased in the metropolitan area. All sorts of individuals are going to Laverton as a consequence of mining development, and they contract the disease. On returning to the metropolitan area, those people spread the disease, and under those circumstances we will certainly have an increase in venereal disease.

Mr. Davies: The member for South Perth is not blaming the natives for the incidence of venereal disease in the metropolitan area, is he?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I honestly believe that the people who come back from the gold-fields' towns are bringing the disease to the metropolitan area. I do not think there is any more I can say on this subject. I repeat: the only reason I mentioned it was that the report in *The West Australian* was to the effect that I made a statement that the incidence of venereal disease in the Warburton Range was 50 per cent. I repeat what I was told when we

were in Laverton: we were told by responsible authorities that the incidence of venereal disease in that town was 50 per cent.

I will now speak on a much more parochial problem, concerning the question of speedboat noise in South Perth. This subject will, of course, concern the Minister in charge of the Harbour and Light Department. For years the W.A. Speed Boat Club has been authorised to conduct speedboat racing on the Swan River in the vicinity of Coode Street; and for years we in South Perth have had to put up with the racket which the organisation creates during the weekends, but we have said nothing about it. We firmly believed a very sincere attempt was being made to find an alternative spot for this particular club, because we realised an organisation such as this has to exist, and that it has to have somewhere where the members can conduct racing.

Mr. Burke: This problem will be covered by legislation concerning community noise.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I sincerely hope it will. For years we have tolerated this situation, but it has now reached the stage where, under certain circumstances, the noise is ear shattering. Unless something is done about the noise it is absolutely certain there will be some sort of protest from residents in the South Perth area. Such protest will certainly dwarf that held in respect of the power lines through the foothills.

Mr. May: It will be a change.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I can assure members that in the past we have tolerated this noise, but it has reached the stage where something will have to be done. I live approximately one mile from Coode Street and I have sometimes gone out-of-doors on a Saturday morning and been startled by the noise. The noise does not affect me, or the residents in my area. My sympathies are with the people who live within half a mile of Coode Street.

When the club was given permission to race a few years ago the area was not very densely populated inasmuch as there were no high-rise flats. Since then there has been development in the shape of high-rise flats along the foreshore. The speedboats race or practice in the area on Saturdays and Sundays and the noise is ear shattering. The people living in the high-rise flats keep their windows shut for the entire day, but notwithstanding that it is not possible for anyone to speak on the telephone, listen to the wireless, or watch television. That is the position in respect of the high-rise flats.

I have made all sorts of inquiries through the Harbour and Light Department. Incidentally, the nuisance only occurs when an

east wind is blowing. In other circumstances, the noise can be tolerated. I have phoned the Harbour and Light Department on occasions when the speedboats have been operating, and the department has checked to ensure that the boats are fitted with silencers. There is a regulation in existence with respect to speedboat noise. The regulation was published in the *Government Gazette* of the 2nd April, 1958, under the heading of, "Motor and Speed Boats." The relevant regulation states that every motorboat shall be properly fitted with an efficient silencer. It is as simple as that.

Every day in South Perth I see young people—particularly the long-haired ones—being pulled up by the police and charged because they have noisy mufflers. Of course, many young people constantly change their mufflers, and if the mufflers are too noisy they are fined \$10. Some individuals are repeatedly charged with this offence.

In the case of speedboats, there is a regulation to the effect that every motorboat shall be properly fitted with an efficient silencer. However, the regulation is not properly policed. I have written to the Harbour and Light Department, and on the last occasion I received a reply which was rather humorous. I will read the relevant passage. It is dated the 26th July, 1971 and says—

The Speed Boat Club officials have been most co-operative and enforced the fitting of approved silencers to the craft under their club membership in accordance with the appropriate regulations.

On receipt of complaints Harbour and Light Department Inspectors have repeatedly checked reported craft and found them to be in conformity with the regulations. Any craft found to be without an approved silencer will result in the operator being prosecuted.

I am absolutely astonished to receive a reply like that from the Harbour and Light Department, as complaints have been made to the department for years. No-one in his right mind could look at the silencers which are fitted to the boats and say that they meet the regulation which I have read out. They simply do not. No other noise in the metropolitan area is comparable with the noise that these speedboats make. In saying this, I am referring to the speedway or anywhere else which is known to be noisy. I assure the Minister that if something is not done about it there will be a massive protest from that area.

The other day a small item was published in *The West Australian* which gave the impression that the W.A. Speed Boat Club plans to make this course a permanent fixture. I refer to an article in *The*

West Australian of the 25th June, 1971, under the heading, "Clubhouse wanted." The relevant portion says—

However, the commodore of the club, Matthew Pavlinovich, told members that, though the club had been operating for 22 years, it still did not have its own headquarters.

He said that efforts by the committee during the year might have paved the way for the club to obtain a site for a clubhouse near the Coode Street, South Perth, racing circuit.

The Swan River Conservation Board had approved the site, and negotiations had begun with Lands Department, which controls the foreshore.

The W.A. Speed Boat Club wants to make the course a permanent fixture, but it has been a thorn in the side of South Perth residents for years. The residents have tolerated the situation only because they believed that the club was looking for an alternative site. Further, they believed that the Harbour and Light Department was going out of its way to find that site. The situation is absolutely intolerable. If the Minister wants to see for himself what the position is, on the next occasion when the boats are racing and an east wind is blowing, I will be only too glad to pick him up and take him to South Perth so that he may hear for himself. However, if the anti-noise legislation, which has been foreshadowed, is introduced this will solve the problem.

Finally, I would like to touch very briefly on one other matter; namely, the report submitted by the committee set up to consider the Mining Act of Western Australia. First of all, I want to say that I was delighted to see the report of the committee, which was set up in consequence of the controversy over amendments introduced to the Act in the last session of Parliament. Quite a number of members in this House took exception to some aspects of the amendments and also to some aspects of the administration of the Act.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five more minutes.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The report of the committee which was set up has vindicated in every way the opposition which those members expressed at the time. I shall have to be brief in my remarks, because I have only five minutes.

One of the provisions to which members took exception was the fact that exploration licenses of 100 square miles were to be granted, and they could be contiguous. In other words a firm could take 10, 20, or 50 areas of 100 square miles each which were contiguous. The committee has recommended that exploration licenses be

granted for 100 square miles—10 x 10—but has stressed that areas should not be contiguous. This was the first and main point of opposition to the legislation introduced last session. Members who opposed it have been vindicated on that score.

The second point of opposition concerned the question of temporary reserves. Many members took strong exception to the policy of granting huge temporary reserves. In one case in the Kimberley a fantastic area was involved, something to the extent of 33,000,000 acres. The mining committee recommended that the granting of temporary reserves should be abolished. The committee's actual words are, "No further rights of occupancy be granted. The existing rights of occupancy be not renewed." It has also recommended that sections 276 and 277 should be deleted from the Mining Act. These are the sections that refer to reserves.

Exception was also taken to the fact that the Minister of the day, irrespective of what Government was in power, had the right to grant some mining tenements. We felt that all the applications should be heard in an open court. The committee has recommended that this should be the situation except in respect of contiguous tenements.

The last main point of opposition was that there was to be no appeal from the Warden's Court or a Minister's decision except in certain circumstances. The committee has recommended that there should be a chief mining warden to whom appeals can be made and, if satisfaction is not obtained, there should be the right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

As I say, they are the major points to which we took exception. Every one of our recommendations on these matters has now been expressed as a recommendation by the committee. For these reasons I am extremely pleased with the report. There are a number of minor aspects of the report which one could disagree with. I consider there has to be a great deal more provision for the small man. We have to go out of our way to accommodate him to a far greater extent. I will not touch on other aspects which relate to reserves. I am sure that they will meet with the approval of all members of this House. I had intended to deal with this whole question at length, because I am particularly interested in it, but I do not have the time. In these circumstances it is rather silly to continue.

Mr. May: The honourable member will be given time.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I appreciate that. There may be minor changes, but if the new legislation which has been foreshadowed

is based broadly on the recommendations, I am sure we will see a wonderful Act operating in Western Australia.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Bateman.

House adjourned at 9.39 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 5th August, 1971

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (4): ON NOTICE

1. PASTORAL LEASES

Uneconomic Properties

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Does the Government plan to compensate owners or lessees of station properties that have been directly affected by Town or City development to a point where the properties are no longer workable as economic units?
- (2) If so, how will compensation be made?
- (3) If the answer to (1) is "no" could the Minister give an explanation for this policy?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) to (3) There is no definite policy in this regard but each case referred would be examined in the merits of its individual circumstances.

2. RAILWAYS

Freight Concessions for Wool

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN, to the Leader of the House:

In view of the Government's decision to subsidise rail freights on wool to Albany by 50 per cent, will the Government give favourable consideration to extending the concession to woolgrowers in other parts of the State, particularly where rail haulage is longer and, in some instances, double or more than the haulage to Albany?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

No. The concession was granted to encourage and promote the shipping of wool through the port of Albany thereby creating more employment opportunities and business activity there.