

In the country areas we are very much opposed to centralisation, but unfortunately under the set-up of education at present, it appears we must endure a certain amount of centralisation in country areas. We just cannot find the number of qualified teachers to cope with a high school in every small community; and these are problems the Minister is facing at present.

In his Speech the Governor referred to reducing the age of an elector to 18. This is a move which has, I think, been supported by all parties. I have some thoughts on it and I wonder sometimes whether we are quite sincere when we talk of maturity, or whether we realise that a large group of people will be included, and hope thereby to gain some political advantage.

I am quite convinced that many 18-year-olds do not care whether or not they have a vote, and I think it would be a very interesting experiment if we were to make voluntary the enrolment of those aged from 18 to 21 years. This would give us some idea of how many of the younger people were mature enough to enrol and cast their votes.

My time is limited today but there are many avenues I would like to pursue. For instance, I see the Minister for Health in his seat and I would like to speak for some time on the progress made in regard to new hospital facilities in this State. Local government is another topic on which I would like to dwell. A great deal of progress has been made in local government, with a consequent rise in rates. Here again, if we desire progress we must pay for it.

It does seem, though, that we are facing very troubled times in the world today. Ministers of religion, educationalists, and members of Parliament are all prepared to ask young people to break the law, and not only break it, but to do so with violence. This is a deplorable state of affairs and in fact there seems to be a world-wide trend at present that if people do not like a thing, they create chaos in order to bring about a change. In other words, it would seem that with all our advanced education today we are perhaps further than ever from that desired goal of peace and goodwill towards all mankind. In fact, I think a fitting text for today would be, "Challenge all existing authorities and trust no-one."

THE HON. C. R. ABBEY (West)
[4.05 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 4.06 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 6th August, 1970

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at 3.00 p.m.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Guthrie) took the Chair.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. J. C. Bartlett) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) summoning the third session of the Twenty-sixth Parliament.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Guthrie) [3.04 p.m.]: I have received the writ issued for the electoral district of Albany, and from the returns indorsed thereon it appears that Mr. Wyndham Truran Cook has been duly elected to serve in the Legislative Assembly as member for the electoral district of Albany. I am now prepared to swear in the honourable member.

The honourable member took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance and signed the roll.

SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber; and, having heard His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

QUESTIONS (3): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. NICKEL SMELTER Establishment

Mr. T. D. EVANS, to the Premier:

Will he give an assurance that his Government will do all in its power to ensure that any proposed nickel smelter to be erected in this State for the treatment of nickel ore mined in the Eastern Goldfields will be erected in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder district?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

I would like to thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Government is at present actively reviewing possible nickel projects and is giving consideration to a proposal for the establishment of a smelter in the Kalgoorlie district. I might add it is the Government's desire

to encourage as much development and processing as possible in Kalgoorlie to enable it to take advantage of an already established city so that we might build such a centre where it is obviously necessary.

2. NOISE

Controlling Legislation

Mr. BURKE, to the Premier:

Would he assure the House that, during the current session, every effort will be made to introduce legislation regarding the control of noise?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

Again, I thank the honourable member for notice of the question. The Government has given consideration to this matter but has not arrived at any solution as to how the noise problem can be controlled. I can add nothing more in reply to the honourable member than to say that we will continue to research this problem because when action is taken in respect of the noise difficulty—be it crowing roosters, barking dogs, sawmills, or something of this sort—we want it to be effective and practicable.

3. RENTAL HOMES

Waiting Period

Mr. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

What is the present waiting period for an individual rental home as opposed to high and medium density rental accommodation?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

I thank the honourable member for having given my office some advice of his intention to ask this question. However, in the form in which the question is phrased, it is difficult to answer. The State Housing Commission has accommodation ranging from single and two-bedroom accommodation for pensioners, pensioner cottage flats, two and three-bedroom terrace houses, two and three-bedroom flats, to two, three, and four-bedroom individual houses; and, for statistical purposes, the metropolitan region is divided into some five areas. The allocation dates being dealt with for each of these individual types of accommodation and for each individual area in the metropolitan region, not counting the various country towns, all have a different significance.

I would suggest that, if the honourable member wants a reasoned and accurate reply to his question, he emulate the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who has asked similar questions quite frequently, and if the question is posed in the form in which it is usually posed on the notice paper, he can be assured of an answer.

HONEY POOL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Leave to Introduce

SIR DAVID BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [3.45 p.m.]: In order to preserve the privilege of the House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

For leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Honey Pool Act, 1955-1957.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Sir David Brand (Premier), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Guthrie) [3.46 p.m.]: Accompanied by members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to members of both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused printed copies of the Speech to be distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion

MR. CASH (Mirrabooka) [3.47 p.m.]: I move—

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.

Other members of this House will have the opportunity during the debate on the Address-in-Reply to speak for up to 45 minutes, but today my time is restricted to about 12 minutes. Of course, this is insufficient time for a member to discuss matters like Commonwealth-State financial arrangements, offshore rights, or the subject of conservation, all of which are very important to the people of this State, and all of which merit some com-

ment and discussion later on in the session and, of course, I shall take the first available opportunity to discuss them.

Today I want to talk about one or two points in His Excellency's Speech and to refer to a few matters which affect the electorate of Mirrabooka. However, firstly I want to congratulate the new member for Albany, to extend a welcome to him, and to wish him, on behalf of all members, an interesting career in this Parliament. I also wish to express my thanks to the Premier and his Cabinet Ministers for giving me the opportunity to move the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I consider it a privilege and I am certain that the electors of Mirrabooka, some of whom are present today, likewise deem it a privilege for me to move this motion.

The Mirrabooka electorate is the largest electorate, numerically, north of the river and it is the third largest in the State. At the 1968 election there were nearly 14,000 electors on the roll. Today there are 17,500, and approximately 2,000 will be added to this number when the voting age is lowered to 18, to which some reference was made in the Speech delivered by His Excellency.

It has been my privilege to represent these people in the Parliament and to help them solve their day-to-day problems. These have been many and varied; some have referred to local government matters. I want to say that, in solving these, I have had the full co-operation of the Shire of Bayswater and the Shire of Perth. Other authorities and departments have helped with the provision of essential services, school crosswalks, and other road safety facilities. One of the most important of these was the recent installation of the traffic control signals at the main Morley intersection.

I wish to make a brief reference to land tax, because most residents of the Mirrabooka electorate did not receive land tax assessments this year. This was because of the land tax legislation introduced by the Premier in 1969 when land tax and metropolitan region improvement tax were abolished on improved blocks under a taxation value of \$6,000. Other owners of blocks worth up to \$18,000 in taxation value, as distinct from market value, have benefited from a sliding scale of tax. I would like to remind members that the Land Tax Act provides that, when a dwelling is constructed on a block, partial rebates will be made of the unimproved taxes paid over the previous four years.

There has been some controversy over taxes to be paid by other landholders, and protests have come from owners affected by town planning schemes, resumption proposals, and zoning changes. I believe there is a case for temporary

suspension of extra taxes levied on properties affected by these sorts of proposals, and that if a property for these reasons is temporarily unsaleable the taxes should be temporarily unpayable until the property is sold.

There are, of course, small residential properties in the hills where owners want to establish themselves on five-acre farmlets. They prefer to live in the peace and quiet of the open spaces rather than in the more concentrated living of suburbia. Again I believe that if these people are sincere, long-term residents who wish for this kind of living, they should be treated, in regard to taxes, in the same way, or given some partial exemption.

Let me now turn from taxation to education. Last Saturday night, at the invitation of the State School Teachers' Union, it was my pleasure to hear an address at Winthrop Hall by Sir Ronald Gould, who is an educationalist of world renown and the world leader of the teaching profession. In his address he presented a common-sense approach to education problems. He spoke of the growth of society and the changing composition of that society, which has brought about problems in education throughout the world. He made the point that the birth rate increase and the death rate decrease were having a very marked effect on education systems throughout the world, and he said that in no country was the education system keeping up with developments in society. He then went on to point out that nowadays one has to run hard even to stand still in education.

This is true, because the greater our efforts the higher we lift our standards in education and the more difficult it is to get ahead of the constantly increasing demand. Sir Ronald reminded us that we should stop and rest for a moment, look back on how far we had come, and push on with new energy to our ultimate goal, which is, for many of us, and for the Government, an education system of the highest possible standard in Western Australia. Many people, of course, want tomorrow's education today. This is difficult to achieve because of the other demands of the community on every department and sphere of Government activity.

I believe that the Government's critics should themselves stop and look back, note the improvement to the education system in Western Australia over the last 10 or 11 years, compare 1959 with 1970, compare Western Australia with the other States of Australia, and, I hope, learn something from those comparisons.

The Government's efforts to meet the changing needs in education have been reflected in the Mirrabooka electorate. In this electorate there has been a constant population increase, which has meant a

very strong demand for school accommodation. I am happy to say that seven out of the 11 primary schools have been enlarged over the last two years. The other four have met the local requirements in accommodation. Two new cluster schools have been constructed, one in Weld Square, Morley, and the other in North Morley. Both of these were opened for the February intake this year. Another new cluster school is to be constructed in North-East Morley and this will open in 1971.

Cluster schools are a new approach to primary education, and I would say to members of this House and to every member of the community that they should take the first opportunity to go to a cluster school and have a look at this new concept in education, which reflects the interest of the Education Department and the Government in this particular matter.

In my electorate there are three senior high schools, built at a cost of well over \$3,000,000, and a fourth, the new Morley high school, is to be opened in February, 1971. This high school will be situated on a very carefully picked site of 25 acres. The school itself will be situated on the highest part. The students, on the ground floor and on the first floor, will be able to have extensive views over the city and towards the Darling Range. It will be built on the university campus style and will be one of the outstanding high schools in Australia.

Stage one of this high school will be completed in November of this year at a cost—that is, the cost of the first stage—of \$543,000. It will be occupied in February, 1971, when first and second-year students will be admitted. The needs of other students in my electorate are being met by independent schools, both at the primary and secondary levels, and these schools, of course, are receiving some Government assistance.

It is to the credit of the Education Department and the Public Works Department that education authorities and school building experts from all over Australia are making many visits to this State to have a look at our work, our new cluster schools, and our new approach to high schools, and they have made very favourable comments on our system of education. The August issue of *The Western Australian Parent & Citizen* makes a similar observation. It refers to the visits to this State by experts from other States, and mentions that education and schools in Western Australia appear to be ahead of the other States.

I commend the Government for its decision to abolish fees for Junior, Leaving, and Matriculation examinations. As the

Premier recently announced, this will save parents \$270,000 this year alone. However, I suggest to the Government that it gives consideration, when it has these matters again under review, to making the Education Department responsible for the provision of sports ovals, other grassed areas, and the necessary reticulation systems at all primary schools in the same way as high schools in this State are now being serviced.

Reference has been made to the achievements of this State, and rightly so, because under the free enterprise system remarkable progress has been made in Western Australia. The policies of the State have encouraged private enterprise to establish new industry, and to create job opportunities for every section of our community.

The Government has also encouraged the search for minerals and this has proved to be of tremendous economic value to this State. It has helped to increase our exports overseas to \$600,000,000, or 17 per cent. of the national total. Reference was made to this fact by His Excellency the Governor only a few moments ago.

The State's progress and development are the products of soundly based policies administered by an experienced and effective Government. I believe that the story of how this Government prepared the State of Western Australia to face the challenge of the 1970s with the greatest confidence and on the strongest foundations will be clearly recorded in the documents of our history.

The Government's programme for the future is based on these policies and I am confident that they are the right policies to take this State through the next decade. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

MR. YOUNG (Roe) [3.57 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

SIR DAVID BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [3.58 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.59 p.m.