
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

First Session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament

The Legislative Council was prorogued as from the 1st January, 1971.

The Legislative Assembly was prorogued and dissolved as from the 1st January, 1971.

The Twenty-seventh Parliament was convened for the despatch of business on the 15th July, 1971, and the First Session, which was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) was commenced on that date.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 15th July, 1971

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at noon.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr. J. B. Roberts) 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 first session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

His Excellency's Commissioner (His Honour Mr. Justice Virtue, Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia) having entered the Chamber at 12.04 p.m., a message was sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting the presence of members in the Council Chamber.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having arrived accordingly, the Commissioner requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things necessary in the name and on the part of Her Majesty the Queen, or in the name and on the part of His Excellency for the opening and holding of the first session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament.

The Commission was read.

COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT

The Commissioner (His Honour Mr. Justice Virtue) read the following statement:—

Mr. President, Honourable Members of the Legislative Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to inform you that, at three o'clock this afternoon, His Excellency will declare to you the causes of the calling together of this Session of Parliament; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly should first be chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure, that you, Members of the Legislative Assembly, repair to the place where you are to sit, and having been duly sworn by me in accordance with the terms of the Commission granted to me by His Excellency, you do elect your Speaker, and notify the same to His Excellency.

The Commissioner (His Honour Mr. Justice Virtue) and members of the Legislative Assembly retired from the Chamber.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS

The Clerk announced the return of writs for a by-election and the general elections, held on the 20th February, 1971, showing that the following had been duly elected:—

North Province—John Leslie Hunt
(By-election).

Metropolitan Province—Richard John Lloyd Williams.

North Metropolitan Province—Arthur Frederick Griffith.

North-East Metropolitan Province—
Lyla Daphne Elliott.
South Metropolitan Province—Des-
mond Keith Dans.
South-East Metropolitan Province—
Clive Edward Griffiths.
Central Province—Norman Eric Bax-
ter.
Lower Central Province—Thomas
Oswald Perry.
Lower West Province—Neil McNeill.
South Province—David John Words-
worth.
South-East Province—Ronald Thomas
Leeson.
South-West Province—Victor Jasper
Ferry.
Upper West Province—Jack Heitman.
West Province—Charles Roy Abbey.
Lower North Province—Stanley James
Dellar.
North Province—William Robert
Withers.

These members, with the exception of
The Hon. Clive Griffiths, who was absent,
took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance,
and signed the Roll.

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C.
Diver): The sitting will be suspended until
2.58 p.m.

Sitting suspended from 12.30 to 2.58 p.m.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Delivery

His Excellency the Governor (Major-
General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew,
K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) entered the
Council Chamber at 3.03 p.m.; and, the
members of the Legislative Assembly hav-
ing also attended in the Chamber, obedi-
ently to summons, His Excellency was
pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

*Mr. President and Honourable Members
of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legis-
lative Assembly:*

You meet here for the First Session of
the Twenty-seventh Parliament of West-
ern Australia.

Since your last meeting events great
and small, at home and abroad, have
exercised their varied effects on the State's
economy and its future, and so on our
people's personal lives. Forthcoming Ses-
sions of this Parliament will be influenced
by the repercussions of events past and
stresses of those yet to come, and the State
looks to you to face them with wisdom
and courage.

Recently we were happy to welcome His
Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh,
visiting us, this time, for the 50th Anniver-
sary of the foundation of the Royal Austra-
lian Air Force. We were fortunate also, that
His Royal Highness was with us to join
in celebrating Western Australia's mil-
lionth citizen and at the same time, the
Centenary of Local Government.

During the year, the State was honoured
in brief visits by dignitaries of two in-
dependent African States—by the Presi-
dent of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama,
K.B.E., and by the Prime Minister of
Lesotha, the Honourable Leabua Jonathan.

General elections have been held con-
jointly for both Houses. The record
537,122 persons on the electoral rolls—
reflected an extension of the franchise to
eligible persons of 18 years of age and
over.

Retirements from active political life
at the conclusion of the 26th Parliament
included a former Speaker, Mr. H. N.
Guthrie, a former Premier, the Honour-
able F. J. S. Wise, and three former
Cabinet Ministers. We acclaim these
Honourable Members for their service to
the Parliament and people of Western
Australia and we welcome the Legislative
Council's eight new Members, and the
Legislative Assembly's eleven new Mem-
bers.

With profound regret I refer to the
deaths of seven former Parliamentarians.
We commend their services to this State
and extend sincere sympathy to their re-
spective families. They were the Honour-
able Harry Charles Strickland and the
Honourable Lindsay Thorn, former Min-
isters; the Honourable James Joseph
Garrigan, a former South-East Province
Member; the Honourable Edward Charles
House, D.F.C., D.F.M., a former South
Province Member; the Honourable
Frederick Richard Hugh Lavery, a former
South Metropolitan Member; Mr. Herbert
Alexander McCulloch, a former Member
for Hannans, and Mr. John Joseph Rhati-
gan, a former Member for Kimberley.

FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legis-
lative Assembly:*

Transactions on the Consolidated Re-
venue Fund last financial year resulted in
a deficit of \$4.3 million.

Substantial salary and wage award
variations during the year prevented
achievement of the balanced budget fore-
cast earlier in the year.

Special assistance of \$5 million from
the Commonwealth Government provided
some relief to the State's budgetary prob-
lems and restraints on expenditure im-
posed towards the end of the financial
year enabled the deficit to be held to a
manageable figure.

Expenditure from the General Loan Fund on capital works in 1970-71 amounted to \$72,400,000 which exceeded the previous year's spending by \$2,230,000.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

Nett gain from migration to Australia was reduced during the year. Troublesome economic factors influenced the Commonwealth Government against encouraging high migration levels recorded in recent years. Nevertheless Western Australia's population growth rate still exceeds the national average, and my advisers believe that this situation will continue.

Despite some weaknesses in the economy, employment remains at a high level. Although basic mineral development is now the spur to growth, we nevertheless confidently anticipate continued support, and further large capital investment, for the manufacturing and supply industries.

During the past year the value of Western Australian exports increased by 19.3% to almost \$905 million. This year the value should exceed \$1,000 million for the first time, and for the first time in ten years the value of exports should exceed expenditure on imports.

As in recent years, the State has maintained notable growth in factory numbers, productivity, and diversification of production. The continuing strong demand for factory sites indicates current confidence and assured growth in manufacturing.

Investment is being sought from all sources. Two Ministers directly concerned with the Government's industrial and mining policy recently visited Japan, to assure Japanese investors and industrialists there has been no change in government policy in this respect, or in the ebullient business scene of the past several years.

The value of minerals produced in the State during the past calendar year was \$579,375,000—a further dramatic increase of 70% above the 1969 figure.

Several new iron ore, nickel and bauxite agreements will be presented for ratification this Session. Poseidon at Mount Windarra, and the Alwest, Pacminex and Amax alumina projects, will continue to provide our engineering and light metal industries with a market for producer goods. The flow-on to other, allied, sectors will strengthen the economy in the possibly difficult period ahead.

Acting on the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into operation of the Mining Act, the Government proposes to repeal the Act of 1904 and to bring forward a new Act appropriate to current developments in the State's mining industries.

Complementary legislation will repeal section 30 of the Forests Act making it no longer subject to provisions of the Mining Act.

To clarify future development of Pilbara iron ore reserves, the Government has stated its firm policy on allocation of such reserves, and on general long-term Pilbara development.

In furthering its policy of decentralisation the Government undertakes to provide incentives to encourage new industries to locate away from the metropolitan area.

Negotiations are proceeding with companies interested in manufacture of the caustic soda required in alumina production.

Construction is well advanced on two Pilbara towns, South Hedland and Karratha, and other new towns are being developed at Wickham, Pannawonica and Paraburdoo in the same region.

A sharp deterioration in the rural economy during the past year, due principally to increased costs and problems in marketing wheat and wool, influenced the Government to hasten assistance to distressed farmers under the Rural Reconstruction Scheme. This Session will deal with a Bill to implement Commonwealth legislation and to establish the Rural Reconstruction Authority for this State. The Authority has been allocated \$14.63 million of the \$100 million worth of repayable loans provided by the Commonwealth for rural reconstruction in all States. Operations are grossly restricted because funds available are only a fraction of what is conservatively considered necessary.

The Bill constituting the Rural Reconstruction Authority will provide for release of residual rural reconstruction funds held in trust in the Rural Relief Fund since the Depression.

The Government has acted to assist Conditional Purchase Lessees incapable of further developing their properties and wishing to leave the industry either temporarily or permanently. It has simplified sub-leasing or transferring of farms. It will defer payment of instalments on Conditional Purchase Leases where hardship is established, and, where appropriate, will introduce amending legislation authorising total or partial deferment, or remission of Pastoral Lease Rentals.

It is proposed also to establish a statutory Lamb Marketing Authority; a board to rationalise the Dairy Industry, and a Fruit Marketing Authority.

Serious financial problems have forced the Government to observe rigid priorities in coping with growth and development, especially in the essential services.

To provide 120 urgently-needed beds, Vermont Hospital (Mount Lawley) was purchased recently as an annexe to Royal

Perth Hospital. A new Casualty Department at the Perth Medical Centre is regarded as essential, and is to be provided. Amendment of the Hospitals Act will establish a Teaching Hospitals Advisory Committee to co-ordinate resources and to avoid unnecessary duplication of services.

The Government is dedicated to providing country areas with medical services equal in quality to those available in the metropolitan area.

Government action to keep ahead of demand for water and power for industrial and domestic use includes: continued work on the South Dandalup Dam; further exploitation of aquifers; completing the Ord River Dam with storage to proceed as scheduled during the 1971-72 monsoon; continued upgrading of the Goldfields Water Scheme; and moving to finalise the Comprehensive Areas Water Supply Scheme, Stage 2.

Next year a second 120,000 kw unit plant will begin commercial operation at the Kwinana Generating Station, and natural gas from West Australian Petroleum Pty. Ltd. wells at Dongara will become available in the metropolitan area—some of it to fuel the new Kwinana Station. The State Electricity Commission will study the feasibility of piping natural gas over a distance of 1,200 miles from Palm Valley in the Northern Territory, to Western Australia's industrial areas.

A major review of housing legislation presages extensive amending, or new legislation to provide housing suitable to a modern, rapidly-developing community. Proposed amendments will provide more flexibility in the Housing Loan Guarantee Act.

Free public transport in the metropolitan area for pensioners, and others in necessitous circumstances, has been introduced. It will be extended to Albany, Bunbury and Kalgoorlie-Boulder at conclusion of negotiations with private operators.

The growing road toll influences the Government to employ every possible means of reducing it. To this end, and to achieve greater overall efficiency in traffic management, the Traffic Act will be amended vesting State-wide traffic control and vehicle licensing in the Police Department.

Legislation will also be introduced to repeal the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act.

A Cabinet sub-committee is examining recommendations contained in the Perth Regional Transport Study with the objective of producing an acceptable and economically feasible plan to meet Perth's future private and public transport needs.

Prohibitive cost of new "L.A.S.H." type ships has deferred equipping the State Shipping Service with barge-carrying

vessels. As an interim measure to reduce fleet operating costs, the existing fleet will be replaced with used vessels of the unit-load type.

Current major port works include dredging and reclamation at Bunbury's new inner harbour, and construction at Esperance of a 700-foot land-backed berth. In the North, two new ports are under construction; at East Intercourse Island to handle iron ore produced by Hamersley Iron Proprietary Limited and at Cape Lambert, to export Robe River iron ore. At Fremantle Berths 6 and 7, North Quay, have been completed. They provide maximum flexibility to ships of roll-on/roll-off, unit, or conventional type, and their design caters for future use by container ships. Work has begun on a steel transit shed to service both wharves.

Statutory grants of Road Funds to Local Authorities this year will increase last year's grant by \$721,000 to \$12,437,000. Main Roads Department spending includes also \$8,535,150 for developmental roads under the control of Local Authorities.

The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's "Corridor Plan for Perth", which provides for future expansion of the urban area in corridor form is now subject to public explanation and discussion. Although not a statutory document, the plan provides guidelines for submitting to Parliament future major amendments to the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

In Education also planning is hampered by severe shortage of funds.

To maintain a satisfactory tempo of development during the coming five years would require more than \$600 million. This is far beyond the State's resources, and Western Australia, like other States, is pressing for increased Commonwealth aid in this regard.

Enrolments in Government primary and secondary schools now exceed 180,000. They will probably reach 188,000 in 1972, and will accelerate rapidly after 1973. Record Teacher College enrolment of 3,132 includes 1,150 registered in 1971. Ten new primary schools and two new secondary schools will be ready for the 1972 school opening, and major extensions are to be made at existing primary and secondary schools. Further additions are being made to Mount Lawley Teachers' College, a new teachers' college will be opened at Churchlands in 1972, and it is expected that Murdoch University will open in 1975.

The Government's scheme to provide free books and materials to all primary school children will begin next year.

To assist non-Government schools to meet staff requirements, trainee teachers in their final year may now elect to work out their bonds at non-Government schools.

The Tertiary Education Commission of Western Australia has agreed to co-operate with other interested bodies in reporting on changes needed in local tertiary entrance examinations, and in admission proceedings formerly the responsibility of the University of Western Australia.

To hasten decentralisation of tertiary education, an advanced education officer will be appointed to the new Bunbury Technical College in 1973. The appointment presages a Regional College of Advanced Education at Bunbury with—if possible—provision for teacher education. Similar developments are projected for Albany and Geraldton.

LEGISLATION

I now refer in broad outline to other legislation that Members will be asked to consider during this Session.

My Government will ask you to encourage Western Australians to positive action in improving the quality of life for this, and for future generations. It is proposed to do this by replacing the unproclaimed Physical Environment Protection Act of 1970 with more effective legislation to provide for an Environment Protection Authority, an Environment Protection Council, and an Environment Protection Appeal Board.

In accordance with its pre-election promise my Government will ask Parliament to legislate to remove all remaining legal restrictions on complete integration of Aborigines. During this Session it intends to seek repeal of the now redundant Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act. It will proceed with the amalgamation of the Child Welfare and Native Welfare Departments under the appropriate Minister, in order to achieve its objective of a single welfare agency catering for Western Australians of all ethnic origins.

Land Tax exemptions will be further extended to all home owners whose only land does not exceed half-an-acre. An additional concession will authorise the Commissioner of State Taxation to disregard value added by rezoning where the land is used for residential purposes, it does not exceed one acre, it is incapable of subdivision, and it is the only land owned.

A Bill will be brought forward to replace the current Inspection of Scaffolding Act, and an amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act will provide for appointment of an additional Industrial Commissioner.

My Government will also legislate to authorise extension of State Government Insurance Office activity to all classes of insurance and re-insurance.

Legislation is proposed to lower from 21 to 18 years the age of responsibility for all citizens of Western Australia.

Other legislation will include various Bills:—

- To amend the Builders' Registration Act by extending the Board's area of operation, widening the scope of the Act, and generally vesting in the Board greater power of control over building operations.
- To amend the Public Works Act to provide for improved procedures in respect of land resumptions and easements.
- To permit the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation to operate in Western Australia.
- To provide for consumer protection and selective price control.
- To provide for the appointment of a Commissioner or Ombudsman to investigate administrative decisions and to define the Commissioner's functions and powers.
- To provide for control of industrial and general noise.
- To amend the Censorship of Films Act to establish the "R" (restricted) certificate of film censorship within the State.
- To amend the Criminal Code to meet changing conditions, including an extension of Magistrates' powers to deal summarily with a greater number of offences.
- To provide for an extension of classes of persons entitled to claim against estates of deceased persons for proper maintenance, education and advancement in life.
- To amend the Law to provide for recognition of illegitimate persons' rights to share in their natural parents' estates.
- To make the Crown liable, in certain cases, for at least part of a defendant's costs when the Crown fails in prosecution.
- To amend the Liquor Act to correct anomalies which have arisen since the proclamation of the Act.

I now declare this Session of Parliament open and trust that Providence may bless your labours.

His Excellency and the members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President resumed the Chair.

NATIVES (CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS) ACT REPEAL BILL

Leave to Introduce

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House)
[3.48 p.m.]: In order to assert and main-

tain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I, move, without notice—

For leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to repeal the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act, 1944-1964.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [3.49 p.m.]: I have to announce that for the sake of accuracy I have obtained copies of His Excellency's Speech which will now be distributed to members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion

THE HON. L. D. ELLIOTT (North-East Metropolitan) [3.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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

The Premier and members of the Cabinet have extended to me the privilege of speaking today at the opening of the Twenty-seventh Parliament of Western Australia, and I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to them for this honour.

There are many to whom I should express gratitude for the opportunity to stand here today as a Labor member of the Legislative Council; but, unfortunately, it is not possible to refer to them all in a speech such as this. However, I must thank the electors of the North-East Metropolitan Province for their confidence in me. I would also like to make special mention of my friend and predecessor, The Honourable Ruby Hutchison, who confounded everybody in 1954, when, by sheer hard work and determination she caused the very foundations of the Council Chamber to tremble by becoming its first woman member. Since that time she has made her presence well and truly felt both in the Council and in the community at large. Her activities and achievements in many fields are well known, particularly as they relate to mental health, consumer protection, child

welfare, and women's rights. However, I think she will be remembered most of all for her relentless fight for the reform of this Council and for its ultimate abolition.

It has been a long, hard battle to establish democratic government in this State. It took 132 years to establish adult franchise for the Legislative Council, and I hope it will not take another 132 years to replace our existing bicameral system with a unicameral Parliament, which is the policy of my party.

Although the people of Western Australia received two ballot papers when they went to the polls on the 20th February, I wonder how many of them knew they were voting for a legislative body with power to frustrate the efforts of the body from which the Government of the State would be formed. I feel that if a survey were taken the results may be rather surprising. It was my experience during the election that most people thought Upper House or Council candidates were standing for the Senate or the local shire council.

The election, I believe, again highlighted the tremendous imbalance in the voting power of the electors of this State. Although we now have adult franchise we can by no means claim that the votes have equal value. The province which I was elected to represent has 77,000 electors within it, whilst most country provinces contain only 18,000 or 19,000 electors. This means that the vote of a person living in the country has four times the value of the vote of a person living in my province. I submit that this is an anomalous position and it should be corrected.

His Excellency the Governor referred to proposed legislation to remove all remaining legal restrictions on the complete integration of Aborigines. I believe that one of the most urgent human problems confronting government in this country today is that of our Aboriginal people. The Oxford Dictionary defines "Aboriginal" as "indigenous, existing in a land at the dawn of history. . ."

The indigenous people who inhabited this country at the dawn of its history were a proud, self-supporting race, rich in culture and religion. They knew no squalor, no idleness, no alcoholism, and no degradation. They belonged to the land; they loved it; they were part of it, and it was part of them. Once it was taken from them the fabric of their society was destroyed. They became a disoriented, dependent race. European society introduced to them drunkenness, disease, and prostitution. It took away their children and their pride.

I think an old Aboriginal gentleman who lived on one of the reserves I visited expressed the situation very well when he

said that his people were down in a gully between two hills. In the early days they were at the top of one hill, but now they are down in the gully and they have to be helped to the top of the second hill. I do not believe we will help these people to the top of the hill by welfare payments and paternalism. This method has been tried for long enough and it does not work. The gap between the affluent white community and the Aboriginal community is widening.

I know that some Aborigines have made the grade and have become fully integrated, and that there have been some improvements in the fields of health, housing, and education; but we are just scratching the surface. The large majority of the Aboriginal people are imprisoned in what can be termed the sub-culture of poverty. The way of life in which they are trapped is not peculiar to our Aborigines. It cannot be attributed to any racial characteristics drawn from the past, but rather to the fact that they are a minority without political or economic power, unable to compete with the stronger elements in a rapidly changing and better educated society.

Studies will show that an estimated 10,000,000 people in the United States live in a culture of poverty. This figure includes Negroes, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, American Indians, and southern poor whites. There would also be non-Aboriginal families in this country who would come within this category.

Studies will also reveal that the behaviour patterns and life styles of these communities are very similar. Their way of life is characterised by chronic unemployment through lack of skills and education, ill health, delinquency, alienation from the wider society and its institutions, low self esteem, and it is self perpetuating. The values and behaviour patterns of the parents tend to be transmitted to their children unless something happens to break the cycle.

Oscar Lewis, in an article in the *Scientific American*, stated as follows:—

Once the culture of poverty has come into existence it tends to perpetuate itself. By the time the slum children are six or seven they have usually absorbed the basic attitudes and values of their sub-culture. Thereafter they are psychologically unready to take full advantage of changing conditions or improving opportunities that may develop in their lifetime.

It is estimated that over 45 per cent. of the Aboriginal population is under the age of 15 years, and with the high birth rate the potential for growth is tremendous. It is also estimated that by the end of the century their number will have doubled.

I believe that if we want the Aboriginal children born today to be healthy, well-educated citizens of the future, equipped to make a contribution to the economic and cultural life of this State, we must help them to bridge the gap that now exists. Instead of treating the symptoms resulting from the gap—bad health, unemployment, delinquency, etc.—I believe we must eradicate the causes, the seed bed from which these things emerge and grow.

From what I have seen, the most urgent requirement is decent, conventional housing. How can a mother be expected to bring up healthy children in a three-roomed, unlined tin house which has no water laid on—let alone hot water—no electricity with the exception of one light in the middle room, no bathroom or toilet, and is freezing cold in winter and unbearably hot in summer?

What equal opportunities does a child have in respect of education when it goes home to a cold, unlit, overcrowded hovel at nighttime? What incentive does a man have to work when he does not have a home to go to in which he can have pride? In the reserve house there is no comfortable lounge room in which to relax and read or watch television when a man comes home from a hard day's work labouring or doing some other unskilled and soul-destroying job. No wonder so many seek an outlet in alcohol.

However, although housing is vital, I believe education, employment, health, and housing cannot be treated as separate features of the overall problem because they are interacting. It is not sufficient to place an Aboriginal family in a home if it does not have the finance or ability to maintain that home. Houses must be built in areas where the husband will have job opportunities. There must be sufficient trained homemakers and social workers, preferably Aboriginal, to provide advice and to help the family adjust to its new environment.

There must be compensatory educational programmes to ensure the children have the motivation and financial ability to remain at school and receive adequate training for employment other than as labourers or unskilled workers.

The report of the Commissioner of Native Welfare for the year ended the 30th June, 1970, reveals that out of some 5,500 workers listed only about 5 per cent. could be claimed to be skilled or professional workers. The remainder were semi-skilled or unskilled.

At the University of Western Australia this year there are 8,355 students. Of these there is one Aboriginal, and there are 7,720 non-Aboriginal Australians and 634 from Asian and other countries. With an estimated Aboriginal population in this

State of 24,000, this means the ratio at university is one to 24,000 as against the non-Aboriginal ratio of one to every 126 citizens.

In a UNESCO publication of 1958 entitled *Race and Psychology*, the writer, Klineberg, in dealing with the question of intelligence related to race, said—

The net result of all the research that has been conducted in this field is to the effect that innate racial differences in intelligence have not been demonstrated; that the obtained differences in test results are best explained in terms of social and educational environment; that as the environmental opportunities of different racial or ethnic groups become more alike, the observed differences in test results also tend to disappear. The evidence is overwhelmingly against the view that race is a factor which determines level of intelligence.

I am not suggesting that all Aboriginal children would have the ability or the desire to go to university, any more than all children of European origin; but the ratio I quoted is ridiculous. It should at least be brought down to that of the rest of the community. I look forward to the day when we will have not only Aboriginal sportsmen, artists, and others of whom we are all extremely proud, but also Aboriginal doctors, lawyers, accountants, and architects, to mention just a few of the professions.

Up to this point I have been dealing mainly with those people who have the desire and the ability to integrate given the opportunity. However, I am not unmindful of the fact that there are probably quite a number who would not wish to integrate and some who would be unable to cope with the requirements of modern society. For these people I would like to see a kibbutz-type system investigated.

The kibbutzim I saw in Israel functioned extremely well and provided not only all the services required, but also complete security for the sick and the aged. There was housing and employment on the spot, education for the children, medical treatment, and social and cultural activities. When I was there, although Israel was a tiny country, there were 230 kibbutzim in existence with populations ranging from 60 to 2,000. They were mainly agricultural, but some had very successful industrial enterprises in operation.

If this type of village could be adapted for our Aboriginal people I believe a number of desirable features could be added to those I have already mentioned.

Firstly, and most importantly, would be the lifting of morale and the pride of

people working and making decisions for themselves.

Secondly, it would overcome much of the heartbreak we see today associated with children being taken from their parents, young people developing into social cripples through alcoholism, and elderly people dying in the bush through lack of adequate shelter and medical attention; and, thirdly, it could be a stepping-stone to integration.

Whenever one raises the question of Aboriginal advancement, one is always faced with: Where is the money coming from? Because of the limited resources of the States I believe the Commonwealth Government must assume a far greater responsibility in this field. Surely in a budget of some \$8,000,000,000, the Commonwealth could invest a few millions in one of this nation's most precious assets—its people! Only 1 per cent. of its budget would provide \$80,000,000, and it would be an investment. Over the past years the cost of neglect has been high—not only in bad health, delinquency, illiteracy, and loss of production, but also in Australia's reputation in the eyes of the world.

Money spent now on a comprehensive programme will produce rich dividends. The dividends will be independent, proud citizens playing their full part in the social, economic, and cultural life of this country.

THE HON. R. T. LEESON (South-East) [4.08 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

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

House adjourned at 4.09 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 15th July, 1971

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at noon.

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 first session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament.