

they are absolutely shocking. It is so overcrowded that occupiers of State rental homes have had to take in people who have come up there by caravan—or without caravans—in an attempt to try to accommodate them; and this in addition to accommodating their own families. Members can well imagine just how overcrowded many of these homes are.

The Government has been telling us for more than three years what is going to happen in Port Hedland. It has told us it will burst its boundaries; that the township will run out of land; that we will have to look for land seven or eight miles out. That has, of course, happened, but what has the Government done about it? It has done absolutely nothing. It has not even introduced a water supply system; and some hundreds of houses are required.

The Minister says there is no such thing as a crisis in housing. I suggest the Minister visit Port Hedland, look around the district, and talk with the shire president and the townspeople generally. Not only are they perturbed about the very acute shortage of housing in the town — a situation which has been known for more than three years — but also about the provision of added services, such as water and electricity.

I support the amendment fully, because of the conditions which exist at Port Hedland and which stand out. There could be other towns on the goldfields, such as those where nickel has been found, which are similarly affected; but I can speak only of a place I know. I am sure the Government deserves censure on this question.

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

#### Ayes—9

Hon. J. Dolan	Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs
Hon. J. J. Garrigan	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. E. M. Heenau	Hon. F. J. S. Wise
Hon. R. F. Hutchison	Hon. R. Thompson
Hon. H. C. Strickland	(Teller)

#### Noes—17

Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. G. C. MacKinnon
Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. N. McNeill
Hon. G. E. D. Brand	Hon. T. O. Perry
Hon. V. J. Ferry	Hon. S. T. J. Thompson
Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. J. M. Thomson
Hon. C. E. Griffiths	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. J. Heltman	Hon. F. D. Willmott
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. H. R. Robinson
Hon. L. A. Logan	(Teller)

#### Pair

Aye.

No

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery Hon. A. R. Jones

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. G. Hislop.

House adjourned at 9.35 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 8th August, 1967

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### TWO PEOPLE BAY CAMPING AREA: ALBANY

*Closure: Petition*

MR. HALL (Albany) [4.33 p.m.]: I present a petition, containing 896 signatures, to the House from the residents and electors of the Albany region in the State of Western Australia praying that the Two People Bay camping area will not be closed. I move—

That the petition be received.

Question put and passed.

### QUESTIONS (26): ON NOTICE

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

##### *Investigations into Local Authority Boundaries*

1. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

(1) When is it anticipated that the Local Government Assessment Committee will have completed its investigations and made its report at least on the question of local authority boundaries?

(2) Does he appreciate that numbers of long overdue adjustments of ward boundaries are held up awaiting a decision following submission of the report?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) By early December.

(2) There have been no instances of applications for variations in ward boundaries having been delayed.

### JUNIOR AND LEAVING EXAMINATIONS

#### *Publication of Results*

2. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Has it been agreed, or are there proposals, to change the present system of publicising the names of candidates and the results of—

(a) Junior;

(b) Leaving;

certificate examinations?

(2) If so, in what manner?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) and (2) Officers of the Public Examinations Board are working on proposals to supply details of percentage marks and certificates direct to candidates with a copy of overall results to schools. These

proposals will be submitted to the Public Examinations Board in September for implementation at this year's examinations.

There has not been, as yet, any decision to change the practice of releasing information to the newspapers for publication.

3. *This question was postponed.*

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

##### *Report, and Implementation of Findings*

4. Mr. TOMS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) When does the Government expect to receive the report of the Local Government Assessment Committee?
- (2) Is there any possibility of action being taken during this session to implement any of the findings of the said committee?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) By early December.
- (2) No.

#### FLOODING

##### *Alleviation by Drainage*

5. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What plans, if any, has the Public Works Department to mitigate or prevent damage by flood-waters to private and public property in future?
- (2) Will he undertake to investigate the possibilities for a long range plan to provide for free run—off in all river and creeks in the State where necessary?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Investigation, design, and construction of works to mitigate flood damage are continuing matters in the department because of the increasing effect of progressive land development.

The expenditure on drainage works in the south-west this financial year is expected to be over \$350,000.

It is generally accepted that it is not practicable to provide full flood protection for agricultural lands.

- (2) The proposal to provide for full run-off in all rivers and creeks in the State would be neither practical nor indeed desirable. Where considered necessary, investigations and planning are proceeding.

#### SCHOOL TEACHERS

##### *Monthly Pays: Complaints*

6. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Why is it that on frequent occasions teachers have been paid double pays at the monthly rate instead of the normal fortnightly payments?
- (2) How much overtime is being worked in the staffing section of the Education Department and the salaries section, respectively?
- (3) Is he aware that considerable dissatisfaction exists in the Teachers' Union because repeated letters and deputations to the Education Department have not been fruitful of results in the matter of having salaries paid fortnightly?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Double pays are made prior to school vacations as the most convenient means of ensuring that no delays occur in the receipt by teachers of salary payments due to them during the vacations.

The double pay in June is to enable the accounting section to expedite the preparation of teachers' taxation group certificates.

- (2) During the financial year ended the 30th June, 1967—  
Staffing section—1,748 hours.  
Salaries section—1,557 hours.
- (3) It is known that some teachers are dissatisfied with the present system, but many are in favour of it.

#### SWIMMING POOLS

##### *Country Areas: Government Subsidy*

7. Mr. MITCHELL asked the Premier:

- (1) What amount of subsidy per pool is available for swimming pool construction in country areas?
- (2) Is the amount on a dollar for dollar basis?
- (3) How far has the site to be from the sea?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) One-third of the cost of construction up to a maximum subsidy of \$20,000, except in the north-west where the maximum is \$25,000.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) For areas other than the north-west, 15 miles.

#### FAUNA PROTECTION

##### *Two People Bay: Resumption of Buildings and Improvements*

8. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fauna:

- (1) Has the chairman of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee

notified his intention to seek a court order for possession of all buildings and other improvements on Reserve 27956, Two People Bay, East Albany?

- (2) Under what Statute or regulation is the action to be taken?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The committee is seeking possession of structures erected by "squatters" (without authority) on the noisy scrub bird reserve, which is of class "A" and has been vested in the committee by the Governor-in-Council.
- (2) The committee is exercising the ordinary right of any proprietor of land to determine the occupation of persons who are merely under licence and not by virtue of any property right. The actions are being brought under the present practice of the local court for the recovery of possession of land.

#### NATIVE WELFARE

##### *Hostel at Albany: Establishment*

9. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Has the Government made a final determination to establish a native hostel for youths in Albany?
- (2) If "Yes," has a suitable building been decided upon or is it intended to erect a building for that purpose?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No. This matter is still under examination.
- (2) See answer to (1).

#### STATE HEALTH SCHEME

##### *Introduction*

10. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is there a possibility that the national health scheme will collapse because of rising costs of hospital and health services?
- (2) If "Yes," has the Government given any consideration to introducing a State health scheme and, if so, what form would it take?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2). Not so far as I am aware.

#### BUNBURY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

##### *New Building*

11. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has a final determination been made on the site for a new Bunbury technical school?

- (2) If so, what is the location?
- (3) When is it anticipated that building will commence?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) This matter is still under consideration.

#### BUNBURY INFANT SCHOOL

##### *Use as Technical Annex*

12. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) When is it proposed that the present Bunbury Infant School will be used as an annex to the technical school?
- (2) What are the present numbers enrolled for each grade at the infant school?
- (3) What are the residential boundaries for enrolments at the school?
- (4) To which schools will these children be sent when the technical school takes over the premises?
- (5) Will this move require new classrooms at existing schools or the building of a new school?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) February, 1968.
- |             |       |     |
|-------------|-------|-----|
| (2) Grade I | ..... | 69  |
| Grade II    | ..... | 68  |
| Total       | ..... | 137 |

- (3) There are no official residential boundaries.

- (4) This has not been determined in all cases but the majority will attend the new school to be erected ready for February, 1968, at the corner of Allen and Trott streets.

- (5) Answered by (4).

#### LAND AT SOUTH PERTH

##### *Ellam Street and Scenic Crescent: Acquisition*

13. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) When the decision was made by the Land Resumption Office of the P.W.D. that \$85,000 was a fair price for the block of land at the corner of Ellam Street and Scenic Crescent, was it known that the block in question had been acquired by its owners for \$60,000?

- (2) What was the length of time for which the land had been owned by the vendors?

- (3) Had there been any sales of comparable land in the vicinity which could have been used as a basis for computation?
- (4) If "Yes," which land and what were the particulars as to location, size and price paid?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Three months, from the 8th July, 1966, to the 10th October, 1966.
- (3) Yes.
- (4)

tion, just as all factors are taken into consideration in negotiations or in actual resumptions.

### THIRD PARTY INSURANCE

#### *Claims Tribunal: Commencement*

14. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

When will the Third Party Claims Tribunal commence dealing with cases?

Land	Location	Area in Perches	Plot Ratio	Price £	Date 1966	Rate per acre £
(1) Lots 2 and 3 of Perth Sub Lot 52 on Diagram 982	Mill Point Rd. (appurtenant to Windsor Hotel)	49	.42	26,860	April	85,000
(2) Lot 34 of Perth Sub Lot 52 on Diagram 33074	Ray St. to Esplanade	66	.55	60,000	May	160,000 (apparently this is a special price to enable consolidation with adjoining land)
(3) Lots 1, 2 on Diagram 8687 and Pt. Lot 54 on Diagram 6250 of Perth Sub Lot 50	Mill Point Rd. ....	104	.75	62,000	July	95,000
(4) Lot 2 of Perth Sub Lot 2 on Diagram 10501	Esplanade ....	73	.56	38,000	August	83,000
(5) Lot 4 of Perth Sub Lot 37 on Diagram 29869	Ellam, Scenic and Lamb Sts.	195	1.34	85,000	October	70,000

This was the block in question. I think, Mr. Speaker, that you will allow me to make some further brief explanation to the figures I have given. In the first place, I would like to express some sort of appreciation to the Leader of the Opposition for asking the question, because it has received some publicity on a rather different slant from what one is accustomed to with regard to the Public Works Department. The complaints are usually that the valuations made by the Land Resumption Office are too low. In this case, the complaint—or the inference—is that the Land Resumption Office valuation is too high. One would hope that occasionally the critics might strike on the happy note of the occasion when Goldilocks found the dish which was just right. This case only goes to show that you cannot please everybody all the time.

The figures I have quoted in answer to part (4) of the question, at very least indicate clearly that the purchase made on behalf of the public was a reasonable one, and actually cheaper than comparable purchases. It must be understood, too, that a preliminary plan had been made for this block to be used for the building of flats. This was one factor which was taken into consideration in the valua-

Mr. NALDER replied:

The tribunal will commence to function as soon as its premises are ready, which is anticipated to be by the end of September.

### ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

#### *High Voltage Line: Spanning of Swan River*

15. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Electricity:

Will he, as an alternative to the Blackwall Reach site, have investigated the feasibility of carrying power mains across the river—on a temporary basis—at the site of the proposed new traffic bridge from East Fremantle to Point Brown, North Fremantle, with a view to subsequently installing the cables under the decking of—

- (a) that bridge, or
- (b) the replacement bridge to be built adjacent to the existing traffic bridge?

Mr. NALDER replied:

No final decision has been reached and all possible alternatives are being considered.

### SCHOOL TEACHERS

#### *Exodus to Canada*

16. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware of Press comment of the 3rd August, 1967, that 200 Australian school teachers, including some families, are en

route to Canada to practise their profession as, a consequence of better conditions offered?

- (2) If aware, will he make an immediate attempt to provide more homes and accommodation for W.A. teachers in country areas to—
  - (a) satisfy a publicised urgent demand;
  - (b) remove in part an incentive to join any exodus mentioned in (1)?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The department does not agree that any connection exists between the housing situation and the migration of teachers to Canada.

#### VENEREAL DISEASES

##### *Notifications, and Establishment of Clinic*

17. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:
  - (1) Does a medical practitioner report to the Public Health Department—
    - (a) the name and address of a patient treated for V.D., or
    - (b) merely that he has treated one or more patients?
  - (2) Is there a clinic associated with Perth Hospital for treatment of V.D. patients?
  - (3) If so, or if not, will he make provision for patients to be referred to such a clinic by metropolitan G.P.s rather than treat them themselves, so that some supervision can be assured?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Section 300 of the Health Act, which is being complied with, reads as follows:—

Every medical practitioner shall forthwith give notice to the Commissioner in the prescribed form upon becoming aware that any person attended or treated by him is suffering from any venereal disease in an infectious stage. The notice shall state the age and sex of the patient and the nature of the disease, but shall omit the patient's name and address.  
Penalty: Five pounds.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) No. The change proposed is unlikely to contribute to a reduction in the incidence of venereal disease. General practitioner attention is adequate for the great majority of venereal infections occurring in Perth.

Further, under section 301 of the Health Act, a medical practitioner is required to notify the commissioner of the name and address of any patient who defaults or fails to complete treatment; and the commissioner can order such a defaulter to resume treatment.

#### YARROW & CO. LTD.

##### *Visit of Directors*

18. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Treasurer:
  - (1) What was the cost to the Government for the visits in March, 1967, of Commander Goodwin, Managing Director of Yarrow Ship Builders, Clyde, Scotland, and Mr. R. C. Reid and Captain Reynolds, Directors of Yarrow Ship Builders?
  - (2) What was the purpose of their visit?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) Captain Reynolds is Marine Superintendent of the State Shipping Service. Commander Goodwin and Mr. R. C. Reid were the two representatives of Yarrow & Co. Ltd. of Glasgow. They were invited to Perth to enable the W.A. Coastal Shipping Commission to have direct discussions with representatives of Yarrow & Co. Ltd, as to that company's design for a barge—carrying type vessel; also to ensure the Yarrow representatives had full factual knowledge of the north-west coastal operations preliminary to their undertaking a feasibility study on the new tonnage concept to meet the needs of the commission.

Accommodation in Perth, together with air fares to Port Hedland and Broome for inspections of those ports by these two gentlemen, cost \$351.16. No account has been received for their air fares Glasgow-Perth and return, but should this eventually be debited to the commission, such would involve a further cost of \$3,503.40.

#### U.H.T. MILK

##### *Imports*

19. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Agriculture:
  - (1) Has any U.H.T. milk been imported into this State for any reason?
  - (2) If so—
    - (a) what quantity has been involved;
    - (b) what is the source of supply;
    - (c) how has it been distributed;

- (d) what is the retail cost per pint;
- (e) what is the wholesale cost per pint?
- (3) Does, or would, the distribution of U.H.T. milk come under control of the Milk Board?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) It is understood that a small quantity is involved.
- (b) Victoria, and an experimental ship from Tasmania.
- (c) To townships in the northern part of the State.
- (d) and (e) There are no fixed prices. This depends on landed costs at various ports. Sales have been largely confined to institutions and large mining camps. The retail price of this milk would be roughly double that of powdered milk.
- (3) These aspects have not yet been determined.

#### HEALTH

##### *Kununurra: Appointment of Doctor*

20. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

What action has been taken to secure the services of a doctor to be stationed at Kununurra?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

A resident doctor will be established in Kununurra when medical work in the area warrants it.

#### UNIFORM PACKAGING CODE

##### *Introduction*

21. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Has a uniform packaging code yet been brought into force in this State?
- (2) If so, from what date did it apply?
- (3) If not—

- (a) What is the cause of the delay;
- (b) When is it intended to introduce the code?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No. It has been agreed that all States will apply the uniform regulations on the same date.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) (a) All States are awaiting draft regulations from drafting committee appointed by them.
- (b) All States anticipate being able to pass uniform legislation this year to enable the uniform code to be effective not later than the 1st July, 1968.

#### MT. TOM PRICE SCHOOL *Rejection of Air-Conditioning*

22. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that when plans for the school were originally submitted by the operating company, Tom Price, to the Education Department, air-conditioning of the classrooms was included?
- (2) Was the air-conditioning rejected by the department; if so, why?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No, but it is understood that these were submitted to the Public Works Department, which advised the company on the 26th June, 1964, that special precautions were always taken by that department to ensure the best possible conditions without air-conditioning. Cooling of rooms was always undertaken by means of ceiling fans.
- (2) Answered by (1).

#### STRATA TITLES ACT

##### *Proclamation*

23. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) When will the Strata Titles Act be proclaimed?
- (2) What has been the cause of delay in proclaiming the Act?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) It is proposed to proclaim the Act to come into operation on or about the 1st November, 1967.
- (2) It has been necessary to draft regulations and consider the administrative arrangement necessary before bringing the legislation into operation.

#### BENTLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

##### *Tenders for Science Block*

24. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is his department responsible for the calling of tenders for the proposed science block at Bentley Senior High School?
- (2) If so—
  - (a) have tenders been called for the building;
  - (b) who was the successful tenderer;
  - (c) what was the value of the contract;
  - (d) when will the work be completed?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) No.
- (b) Project to be constructed by the day-labour organisation.

- (c) Estimates now in course of preparation.
- (d) Work will be completed for the beginning of the 1968 school year.

### EDUCATION

#### *New School at Manjimup*

25. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it the intention of his department to order the building of a new primary school in Manjimup?
- (2) If so, when will work be commenced and where will this school be situated?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) Steps are being taken to acquire a site for a second primary school but the location has not yet been determined.  
No definite plans have yet been made for a school building.

### OVERWAYS

#### *Wattle Grove: Consultation with Local Authority*

26. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it a fact as stated in the February issue of *The Local Government Journal of W.A.* that "The Main Roads Department had erected the bridge over the standard gauge railway at Wattle Grove without consulting the local authority?"
- (2) If "Yes," what is the explanation?
- (3) Is it correct, as stated, that several accidents had occurred and it would seem that a better design should have been prepared?
- (4) Does the fault lie partially in the fact that the road junction, where Hale Road joined Welshpool Road, was too near the bridge and slow-moving trucks turning onto the bridge could be hit by cars whose drivers could not see them in time?
- (5) Would prior consultation with the local authority have resulted in the elimination of the faults in design and location of the bridge?
- (6) Will he see that there is more co-operation in future?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) The decision to construct a bridge over the standard gauge railway at Wattle Grove was the result of a joint exercise between the Western Australian Government Railways, Town Planning Department, Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, and the Main Roads Department. The site of this bridge is at the junction of

three shire council boundaries—Gosnells, Canning, and Kalamunda. As a result of a number of consultations between officers of the Government departments and council officers, and exchange of correspondence, all the local authorities concerned were aware that proposals for a bridge were in hand.

- (3) Several accidents have occurred at the approaches to this over-bridge and an examination has now been made of the situation with a view to ascertaining whether an alteration to the design of the junctions might effect some improvement.
- (4) The recorded accidents at the Hale Road approaches to this bridge for the period the 30th July, 1966, to the 30th April, 1967, were car *versus* car, and did not involve any trucks. Nevertheless, the department is aware that a problem exists at the approaches to this bridge, and a design has now been prepared for the placement of two median strips, one in Williams Road and the other in Hale Road at their junctions with Welshpool Road.
- (5) This is a hypothetical question, and any answer would be based only on conjecture.
- (6) It has always been the policy of the Main Roads Department to co-operate with local authorities in respect of road works proposed in council areas. This policy will be continued.

### QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE

#### WEDGE-TAIL EAGLES

##### *Albany: Holding in Captivity*

1. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Would he agree to a reprieve for the wedge-tail eagle held in captivity in a "B"-class zoo in Albany?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes," would he then amend the Vermin Act to provide that a wedge-tail eagle, classified as vermin, can be held in a "B"-class zoo at Albany in the interests of the public, for exhibition, and for educational purposes?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) and (2) A few moments ago I was handed the honourable member's question and I would like to state that representations have already been made regarding this matter and the Government is giving consideration to some aspects of the case.

Mr. Graham: It could be too late after tomorrow.

*Walpole: Holding in Captivity*

2. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Will the Minister at the same time give consideration to the keeping in captivity of a wedge-tail eagle at Walpole?

Mr. NALDER replied:

I do not know whether the case referred to by the honourable member is the same as the one mentioned by the member for Albany. If it is simply a matter of people keeping wedge-tail eagles, then the cases will have to be dealt with under the present law. However, the case referred to by the member for Albany, if it is not the same as the one referred to by the member for Warren, is a different proposition, because a "B"-class zoo is involved. As a result I cannot answer the question asked by the member for Warren unless I know whether the two cases are the same. If the honourable member wants some more information, and greater accuracy in the reply to the question asked, I suggest he put the question on the notice paper.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY***Motion*

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

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—

May it please our 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. MITCHELL** (Stirling) [4.58 p.m.]: At the outset, I would like to join with other members in this House who have expressed sincere regret at the unfortunate passing of the late member for Mt. Marshall, George Cornell. As members know, we were of the same party, and I certainly owed George Cornell much for the help and assistance he gave me when I first came to this House. I would like to express to his widow and family my deepest and sincerest regret.

I also wish to say how much I regret the fact that the member for Roe, Tom Hart, has had to resign his seat through

ill-health. Tom and I were room mates, and I learned to appreciate his sincerity of purpose and the hard work he did for his electorate. He was one who had come up the hard way and he had a full appreciation of the problems confronting primary producers, particularly the people in our outback areas, and the efforts they were making on behalf of the State. The Country Party has lost two stalwarts in the persons of George Cornell and Tom Hart.

Before I touch on other matters of importance, as this is the first opportunity I have had of doing so, I would like to express my regret that the member for Northam is not in his seat tonight, because I wish to record my appreciation for the kindness and consideration he showed me when I first came to this Chamber.

During those last five years as Leader of the Opposition it was not necessary for him to be so courteous and so considerate to me. I do however appreciate it very much indeed, I would also like to say that I think he has perhaps made a greater contribution to his own party than many people realise. On behalf of the electors of Stirling and myself, I wish to express my appreciation for the work he did for this State over the many years when he was either the Leader of the Opposition or the Premier of the State. His efforts on behalf of the State have not been equalled by many and have certainly been exceeded by very few.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the present Leader of the Opposition and his deputy for their elevation to those positions. I think I mentioned once before that when the Leader of the Opposition first stood for Parliament many years ago, he addressed a meeting at Donnybrook, and I moved that the meeting express its confidence in the candidate. While my confidence might not have been fully expressed, the Leader of the Opposition's own party has certainly expressed its confidence in him, and I would like to wish him and his deputy well. It has often been said that a good Opposition makes a good Government. If this is the case then our present Opposition can congratulate itself, because we have at the moment the best Government this State has ever had.

There are one or two matters in the speeches of the Leader of the Opposition and his deputy on which I would like to touch. I always appreciate the eloquence and ability with which they put their case, but I feel sorry for them in their efforts at trying to make out a case by using some of the matter they have put before the House.

The other night the Leader of the Opposition took the Government to task and said that it had completely failed to do anything about decentralisation in



Western Australia. If the honourable member had taken the trouble to read His Excellency's Speech, he would have found all the answers to the matters about which he was complaining. He mentioned that the south-west had lost something like 200 or 300 of its population over the last few years. He completely overlooked the fact, however, of the tremendous decentralisation that this Government has created in the north of the State.

If we start at the top of the State and consider the Ord River, we find, as was mentioned in His Excellency's Speech, that last year 31 farmers produced \$2,500,000-worth of cotton. Those farmers are so assured of their future that they have just completed the construction of a second ginnery with the assistance of the co-operative movement. This will gin all the cotton they are producing, and it will cost in the vicinity of \$500,000.

We come further down the State and take note of the iron ore projects and the increase in population right down the coast. We also find great activity at the Barrow Island oil fields, the great salt projects, the nickel mines at Kambalda, and the activity in relation to bauxite in the Darling Range. When we consider these activities we should realise that workmen must be found from somewhere, and it is expected that some of this work force will be drawn from the south-west, and consequently, the work force of the south-west will be depleted.

All these things I have mentioned have not been brought about by accident. If this were so, it is possible that some of them would have taken place during the term of the present Opposition when it was in Government. These projects are brought about by careful planning and forward thinking by the people and the Government responsible for them. They are brought about by the fact that the Government has engendered confidence in the people of the State, and also in the people from overseas who are prepared to come to this State and establish these great industries. By so doing, untold millions of dollars will find their way into the pockets of the people of Western Australia.

For the Leader of the Opposition to say that the Government has done nothing in the matter of decentralisation shows that he conveniently overlooked the greatest decentralisation that has been put into effect by any Government in any country for many years past.

Another matter about which the Leader of the Opposition made some play was that of electricity. I know this subject will be discussed further in the House, but I would like to make one or two comments to show that the Leader of the Opposition and his deputy will have some difficulty in making a case against the Government for what they refer to as the neglect of its various duties.

There has been a great deal of criticism of the BP oil refinery at Kwinana because it is making cheap fuel available to the Government. It has been said that it is doing so because in the past it received a subsidy from the Government to establish itself at Kwinana. If this is so, and the company has received a subsidy and, because of that subsidy, it is now making cheap fuel available to the Government, it should be commended, because it is making available to the people of this State a very essential commodity which will enable the State to manufacture and distribute electricity at the cheapest possible cost to the consumers.

We must surely be very fortunate indeed in our electricity supply, because we have had three small reductions in the cost of electricity over the last few years. This has been possible in spite of the ever-increasing costs in all other directions, and it is surely a matter for congratulation.

One of the chief charges that the Leader of the Opposition made against the Government was in regard to its failure to appreciate the increased necessity for electricity supplies. He said the Government was planning for an increase of only 15 per cent., when there was at least a 17 per cent. increase in consumption. I would say that the 15 per cent., or 17 per cent., or whatever the figure is, is probably the biggest increase in electrical consumption in any State in Australia over the last decade.

Over the last five years, since I have been here, we have been told by the Opposition that the State is making no progress at all; that in fact it is going backward. As I have said, the Opposition has also charged the Government with failure to recognise its responsibility, because it is making provision for only a 15 per cent. increase in consumption when it should be making provision for a greater consumption of electricity. This, of course, is just so much humbug.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that His Excellency mentioned that there have been 8,000 connections to electricity supplies in this State during the last year. In 1963 I asked some questions in this House about the contributory electricity scheme as it existed in the country, and I was informed there had been 350 connections in that year. I was told there had been 1,000 applications for connections and that there was a backlog of 2,400 connections. I said that this was not good enough; and fortunately the State Electricity Commission, encouraged by the Minister, I believe, has done its best to rectify this position and, as a result, last year 1,250 connections were made to S.E.C. power lines in country districts. It is anticipated that this year 1,500 connections will be made.

This surely shows that the State Electricity Commission and the Government

fully appreciate the necessity to extend electricity supplies throughout the country areas. We often hear criticism of the commission and its workmen; about their inability and failure to keep a regular supply going. I would like to instance one occasion which will show how efficient the State Electricity Commission and its workmen are.

In August, 1965, my home and the surrounding area were struck by a vicious storm. The electricity supply was cut off, as was the telephone. I went into town and rang Albany, and I told the authorities what had happened. I also informed the postal department of the position. Within two hours, all the lights in the house came on again, and this despite the fact that it was a very bad night and the workmen had to travel about 50 miles. When I returned to Perth on the following Friday the telephone, however, was still out of order. It will be seen, therefore, that the State Electricity Commission does recognise the problems which confront it in connection with the service it gives to the community.

I think we are most fortunate to have in this State an electricity commission which is doing so well; which is able to supply this much needed commodity at such a reasonable price.

Mr. Bickerton: It is a pity it does not take over the north-west.

Mr. MITCHELL: Perhaps it will. I now wish to say a few words in connection with the Department of Native Welfare. I would like to mention a few things which I think ought to be done to improve the situation. Before I do so, however, I want to refer to a comment made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in this House the other night when he charged the Government with failure to recognise its responsibility in housing the underprivileged people of the State.

Mr. Graham: Hear, hear!

Mr. MITCHELL: It has often been said that the underprivileged people of this State are the native population of Western Australia. I suppose they can be considered the most underprivileged. Prior to 1961—and it will be appreciated that up till 1959 the present Opposition had been in Government for six years—the total amount spent on housing the native people of Western Australia was only \$122,000. After that the position was fortunately brought under the control of the Minister associated with my own party. In 1961-62 the Government spent \$122,000 on housing for natives; in 1962-63 it spent \$384,000, as it did in 1963-64. But in 1964-65 the Government spent \$528,000 on housing natives. I have not the correct figure for 1966, but it would be approximately the same. It will be seen, therefore, that in those five years about \$1,850,000 was spent on building houses for 780 native families in Western Australia.

I think this will indicate that there is no foundation whatever for the charge that the Government has done nothing to house the underprivileged people of this State. I am very pleased to see that the Government has taken this action in housing its underprivileged people. When we talk of native housing throughout the country, it is often thought of as some sort of charity which the Government is providing.

Of course, it is nothing of the kind, when we take into account the figures quoted the other evening indicating that in the vicinity of \$25,000,000 per annum is spent on housing in Western Australia; that is, on housing for people with a certain income, for pensioners, for Government employees, and for other classes of the white population. That is accepted as a right by those people. Therefore it is evident that the Government is not acting charitably in providing houses for the native people.

The stage has not yet been reached where sufficient houses have been provided for the natives. I was pleased to see that the referendum on the question of giving the Commonwealth Government certain rights to protect, and to provide for, the native people of Australia was carried by an overwhelming majority. I believe—and I mentioned it in this House last year—that the Commonwealth has some responsibility in the provision of houses, particularly houses for the native people.

Western Australia is a State with a small population, but at the present time it has approximately 20 per cent. of the native people of the whole of Australia. With our limited resources, we cannot be expected to provide them with everything which we would like to make available. We should realise that we are making some contribution towards the maintenance of the natives in the Northern Territory through Commonwealth taxation, because that part of Australia comes under the control of the Commonwealth.

Two years ago I visited a mission station, and to my surprise I found it was provided with an air-conditioned dining room, air-conditioned sleeping quarters, and other amenities. I asked the gentleman in charge: Who provided the cost of the building? and he told me the Commonwealth Government did. This was a Church of England mission station. I then asked him who provided the cost of running the mission, and he replied that the Commonwealth Government provided 90 per cent. of the cost. Whilst it was a Church of England mission, I suppose all other missions would be on the same basis, so the Commonwealth Government provides 100 per cent. of the cost of the buildings and 90 per cent. of the cost of running the missions in the Northern Territory.

It is little wonder that the missions in the Northern Territory can make a better contribution to the welfare of the native

people than can Western Australia with its limited population. I believe the native people have a right to, and it is the duty of the Government to provide, some houses in Western Australia; and every effort should be made to ensure that we get on top of the housing problem which confronts the native population. It is estimated that Western Australia requires in the vicinity of 1,000 houses to adequately accommodate the native population in the way they deserve to be housed.

I am aware of the difficulties which confront the Minister and his department in obtaining sufficient welfare officers to work amongst the native people. I have seen a fine example of what can be done for these people if they are provided with houses and if a sufficient number of welfare officers are employed to look after them individually. In the small reserve at Mt. Barker, where there are 12 to 15 families, each family is housed properly. There is one officer in the south-west who has taken a personal interest in their welfare, and his wife has done a marvellous job in the kindergarten. Each member of the native population is fully employed, and each is making a good contribution to the work force and the welfare of the district. That indicates to me the native people can get along very well indeed if they are given personal attention and reasonable housing, and if some interest is taken in their welfare.

I suggest to the Government that, whatever may be the source of funds required, every endeavour should be made to ensure the provision of housing for the native population is stepped up to the maximum extent possible, because I believe that until they are properly housed they cannot be expected to play their full part in the affairs of the State.

I would now like to touch on certain matters which confront primary producers in Western Australia at the present time. It has often been said that the major cause of rising costs lies with the Government; but of course that is not so. As I see it, one of the major causes of rising costs is that people seem to want to do, or to produce, just a little bit more than their resources permit.

We are often told that the farming community is in a sound position. Looking at the overall picture we find an increase of 3,500,000 in the sheep population of the State during last year; but many people overlook the fact—and it is a sad fact—that this increase has been brought about by increased borrowings from one source or another. The increased borrowings of the farming community just about keep pace with the increased sheep numbers in the State. Last year I mentioned that for every sheep pastured in the South-West Land Division, the farmers owed to associated brokers and associated banks an amount equivalent to £2 10s., and the increased borrowings are rising at approxi-

mately the same rate as the rise in sheep numbers.

One of the main points in the rising costs which affects the sheep industry is the fluctuation in the price of wool. Unfortunately, we in Australia have very little control over overseas marketing; and the fluctuating price of wool is one of the most important factors in the rising costs.

I have often referred to this state of affairs: one farmer might sell his wool early in the season for 60c a pound, while another farmer selling at the end of the season might receive only 45c a pound. The first farmer, having sold his wool at the higher rate, can afford to do the things he wants done, and can afford to pay the inflated costs; but the second farmer, having sold his wool at only 45c a pound, cannot afford to do the things which he feels he is bound to do, and so he has to borrow more money from the bank to carry on.

The next season the position might be reversed and the second farmer might receive 60c a pound for his wool, and be able to afford to do the things he wants to do, while the first farmer might receive 45c a pound for his wool, and might have to borrow money to carry on if he had not saved anything from the previous year. So we find the borrowings going up and being maintained at a high level.

Several attempts have been made in this country to stabilise the price of wool through some stabilisation scheme. At the moment our friends in New Zealand are in a very bad way. They have tried to stabilise the market by introducing a reserve price scheme, but it has not been successful. The opponents of reserve price schemes in Australia are jubilant at the fact that a similar scheme has failed in New Zealand.

I would say what has happened in New Zealand does not indicate a failure of the reserve price scheme; what it indicates is that we, as the biggest producers of wool in the world, are not prepared to take action along with our sister Dominion to try to stabilise the price of wool on a world basis. Therefore we have left the woolgrowers in New Zealand at the mercy of the wool buyers because they know that if they cannot buy their requirement in New Zealand they can do so in Australia. So they offer a small price for New Zealand wool.

The Government should give a lead on this question for its own protection and for the protection of all the people in the country. It should indicate that stabilisation of one of our major products is not only necessary but essential for the stability of the economy of Australia and of this State.

In my own area—and I suppose in practically all the agricultural areas of Western Australia—we have in the last few years benefited from what might be con-

sidered to be the most universal of good seasons that have ever been experienced. I want to issue a word of warning—if such will be accepted by the growers and by those who have any connection with these growers—to make sure that the young growers of this State realise that good seasons do not go on for ever. It should be pointed out that many growers are getting into a dangerous position by stocking to the absolute capacity of their properties during the good seasons we have been experiencing. If and when we get one bad season, or a series of bad seasons—and it is absolutely certain we will—then many of the stock owners in this State will wonder where their feed has gone to. In fact, some of these people will have to approach the Government for assistance, because of their neglect to take reasonable precautions to provide against the time when conditions are not as good as they are at present.

One of the first matters which I mentioned when I spoke in this House some years ago was the Pardalup Prison Farm. This is a non-security institution, and the inmates are not locked up. They are able to enjoy themselves to the extent that anyone in their circumstances can. It is located in some of the best country in the great southern district. I pointed out at the time that I was pleased to see the Government had appointed a farm manager to the institution, so that a vigorous plan of development could be carried out. I am gratified that plan of development is being carried out successfully, and the farm is a great credit to all those concerned with the running of it. I am hopeful the department will ensure that this farm is not starved of money for development, because it contains many thousands of acres which can be developed and thereby pay a very good dividend to the Government and the department.

I was told by a prominent official in the Prisons Department that a profit should not be made out of the institution, as farmers would complain that it was being conducted as a profit-making concern. Of course, that is not right. Most of us would be very happy if the farm made a profit, and thus reduced the cost of maintaining this institution and similar ones. This farm, with 63 inmates, is run very efficiently, and the inmates do a remarkably good job of work.

However, it has been suggested to me that a better idea would be to give these men some incentive to work nearer to their maximum capacity. It is thought it might be possible to evolve some scheme under which they could be paid, on a deferred basis, something approaching the appropriate wage for the particular work they are doing. If this were done, the men might put more effort into their work and in this way the farm would be brought more and more up to standard,

and these men would get the benefit of first-class agricultural training while they were working.

I feel that if this scheme were adopted, it would have a rehabilitating effect on the men. They would be given an incentive to put all their effort into their work and take a more active part.

Another matter I want to discuss for a few moments is one I mentioned here last year. At that time I gave some details concerning the fact that most of the popular makes of cars on the roads in Western Australia—and, probably, all over Australia—in extremely wet conditions suffer a brake failure which is brought about by water on the brake drums or linings. The amazing thing about this is that no-one is interested in the matter. I do not have the relevant newspaper cuttings with me at the moment, but as all members read the papers, the same as I do, they will know that 100,000 cars were recalled in England last year because of a fault in their manufacture resulting in water getting onto the brake drums. These cars were recalled in order that adjustments might be made because they were thought to be dangerous.

However, as I have said, in Western Australia no-one is apparently worried about these matters. I gave details last year concerning the very close escape I had because of the failure of the brakes to operate under very wet conditions. Numerous similar accidents occur in this State, sometimes with fatal results; and I believe the cause is the failure of the brakes under these conditions.

The point I am making is that if I, any other member, or anyone else, takes a vehicle with faulty brakes on to the road, very serious trouble can result.

I asked questions of the Minister for Police concerning this matter, and although he was not in the House at the time, the questions were answered for him. I was told in the replies that the police knew brakes were liable to failure, but nothing could be done about the matter. The manufacturers of the vehicle concerned in my close escape said they did not believe me, so they inspected the vehicle and found the brakes were perfect under normal conditions. The gentleman who spoke to me admitted he knew that some people had been killed because of faulty brakes, but that nothing could be done about this matter.

I mentioned this to the National Safety Council and was told that the council knew about it and had passed the matter on to the Commonwealth which had not even bothered to answer the correspondence. I raised this question in the House, and not even the Press was interested. The Press is mostly advocating that something should be done to control the rising death toll on the roads. However, as I have said, not even the Press was in-

terested in what I was saying. I suppose this was because big business was involved.

No-one is apparently interested in the fact that many new vehicles are being placed on the roads in Western Australia and Australia, and they are equipped with faulty brakes which will not operate under bad conditions. I say it is a crying shame that the manufacturers expect people to pay the current price for a vehicle and yet they, the manufacturers, are not interested enough to see that the vehicle is safe to drive under all conditions.

We in Western Australia experience not only dry road conditions but all conditions. We are constantly being told to be careful during the wet weather because conditions are dangerous, and a lot of that danger is present because the brakes do not operate properly. As I have said, it is a crying shame that those in authority and the manufacturers do not ensure that vehicles are placed on the road only when they are safe under all conditions.

Those are the few comments I desired to make, and I again express my appreciation for having been given the opportunity to do so.

**MR. ROWBERRY** (Warren) [5.35 p.m.]: I, too, would like to make a few comments on the Governor's address, but first of all I would like to express my appreciation personally to the members of this House for having granted me leave of absence for the whole of last session. Members may be delighted to know that I benefited very much thereby; and now, instead of having one foot in the grave, I have withdrawn half that foot. Members will be able to notice the difference before I have finished. I do not think it would be out of order if I were to relate some of my experiences overseas last year.

**Mr. Davies:** If they are good ones.

**Mr. ROWBERRY:** I will not bore the House with the bad ones, although there were very few of them.

**Mr. Dunn:** They might be more interesting.

**Mr. ROWBERRY:** It depends on the viewpoint. I visited very many countries during my itinerary and I saw and heard some things which would solve, I believe, a great many of our problems in this State of West Australia. Since the beginning of the session I have listened to the great discussion on housing or land. I visited countries in which the land situation is no problem at all, because all the land belongs to the Government and will continue to belong to the Government. Consequently no problem exists when land is required for anything the Government wishes to undertake; whether to build houses, establish community farms, or use it for any other purpose for which land is required.

**Mr. Ross Hutchinson:** Is this in Britain?

**Mr. ROWBERRY:** Not Britain, no.

**Mr. O'Connor:** Russia!

**Mr. ROWBERRY:** In several of the countries I visited, housing was no problem at all and prices were kept at the lowest possible ebb. Everything which is established in this country is done so under a debt. Nothing is established in our economy which does not engender a debt which is not paid off for hundreds and hundreds of years, and even then it might not be paid off. This is, as mentioned by the member for Stirling, because of the increasing spiral of costs, interest, and capital. I am of this opinion, having seen the economy in other countries.

**Mr. Fletcher:** We are still paying interest on original railway loans.

**Mr. ROWBERRY:** We are still paying for the Crimean War, and will continue to do so as long as we exist as a nation.

I was interested, too, to see the system of traffic in the countries I visited. One of those countries—and I believe the Commissioner of Main Roads will be visiting it during his overseas trip—was Sweden. In that country I saw one of the most complicated traffic complexes in the world. We were told it was designed and established by a French engineer. We were also told—and this is true—that he subsequently committed suicide. When we were travelling through this complex the guide and the driver were French, and it was a case of *au gauche, la bas, au droit, la bas, au gauche, au droit* over and over again until we became quite dizzy. It is said that the person responsible for the traffic complex committed suicide. I suggest, unkindly, that the reason he did so was because he could not find his way through his own traffic complex because it was so complicated.

Stockholm is a town which has been established on a series of islands and therefore the traffic must go through a series of bottlenecks resulting, probably, in the biggest headache any traffic engineer could experience. If our engineers are able to give some assistance and thus solve that problem I am sure they will come back here determined not to establish a like system in our fair city of Perth.

In England and Scotland most main highways no longer have traffic lights, a system of roundabouts having taken their place, even where the roads come from main towns. I bought a car shortly after I landed in England and travelled the best part of 20,000 miles up and down the roads, and consequently I can speak from actual driving experience on those highways. The traffic negotiated those roundabouts with a minimum of hindrance to the traffic flow. Half a mile beyond the roundabouts the traffic was proceeding at about 70 miles an hour, and in some cases this was so even less

than half a mile beyond the roundabouts. The flow of the traffic was impeded very little.

I suggest this is something that those in this country could copy to our great advantage, because traffic lights bring all traffic immediately to a stop and the traffic builds up behind the cars at the lights. As I have said, this is not so when a roundabout is established. Half a mile before such a roundabout on the main arterial highways in England, there is a big sign and diagram which also give the order to reduce speed. Even though the roundabout at the end of our Causeway does not seem to operate very efficiently at times, I found there was not nearly so much holdup of traffic overseas at the roundabouts as there was at traffic lights. Despite the latest up-to-date additions and renovations to the roads, those other countries are continuing to establish roundabouts. I am mentioning this to the Minister for Traffic and Police for his study.

Mr. Craig: Would you say that the rotary at the Causeway is highly successful?

Mr. ROWBERRY: I would not, no. However, I would say that most of the holdups at that rotary occur because our people have not been educated to filter through roundabouts. People in the Old Country are educated to filter through. There is no give way to the right, and there is no give way to the left. Every traveller must take precautions, and everyone who is involved in an accident or a collision in a roundabout is liable to a penalty because of careless driving.

Mr. Craig: It is rather difficult to filter through a 10-ton bus.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am afraid the Minister for Traffic will have to speak up. In connection with the Causeway, the greatest obstruction to traffic is the breakdowns in the lanes. However, I believe this could be remedied quite easily without any addition to what already exists. There should be a traffic policeman who would immediately either move the car into the middle of the Causeway to provide the minimum of stoppage to the traffic, or direct the traffic around it. These are things which I never saw while I was travelling by car or bus all over Europe.

A lot, too, has been said during this session—short though the session has been—about housing. For the edification of the Minister for Housing, I will inform him that the responsibility for building houses in Britain is the responsibility of local governments. In Scotland, anyway, shire councils and town councils are saddled with the responsibility for building houses for the people under Government grants from the Treasury. Therefore it was nothing new the Minister was saying when he remarked with great gusto that he had the co-operation of local govern-

ment in the building of houses and, consequently, this eased the problems of housing people.

Dr. Henn: It is something new here, though.

Mr. ROWBERRY: It is nothing new in other parts of the world, and we have had ourselves compared to anywhere in the world in a previous speech tonight, which I will deal with in a moment.

Mr. Rushton: Did that system work well in Scotland?

Mr. ROWBERRY: I consider this is an idea which could be expanded with great benefit to all concerned. The local government officials, and local governments themselves, are aware of, and appreciate—far more than any outside or central authority could—the home and domestic problems.

I listened with interest to the Minister for Housing when he was talking on the subject of housing. I would say that if this is the kind of address he put to Cabinet in order to obtain an allocation for the building of houses, then that is probably the reason why so few houses have been built during the last couple of years. In his own words, the Minister for Housing said—

We, as the Government, set ourselves the task of endeavouring to develop Western Australia at a faster rate than that of any other State in Australia.

According to the member for Stirling, it was faster than any other country in the world has done, is doing, or ever will do.

I ask the House: What is progress? Does progress mean getting outside financial institutions to do what the leader writer of the *Commerce-Industrial and Mining Review*, July, 1967, says when he suggests, amongst other things, in an article headed, "What Price Glory?" the following:—

But this glory is not being achieved without cost. The biggest cost is the fact that Australia has to rely primarily on outside capital for mining finance. This means that our natural resources are controlled by big overseas companies with interlocking interests. There is no guarantee that Australian interests will always predominate and in the counter-swings which affect all mining this country may suffer at the expense of some other part of the world.

I suggest it might suffer at the expense of some other part of our own economy. The article continues—

To place the destiny of our mineral resources in the hands of big international corporations we should also place our trust in the integrity of big business. There is no doubt, as Sir Maurice Mawby said recently, that these international companies are aware of national pride and prejudice

and do not attempt to give full consideration to these facts but, fundamentally, they are in business to make a profit and there may be times when business cuts across the best of ethics and the most sincere sentiments.

I wish the Minister for Industrial Development were in the House at the moment, because I am sure this article would interest him very much indeed. It continues—

We had no alternative than to accept these overseas mining entrepreneurs but the Federal and State Governments should make certain that basically our interests are protected. Higher royalties and the requirement to develop other industries are ways in which the future can be safeguarded. We should not, in our enthusiasm to get these mineral deposits in operation, sell out too cheaply. We could need them ourselves in some future period.

Here we have the situation where we are developing the country so well. We have never had in all our lives so much at stake. Our income from mineral deposits, royalties, and suchlike, is higher than it has ever been in the history of the State, and yet taxation in the State is the highest it has ever been in its history.

The number of houses built last year is the lowest that has been built for the last six years according to the Minister's own figures. Conversely, the inflow of migrants during the year 1965-66, and the increase from other sources to our population, are the highest they have been over the last six years. Here we have an increase in population which is greater than it has ever been in the history of the State, and yet the number of houses built to accommodate the population is the lowest that has taken place in the last six years.

Mr. Bickerton: Everything has increased under the present Government, including the V.D. rate.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Nevertheless, we have members on the Government side of the House standing up and saying this is the greatest and best Government which the best Opposition in this Parliament has ever had to face up to. Facts speak for themselves. During the course of his address, the Minister said, "I can read." I do hope he can. He should not have to assert that he can read, surely.

On Wednesday, the 2nd August, I asked the Minister this question—

How many homes were provided by the State Housing Commission in the years 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, and 1966 in the State?

The Minister gave me the figures for each year and made the following comment:—

The above figures relate to homes built under the State Housing Act and

the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, and exclude all other houses built by the commission with Government funds.

I will not quote the figures which the Minister gave in reply to my question, except to substantiate what I have already said. In 1966-67, some 786 houses were provided in the metropolitan area by the State Housing Commission. In the country, 440 houses were provided; in the north-west, 141, or a total of 1,367.

The Minister for Immigration told me with great gusto how great a success he had made of his project for getting people to come to the State. He said that in 1965-66 there was a population increase from immigration of 11,518 and from other sources of 10,605. This made a total of 22,123. The distribution of that population was 18,497 in the metropolitan area and 3,626 in country districts.

This will show beyond any doubt that the Government is not facing up to its responsibilities. In fact, I could say worse than that about facing up to responsibilities, because in my opinion it is criminal to invite people to come to this country, and to bring them to this country, and not provide them with accommodation. If there is one criterion of the progress of a country, it is the number of people who are gainfully employed in that country and housed in decent accommodation with the security of an income.

Mr. Graham: Unfortunately, the State Minister for Immigration does not agree with you.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Yes, I know. The Government has some fantastic theory that if it brings enough people into this country, the economy will build up because people are here. According to the Government, it will somehow build upon itself. The Government maintains that if it brings enough people to the country, and continues to bring them, in some mysterious way this will cause an uprise in the economy. My study of economics does not lead me to that conclusion.

Mr. Bovell: Are you not a migrant yourself, and do you not think you have contributed to the development of this country?

Mr. ROWBERRY: The Minister mentions the fact that I am a migrant.

Mr. J. Hegney: You are a Scotsman.

Mr. Davies: And a naturalised Australian.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Possibly as a migrant I am more entitled to be an inhabitant of this country than a number of members in this House, as I have lived here for 42 years.

Mr. Brand: The Minister for Immigration was not being critical.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I cannot hear everyone at once. In fact, I cannot hear anyone at all.

Mr. Graham: You are not missing much.

Mr. ROWBERRY: In connection with immigration, I will mention for the benefit of the Minister for Immigration the conditions which prevailed when we came out here as assisted migrants. I got a job on a farm at £1 a week, and my food was provided. This was for seven days a week and I worked 20 hours a day. Possibly I established a stake in some of the farms that I worked on, but unfortunately I have had no recompense except from the people of Warren who elected me as their member. I had to work very hard, and no benevolent Government came along and assisted me to obtain a house.

Mr. Bovell: That proves my point.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am the member who is making the point.

Mr. Bovell: The more migrants we have the greater will be the development which will take place in this country.

Mr. Graham: He was a single man and did not require a house.

Mr. Dunn: He was not sleeping very much.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I did not have a house when I came to the country. I slept in the stables on these farms where I worked, separated from the horses by a piece of hessian.

Mr. O'Neil: You did not get much sleep if you worked 20 hours a day.

Mr. Nalder: No doubt you had many friends!

Mr. Graham: The horses did not object.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Yes, I had many friends, because friends are easy to come by. To return to the subject, I think I have proved successfully that, mechanically, if one wants a stream to flow, and if one wants air to flow, one does not try to force the air into a cavity or into a bottle. One allows it to flow out at the other end; one makes accommodation for the flow to continue, and not to be stopped.

I can assure members that my experience in the Old Country, when speaking to prospective migrants, was that the first thing they wanted to know was what sort of houses the State had to offer. They asked me, "Mr. Rowberry, are we sure of getting a house when we arrive there?" Unfortunately I could not assure them of this, despite the pride I have in Western Australia—although not in this Government—because the worst thing one can do is to paint a rosy picture when it is not an established fact.

I told them some of my own experiences, and if that dissuaded them from coming to this State it was just too bad. Another aspect of the migration policy is the fact that several countries of northern Europe which I visited had a standard of living, and housing conditions and wages, far in advance of those in Western Australia. I believe the Minister for Industrial Development mentioned that aspect in a

speech he made a few weeks ago when he said it would be impossible to contemplate obtaining from northern European countries migrants for this State, because the working conditions and the wages for artisans in those countries were far superior to, and higher than, those in this State.

Invariably I found that wages and conditions in northern European countries were better than they are here, and people cannot be expected to leave places where they have established homes and secure jobs to come to this State unless the Government can offer them the equivalent of what they enjoy now. We have ideal weather to offer them, which we obtain free. The climate in this State is more conducive to happy and healthy living than the climate in some of the northern European countries. But we cannot take any credit for that.

The responsibility of this Government in endeavouring to attract migrants to this State is, as I have stated, to give at least the equivalent of what they have in their own country. We may then be successful in inducing them to come to Western Australia. Until that is done I am afraid we will see a continuous stream of dissatisfied migrants returning to their homeland.

It is no use saying that they expect too much from us, because this is certainly not so from the figures I have quoted.

Mr. Bovell: I am not saying they are not the right type. The main reason for their returning to their homeland is homesickness.

Mr. Graham: Especially when they do not have a home here.

Mr. ROWBERRY: When I say they are not the right type, I do not mean that in a derogatory sense, because the word "type" means something that fits into the environment. In the case of a human being, it would refer to one who fitted into the environment, and contributed to the economy, of Western Australia and Australia as a whole. Unfortunately unless we can produce the conditions and the environment as near as possible to those they were used to, they will continue to be disappointed in this State and we will not get complete satisfaction from our migration programme.

I was extremely interested to notice that the Commonwealth Government has passed legislation to assist the dairying industry. Members of all parties in the Federal House gave their assent to the Bill, and pledged their support and co-operation to the working of the legislation. I can recall speaking to a motion that was moved to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into the dairying industry, but I did not receive much encouragement from the Government, nor much encouragement or help from the members



who sit on those benches behind the Government and who represent members of the farming community. Yet here we have the Commonwealth Government at last realising that something will have to be done to upgrade and consolidate the dairying industry, otherwise it will be lost altogether.

I can bring to mind some of the points made in my speech to support the motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the dairying industry, and it is very interesting to note that the *Farmers' Weekly* of Thursday, the 1st June, 1967, had this to say in its leading article—

Subsidise the extension of artificial breeding services to enable more farmers to reap the benefits at less cost.

I will admit the Government did extend the artificial breeding services in this State. Subsequent to a motion being moved by the member for Warren—not prior to its being moved; and it would have been more to the Government's credit if it had been—the Commonwealth Government has decided to—

Intensify research into methods of improving animal husbandry and farm management.

Step up breeding and evaluation of improved pasture species.

Investigate alternative sources of income. (Not necessarily in the direction suggested by the government's Dairy Industry Committee of Enquiry—that the industry should grow oil seeds to provide raw material for its own margarine factories).

Improve extension of research findings to enable the most dairy farmers gain the most up-to-date knowledge in the least time.

And so the article continues. All these points were mentioned by the member for Warren in a speech he made in support of a motion to appoint a committee to inquire into the conditions of the dairying industry.

I said it was a strange thing that a member of the Labor Party, which is supposed to represent only those people in the industrial section of the community, should be standing up in this House and proposing that something should be done for the dairy farmers, particularly the poor ones in the lower south-west. This suggestion of mine had no support whatever from the members on the Government side of the House.

Returning to the question of housing in the Warren area, I asked a few questions of the Minister for Housing on the 2nd of this month. One of the questions was—

How many people are awaiting homes from the State Housing Com-

mission in the Manjimup, Nannup, Pemberton, Northcliffe areas?

Because there are no people waiting for houses in the Nannup, Pemberton, and Northcliffe areas, this appeared to be a matter of great amusement to some members of the Government. However, do you not think, Mr. Speaker, that this is a piece of damning evidence against the Government? because had there been a great increase in population and of employment in these areas, inevitably there would have been a demand on the State Housing Commission to provide more houses. The fact that there is no demand for houses in those areas proves—and no other evidence is required—there has been a reduction of the population in those parts; and, indeed, that is a fact. We find there has been a general diminution of population in Nannup, Pemberton, and Northcliffe during the years this Government has been in office.

We hear reports made with great gusto of what is happening in the north-west and the great strides forward that have been made in establishing industries in the north-west. In passing I would remind the Government that the sole reason for the industrial activity and expansion in the north-west—the greatest reason, anyway, apart from the Ord River scheme, which is a political as well as an economic project—is the lifting of the embargo on the export of iron ore by the Commonwealth Government. The expansion of many other industries in the State has all stemmed from that one move. Apart from the Government being the most financial in recent times, it is probably the luckiest Government because of that fact.

Although it will probably be found that the population of Manjimup has dropped by some 1,100 or 1,200 people there is still a housing lag. People come to me with tears in their eyes pointing out that they are living in substandard dwellings which do not have any lavatories or bathrooms and that the dwellings are infested with rats and mice. They are forced to live in this accommodation because it is the only accommodation available to them, yet their names are not even placed on a priority list, as I have just received a notification from the State Housing Commission this afternoon—and at the beginning of the week, too—which verifies this fact.

It also proves that when there is no accommodation in an emergent situation, the housing position becomes desperate. When a position becomes desperate, it should be possible to set aside a few houses from among those that are being built for emergent cases so that the misery that is being inflicted on young couples as a result of their being driven to live in substandard homes, and the misery that is inflicted on the mothers of small children, would not exist.

What right have we to ask thousands of people to come to this State when we cannot adequately house our own people? What we are doing is establishing a state of conflict between the people we are assisting to migrate to this State and the people who are already here. The assisted migrants consider they are entitled to obtain houses when they arrive here, and before the members of our indigenous population get them, because the Government has promised them houses. I do not blame the Minister for this state of affairs, but it is one which no Government could contemplate with satisfaction.

Despite a warning given by a member in another place that the matter on which I am about to speak should be treated with the greatest circumspection; that one should not breathe a word about the industrial programme in case everything stops; that everything is going to be hunky-dory because the Minister for Industrial Development and his hard-working officers have the whole situation well in hand, I wish to mention that eventually a canning factory which will provide extra work and induce more people to come to the Warren electorate—which incidentally will make greater demands on the State Housing Commission to provide houses for them—will be established.

Recently I attended a meeting held at Pemberton at which was present a representative from a canning factory in Victoria. I think it is the principals of this factory who are having negotiations with the Minister for Industrial Development.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

The SPEAKER: Before calling on the member for Warren to resume, I would remind members of the church service tomorrow at midday which will be held in St. George's Cathedral.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Prior to the suspension, I was talking about a projected canning factory somewhere in the south-west, possibly in the Manjimup area. I have read there was a feeling that to mention anything about these negotiations at the present time would, in fact, prejudice the whole of the negotiations. I fail to see this. I always suspect anything which takes place in secret. There are several reasons why the people concerned should be informed at the earliest possible moment as to the negotiations up to the present time.

As the member for Stirling has pointed out, farmers have to make preparations in one year for their crop in the following year, and it is necessary that the people who have a great amount of capital invested in the production of peaches and other fruits and vegetables in the south-west area should have some idea whether that fruit and those vegetables are going to be disposed of by way of a canning factory. I think there is some justification for those remarks. There is also some

justification for the attitude of the growers themselves in wanting to know when these negotiations will be brought to a fruitful conclusion.

When one thinks that some 1,200 tons of peaches alone are involved, the growers have some justification for thinking that provision should be made so that this fruit will not be allowed to go to waste, which it possibly could if a canning factory is not provided at an early date.

The Minister for Industrial Development is, I believe, the one who does not want anything said, any published discussion, or any information filtered through to the growers. I am at a loss to know why.

Mr. COURT: He has not required any secrecy; the growers have been fully informed.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I will read an extract from a speech made in another place which is apropos of this proposition. I quote from this session's *Hansard* as follows:—

There is just one other subject I would like to mention in regard to the south-west and this concerns the fruit-growing industry. I think most people realise that at the present time this industry is not in a very happy state and I am glad the Minister for Industrial Development, and the officers of his department, after a great deal of hard work, have been able to arrange for the canning of the coming year's peach crop—and for the canning of the whole crop. Last year only about half of the crop was canned but I understand that in the coming season the complete crop of about 1,200 tons will be canned.

At the same time the department is making strenuous efforts to have a canning industry, to cater for all types of products, and particularly fruit, established somewhere in the fruit-growing areas. A great deal of work has been going on in this direction and despite the many difficulties involved steady progress is being made.

I would like the Minister to take note of what I am now about to read—

However, I have become aware of a good deal of pressure from some quarters—from some growers and well-wishers—to have an announcement made about the proposed canning factory, and I want to sound a note of warning to these people. I think they would be ill-advised to advocate any premature announcement being made; in fact, such announcement could be extremely damaging to the negotiations which are at present taking place.

Mr. COURT: That is fair comment.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Yes; but the Minister said the growers had not been kept in the dark. The honourable member in another

place said that unless growers are kept in the dark negotiations will be prejudiced.

Mr. Court: They have been kept informed. You ask their president. He has no quarrel with the information they have received.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Quite so. Why then do members of Parliament insist that the greatest secrecy—

Mr. Court: He is asking that no premature announcement be made which would prejudice negotiations; and that is fair enough.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The honourable member in another place goes on to say—

I, and my colleague on my left, The Hon. V. J. Ferry, who is the other member representing the South-West Province in the Legislative Council, have kept closely in touch with all the negotiations and we are fully satisfied that everything possible is being done at this point of time. Because of that I issue a warning to the people in the area concerned not to bring pressure to bear to have some premature announcements made about this industry.

This implies that there had been no announcements at all. The word "premature" has been used to frighten people from making any inquiries. I imagine the member for Warren should have been contacted in regard to the negotiations unless some political chicanery was going on. Otherwise, why was not the closest touch kept with the member for Warren in connection with these negotiations?

Mr. Rushton: Wasn't he overseas?

Mr. ROWBERRY: No. The member for Warren has been back in the State since February, and he has attended meetings and been asked to address meetings by the president of the Fruit Growers' Association, which association is vitally interested and anxious to have the canning factory established. So the member for Warren has been in touch with everybody excepting the Minister. I imagine it would have been merely ethical conduct on the part of the Minister to have informed the member for Warren at the same time as he informed the other members concerned.

Mr. Court: My dealings have been with the association. If the association did not consult you, it is not my business.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The Minister informed the House by way of interjection that everybody has been completely informed as to what is going on.

Mr. Court: The association has been fully informed.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The member for Warren, especially! I would point out to the House that the canning factory in Shepparton, Victoria, became operative as the result of a Government grant of £60,000 which, at that time, was a considerable sum of money. Before the delegation came down to interview the Min-

ister, I suggested that perhaps a similar loan would enable them to establish a factory, probably in conjunction with the canning company at Shepparton.

I think this would in some way make amends for the fact that the Warren area has lost a considerable amount of population since the advent of this Government to the Treasury benches. If we could have a canning factory or something along those lines—a composite factory to deal with potatoes or anything else that is grown in the area—it would go a long way towards taking up the slack and giving employment to the people. This is the only way to induce people to live in a certain area so they can provide for themselves and their families. The Government should also provide them with decent housing accommodation.

Since the Minister has made the announcement that everybody has been kept fully informed as to the progress of negotiations in connection with this canning factory, I will look forward with great expectation to having some information forwarded to me at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Court: I told you that the association has been dealing direct with me, and if it did not consult you, it is not my business.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am not expecting too much; I merely used a figure of speech.

In conclusion, I would say I am completely dissatisfied with the Government's activities in connection with housing. I base my dissatisfaction upon the fact that at the time of the greatest increase of population and the greatest intake of migrants, the State Housing Commission has provided the smallest number of houses; that is, during the last six years. I cannot emphasise that fact too much.

In regard to the Dairying Industry Act, which has been passed by the Federal Parliament, and which came into operation on the 1st July this year, I would call upon the Government, especially the Minister for Agriculture, to get the officers of the Department of Agriculture to consider this legislation, so that when the Federal Government asks the States to implement it, the Government and its officers will be fully aware as to how to put the plan into operation at once.

With the population decrease in the Manjimup area, I want to express my complete dissatisfaction and say that the Government has done nothing to overcome the decrease.

MR. MARSHALL (Maylands) [7.43 p.m.]: I take this opportunity to speak on several matters that affect the Maylands electorate. However, before doing so, I would like to express my sympathy—just as other members in the House have done—at the sudden passing of Mr. George Cornell, the late member for Mt. Marshall.

I would also like to sympathise with Mr. Tom Hart, the former member for Roe, for having to resign on account of ill-health. On the other side of the ledger, I would like to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on having reached those high offices. I am sure they will carry out their duties with satisfaction to themselves and to the Opposition party.

It is with a certain amount of sadness, I think, that any member of this House, after serving almost a lifetime, reaches the time when he makes the decision to stand down. I am referring to the member for Northam, and I am sure he will be missed in this House next year when he retires. I would wish him well and I hope he lives for many years to enjoy his retirement.

I am indeed pleased to learn that the Shire of Perth is at present preparing a plan for the recreational use of the Maylands aerodrome. It is an area of 240 acres, and will be vested in the shire. It is a wonderful site very close to the city, and when developed—and this could take some years—I am sure it will be appreciated by future generations.

Last year I mentioned the Maylands Yacht Club. The provision of a new club house has been under consideration for some time, and the actual siting of the club house is to be finalised by the Swan River Conservation Board and the shire council. The erection of a club house building is to be considered by the shire in the 1967-68 budget.

Because of vandalism in the area, a large portion of the East Street Jetty became unsafe for public use, and the Department of Public Works undertook the demolition and removal of the outer 440 ft. of the jetty to make way for dredging operations, which are part of the general river development plan in the area. It is proposed to keep the remaining 160 ft. of the jetty at the shore end for the time being, pending a decision on removal or reconstruction.

The shire council, the Government, and the Lotteries Commission have previously demonstrated their interest in the old people of the community by providing the Maylands Autumn Centre in Ninth Avenue, and the Inglewood Autumn Centre in Beaufort Street.

At the other end of the scale, 1967 saw the completion and official opening of the Maylands Youth Centre, which is managed by the Maylands-Mt. Lawley-Inglewood Youth Education Committee.

The shire council, in conjunction with the National Youth Council, the Youth Education Branch of the Education Department and the youth education officer appointed to control the centre, have taken a practical step to meet the needs of the youth of the community. This is a pilot project in the metropolitan area

which is being watched with considerable interest.

The Shire of Perth purchased the old Maylands Fire Station for \$8,000, and the National Youth Council granted \$9,800 to meet the cost of alterations and renovations involved in converting the fire station into a modern youth centre. The local committee accepted the responsibility of raising funds to furnish and equip the centre.

The former shire depot in Whatley Crescent has been made available to the youth centre for the purpose of outdoor activities. The development of the Queen Street reserve in Maylands is proceeding, and the shire council recently accepted a tender of almost \$12,000 for an automatic reticulation system for the reserve. This is a large area which was previously a swamp, and it was used as a landfill rubbish disposal site. The necessary earthworks and grassing, followed now by reticulation, will provide a very large recreational area which will be put to the best possible use by sporting organisations in the district.

The shire council is proceeding with a town planning scheme directed to general improvement of the Swan River foreshore. The main objects of the town planning scheme are to bring about a realignment of the Swan River and effect foreshore improvements and beautification between Mitchell Street and the junction of Hardy and Clarkson Roads. Also, the town planning scheme is aimed at the consequent dredging of the river and associated filling of low-lying adjacent land. The dredge is at present working in this area.

The recent announcement by the Minister for Railways that the interstate rail terminal will be located at East Perth is most gratifying. In my opinion it is the logical location for the terminal rather than at Midland or Bassendean. No doubt a terminal at Midland or Bassendean would have created considerable inconvenience to interstate travellers. The East Perth site is at the extreme west of the Maylands electorate and, in my opinion, is ready for redevelopment. The location of the new railway station will surely prove of tremendous importance to the district.

I hope consideration will be given to an early commencement of the construction of the Swan River drive from the city to Garratt Road. Guildford Road, a four lane highway, is carrying a tremendous amount of traffic today—particularly in the peak periods.

I have covered the points I had in mind, and I support the motion.

**MR. HALL (Albany)** [7.53 p.m.]: There are several matters I would like to elaborate on this evening. First of all I would pay tribute to the late member for Mt. Marshall, Mr. George Cornell, and

would express sincere sympathy to his family. I also feel it incumbent to mention the members of Parliament who will be retiring at the end of this session because of the natural process of age. I refer, in particular, to the member for Northam and the member for Belmont. Perhaps there are other members I have not mentioned, but I would also pay tribute to them on their projected retirement.

The first subject I will speak on is a matter I raised recently when dealing with the provision of a State-wide native health and hygiene plan. I feel that health and hygiene are the crux of the native problem, and its solution will guide us into some form of assimilation of the native population into the white population—as we refer to ourselves.

If we carried out a study of the health and hygiene problem of our coloured people we would start to get to the basic principle where resentment seems to build up. We hear a lot through the radio, and read a lot in the Press, about native reserves, and about the body odours which emanate from native people. If we were to make cleanliness a basic fact in the native areas, we would find that the humiliation associated with rubbing shoulders, when in close association with natives, would disappear. We would be able to bring the natives more into our community atmosphere, and so raise their economic standard.

We have all had the experience of driving through the country towns on the outskirts of the metropolitan area and seeing natives hanging about outside hotels and nicking—or borrowing—which-ever term is applicable. This habit causes resentment on the part of the white people.

Basically, we should get down to health and hygiene. I would remind the Minister that any breakdown in the health programme of the State can have repercussions: it could snowball and affect the whole community of Western Australia. This was exemplified recently by eminent medical men who know what they are talking about.

We should clean up the areas in a piecemeal fashion and should not try to engulf the whole of the State in one operation. It would not be correct for me to mention any section of the State, but if we were to start on one particular section and clean it up and teach the natives health and hygiene then I think we could get over this feeling of resentment towards assimilation. Recently we have seen articles in the Press indicating that there is resentment against natives at Gnowangerup and other towns where the natives have to drink in separate bars. If we do not tackle this problem of assimilation, we could experience the catastrophe which is occurring in the United States of America. If we ignore the principle

of assimilation now, we will have to suffer the consequences.

I say the basis of our assimilation exists on the teaching of health and hygiene to the native population. When we have achieved that purpose, we will have moved forward in assimilation. I asked a question of the Minister with respect to native hostels to be established in different towns, and in his reply the Minister said there would not be one at Albany at the moment.

There is a potential employer of native labour in the Albany area in the firm of Thomas Borthwick & Sons Ltd., and also another firm. Those firms will employ native youths. Of course, we have to consider the circumstances and the economic demands of the area. If hostels were built where employment is available, hygiene could be taught in the hostels, and assimilation could be assisted through the trades. This could apply to both male and female natives, and would be a step forward in assimilation.

I think that is most important, because I consider one of the main problems—and I think most members in this Chamber would agree with me; I know all Labor Party members do—is the feeling of people generally that they cannot mix with natives because of their obnoxious body smell owing to a lack of hygiene. This applies particularly to those who live on the reserve. In addition, there is the question of natives asking people for money. I have seen a pensioner who has walked out from a hotel having the nips put into him by a native. Such a person as a pensioner has no possible chance, whatever excuse the native might offer, of giving him any money. However, unless we can get the natives into some occupation, the natural tendency will be for them to try to get money from somewhere. Naturally, they take the line of least resistance and beg for it. If we can improve their hygiene and their health, and put them to work and educate the children, we will go a long way towards their assimilation into the general community.

Mr. Lewis: Don't you think putting them into houses is worth while?

Mr. HALL: Providing housing for them would be a tremendous step forward. However, I think the first point is to improve their health standards and their general standards of living. We have to start with the children, and their general standards must be improved. A child is under its mother's care from the time it is born.

Mr. Lewis: The child does not have much chance unless the mother has a decent place in which to live.

Mr. HALL: I agree with the Minister in that regard; I am not disputing the statement. That is a basic principle, but we must also do something about improving their hygiene and general health. It

is of no use dealing only with the middle class of native; we have to do something for all of them, and in this regard we must do everything possible to educate the young children, and the youth, particularly on hygiene. This will help to break down the feeling of resentment against them.

Mr. Lewis: We are doing that.

Mr. HALL: I hope the Minister is doing that; but I do not think the matter is being tackled on a State-wide basis.

Mr. Lewis: You talked about hostels. Don't you think it would be better for the young people to live in a family house with their parents?

Mr. HALL: I agree, if that can be done; but their chances of gaining employment, particularly in the decentralised areas, are almost nil. This may not be so in the city, but I should imagine it would be hard to gain employment there, too.

Mr. Lewis: No. Quite a big percentage is employed here.

Mr. HALL: That is good. However, what are the prospects for the natives at Gnowangerup? What chance do those natives have of gaining employment in industrial establishments?

Mr. Lewis: There would be a greater potential for employment at Albany.

Mr. HALL: Albany has two industries which could absorb them. There would be a big percentage with the Main Roads Department; but that is the difficulty—to provide employment for them. If they could be placed in some creative activity, it would be a step forward for the natives and it would also improve the economy of the country, because the social service payments would be reduced. I think we have to crack down on the payment of social services to these people, and something has to be done in this direction.

Mr. Lewis: We do not give them social service payments.

Mr. HALL: But the money comes out of general taxation. It is money taken from the people of Australia, generally.

Mr. Lewis: They do not get it if there is work offering.

Mr. HALL: I realise they are being given something and we are getting nothing back for it. It is easy for the natives to accept this sort of thing, but if one reads Sister Kettle's report one will see that she states the fundamentals are to clean them up and to reduce these iniquitous payments. These people are borrowing and begging, and that is one of the principle reasons why the white people are against them.

Another point I would like to mention concerns a petition which I presented to the Chamber today. The petition contains 896 signatures and these people are objecting to the attitude of the Chairman of the Fauna Protection Advisory Com-

mittee, and also the attitude of the Government, which supports the chairman. Many months ago I approached the Government about this issue and I was told the matter would be referred back to Cabinet.

I do not want to weary the House by reading all the letters that went backwards and forwards, but simply to say that I think the fact that 896 signatures were obtained for a petition—and these signatures were obtained within a few hours—proves that something is wrong.

If we search through the records we will find that the noisy scrub bird was mentioned some 70-odd years ago and we were told it disappeared shortly after that time. At about the same time as the bird disappeared the whaling crews, which were then operating in that area also disappeared. A generation or so later squatters established themselves on the shores of Two People Bay and, according to reports, the noisy scrub bird was re-discovered.

We have seen the spectacle of the do-gooders and the ornithologists pursuing this bird through the scrub, trying to take pictures of it and make tape-recordings of its whistle. They have pursued the bird in its own habitat—in other words, they have been disturbing it. I had the pleasure of camping in that area for a week and I heard the whistle or the noise of this bird. It is a ventriloquist if ever I heard one. However, the only ones who have actually seen the bird are the children of the squatters at Two People Bay.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I have seen one.

Mr. HALL: Whereabouts did you see it?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: At Albany.

Mr. HALL: The Minister must have very good eyes because I believe the only photograph taken of the bird was taken by the children of the squatters there.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: A photographer took a picture of it the day I was there.

Mr. HALL: What was his name?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There was also a recording taken.

Mr. HALL: I think the photographer would be a bird! What was his name?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Mr. Webster.

Mr. HALL: I well remember a man lying under a canvas cover waiting to get a photograph of this bird. He was there for two days and two nights. His name was Webster and he would be one of our most noisy scrub birds. He is pursuing the bird more than the bird is pursuing him.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Don't you believe I saw one?

Mr. HALL: The only people to have seen the bird, to my knowledge, are the children of the squatters. These birds come around about Christmas time for the few weeks while the children are there.

Mr. Bovell: You can extend your knowledge, because I have seen two.

Mr. HALL: There has been a tape recording made of the noise of the bird.

Mr. Bovell: I have seen two noisy scrub birds.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Your knowledge is expanding.

Mr. HALL: I think there would be many noisy scrub birds! However, as I said, I produced a petition containing some 800-odd signatures of people objecting to the taking away of their democratic rights and privileges. The department's action will prevent their using a beach with all the facilities for a safe anchorage. It is also an excellent spot for fishing and relaxation, and I might warn Country Party members that people from as far away as Katanning have signed the petition even though their only interest in the area is that they go down to Two People Bay for relaxation.

To my knowledge this bird has lived in harmony with people for some 20-odd years. It seems to disappear in the winter time and to come back when people are there. There is nothing in the world worse than loneliness, and it could be argued that this bird objects to being left on its own. As a result it comes back when the squatters and their children return to Two People Bay in the summer time.

As regards fires, there will always be fires on the reserve, despite any precautions that might be taken. The squatters have an interest in this area, and as a result they are not game to jeopardise their interest. They clear around their cottages but they do not burn, and the scrub is preserved. Therefore I cannot see why the request of the people in that area cannot be acceded to.

One of the objections to the departmental action in this case is the dictatorial attitude of the department. The same exception would be taken by people in other parts of the State. To show what I mean, I shall quote a letter dated the 29th June, 1967, from the Director of the Department of Fisheries and Fauna (Mr. A. J. Fraser), addressed to me, and dealing with the Two People Bay reserve. The letter reads—

Your letter of November 22, 1966, to the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna concerning the eviction of squatters from the above reserve, has been circulated to all members of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee, in whom the reserve is vested. Members have given full consideration to the points you raised and to other representations and advices.

I asked for action to be delayed until after the Christmas holidays because many of the squatters had young children and they wanted to go to Two People Bay for their holidays. They had already made the necessary arrangements. This is the only place where many families in that part of

the State can go for a holiday at a reasonable price, and within their range of income. As Ministers would know, when they stay at motels the expense involved is staggering. It would be impossible for the average family to stay at these places for a holiday. The next paragraph of the letter reads—

The Committee has finally decided that it will take immediate steps to seek a court order for possession of whatever buildings remain on the Committee's land at the time of the court action. No objection will be raised against any squatter removing his buildings from the reserve before the application is heard.

If that is not a threat, or a form of intimidation, I do not know what it is.

Today I asked a question of the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna and the first part of the question was—

(1) Has the Chairman of the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee notified his intention to seek a Court order for possession of all buildings and other improvements on Reserve 27956, Two People Bay, East Albany?

The Minister's reply to that was—

(1) The Committee is seeking possession of structures erected by "squatters" (without authority) on the noisy scrub bird reserve, which is of Class "A" and has been vested in the committee by the Governor-in-Council.

The second part of my question was—

(2) Under what Statute or regulation is the action to be taken?

The reply to which was—

(2) The committee is exercising the ordinary right of any proprietor of land to determine the occupation of persons who are there merely under license and not by virtue of any property right. The actions are being brought under the present practice of the local court for the recovery of possession of land.

In the chairman's letter, he said he was seeking advice from the Crown Law Department as to how he should go about this. If the Crown Law Department tries to pull this one, I would say it would be in trouble, because under the Fauna Protection Act the chairman has no powers to carry out or execute this duty. Section 27 of the Act states—

Where any fauna, weapon, instrument, illegal means or device, or thing, which is seized by a warden pursuant to the powers conferred upon him by this or any other Act, is involved in the commission of an offence against this Act or the regulations, it may, on conviction of the offender—

At the most he could only take a firearm.

To continue, section 27B states—

The Chief Warden of Fauna may, with the approval of the Minister, in manner prescribed and after the expiration of the time limited for appeal by the Justices Act, 1902-1948, sell or dispose of all illegal devices or fauna, forfeited under the provisions of Section twenty-seven A of this Act.

He has no powers at all, but he is asking the Crown Law Department to give him these powers. So I think the position could be challenged legally, because the advisory committee has exceeded its powers under the Act. About 280 people have signed their names to the petition thus exercising their democratic right to object to the loss of the privilege of using this particular beach.

I might mention here that the people concerned have no axe to grind at all. They are not squatters; they are people drawn from all over the region of Albany. These are the people who have signed their names to the petition. I will say in the squatters' favour that it is they who have actually pioneered the roads and the bridges and who have made access possible to the reserve and the beach itself.

At one stage the shire council did put in a few loads of gravel to make it easier for the tourist traffic to use this beautiful beach. In closing on this matter of the noisy scrub bird, I will say that the shire council very reluctantly gave up the idea of the planning of the townsites and, as a result, it will naturally lose the rates involved. It has been possible up to now for the noisy scrub bird to be able to live while people inhabit the area; and I see no reason why this state of affairs cannot continue until the area is required for development. Mention has been made of about 22,000 acres. That would be about half the area of Japan!

The other point I wish to mention is the establishment of a power house at Albany. I believe that originally the south-west scheme envisaged a chain of power stations—one to be built at Collie, one at Bunbury, and one at Albany. That would have provided a chain of power stations throughout the country areas, and it would have been an added advantage in the defence of the State. We find, however, that the power house at Bunbury and that at Collie have gone ahead, but the one at Albany has disappeared completely.

If we look further afield we find that the power house at the woollen mills has also disappeared; and this could have generated enough electricity in an emergency to supply Albany, Denmark, and Mt. Barker. The Katanning flour mills, in the same region, lost their power supply. So, in all, we lost four power houses, and yet we find there is to be no replacement. The power house at Collie generates its

power along a regular line of transmission, and it is very vulnerable. There have been many power failures and breakdowns; and many man hours have been lost to industry and commerce.

When we consider this aspect in relation to the establishment of industry in that area, we must realise that before such industry can be established, the people concerned will want to know how many men and women they are able to employ; what the water supply position is; what the drainage position is; and whether they will be able to obtain any power supply.

If the power supply was inconsistent, or was subject to breakdowns, this would tend to discourage industrialists. I raised this subject of power failure on the 12th June, 1967. In the particular breakdown concerned 10,000 man hours were lost, and this without taking into consideration Denmark or Mt. Barker. Those were the figures for Albany alone. So it can be imagined that the loss at that time would have been about \$18,000 worth of production. I would like to read the first paragraph of my letter to the Minister. It is as follows:—

Power Failures. Repeated Power Failures, but this time a Power Failure of three hours duration. Crippling blow and losses to Industry and Commerce, plus the loss and discomfiture to the Domestic Consumer.

None of us can deny the damaging effect that this is likely to have on decentralisation, or on the attitude of an industrialist who wishes to expand and diversify his industry.

When we consider the increase in population and the agricultural development, together with the industrial development that has taken place in this region, we will see how very necessary it is that a power house be established in the southern portion of the State. The people have a right to expect the establishment of such a power house.

I believe it is quite sound to think of carrying coal by the slurry coal pipeline method. This would mean the use of the natural fuel we have at our feet, and would not leave us to the tender mercies of big monopolies or oil firms. We have all heard of the panic that has been caused by rationing in Great Britain. I think it is high time we reviewed the position here, and used our own natural energy fuel to its greatest advantage.

I might mention that the matter of conveying things by pipeline is very widely used in the world today. Not only is slurry coal being conveyed by pipeline, but other commodities are also being transported in this fashion. I can envisage the time when wheat will flow by pipeline, thus reducing the necessity for it to be transported by road or rail.



The conveyance of coal by the slurry coal method would also provide an advantage from the point of view of defence, because it would mean that our power houses would have to be widely interspersed. The member for Collie has been hammering this question for ages. He is consistently telling us that we should use our natural energy fuel. But this has been rejected by the Government in favour of oil. I will leave that aspect, however, for my leader to handle.

My personal feeling is—and this is also the feeling of a number of people in that area—that though we have lost our power house, we should give some consideration to conveying coal by the slurry coal method. We should for a moment consider what happened in America during the recent blackouts, which have not yet really been explained satisfactorily. We all know the chaos that ensued as a result of these blackouts.

I would now like to touch on a matter which is very dear to the heart of the Minister for Works. I must say he has been very good. He is one of the Ministers for whom I have a lot of respect. He has his mind well below the 26th parallel. I appreciate what he has done, because I realise the demands of the Minister for the North-West, and how hard it is for the Minister for Works to obtain recognition. His colleague, the Minister for Forests, however, did say there was every chance of succeeding in making Albany a receival port for ships from overseas.

The chairman of the harbour board has substantiated the case for this by presenting the necessary facts and figures. We all know what has developed as a result of the recent Suez crisis; and we all know how shipping to this State can be affected. As a result of the Suez crisis, all shipping has been sent *via* the Cape route. I have here a map or plan which clearly shows the movements *via* the Cape route, and the distances involved.

I think Albany has a considerable advantage over Fremantle, because of its proximity to ships using the Cape route. This is particularly so if any other part of the Western Australian coast is to be visited before the ships leave for the Eastern States. The difference in the distance between Fremantle and Albany for a 10,000 ton vessel is considerable, and the loss per day in sailing time represents about \$2,000. I hope the member for Fremantle is listening. There are, of course, a number of ships which do not stop either at Fremantle or Albany but go straight on to the Eastern States after having used the Cape route.

The Watkins report of 1929 sets out the design for a railway from Albany to Karonie, which would provide a direct line from Albany to the trans-line, and would also serve all the north-eastern districts

by carrying from Albany the machinery imported from overseas. Ships calling at Albany would be able to backload with the agricultural products of the district—wool, meat, wheat, etc. The economic feasibility of that plan is so evident that the Government should examine it.

The Government should put forward a suggestion to the Commonwealth to establish containerised shipping facilities at the port of Albany, the same as are being introduced in Fremantle. No matter how we try to dodge the issue, it is very significant, from the results of a conference held about four years ago on the interworld co-ordination of transport, that containerisation will be adopted. The conference even got down to the dimensions and sizes of the containers. This traffic will be dominated and guided by interests outside the control of Australia, unless we take steps to gain control. The introduction of containerisation at one port is dangerous, and that was referred to in England and in other countries.

This question should be examined in detail. It is claimed that this method of transport is in its infancy, as containerisation was introduced only four or five years ago, and that outports will face difficulties. But these difficulties could be surmounted. I hope members realise that we should come to grips with the monopoly which is gaining control of this method of transport, and which is directing its operations from outside the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Suez crisis proved conclusively and undeniably that the development of containerised facilities at Albany should be proceeded with. The thousands of miles from Albany or Fremantle to the Eastern States could be eliminated. The overseas ships could unload at Albany or Fremantle and backload with our produce. The goods unloaded at Albany could be sent by road or rail to the Eastern States *via* the Eyre Highway or the trans-line.

I have proved the point that geographically Albany is placed in a favourable position. I do not condemn the Government for its failure to develop the port of Albany, because few people would be aware of this. The proposal I have mentioned struck me very forcibly, because of the economic advantages which would result from a reduction in freight charges. The Port of Albany could be used for the unloading of goods, and from there they could be fed out to other areas. I re-emphasise this point: if it costs £1,000 a day for transport between Fremantle and Albany, such costs could be avoided. This suggestion has been put to me by people who have had long experience in the shipping industry. Difficulties might have to be overcome; and one is the supply of oil to Bunbury. We could supply all oils, with the exception of lubricants, from Albany; and the lubri-

cants could be shipped from Fremantle. In this respect I am sure we would get the co-operation of the oil companies.

I wish to refer to some of the production in the Albany region. I have previously mentioned the production of wool, and now Albany has conducted the fifth or the sixth wool sale. I shall not weary the House with reams of figures, except to say that in 1966-67 the total number of bales offered at the Albany sales was 92,000; the number of bales shipped from Albany was 55,000; and the number of ships involved was 45.

From 1957-58 to 1966-67 there were 536,900 bales handled through the sales at Albany. In that period the number of bales shipped through Albany was 327,941, and the number of ships involved was 278. From those figures we can see a stepping up in the shipping rate.

I now bring to the notice of the Premier, and I regret having to do so, the fact that some time ago I wrote to the Minister for Mines in relation to ilmenite. The letter was written on the 10th January, 1967, and it is as follows:—

You will recall of my Repeated attempts, by way of Question and Answer, Letters to the department and yourself respective to usage of Mineral Sands Cheyne Beach Area, and the break away from the state of Dormancy which has existed for a very Long Period.

It is hard to reconcile one's Thoughts, with the Excuses put up from time to time, when we see the lucrative state of the Industry in the South-west of the State, and Other parts of the World.

Would you be able to advise just what has taken Place respective to the Cheyne Beach Area, relevant to Mineral Sands and other areas adjacent to Albany. Who are the interested Parties, have they carried out the terms of their respective lease? What endeavours have been made to obtain Markets for the Sands in Question?

I made approaches to La Porte Ltd., Bunbury, and they were carrying out surveys, with view of Action, would it be possible to ascertain their intentions and advise?

This matter is of such long standing, the sands will turn to coal, if No action Soon, trust you can have the situation examined, and advise. Thanking You.

So far I have not had a reply to that letter which is dated the 10th January, 1967.

An article appeared in the *Albany Advertiser* referring to the member for Albany attacking the Government over its lethargy on the development of mineral sands. Let us consider the action by the Government in respect of applications for

leases. One is in the William Bay district where 264 acres have been applied for; another at Cheyne Bay where 300 acres have been applied for; at Hassell Beach four applications each for 300 acres have been made; another at Cheyne Bay by Hancock and others for 24 acres; another, being tenement 1039H, at Hassell Beach, for 300 acres; another, being tenement 1041H, also at Hassell Beach for 175 acres; another, being tenement 888H, at Cheyne Beach for 24 acres; another, being tenement 890H, at Cheyne Beach for 24 acres; as well as many others for 24 acres. Laporte Titanium has applied for 1,500 square miles at Mt. Many Peaks.

Why has not something been done when these mineral sands are very lucrative to develop? It is no wonder the Government has been attacked on the ground of its lethargy. The Minister says the Government has not done anything wrong, but I say it has not done anything right.

I could quote many newspaper articles to support the contention that the development of these mineral sands is lucrative and is an economic proposition, and that is borne out by reference to balance sheets, financial statements, and articles which have appeared in *The West Australian*. What is happening to these sands? The Minister has not replied.

Another matter requires clarification by the Government. Recently we found that galvanised iron and galvanised piping will cost more at Albany. I cannot understand the reason. I am aware that Lysaght will enforce the shipment of galvanised iron and galvanised piping from its main depot at Fremantle. On the 3rd May, 1963, I wrote to that firm in respect of this matter. I was told that the surcharge of £2 3s. 9d. would still be imposed even if the goods came through the Port of Albany. To go back into the history of the surcharge, it was introduced during the last war when a special officer had to be sent from Perth to Albany to allocate the galvanised iron. That was the reason for the surcharge.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. HALL: Here we find ourselves in a cleft stick. We are paying the surcharge of £2 3s. 9d. for galvanised iron and galvanised piping which comes through the Port of Albany. This should be abolished in view of the fact that there is a saving in freight of £3 6s. 9d. per ton on goods unloaded at Albany, instead of at Fremantle. Furthermore by unloading the goods at Albany, the decentralisation of industry would be promoted. This is an iniquitous charge, and the Government should take some action. When a monopoly is able to give directions to the building industry and the primary industries in a decentralised area, it is time the Government looked into the matter.

The suggestion which I put forward to the Government is that it should make every endeavour to import galvanised iron and galvanised piping from Japan, to unload it at the ports of Albany and Esperance, and to backload the ships with wheat and other primary products. The implementation of this suggestion would reduce the costs to the primary industries, and would assist in the decentralisation of industry. As there is an economic tie with Japan, now is the time to use it to our advantage so as to break up the monopoly which exists.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Fletcher.

*House adjourned at 8.43 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 9th August, 1967

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### QUESTIONS (18): ON NOTICE

#### SUPERPHOSPHATE

##### *Non-delivery, and Aerial Spreading*

1. The Hon. N. McNEILL asked the Minister for Mines:

Concerning the operation of the superphosphate delivery plan in 1966-67—

- (1) (a) how many cases involving non-delivery or late delivery of superphosphate were referred to the hardship committee; and  
(b) in what number of such cases was action taken or recommended by the committee, and with what results?
- (2) In the proposed delivery plan for 1967-68, as no reference has been made in advertisements to bulk deliveries for aerial spreading, what special arrangements, if any, have been proposed or adopted within the scheduled delivery system to facilitate this method of operation, and to avoid costly return visits by aerial contractors?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) (b) Thirty-seven. Applications for priority delivery under the superphosphate delivery plan, considered by the hardship committee, have been classed in the category of non-delivery or late delivery. Of these, 36 were approved and one was not approved.

- (2) The delivery plan provides for each farmer to enter on a distributor's order schedule form his requests by months for deliveries covering all requirements October to June inclusive. Prior to entering his order schedule the farmer should contact his aerial spreading operator to determine a mutually acceptable spreading time so that his bulk superphosphate can be requested in time for spreading in one operation.

2. *This question was postponed.*

#### PARLIAMENT HOUSE

##### *Cracks, and Danger from Road Excavations*

3. The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a substantial tonnage of sand, including the surface soil and shrub growth thereon, has in the last few days slipped in the form of a small landslide into the deep cutting in front of Parliament House?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that cracks are very noticeable in the steps in the front of Parliament House, in the pavement near the doors, in the face of the building at the top level, and in sections of the internal stairways?
- (3) Is it the opinion of the Minister and his advisers that the cavernous cutting immediately below Parliament House is not the cause of the structural weakness?
- (4) Is there a danger of more substantial falling of earth into the cutting?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) A relatively small quantity of sand has slipped down the side of the cutting. However, there is no need for concern.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes. P.W.D. Architectural Division officers have been aware for some years of the cracks mentioned in question (2). Generally they have been caused by shrinkage of the base concrete to which the various materials have been fixed, as well as thermal movements of the materials themselves. Periodic inspections have been carried out and it is proposed to replace the cracked units when it is considered shrinkage has ceased.
- (4) Until the permanent concrete retaining walls are placed in position there will continue to be a small movement of soil at the cutting. It is certain that this movement will not develop to the point