

# Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 20th August, 1963.

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

## BILLS (2): ASSENT

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. Reserves Bill.
2. Supply Bill, £25,000,000.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES FOR ESPERANCE

#### Loan for Provision of Plant

1. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Will the Government consider granting an interest-free loan to the local authority at Esperance to provide a power generating plant sufficient to cater for present and future needs of the district; or, alternatively,
- (2) Will the Government grant a loan to the State Electricity Commission to provide an electricity generating plant for Esperance and so provide for the present and future needs of the district?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) No. Local authorities have their own borrowing powers under the Local Government Act and these powers should be used to provide for local electricity supplies.

## METROPOLITAN REGION PLAN

### Properties Subject to, or Exempt from, Improvement Tax

2. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Town Planning:

Which of the undermentioned properties is—

- (a) subject to; or
- (b) exempt from

improvement tax payments under the provisions of section 41 of the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act, 1959:—

- (i) Swan Location 33, Plan D.1739, Lots 100 and 244—C. & C. M. White, Belmont;
- (ii) Portion Perth Town Lots Y.179 and Y.168—E. A. Barker, Newcastle Street, Perth;
- (iii) Portion Perth Town Lots Y.165 and Y.167—Arcus Pty. Ltd., Aberdeen Street, Perth; and
- (iv) Swan Location 1370, Lots M.1362, M.1504 and M.1564—Whitfords Beach Pty. Ltd., Wanneroo?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

The question has been referred to the State Commissioner of Taxation who has drawn attention to the fact that the furnishing of the required information would be contrary to the provisions of section 6 of the Land Tax Assessment Act which precludes the commissioner and his officers from communicating information in regard to the affairs of taxpayers other than in the performance of their duties under the Act.

## DRYDEN STREET, DIANELLA

### Health Menace from Water Disposal

3. The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON asked the Minister for Local Government:

Further to my question to the Minister for Housing on Tuesday, the 6th August, 1963, relating to disposal of water at Dianella, and in view of the statement made by The Hon. H. R. Robinson during the Address-in-Reply debate that the health inspector of the Shire of Perth is of the opinion that a health hazard does not exist in this area, will the Minister advise—

- (a) what steps did the health inspector take to ensure that a health menace did not, in fact, exist; and
- (b) did the inspector arrange for water sample to be analysed?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (a) Inspectors of the shire council made inspections of the area in mid-July, early August, and again on the 15th August to ascertain whether the septic tanks were functioning correctly, and these were found to be in order.
- (b) Yes.

### CARSON RIVER STATION

#### *Date of Lease and Rental*

4. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) On what date was Carson River pastoral lease in North Kimberley granted?
- (2) What is the rental charged?

#### *Improvements and Inspections*

- (3) What is the value of improvements effected by the lessee?
- (4) On what dates have official inspections been made by pastoral inspectors?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The 16th August, 1951.
- (2) Five shillings per thousand acres per annum.
- (3) According to official records, £4,800.
- (4) Owing to the inaccessibility of this station, no inspection has as yet been effected by the pastoral inspector. Arrangements have been made for an inspection at the earliest opportunity.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

#### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 15th August, on the following motion by The Hon. A. R. Jones:—

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

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

**THE HON. J. G. HISLOP** (Metropolitan) [4.46 p.m.]: I, like other members of this House, feel the loss of colleagues who have passed on, and their memory will remain with us—with me, particularly—for many a day. We must also, at the same

time, look to the two new members and hope that their stay in this Chamber will be a long and useful one. I am glad too, to read a report in the Press this evening that Mr. Heitman has been elected to this House as one of our colleagues.

One of the few matters I am going to speak on during the debate on this motion relates to mental health conditions in our State. First of all, I welcome Dr. Ellis in taking over his new post as Director of Mental Health Services in this State, and it would be churlish of me at this stage to offer any criticism against the organisation. I should rather allow Dr. Ellis to have time to inspect the existing conditions and, as a result of his own personality, make changes and express his views on alterations in many ways.

There is, however, one factor which interests me and to which I would like to draw attention, because I think it involves not only the conduct of mental health, but also decisions by the Government. It is essential that, in the future, psychology and psychiatry play a large part in the practice of medicine. I am rather concerned at the lack of facilities available to permit our own medical students to train as competent psychologists and psychiatrists. This is due to the fact that in the past the treatment of psychiatrically-sick patients and, in fact, the psychologically-sick patients was divorced almost entirely from medicine, and the individual who decided to take up the role of psychiatrist was, in my early days as a student, rather regarded as having a queer temperament himself.

Those days have long since passed and it has now become a feature of medicine which is growing not only in the psychiatric field, but also in general practice; and the vast number of patients who need this aid is growing year by year. Whether this is due to the conditions of this century is very hard to state. Whether it is due to the speed at which we live and to the growing intricacies of work and life is a question which only the future will answer.

Following on that preliminary statement, let me state that in regard to our own mental health conditions, Claremont and Heathcote—the reception home as it used to be known—have been similarly divorced from the practice of medicine. Nowadays, the study of mental health is coming more quickly into line because the work has been so spread to outside establishments such as the Graylands Day Hospital and similar organisations.

The Graylands Day Hospital has done a tremendous amount of work, and has opened up the psychiatric field to the general aspect of medicine in the community. The difficulties that arise result from the fact that there is so little opportunity for our psychiatrists in practice to be associated with the actual teaching work which is so essential. I make a plain and

current statement that the teaching of students is the best method for the teacher himself to learn. If the senior members of our profession are divorced from the teaching of any of the faculties, then their standard cannot rise in the way that it should rise.

What I have in mind is the possibility of aligning the Heathcote reception home with the Royal Perth Hospital as part of general medicine. Following on moves made some years back, a certain number of patients needing psychiatric care were admitted to the Royal Perth Hospital. The practising psychiatrists of the city do have the opportunity from time to time, in a limited way, to treat patients in the hospital; but as far as I can see there is no opportunity available to them to act as a visiting staff to the Heathcote reception home.

Dr. Gerald Moss was appointed many years ago as physician of the mental health department, but I doubt if one person, in the capacity of a physician, could cope with the work that is required to be done in the institutions of Claremont and Heathcote. It seems to me that if a visiting staff of varying specialties were appointed to assist in the work at Heathcote there could be a beneficial increase in the treatment of patients; and that would be of advantage not only to the patients, but also to the hospital staff and the visiting staff.

There is a possibility—I have discussed this aspect with members of the psychiatrists' profession—that with so few of them practising in the city it might not be possible for them to act as a visiting staff to the Heathcote institution. That, in itself, brings about a certain amount of concern. If we do not have sufficient psychiatrists practising in the city, and no real means by which our students can become qualified in psychiatry, the position in the future could prove to be a difficult one; and it can only be overcome by appointing persons from without the State.

From my understanding of the Mental Health Act, the Director of Mental Health Services is given the power to appoint medical officers; but if I remember the term correctly, the words "permanent appointments" appear in the relevant section. I do not know whether it can be regarded that a student spending a month to six weeks within a mental health institution is employed on the permanent staff. Similarly, I do not know whether a resident of three to six months on post-graduate training and living in the Heathcote or Claremont institution can be regarded as a permanent member of the staff. It is the wording which causes me concern. If only permanent members of the staff can be appointed, what facilities

are available either to students training in the hospital, or to those going on to post-graduate training at a later date?

I, as well as every other member of the medical profession in Perth, realise that the student today is receiving much greater training in psychiatry and psychology than we did, and possibly more than students in some of the other States are receiving. It is from then onwards that I express anxiety, as regards actually living within the work sphere and doing postgraduate work after qualification as a lead to becoming a specialist in that branch of medicine. It is rather a pity that our students and qualified medical practitioners have to leave the State in order to receive their early training in the field of specialisation. It may be that all this has been accounted for since the mental health legislation was before this House in the latter part of last year, but I know quite well that the practising psychiatrists in the city do not visit the Heathcote institution.

My own feeling is that the whole field of mental health is being taken out of the darkness in which it has lain for many years and is being opened up to the public mind much more intensely. It is even thought in many places that people who are criminally insane can be safely taken in by a family, but this type of patient makes up a very small minority. It is regarded that many of the patients who are now in asylums can be put into small units with great safety, and it is only the limited number of criminally insane who need confined attention. This method of treatment opens up the whole field considerably, and it is thought that within a matter of years there will not be a need for asylums.

With this widespread treatment outside the institutions it will be necessary for us to employ many more psychiatrists. I would say that about 30 per cent. of the patients who are sent to consultant physicians would be well advised to seek psychological aid in addition to whatever treatment they may need for their physical disability. We laugh at the position in the U.S.A. where almost every individual possesses his own psychiatrist. I do not for one moment suggest we should go to the same extent, but we should make an attempt not only to reduce the cost to people requiring treatment for nervous disorders, but also to expand the availability of service to these people.

We can only do that by making the psychiatric and psychological side of medicine just as freely open to practising medicine as to general hospitals. We could not manage to organise a truly efficient medical service for the general public hospitals if they were completely closed to the outside practising profession. It is the work done in the hospitals by

those practising members of the profession—the honorary staff—that means so much in the tuition of the student and the graduate.

I am sure that at the moment, while there is a tendency to close off from the mental health branch the men who are specialists in this particular work, the mental health aspect is not likely to progress at the rate we would like it to. I realise that I am talking about something which is advancing fast and which is quite new in the field; but it is obviously quite well known to those who are practising within the Mental Health Services; and there are many who agree with me.

The difficulties may be great but they should be looked at clearly and plainly. We have reached the stage now where one man will be able to have a closer look at Heathcote, and that is a tremendous step forward. However, a stigma still exists in connection with a hospital attached to the Mental Health Services, and it might well be worth while considering it as an annexe of Royal Perth Hospital and so linking it to general medicine, but allowing the Director of Mental Health and his staff the right of control of that aspect of the work.

It is still difficult to persuade an individual to go to Heathcote as a voluntary boarder. I admit that over the last 10 years enlightenment has occurred in the mind of the public and many do not now refuse to go, but a great number do prefer treatment in a private hospital even though it costs considerably more than it would if they entered the Government organisation. It is an expensive life for those afflicted with a highly sensitive nervous system which goes wrong; and at the moment those people are sadly lacking in assistance in many ways. Therefore if this could be done, it would be one major step forward in the treatment of the general health of the public.

I noticed in the newspaper this morning that the number of unemployed in Western Australia has risen. This is a situation which is deplored by everyone. In the years gone by—shall I say before the first world war—the question of unemployment never seemed to have entered into the field of politics or of Government control, and yet, from my reading, it would appear that unemployment in the times prior to 1914 could have been very high. It could have been up to the same figure as we find it now in America—somewhere near 8 per cent. But it was not something of which the public was conscious.

However, like so many changes that have occurred in the social service aspect of living, the public has become conscious of unemployment; and yet to me it is distressing that all the public can go on are the figures published from time to time.

If there is  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. or 1 per cent. rise in unemployment, then it is used by either side in politics for the purpose of attacking the reigning Government—and it does not matter which side is in power, the same thing happens from time to time. The question which arises in my mind is: Is this something the Government can handle?

It becomes such a complex matter that I feel much further investigation into it is essential. It becomes clear when we look at the unemployment figures—and I have gained a lot of information from various sources—that they are very complex. There is, apparently, always in the centre of these figures a solid core of chronic unemployment. For what reason these people are unemployed we do not know. It could be that they have no desire to work or they may have no ability to work. If they have not that motivation, which is present in the normal individual, they should be examined. However, we can only estimate this core and the figure arrived at is between 1 per cent. and 1.5 per cent.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is of the unemployment force?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: The number of unemployed at present is 2.3 per cent.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is 2.8 per cent.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Oh, it was 2.8 this morning, was it? Then 1.5 per cent. of that number are chronically unemployed.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Where did you get those figures?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: The honourable member can get his own figures. These are mine. It is stated frankly also by many of the journals from other countries that if unemployment falls below 1.5 per cent. to 1 per cent., there is an obvious period of inflation. Therefore it suggests that there is a difficulty in an economic sense; because if there is full employment, in the eyes of the economist, inflation is apparent. One is as bad as the other. However, the distressing point, of course, is the psychological effect upon the individual.

It is very difficult to ascertain how big the core of adult unemployment is. It would take a tremendous amount of book work to follow the names of those people who repeatedly come back for unemployment benefit because they cannot hold jobs or are discharged because they are not efficient enough for today's progress.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: There are thousands of unemployed at the moment for whom there are no jobs.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I intend to wander over most of the fields if I am allowed, and I have a suggestion to make when I am finished which might be acceptable to all concerned.

The figures we are given are obviously misleading. How misleading they are is difficult to say because there are individuals who decide to change from one occupation to another and who have a week or two off in between jobs. They register for unemployment and in the meantime, probably because they are efficient workers, they find another occupation. However, their names are not taken off the unemployment benefit list until such time as it is found they have not made further application. There are all sorts of such avenues. I would say that at the present moment in this State there are three difficulties which have arisen, one being very recent. I understand that in recent days there has been quite an inflow of migrants and others from the Eastern States expecting to find employment in this State in the mines and, at the moment, at Exmouth Gulf. They may have added quite a few to the number, which has suddenly increased in this State.

The second condition which I think has had a lot of influence is the abnormally wet season we have had. This has, of course, meant that there has not been as much unskilled work available as is usually the case at this time.

The third influence is the output of students at the end of last year. It has always interested me to realise that with our old principle, boys and girls on reaching a certain age would leave school and there would be a constant flow of those young people seeking employment each month. The school-leaving age was altered last year so that there is now an upsurge of students seeking employment at the one time. This has had quite an effect upon the employment of juniors.

It has been understood that it is difficult from December to April to find posts for these juniors and that after April it becomes a very difficult problem. With this upsurge of youngsters leaving school at the same time, it has become a gigantic problem because there are still quite a number of them who have not been found tasks and they are now entering the months in which employment is regarded as being very doubtful.

What is going to happen to these young people afterwards cannot even be estimated this year, but I have been told on authority that before 1960 the number of young people applying for posts was considerably under the graph of available vocations and then by 1962 it became almost level; and in this year the graph of available vocations has fallen slightly below the number of young people seeking posts.

We were told all this some three to five years ago. We were told that there would be a considerable number of young people following the number of births that occurred after the closure of the war and that there would be a period of doubtful employment over these years through which we are just passing. Another change will occur, too—and not many years ahead either—when numbers of young migrants begin to look for work on the open market.

One of the most difficult types of employment to find is in the unskilled field, because this means a constant repetition of the formation of tasks that apply to this particular field only. One of the things that one deplors in watching these young people is to realise the number who leave school before they really should do so. I admit that there are quite a number of young people who leave school and seek jobs purely because they would be incapable of receiving any further education if they stayed on at school for an extra year. There are a considerable number who leave school because the money appeals to them so greatly that they believe they are of the earning age, and they therefore leave even before the age of 15. Now, of course, that age has been raised slightly but it will not be up one whole year. I should say that on the average it would be six months.

Another reason they leave school—and this frequently applies—is in order to earn money to help out the family income. If the economics of a State do not justify a young person remaining at school until thoroughly educated, it is probably an unsound economy, and some changes may be needed in the economic field.

I believe, also, that there should be some arrangement in the Education Department whereby these children who decide to leave school before they are really equipped to face the future should be given the opportunity to discuss the matter with a vocational guidance officer.

If I were looking around for someone to take on this post and make a really good job of it, I would not hesitate in picking the person behind me, Mr. Dolan, who has had a great deal of experience in schools and who will now, occupying a seat here, have time for some leisure. Because of his experience he could impress upon these young people and their parents the wisdom of not leaving school at a tender age without being properly equipped. This is a problem that is going to grow and grow, because if we are going to have more and more unskilled workers it is going to be very difficult to find tasks for them.

Only this morning I was reminded of this problem by the small work force which pulled down Central Arcade within a day or two. I think it consisted of about four or six men. In the past, such a wrecking

job would have called for quite a large work force but today it can be done by four or six men. With the age of technology coming upon us so rapidly, this is going to be a very great problem and it is going to be difficult to find employment for unskilled men.

Even the unskilled work today is being done by machinery, and the services of these men are not required. These are problems I feel must be looked at, not from a political point of view but from a public-spirited angle. I wonder if we could drop this matter as a political football, because that gets us nowhere, and make some real investigation into the various aspects that confront us. I do not want to speak all night on this matter and I have, therefore, touched on only a few angles that are obviously known.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Have you any views on the lack of apprenticeships that are being offered at present?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Yes. One of the difficulties I have found is that of fitting a boy for an apprenticeship because, like everything else in the way of vocations today, the qualifications asked for from boys who wish to become apprenticed are growing and growing. The result is that even in the nursing field it is hard to get a nursing aide because the Leaving Certificate is required. So education has to improve in this matter of apprenticeships.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: The opportunities for the ordinary wages man should be improved.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It is difficult to find a person who will apprentice a boy or a girl; because, what is the use of apprenticing them if at the end of the time they cannot pass the examination to fit them for the task and give them an accredited relationship within that vocation?

The whole problem has become so complex that I wonder whether I might make a suggestion. This is not going to be solved by one man in any one aspect at all, and I wonder whether some other members of this Chamber might consider the question of a Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament covering all parties to have a look at the problems and make a complete study of it; because it is something so vital to our community. I think we should all turn our hand to looking for some solution, and I think that a Select Committee, working quietly without any set date for its length of sitting; and able to give interim reports if necessary to the Government of the day, might bring about some real solution.

For instance, we face problems of vast magnitude in finding employment for young women. It is a very difficult task, and today the young women have to be

rapid in their actions. Even in factories the dexterity of hand movements has to be considerable, and if young women are slightly below par it is almost impossible to find them employment.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: The trouble is that too many married women are working and keeping them out.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I think that almost every girl who is unemployed and who is seeking Government aid feels that her employment should be in the field of nursing children, which is unprofitable, or in an office job, for which she is possibly not suited, or as a stenographer-typist in a field in which there are large numbers already available.

We cannot look at decentralisation in a State of this size very happily, because we find that in one town 100 girls were put off from the main industry being carried on there. That sort of thing has a tremendous impact upon the whole economic aspect of that community, and yet that can happen and has happened in this State. There is no possible chance of starting a new factory which could employ that number of females in a country town, because of the economic conditions that prevail.

Efforts were made in some areas of the Eastern States. I know one firm which was making shirts and when it failed to obtain a subsidy from the Railways Department on the transport of its shirts back from the decentralised area, it had to close its country factory and return to the centre of the city. This is the sort of thing that happens so frequently, and I cannot see the solution. We may talk decentralisation but it is going to be difficult to decentralise our industries.

Therefore, I feel it is a matter that concerns every member of this community. It is not just something that should be used by each side politically, because that does not give us an answer; and I would like the Minister to think over the possibilities that might arise from a Select Committee of six or eight people devoting their services to investigating all the difficulties associated with this problem and the possibility of some easement. As I have already suggested, a Select Committee of all parties of both Houses, with no predetermined time for the submission of its report, but with the right to submit interim reports from time to time, might help in solving the problem. I support the motion.

THE HON. J. D. TEAHAN (North-East) [5.23 p.m.]: I join with the other members of this House in congratulating the two new members. I am certain both of them will be acquisitions to the Legislative Council. I am pleased to say that they both received their early education on the goldfields; and I could say they were brought up the hard way and have advanced through their own efforts.

Recently, Mr. President, there was agitation in the eastern goldfields—Kalgoorlie and Boulder—for homes to be built there by the State Housing Commission. The Minister was prevailed upon to send an officer to inquire into the position. As a result we were told there were not as many applicants as was thought. A month or two ago I was talking to a lady who desired a new home to be built by the commission, if that were possible. I told her that she could possibly buy an existing home on the goldfields cheaper than have one built by the commission. She was only a young woman but she gave me a very good reply. She said that she would far rather go into a new home.

The goldfields homes, generally, are 60 or 70 years old, and most of them were built to be of a temporary nature. People considered that the goldfields had a life of 10, 20, or perhaps 30 years. The Golden Mile, and other centres, have survived much longer, and the prospect is that they will last for a long time yet. So this particular woman wisely thought that a new home would be a better proposition.

But the weekly payments frighten the people who are seeking homes. I am told that the rental is £4 to £4 15s. a week. That would be £8 or £9 out of a man's fortnightly wage. Even if he were on a margin over the basic wage that would still be quite a lot; and it does frighten those people away from buying Housing Commission homes.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: They have to pay rent according to the formula of the housing agreement with the Commonwealth.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: I have enough sense to know that an economic rental has to be charged, but I think the basis of arriving at the rental figure will have to be changed either by having a longer period for repayment, or by cheaper interest rates. The rent should be under £4 for a modest home. I am not talking of brick homes, I am talking of modest asbestos buildings.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: The rent is over £6 in some north-west areas.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What would be the capital cost of the homes you have in mind?

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: I would say £2,000 or £2,500.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: In Kalgoorlie?

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Yes.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Including land?

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Yes, because land is not dear.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What would you consider a reasonable rental for one of those houses?

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Something like £2 or £2 10s. I suggest that the period of repayment should be longer, as is the case

with war service homes. If a person did not complete the payment during his life and so did not become the owner, then the agreement could pass on to a member of his family. The home would still be owned by the family eventually, and the Government, or the authority lending the money, would not lose anything, because the value of the home would be improving all the time. In a State like Western Australia, the equity is always there.

I often wonder why, if money can be made available for war service homes—after both world wars—it cannot be made available at a low interest rate to the ordinary purchaser. As the Minister told me, it has to be repaid; but we subsidise a lot of things, and why not housing, if there is to be a loss over the years?

Housing affects everybody. It is the first thing people think of, and it will be admitted that people are more house-proud when buying their own home. I am talking about the goldfields people about whom I know so much—the people wanting these homes; and I know they will look after them. What is called an economic rental today is too high for the people to pay.

Two years ago the Housing Commission promised to build some houses on the goldfields but the people were frightened by the payments which had to be made.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I promised to build some houses there.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Some houses were built.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I was asked what the rent was going to be and despite the information I gave, they asked me to go ahead and build, but when they were constructed we could not let them.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! The Minister will have an opportunity to reply later on.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I was only trying to help.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: As we subsidise a good many other projects, I cannot see why the housing of the people should not be subsidised also.

The question of unemployment is also worth mentioning, and its seriousness cannot be emphasised too much. Dr. Hislop did mention the unemployment problem and it is really disturbing, especially as it affects younger people. Each time I return to the goldfields I am confronted with parents who want me to do something about getting employment for their teenage children, particularly girls. Employment is very difficult to find for young girls of 16, 17 and 18 years, and it is most frustrating for the parents and demoralising for the youngsters concerned. The fact that they try week after week and month after month to obtain employment without success has a demoralising effect on these young people, especially when they have to

walk to the employment office and wait for the weekly handouts from the Social Services Department.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: A job was advertised the other day and 67 girls applied for it.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: I believe that traders, or employers generally, could help a little in this regard. From what I can see there is almost a preference given to married women, whereas the single girls should receive first priority. Employers to whom I have spoken say that married women are more mature and stable; but every married woman was a young girl once. She had to learn, and it takes time. In the country districts this preference for married women is most pronounced, and as there is not such a wide scope for employment in those areas, the fact that preference is given to married women is disturbing.

One would think a trader would give preference in employment to a single girl because, generally speaking, the single girls patronise the department stores, or drapery stores, to a greater extent than married women. Single girls spend far more on dresses, and clothes generally, than married women, and one would expect preference in employment to be given to single girls for that reason. However, that does not happen.

Because the young people cannot obtain employment they become frustrated; the parents are upset, and we find that very often the family will leave the country town in which they are living so as to shift to the city where there are better prospects of employment for the children. This not only upsets the home but it also upsets the country districts concerned; because in Kalgoorlie or Boulder, for instance, the father, generally speaking, is an experienced tradesman in his own particular line. He may be an underground miner, a machine miner, or an electrician, and the district loses the services of a valuable employee.

As a result the numbers in the city are increasing and more housing has to be provided. In view of all these factors I think traders, especially those in the country, would be doing something worth while for themselves and the communities in which they are established if they gave preference in employment to single people.

I was most interested in the speech made by Mr. Dolan the other afternoon. It was a particularly interesting discourse on education, a subject in which we are all interested. During the course of his speech he mentioned the teachers' training college and said that the stage had been reached where numbers of applicants were being rejected. According to the figures he gave, 109 were rejected last year—they were applicants who had the necessary qualifications. However, I was pleased to hear the honourable member say that the standard

of the boys and girls applying for entrance to the college is very high, and that the academic qualifications of applicants had improved. That is one pleasing feature, because at times we hear statements to the contrary.

As regards the 109 applicants who were rejected, where will they be employed? There are not many avenues in which a girl or boy who has passed the Leaving Certificate can be employed. We encourage parents to keep their children at school until they have passed the Junior Certificate, at least. I know I encourage parents to do that and, where possible, I think children should stay at school until they have obtained the Leaving Certificate. But when they have this qualification, where can they be employed if their application to the teachers' training college is rejected? I know that the banks accepted them at one time, but I understand the banks are becoming overcrowded. The same applies to other avenues of employment.

Many youngsters, when they are looking for employment, are told "Your qualifications are what we want but at seventeen you are a bit old. Had you been fifteen and a half we would have been able to employ you." That is most frustrating for a youngster who has certain qualifications and who is seeking employment. As a matter of fact, the stage has been reached where it is becoming disturbing.

Mr. Dolan said that he had been a student as well as a teacher all his life; and among his concluding remarks the honourable member mentioned something that we hear quite often but which I think is worth repeating. He said that the public took an interest in parliamentarians and politics and that their words carry greater weight than perhaps many of us think they do. That is very good news and it is good to hear the honourable member saying things like that. Mr. Dolan said that whenever a member of Parliament is speaking to a group of people, whether it be the Country Women's Association, or any other group, he should try to stress the necessity for education and inculcate the need for greater sums of money to be spent on education.

It is disturbing to hear how much Australia spends on education as compared with other nations of the world. We spend large sums of money on defence, and yet education can be a defence in itself by providing the technicians we need should the necessity for them arise.

It was not very nice to hear that this Government had of necessity to send a mission abroad recently to recruit engineers. A total of 17 road engineers was recruited in Great Britain because there were not sufficient engineers here. That is all wrong, especially while we have people unemployed in this State and those with matriculation qualifications cannot go



any further. I think Mr. Hawke had the answer when he said in another place that we should devise some means of conditioning the people whom I have mentioned so that they can fit into useful positions in society.

Training is given in the defence forces—in the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force. Those services train men and women in various professions such as accountancy, electrical engineering, and so forth, and I think something similar could be done for other young people to enable them to be usefully employed in later life.

The question of decentralisation is uppermost in the minds of many of us; but, as a previous speaker said, it is easy to talk platitudes about this subject but overcoming the problem of centralisation is not so easy. I have attended local governing authority conferences over the years and we have always advocated a flat rate for water charges, electricity charges, and the like. We felt that if such a system were introduced, it would give the country districts a chance to compete with the metropolitan area. Not only would it allow them to compete but it would also make conditions in the country more amenable. Unfortunately, the tendency is towards centralisation, and I should like to quote the goldfields as an example. There are Government abattoirs between Kalgoorlie and Boulder and, according to recent figures, 1,200 fewer cattle were killed in the year just ended compared with four years ago; and 21,000 fewer sheep were killed this year as compared with four years ago.

The master butchers' association, when commenting on the figures, said that this was brought about as a result of the department stores and big chain stores bringing frozen meat to the goldfields. However, that is not the full answer, because the Chamber of Commerce challenged the butchers on the issue and, in criticising them, said that they were not satisfied that the local butchers were making full use of the goldfields abattoirs. I think the butchers were looking for greater profits, and I consider that has been the main cause of the trouble. Probably the master butchers found that if they bought cattle from the metropolitan area while they were cheap, they could put them in cold storage for some months and then sell the meat at a greater profit than if they purchased meat from the local abattoirs.

In that way there is a tendency to centralise on the part of those who preach decentralisation; and the goldfields butchers, who depend on goldfields consumers, should, as far as possible, use the local abattoirs. Unless that is done those working at the abattoirs will find themselves out of work and there will be a further drift to the metropolitan area. Packaged foods are having a big influence, too. We see thousands of dozens of items

such as pies and pasties being railed from Perth to the country districts, which means that many bakers and pastrycooks will have to seek other employment in the city. Unfortunately that trend is increasing and it is a great pity.

Another matter that is bound up with decentralisation is that of school buildings and school quarters, and I should like to mention a small town on the eastern goldfields—I refer to Mt. Ida, which would be 80 miles or thereabouts from the nearest railway station, which is at Menzies. The local branch of the parents and citizens' association approached me and said, "We have a good teacher here, and not only does he do a good job with the children but he is also a good citizen. He takes his place in the local football and cricket teams and helps with any charity work. However, his living quarters are very poor."

I had a look at his living quarters and they certainly could be described as poor. An approach was made to the Education Department, but the department advised that it was felt there was no need to improve them. That is not much encouragement for the better type of school teacher to go to some of these outback centres.

Had this young man, to whom I spoke, been dissatisfied he could quite easily have resigned from the department, and had he done so it would have been a great loss not only to the department but also to citizenship activities in the town. While on this question of country school teachers, I would like to say right away that they are a very good type; they are most impressive.

I have met these young fellows in the outer districts, in places like Mt. Magnet, and at once one gathers from them that they are interested not merely in their nine to four teaching job and school work generally, but in other things as well. They are most interested in all the social and citizenship activities going on around them.

I would now like to touch on the matter of industrial conditions in Western Australia. From time to time we boast that industrial conditions in this State are particularly good in relation to wages and facilities for employees, and so on. There are, however, other places outside Western Australia where more favourable conditions obtain; conditions with which those in this State do not compare very well.

A few months ago I had the pleasure, in company with other parliamentarians, of visiting Tasmania. We only had time to visit two industrial establishments while there, but even on those short visits we learned a great deal. One industry to which I would like to refer is the Cadburys factory at Claremont. It is a real eye-opener to see the conditions under which the employees work in that factory. We

were first shown round the dining room where the employees have their midday meal. The dining room facilities were equal to, if not better than, those provided at Parliament House. The food was prepared under the most hygienic conditions and the general layout was splendid. We passed through other sections of the factory where the same high standard we had seen in the dining room prevailed.

While speaking to the senior employees there we asked whether the continual use of various machines did not make their job monotonous. They replied that to avoid monotony they adopted the practice of changing the men's work from one unit to another. It certainly was a very sensible procedure. The factory itself was set in a beautiful park-like atmosphere, where a bowling green and a golf course were provided for the benefit of the employees. The bowling green was as good as any I have seen, as was the golf course.

The employees of the factory to which I have referred were also provided with housing at a very nominal rental; indeed, so reasonable was the rental that all the houses were occupied. It was a great privilege, and a pleasure, to visit this industrial undertaking in Tasmania; and it was certainly good to see that the employees were catered for during both working and leisure hours. Their conditions of service were excellent.

The other industrial establishment we visited was the Electrolytic Zinc Corporation works at Risdon, a small distance from Hobart. Because of the sulphur fumes, the conditions there were of a somewhat dusty nature; but every means was employed to make conditions as pleasant as possible. The change rooms in the factory were good, and each man was provided with his own locker in which he could leave his clothes while he was away at work.

In our tour of the works we were also shown the lunchroom used by the workers, and we discovered that each employee was provided with a locker in the lunchroom. At the close of the day shift, a train pulled in to transport the workers back home. On making inquiries we were told that the employees were charged one shilling a week, for which sum they were able to travel to and from work, no matter where they lived. I inquired as to who found the balance of the money and was told that the remainder was subsidised by the company. Members will appreciate what this means to the worker.

At this stage I would like to make particular reference to the person who showed us around the works. He conducted us around in a most intelligent manner, and was most interesting in his explanations. The young man in question is the son of Mr. Garrigan, and he was trained in the School of Mines at Kalgoorlie. We are very proud of him. I have known him since he was a boy.

Previous members have mentioned the question of child delinquency; and Mr. Bennetts made particular reference to the Child Welfare Department, and the appointment of officers to that department. I must say that I endorse some of the remarks made by Mr. Bennetts. I know that for some years he has been advocating that the child welfare officers should be older and more experienced men; that those who were doing the work at the moment appeared to be youthful and inexperienced. I think the honourable member suggested that perhaps the department should be more selective in the choice of its officers; particularly when they are so closely in touch with the family life of the community.

There is no doubt that Mr. Bennetts was quite right in his reference to the young man who was allowed to continue in his appointment after his actions had caused a man to be wrongfully imprisoned. This welfare officer was allowed to continue his work among the boys and girls of the district. We all know that mistakes are made, but I thought it was wrong to continue to employ this young man in the Kalgoorlie office, particularly after he had been convicted of an offence. He certainly did not provide an example for the youth of the district to follow. The attitude adopted by the boys and girls was that this officer was in no position to teach them what was right or wrong. A great deal of surprise was evinced by people in the district at the continuation of this officer in his job.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Would you have sacked him and put him on the open market?

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: I did not suggest that at all. But very often it is possible to find such a person a similar job somewhere else in the department.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: He was transferred as soon as it was practicable.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: The Minister will not say that the Merredin incident was not a shocking and a revolting one. All the evidence given in connection with that incident was sworn evidence. It was a dreadful state of affairs that a young child was neglected to the extent that it died of malnutrition.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You cannot blame the department for that.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: I would point out that the child did not suffer from malnutrition to that extent in one week or one month. Surely to goodness someone should have known what was going on! I will pass on from that subject, because I am sure the departmental officers were shocked at what happened, and I am certain they will take steps to ensure that it does not occur again.

I think the problem of child delinquency could be overcome to a great extent by the establishment of youth clubs. There are a number of such clubs in Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and as a result the incidence of child delinquency is not high in those areas; though of course we do get the odd case. But the youth clubs there are very active. For instance, the Y.M.C.A. does a very good job; and it is always pleasant to see young people employing their leisure hours playing basketball and tennis, or perhaps taking part in debates. What is more important, the parents of the children also take an active interest in what the children are doing.

While on this question of youth clubs, I think I ought to say that I feel too much emphasis is placed on boxing. While boxing is all very well, and while it does help to build character if it is supervised, there is a tendency for excessive boxing to be permitted in these youth clubs, which very often encourages boys to employ strong arm and standover tactics. I do think that less emphasis should be placed on boxing.

Another feature in relation to youth clubs with which I would like to deal is that very often one finds a club which has been going strong suddenly breaking up. On inquiry one generally discovers that the leader of the club is a school teacher who has been transferred to some other district. Very often this means there is nobody to carry on the good work, and the club ceases to function. The success of the Y.M.C.A. clubs in Kalgoorlie is due mainly to the fact that there is a pool of leaders from which the clubs there can draw; and this of course means continuity in the activities of the clubs. It does seem a great shame that a youth club, once established, should fail to carry on the good work merely because its leader, who happens to be a school teacher, is transferred.

Finally, I wish to have a word to say about roads. It has been said in another place that attention will be given by the authorities to those districts that have suffered as a result of the winter rains. As members know, we certainly have had an abnormal rainfall. If any priority is to be given, however, I think it should be given to those districts—and I refer mainly to the Murchison and similar areas—where all forms of transport were cut off; where, for instance, the roads were impassable, the airstrips could not be used, and the railways could not operate. I support the motion.

*Sitting suspended from 5.57 to 7.30 p.m.*

**THE HON. J. J. GARRIGAN** (South-East) [7.30 p.m.]: I take this opportunity of congratulating The Hon. J. Dolan and The Hon. D. P. Dellar on their election

to this House. I am certain they will carry out their duties in a very capable manner, and will be an acquisition to this House and to Western Australia.

I propose to direct a few comments to the Minister for Mines. For many years I have not been satisfied with the amount of money being spent on prospecting for gold in Western Australia. I am not saying it is the fault of the State Government; I suggest that the fault lies with the Federal Government. The goldmining industry has done a great deal for the economy not only of Western Australia but of Australia as a whole. At present the goldmining industry is on the decline. It is a sad sight to see a lovely town like Bullfinch, with its modern swimming pool, its beautiful town hall, and its other amenities, going downhill. With the exception of television, Bullfinch has the same amenities as are available to the people in Perth. Many industries in the area are on the decline, from Bullfinch right through to Navoria. Even Coolgardie is only a small reflection of the distant past.

To replace these industries, and to look towards the future, we must have money; and the only way to get the money which is needed is through Federal Government grants. It is of no use our relying on those people who work in the bush and who contribute under the miners' subsistence scheme. The problem has to be tackled in a broader way, and we should work out a comprehensive and constructive scheme which will preserve the goldmining industry in Western Australia.

Experienced miners should receive at least the basic wage, and should be given every assistance. We have our technical men, our geologists, our mine surveyors, and our mines' inspectors. Prospectors should be paid at least the basic wage, provided with vehicles and machinery, and given every encouragement to seek new mines. As I have said before, it is no use our looking for old abandoned mines, we have to find new ones; and the only way to do this is to get experienced men and for us to pay them what they are justly entitled to.

The goldmining industry in Western Australia has carried us through two great depressions, and those who work in the industry are to be congratulated. Practically the whole of the pastoral industry in this State, from Halls Creek to Norseman, has been developed by miners who invested their savings in the pastoral industry. Miners established a goldmining scheme at Marvel Loch, which is one of the most beautiful farming areas in the State. Wherever we look—at Narembreen, Goomalling, or Norseman—ex-miners from the goldmines have established farms. We should thank those miners for their activities and keep their memory green for

the great things they have done for the betterment and progress of Western Australia.

More pressure should be brought to bear on the Federal Government, to enable us to preserve this great industry which has done so much for our State. I hope and trust the Minister for Mines and the Government will do something in this direction.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What is the prospector paid today? What is his weekly wage?

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: £5 a week. Does not the Minister think that a man who works in the bush is worth more than that?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He gets more than that.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I now direct my remarks to the Minister for Local Government. Esperance is a fast growing town, but it receives only a limited amount of finance from its ratepayers. Increased finance is necessary in order to progress and develop. I draw the Minister's attention to the deplorable state of the fisheries road which follows the coast eastward. School children have to travel 18 miles to and from school. This has been a very abnormal season and the road is in a deplorable state. Children travel along that road every day, and the present condition of the road is not fair to them. I hope the Minister for Local Government will do all he can to assist the Shire of Esperance in making the fisheries road an all-weather road.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Have the school children been able to get to school every day?

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: They could not get to school about a month ago. They could not get through because the road was too bad.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: A lot of school children have not been able to get to school for three weeks or a month.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: The Government has opened up a huge area of land in the Salmon Gums and mallee districts. That land is very heavily timbered, and the cost of clearing, fencing, and conserving water is enormous. It is beyond the financial means of any young settler to receive a return from his land within at least five years. I suggest that the responsibility lies with the banks of Western Australia; namely, the Rural and Industries Bank, the Reserve Bank, and the Commonwealth Bank. Settlers should be given every assistance in the initial stages of farming in the mallee district.

I now refer to that hardy annual, workers' compensation. I am not going to deal with the whole of the problem because

I could get the old age pension before I had finished. I propose to speak briefly on silicosis. There is a committee sitting which will make recommendations to this House in the very near future. I hope that when the recommendations are submitted the 30 members of this House will give sympathetic understanding to the injustice which has been done to these people for so long.

As we know, silicosis can be contracted in only one way, that is by working in very unfavourable conditions—unhealthy conditions—in the goldmining industry of Western Australia. There are other industrial diseases which should come under this Act. I know Dr. Hislop will agree with me when I say that bronchitis, asthma, and other pulmonary diseases which are brought about through working in the goldmining industry are not compensated. That is an anomaly. The only thing which the doctors have to go on is a man's x-ray plate.

I have a bundle of documents known as "Dust Tickets", which we get when hard work underground proves detrimental to health. With your permission, Sir, I will read what is stated on one of these tickets.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Goodness me! We are looking into this problem.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: It will not take me very long. It states—

Your recent chest x-ray shows evidence of silicosis in the early stages but is otherwise satisfactory. In your own interest, you should avoid dusty conditions and have a chest x-ray in 12 months. This x-ray may be taken here, at the Mines Mobile X-Ray Unit, at Perth Chest Clinic or at any country hospital. Please ask that the x-ray be forwarded here for review.

If you desire any further information, please contact the undersigned at the above address.

J. McNULTY,  
Mines Medical Officer.

I would say without fear of contradiction that anybody who, while working underground, contracts silicosis, bronchitis, asthma, or enlarged heart is justly entitled to compensation. Dr. Hislop knows, as the Act states, that a man is compensated only for silicosis. I will be giving evidence next Friday on this subject, and I hope and trust that every member of the House will be sympathetic to the justice of the cause of these people, because of the injustice that has been done them for so many years as a result of an anomaly in the Workers' Compensation Act.

I do not intend to delay the House for very long, but I would like to bring before members something which Mr. Teahan mentioned the other night in regard to

decentralisation—a word which is spoken so often but which means so little. When I speak of the prospect of achieving decentralisation, I speak with sincerity; and unless there is sincerity in respect of inducing people to go to the country, within a few years we will have the whole of our population this side of the Darling Range.

We in the outback—perhaps at Leonora and Gwalia—pay something like 5s. a gallon for petrol, and we pay a very high price for water. The price we pay may not sound high, but when a man waters his garden every day the cost becomes a burden.

We should try to bring about decentralisation; and I say that every member of this house is elected to represent his own constituency, and if he does not do that he is doing the wrong thing. I tell members that in order to assist in achieving decentralisation we should have a flat rate for water and petrol and for other commodities which are so essential to the outback of Western Australia; and, if we had, we would have a flood of population from the metropolitan area. I will not keep the House longer. I support the motion.

**THE HON. F. J. S. WISE** (North—Leader of the Opposition) [7.49 p.m.]: I desire firstly to join all those who have congratulated our two new members and who have, I am sure, been impressed by their maiden speeches in this Chamber; and I wish the new members a very long term of office, representing their respective provinces, and I feel sure we will benefit from their wise counsel and the contributions they will make in this House. There is not only a responsibility to the people on the roll in their provinces, but a responsibility through legislation to benefit every section whose case is dealt with either in simple debate or by legislation.

I intend this evening to adopt an unusual role, perhaps, and make my comments directly in association with matters referred to in the Speech delivered by the Lieutenant-Governor. The first matter I think that strikes the eye of all North Province members, after the introductory remarks, is the reference to the Commonwealth financial assistance being sought over the next few years for the Ord River Dam, whereby it is anticipated to make preparation for the irrigation of 30,000 acres within the next few years.

I emphasise very strongly that this will depend on the economic results of the first five farms now in operation. Many people were disappointed on the occasion of the opening of the diversion dam by the Prime Minister, inasmuch as he made no promise in prospect. I think he would have been very foolish had he given any indication

of complete satisfaction, or of the intention of the Commonwealth to make a promise for further financial assistance at that point.

No matter how we analyse the magnificence of the work done by engineers in the construction of the first stage of the diversion dam—the channelling, the roads, and all the other things that go to make the Ord settlement what it is at the moment—the whole of its future depends on the economic results of the first five farms; and those results will not be known for several months yet. Indeed there will need to be a tremendously generous interpretation of costings, and a very generous contribution by two Governments in the assistance of those settlers to give the scheme that economic prospect; because, in many avenues so far, costs of necessity have been very high; and, of course, at this stage we cannot afford a failure.

I hope that the Minister will pursue the thought I expressed on the Supply Bill the other evening in regard to two ways which are of great urgency and by which the present settlers should, in my view, be helped. The figures in the Speech on page 4 suggest that an excellent season has assured a successful year for the State's pastoral industry. Those of us who, for a long time, have known the whole of the north can say that in all that time it is doubtful whether the whole of the pastoral industry has at any one time ever looked so well or ever enjoyed such a generous season. In my recollection, never has, not merely one district, but the whole of the north-west from Murchison to Wyndham, looked so well at the one time.

We can, however, get no satisfaction, or very little, from an analysis of the industries which have supported the north for so long, or from an analysis of the production coming from them; and I particularly refer to the pastoral industry, because in one district the production of that industry has not been so low for several decades, and in another—if we take the far north; the Kimberleys—there is something of very serious moment which requires urgent attention, and that is better husbandry in most of the cases involved.

We recently had the opportunity of reading a report tabled on the second day after Parliament met. If some of the contentions outlined in that report are true, it is rather a silly situation if people with a prospect of a 3 per cent. return on capital are to be interested in taking over heavily-developed properties; especially when the amounts involved run into not tens of thousands of pounds but hundreds of thousands of pounds; because one property recently changed hands on the Fitzroy for £125,000, and another is held under option at a figure in excess of £200,000.

Those sorts of things are very important when one considers the type of production coming from these properties. One of the properties I have mentioned will, this year, market over 2,000 bullocks. But when we look at what is happening at the meat works of the Kimberleys, there is cause for considerable concern. There is no doubt that this year's slaughterings at Wyndham are down more than 30 lb. per head on last year; and there is no doubt that many station properties which are within droving and transport distance of the Wyndham Meatworks, and which have received a wonderful contribution from the State to use this country—and abuse it!—for so long, see fit to put many cattle on the road to the Eastern States.

At the moment from one station in Western Australia, 4,500 cattle are on the road to the Eastern States; and a group of properties owned in one interest arranged for transportation or droving of 11,500 beasts this year to the Eastern States. Those cattle are all from properties which formerly supplied Wyndham.

I have the whole of the droving schedules of cattle which normally, and indeed properly, should be slaughtered within Western Australia; and, in my view, if those interests were considerate to the country they are leasing and the product from it, they would send their cattle to Wyndham; but the total number of cattle within droving range of Wyndham from stations which formerly supplied Wyndham and which are shifting those cattle East this year exceeds 20,000 head.

Most of those beasts will be slaughtered at the Lakes Creek works, Rockhampton—not this year, but that is their ultimate destination; and we find, as I saw only three weeks ago in the area, one of the meat works had only female cattle being slaughtered, and the calves were dying in the yard. Female cattle under two years were being slaughtered, and cattle under 400 lb. average—indeed under 350 lb. if the order was for large killings. The day appears to have gone when the average of Kimberley bullocks turned off was 650 lb., which was somewhere near the standard 25 years ago.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: Would not that be through supplying the American market with a leaner type of beef?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: If we take the over-all figure, those types are included; but, unfortunately, those types predominate. It is all very well to suggest that great advances have been achieved in various ways, but we have to be realistic and admit that not all of the things that are said to be happening are happening; and the prospects for the future have to be looked at quite apart from glamorising something to build it

up for purposes other than national purposes. With my colleagues, I am very concerned to see retrogression in the pastoral industry. In many instances much of it due to bad husbandry by these people who have been privileged to operate in parts of this State for so long.

It is very pleasing, Mr. President, to read of the enormity of the iron ore deposits which have been discovered in the past couple of years in north Australia. During the last five or six years, members in this Chamber have been stating a case to try to induce the Commonwealth Government to agree to the export of 100,000 tons of iron ore per annum; to agree to the use of some of our iron ore resources then known. Then, almost overnight, it is rather strange to find it is not a question of 100,000 tons; it is not a question of no-one yet being in the position to know of the enormity of the deposits—particularly in the Pilbara; it is not a question of 1,000,000 tons, but a question of thousands of millions of tons spread over comparatively compact districts, and yet spread over a very wide area.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: And a very difficult area in terrain.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Extremely difficult in terrain, but indeed not as difficult as the terrain which exists in some parts of the world where iron ore is mined. It is a difficulty which the ingenuity of man will very readily surmount.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I share that view.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I am extremely concerned about the indefiniteness of the future markets for this commodity although we hear of the enormity of the deposits which according to these reports are increasing week by week. I have here a piece of core of iron ore recently taken out of a hole of great depth in the Bull-geda district in the Pilbara. It is of very high quality, and from far below the surface. Yet it is there to be seen on the surface also, and to be calculated over many many miles.

All the firms and corporations involved in the agreements with the Government have certain responsibilities as well as rights within those agreements, and from what the Press has told us in regard to the latest—that is, the agreement with Conzinc-Riotinto—an enormous quantity of iron ore will be shifted. Even vessels of 100,000 tons capacity are being thought about to transport this ore. As a consequence of events, it follows that such tonnages will require extensive harbour facilities, and, therefore, only the best harbours must be discovered and decided upon to effect sales of the commodity actually known and determined.

There is a great deal of conjecture in the north as to where one or more ports may go. I hope that those who are in operation singly and with the Government will announce something very shortly as to where the port for the large iron ore deposits—the Hamersley deposits—may be sited. I hope the Minister can tell us, and tell the public more conclusively than they have yet been told, something about the prospective markets that will be offering in the very near future and not in the far distant future.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I will be glad to tell you that as soon as it can be clarified, and nobody is more anxious to do it than I am.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: From what the Minister has said, it is obvious that very little of a conclusive character is known; and all of us in Western Australia are anxious to get, and will be delighted to have, that information.

The search for oil which is being continued in the north is providing, at this stage, much more than ordinary interest. The bore known as Whaleback No. 1, which is being put down by the Wapet company, is in an area not very many miles from where oil was first discovered in our north. In the *Wapet News Digest* of June, 1963, the following appears:—

Whaleback No. 1 is the outcome of a review of all the known data from this and surrounding areas, many months of study by experienced technicians, new seismograph findings and a continuation of Wapet's balanced program to leave no stone unturned in its oil search. It would be practically impossible to calculate all the costs leading up to the final pinpointing of this location, but the overall direct expenditure by the Company in this area to date is in excess of £6,500,000. By the end of this year the cost of Wapet's oil search program in Western Australia will have exceeded £20,000,000.

The reference to £6,500,000 includes a very circumscribed area not far from the North West Cape; and, whether one drives over that country, walks over it, or flies over it, the work that has been done on the ground is very obvious.

It does seem that although difficulties have been experienced in the first few hundred feet of this last bore which has been sunk, the geological prospects and the opinions held by many in the firm of Wapet would incline one to think it has many serious and earnest hopes at last of striking oil once more in that area.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is taxing the patience of the most enthusiastic prospector to keep going until he has spent £20,000,000.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: There is no doubt about that, but I make the comparison of a prospector recently in the Hamersley Range who said "Why worry about spending £20,000,000 on oil? We have 2,500,000,000 tons of iron ore that we know of, and what is that worth?" So it is a matter of comparison. The oil geologist, very hopefully, realises what a contribution he would make to the Australian economy, and the iron ore men say, "We can make a contribution ourselves if we can only sell the iron;" and that, strictly, is the point.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: All have a contribution to make. Look at the contribution gold has made to the economy of Western Australia.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: There is no doubt about that; and there is no doubt that our latent iron ore deposits, if properly developed, should be able to make a very important contribution to the economy.

In this connection, I noticed the following sentence contained in the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor:—

Culture pearls production at Kuri Bay is being maintained.

What a remarkable transformation in public thinking, and in Government thinking, brought about by a world use of a commodity in substitution of a very great commodity, mother-of-pearl shell! When I first lived in Broome there were 350 boats operating from that town of a population of 3,000 people. Today there are 14 boats operating in pearl-shell fishing from Broome. The Kuri Bay project, of course, is financed by a combination of American, Australian, and some Japanese money. It is operated by Japanese personnel, and the project is producing a very interesting commodity; namely, culture pearls in button and in gem types, after an intensive study of the biology of the shell oyster. Another company is in operation further south from Kuri Bay, and the culture pearl industry is being actively pursued by a father and his sons who have made an exhaustive biological study of the life of the pearl-shell oyster and what may be done with it.

I have here, Mr. President, in my hand the product of this new operation in the culture pearl industry of Western Australia. These valuable specimens appear to have an almost unlimited market. They are being ordered by firms abroad, in their tens of thousands, for placement in the markets of the world. I would like members to have a look at these specimens if, with your permission, Sir, I am permitted to hand them around.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Do you want to give them away?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: The buttons which appear on that pair of shells are nine months old, and so skilful is the

operation that the percentage of loss by the operators both at Kuri Bay and at Exmouth Gulf is remarkably low.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It must have been an irritating operation to the oyster.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: The technique has stemmed from an incision initially made so that the oyster can be anaesthetised to insert the nuclei for the growth of the pearl, but the technique is so improved, that members can now see for themselves, with these two specimens, how quickly the oyster overcomes the irritation of some foreign body being added to the shell.

Thousands of these pearl buttons are being produced in Western Australia this year. Tens of thousands of shells will be put down and farmed in that manner. For sound pearl production, an incision is made in the flesh of the fish, a nuclei is inserted and although he tries to exude the irritant the results, because of a laboratory situated on the spot, have been amazing.

It does seem an extremely strange thing that a practice which was scorned early in the century—indeed one prominent master pearler of Broome, the late Captain Gregory, was threatened with all sorts of diabolical happenings when he dared suggest in the early days of the pearling industry that culture pearls might be introduced to Broome—is now practised by several nations which are involved and interested in this important industry.

I am sure that all of us, although deploring the fact that we are not selling thousands of tons of mother-of-pearl shell, which was the basis of the industry in earlier years, are pleased to know that the market has gone to the synthetics, though we hope that this latest product of the pearling industry will have a ready sale in many parts of the world. It is remarkable how close to the site of the operation is the harvest of the shell itself, which is brought up by the thousands and dealt with one by one to give the results that all members can now see in these two specimens.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Was not an application made for assistance?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Earlier, yes; that is quite so. I now wish to refer to the reference in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech of the addition to the passenger cargo fleet of the State Shipping Service. This is the m.v. *Kangaroo* which made its maiden voyage last December. Several members were present at the ceremony at which the *Kangaroo* was blessed and at which many words were spoken which, in my view, were uttered with tongue in cheek. The addition of the *Kangaroo* to the fleet of the State Shipping Service was very important to the north-west.

I listened to the imploring attitude of the Minister when he told the people of the north to make sure they gave their patronage fully and freely to the State

Shipping Service, if it was to continue in operation. But at the very time those words were spoken—even before and since—hundreds of tons of cargo suitable for transportation by the State Shipping Service were transported by road at the decree of the Government. Hundreds of tons were being hauled by road from Perth to destinations in the north—Roebourne, Port Hedland, and Derby—a distance of 1,200 miles.

These were materials for which in many cases there was no hurry for delivery, but they were being hauled those vast distances by road, in lieu of transport by the State Shipping Service. With all its desire to inspire the users of the State fleet over two generations, the Government is now giving to all and sundry permits to haul goods and materials for more than 1,000 miles, if they are for Government purposes.

It is very hard indeed for a private individual to obtain a permit, no matter how good is his case; but contracts have been let by this Government for the transport of materials for bridges, including the transport of even aggregate to Harding River at Roebourne. Large tonnages of cement, iron, and steel are being carted by road, as well as piping for irrigation undertakings. I suspect very much the actions of the Government in this matter. There is insufficient work for the vessels of the State fleet—

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Does the Government send anything by ship?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: —yet we find the Government deliberately consigning materials by road through hauliers, who own the vehicles and plant, operating from Perth and denying the people of the north their wages for working at the port, and denying the hauliers of the north the use of their vehicles within those districts. The people of the south who go up there with large capacity trucks sometimes do not even buy a tin of sardines at their destination before they turn back on their homeward journey! It is a matter in which the Government might indulge in a little introspection, by having a look, because the practice has been applied to hundreds of tons of cargo destined to different parts of the north.

I am very interested in the scant comment in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech regarding education; and also in two speeches made in this Chamber—one by Mr. Dolan, and the other by Dr. Hislop this evening. I wish to direct for a few moments some comments on the financing of the medical school at the University. I want to make it quite clear at the beginning of my remarks that I am a great supporter of, and believer in, insurance. I believe that members of the community who are shareholders or policy-holders



of insurance companies have made a great contribution to Australia's economy through the years in very many directions.

Insurance companies are amongst the soundest, most influential, and most financial entities in Australia. They base their premiums and the values of their policies on a very rigid calculation made by many actuaries. As many of us have experienced, actuaries are at least as cautious as geologists in their forecasts, and that is saying a lot. They err on the safe side, perhaps by 50 per cent. or more.

Involved in what I am about to say are the medical profession and their contributions, as well as the insurance people. Gratuitously, or at very small payment, very many members of the medical profession have throughout the years made enormous contributions to the wellbeing of mankind, including in particular the ability of men and women to live longer. Medical research—I am given to understand by a prominent medical gentleman in this State—requires all the assistance and inspiration that Governments or organisations can give to promote and provoke avenues of research with the objective of the betterment of mankind.

From the insurance side I would first give this illustration: Between 45 to 50 years ago a young man of 20 years of age taking out a full life policy paid a premium not very different from the premium paid by a 20-year-old man in 1940 or 1960, which was actuarially considered to be the amount required, including all the overhead charges and the accumulation of funds, to meet all subsequent payments, plus generous bonuses over a period of years.

The activities of the medical profession have resulted in men and women living much longer; and the Australian life tables clearly show that part of the contribution from learned people associated with the medical profession has been of much benefit to the consolidated wealth of insurance companies. Taken from the Australian life tables which are prepared on the basis of the results of a national population census, there is shown in several Commonwealth works and records a very comprehensive result both in the lives of males and females.

I quote from the *Official Year Book of Western Australia*, 1962, the following, which appears on page 120:—

There has been a substantial and consistent increase in the expectation of life of both the Australian male and the Australian female. Thus, while males, according to the experience of the period 1881-1890, had at birth an average expectancy of 47.20 years of life, the latest investigation shows that the expectancy has risen to 67.14 years.

The anticipated life-span of females at birth has increased from 50.84 years to 72.75 years in the same period.

I shall not weary members by quoting extensively from life assurance tables, which are statistically correct, but I wish to say that in my own case, and in the case of many other people—perhaps even many in this Chamber—on the first policy we may have held we have been paying premiums for years longer than the actuaries thought possible at the time when the policy was initially taken out.

In short, from the original actuarial calculations, life insurance companies have received a lot of money which they did not expect at the time when the premiums were assessed. It will be said that bonus additions are becoming more and more generous, and in my own case, as well as in the case of many others, under certain policies the bonuses exceed the amount of annual contribution. But they will not benefit me very much, nor a gentleman if his wife is a widow. Therefore, for my own personal use I cannot expect very much from the accretion brought about by bonus additions. That is something for the future.

Even a 20-year policy taken out today has a higher standard of bonus. What I point out is that life assurance companies in Australia—there are 23 of them in Western Australia alone—can find sufficient money to demolish buildings worth hundreds of thousands of pounds for the very purpose of supplanting them with others worth half a million pounds or more. They can raise the money; and they do raise it in matters of research and agriculture, such as the big venture in the south-eastern corner of another State—South Australia.

If members have not seen it they ought to. It is a wonderful example of the contribution made by a life assurance company to research into land development. I suggest they give a modicum, but they do give something towards cancer research in Australia. I make the suggestion that life assurance companies through their general organisation could make history for themselves, and also make one of the greatest contributions to the health of mankind, if they were to give £500,000 a year to the six States—to the University chairs of medicine—for research.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: The companies would not feel it.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: It could be said, and it would be said by some, that we have not the right to ask, but all of us know how insurance is controlled. Firstly, it is controlled under Commonwealth law; and there is no stricture at all, because those to whom I have referred as policy holders or shareholders would, I

am sure, willingly give something which has been allocated to posterity in bonus form to something realistic and actual, even up to £100,000 to each State towards medical research or medical use.

When I first had thoughts on this matter I discussed them with certain gentlemen who in various parts of Australia belong to the Royal Australian College of Physicians. They thought if such a suggestion could be put forward in the proper places the benefit to mankind in the future would be incalculable. I am conscious there are the directors of insurance companies who will have to be consulted on this matter, as well as the leading men in business and in the medical profession. I most earnestly present this proposal for the consideration of all the insurance companies in Australia to make a permanent and remarkable contribution to the health of the community through medical research.

I notice another reference in the Speech dealing with the provision of court buildings for country towns. The questions recently asked in this Chamber by Mr. Strickland were very pertinent to that comment, because in that lovely little town of Broome is a courthouse of history and a courthouse which if remodelled to meet today's needs would be equal to anything we could devise in modern architectural standards.

The present courthouse in Broome is the old cable station built at the turn of the century when cables came from Singapore and Surabaya to Broome. It is a structure which has withstood all the cyclones and which, if remodelled to meet today's needs, would leave no doubt that Broome would continue to be the home of the magistracy and the legal centre of the north-west. I suggest that these matters should be taken quickly into consideration by the Government, because we can allow such matters to drift so far that they get entirely out of their perspective and deprive the people involved of their rights.

I did intend to deal with certain financial matters but I will save them until the next Supply Bill and simply conclude by stating that I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. C. Mattiske.

*House adjourned at 8.32 p.m.*

# Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 20th August, 1963

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