

Before I conclude I feel I ought again to point out that there has been a blanket cover over about 2,000 acres in the areas of Swan View, Greenmount, and Helena Valley. Answers given me to questions I asked tonight do indicate that building can be carried out in the Greenmount and Helena Valley area, but there is still a blanket cover restricting building in Swan View.

Mr. Lewis: What about Eden Hill?

Mr. BRADY: The sewerage system goes as far as Guildford, and I have heard there is likely to be an extension to Eden Hill.

Mr. Lewis: The residents are protesting about houses being built there.

Mr. BRADY: I would point out to the Minister that the natives were living in that area before the people who are now complaining. One woman showed me the title deeds to her property at Eden Hill, and they go back at least 20 years; to a time when there were no houses at Eden Hill at all.

I think it was the Labor Government which built four or five brand new houses for natives at Eden Hill; and even Sir Charles Gairdner, our respected ex-Governor, took the trouble to inspect these houses. Some of the natives in that area have been accepted, though others have moved on. I feel sure that anyone would complain if a dump of a house were built in front of his property, whether the people who occupied it were black or white.

If the Minister provides decent houses he will have no problem, because the majority of the people there are in favour of houses being built in that area. I will admit that some of the families are not yet quite up to the standard required of a modern home; I must be fair to the Minister in that regard.

I would, however, like the Government to build some of the Geraldton type houses in order that these people might have a roof over their heads. We must get away from mia mias and humpies which generally accumulate all the filth around the place.

Mr. Lewis: There will be no mia mias.

Mr. BRADY: We must appreciate that the families concerned will have children going to school, and that these children are entitled to return home and do their homework under decent conditions.

As I have pointed out, many of the natives are making the grade: one girl has become a triple certificated nurse, while others have entered the teaching profession. If we encourage these people we will help them to do a good job.

Now that a sum of money is to be made available from the Commonwealth I hope the Minister will keep in mind what Dr.

Schapper, and I, have been advocating—that we must have houses before we can lift the standard of natives. It is no use at all our talking about education, health, and other things, if we have not the basic requirement of housing to offer these people.

Mr. Lewis: Do you go along with Dr. Schapper's ideas?

Mr. BRADY: I have not read all he has said, but he does advocate that the basic requirement for the average native family is housing.

Mr. Lewis: That is not new.

Mr. BRADY: I certainly go along with that idea of Dr. Schapper's. Now that the Minister has some encouragement from the Commonwealth in the shape of extra finance, I hope that when the distribution takes place he will have his plans ready to house these people in the various parts of the metropolitan area. I hope he receives a tidy sum for this purpose. We have one-third of the Commonwealth to look after, and our native problem is greater than that of any other State; apart from which Western Australia has a large percentage of natives to look after.

On Monday night I met eight families living at Allawah Grove, and three of the husbands were away shearing. These men are doing a good and responsible job as fathers, and they deserve all the consideration we can give them. I will leave the matter there and conclude by supporting the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Burt.

House adjourned at 9.46 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 15th August, 1968

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

QUESTIONS (7): ON NOTICE

SCHOOL AT SOUTH SCARBOROUGH

Provision

1. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is a new primary school proposed for South Scarborough or west of Wembley Downs?
- (2) If the reply to (1) is "Yes," when is it proposed to commence construction?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes, negotiations are in hand to acquire a composite high and primary school site for this area.
- (2) It is not known at present.

2. This question was postponed.

STATE FORESTS

Area Affected by "Die-back"

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

- (1) Can he give an estimate of the total area of State forest affected by the disease commonly referred to as "die-back"?
- (2) Is it considered that the infestation is reaching, or has reached, serious proportions?
- (3) Is there any known cure, or adequate control measure, which can limit the spread of the disease?
- (4) What measures are being employed by the Forests Department to inhibit the disease, or to minimise its effects?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes. Approximately 30,000 acres of forest have been very seriously affected and approximately 70,000 acres are affected in varying lesser degrees.
- (2) The disease has reached serious proportions in some areas, but has been moving only slowly in more recent years.
- (3) "Die-back" is due to a root-rot fungus, *phytophthora cinnamomi*, which occurs widely throughout the world, but is not native to Australia. No absolute cure has been discovered yet anywhere in the world. It occurs mainly on the more poorly drained, low lying sites and usually stops on reaching better drained soils. Fortunately the areas worst affected are usually not the best forest types.

Large scale research is being conducted by the Commonwealth and the State forestry research organisations. Overseas experts on *phytophthora* from Europe, U.S.A., and New Zealand have been brought in to examine the position and advise. They have commended the lines of attack already instituted here, but could advise of no cure.

The disease could affect valuable eucalyptus forests in the Eastern States, and odd outbreaks are known there, so it is exciting Australia-wide interest and concern.

- (4) Since the spores of the fungus can be spread by mud adhering to vehicles, log hauling from infected areas is avoided in winter as far as possible. Washing mud from trucks and tractors before operators move into clean areas

is being tried. The physical problems and economics of enforcing various hygiene measures are being studied by the timber industry and Forests Department jointly. In summer the dry dusty conditions inhibit its spread by vehicles. Changes in the tree-marking system have been introduced, leading to clear felling with a consequent large reduction in area being worked over by loggers. This is expected to inhibit spread of the fungus.

Research has found a number of valuable imported tree species—pines and eucalyptus—which resist the fungus, and extensive field trials have been established for some years. *Pinus pinaster*, tallow wood—one of the most valuable N.S.W. timbers—and Tasmanian blue-gum, show particularly good results. Eventually most "die-back" affected areas will be reforested with these and other species.

RENTAL AND PURCHASE HOMES AT MERREDIN

Occupation by Government Employees

4. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS (for The Hon. J. J. Garrigan) asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many State school teachers are employed in Merredin?
- (2) How many members of the Police Force are employed in Merredin?
- (3) How many men in each branch of the Railways Department are employed in Merredin?
- (4) How many State housing rental or purchase homes in Merredin are occupied by employees of the—
 - (a) Railways Department;
 - (b) Education Department; and
 - (c) Police Department?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) 46.
- (2) One sergeant, eight constables—total nine.
- (3)

Civil Engineering Branch	56
Motor Power Branch	124
Traffic Branch	132
Stores Branch	2
	<hr/> 314

- (4) It is not possible to ascertain from State Housing Commission records the current occupation of tenants.

NATIVE CHILDREN

Enrolments in Country High School Hostels

5. The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON (for The Hon. T. O. Perry) asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is provision made for native children to enrol as boarders in hostels attached to country high schools?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "Yes," upon whose recommendation are such children accepted?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Any child may be admitted as a boarder to a country high school hostel providing he or she satisfies the scholastic requirements of the school.
- (2) Admissions are controlled by local committees responsible for the administration of the hostels.

SOUTH-WEST RAILWAY

Automatic Signalling System

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

Will he ascertain from the Minister for Railways whether it is intended to install the automatic signalling system south of Pinjarra on the main south-west railway, and if so, will he supply details as to when it is proposed that the system will come into operation at each of the main stations between Pinjarra and Bunbury?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

There are no firm proposals at present involving extension of the centralised traffic control system of signalling south of Coolup.

7. *This question was postponed.*

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 14th August, on the following motion by The Hon. F. R. White:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [2.45 p.m.]: Before speaking to the motion which was so ably moved by Mr. White on opening day, I would first like to make

some remarks on the fact that the number of members who were in this House in 1950 has dwindled to five this year. Members may recall that last year during the debate I commented on the fact that only seven members remained of those who were in this Chamber in 1950. Now, this year, with the retirement of Sir Keith Watson, whom we all respected and knew as an able debater, and an asset to the Legislative Council, and Mr. Eric Heenan, who was with us for many years and was for some years past regarded as the father of the House, the number has been reduced still further.

I also have personal regrets that Mr. Heenan is not with us because he was a great family friend, and one cannot help but regret the defeat of a member who had been here for so many years, even though we do welcome his successor.

The other day when checking through a Victorian Statute from which I required some information, I was interested to compare it with our own legislation on the same subject. It concerns sale by auction. Our Act has been in existence since 1937, and on checking through it I discovered that it comprises approximately three pages, and contains just three provisions. However, the Victorian Act—not to be confused with the old Acts of Victoria in this State—contains 30 pages, including two pages of schedules.

The Victorian legislation contains provisions for the licensing of auctioneers, whereas in this State we have two separate Acts, one dealing with the licensing of auctioneers, and the other with sales by auction.

I decided to raise the matter and to suggest to the Minister for Mines, who is also the Minister for Justice, that perhaps it could be investigated to ascertain whether we could not combine the two Acts to make one Statute, as has been done in Victoria. I believe that the fewer Statutes we have, the less involved the situation becomes when it is necessary to check on some particular point.

When going through the Victorian Act, I came across a provision which involves a matter which has worried farmers in Western Australia for many years. I am referring to stolen cattle, both big and small; that is, the bovine type and sheep. Section 38 of the Victorian Act reads—

Where any licensed auctioneer has sold any cattle received by him for sale he shall before paying over the proceeds of any such sale require from the person who was the owner or possessor of such cattle at the time they were so received a certificate from some known and respectable person that such owner or possessor of such cattle is of good repute, and that he believes such owner or possessor of such cattle would not commit a felony, but has become possessed of such cattle

honestly. But where such licensed auctioneer has for a period of twelve months been personally acquainted with the owner or possessor of any such cattle, and believes him to be of good repute and to have honestly become possessed of such cattle, it shall not be necessary for such auctioneer to require such certificate before paying over such proceeds. And in any case in which such certificate is necessary every such licensed auctioneer who pays over any such proceeds without such certificate shall be liable to a penalty of not more than Twenty pounds.

I believe that similar provisions should appear in our Sales by Auction Act. Possibly some variations may be necessary to suit the circumstances of the day, because the legislation I have referred to is dated 1958.

The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson: I take it that they do not enforce the Brands Act?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Yes, that is right. Something along the lines I have suggested would help considerably in the matter of stolen cattle which are sold through auction saleyards. Today the position is that, if a person steals cattle and puts them through an auction yard, such as the Midland saleyards or any one of the country saleyards, the proceeds are paid out by the stock firm whether or not the company knows the person concerned. Under our system, it would be quite simple—in fact it has been done—for a person to sell cattle through an auction sale, take the proceeds, and get away with them. Once the cattle have been sold and the buyer is in possession of them, it is very hard, as you, Sir, and all farmers in the Chamber are aware, to prove cattle stealing against anyone.

Under the Victorian legislation to which I have referred an auctioneer would be very hesitant to pay the proceeds to a person who has put cattle into the saleyards for auction and who is not known to the auctioneer. In fact, the Victorian legislation refers purely to an auctioneer, but I assume it would mean a stock firm, as well. As a matter of fact, if the proceeds were paid out, the auctioneer could be fined.

What I am suggesting might sound a little involved. However, as I was a credit officer in a stock firm some years ago, to my mind it is rather simple. When an account sale for stock comes through to the credit department of a stock firm, the credit officer has the duty to check the client's name with a card system to see whether he has a bill of sale with one of the other stock firms. All stock firms keep card indexes covering bills of sale and containing other data. It is quite easy to check who are clients, and if a man is a complete stranger his name will not be recorded in an index.

At the time I was employed by a stock firm, a certain incident happened to me. An account sale came into my hands. The amount involved was £3,000, which represented the sale of 1,000 sheep at £3 per head. I could not find any trace of the name of the particular client. To my mind the situation had a little bit of a smell about it and, consequently, I took it to the head of the department and asked him what he thought about it. Both he and I agreed that it seemed to smell a little. He decided to ring the local agent and found out that the account sale was in the first two Christian names of the person concerned. What he said to the stock representative was nobody's business.

That illustration shows how simple it is for the credit department of a firm to check on people who are not known and to find out who they are. If our legislation contained a provision similar to the Victorian section, then, before he received the proceeds, the person who had placed stock in the saleyards for sale, and who was not known, would have to be vouched for to the effect that he was a person of good repute and was one who was not likely to commit a felony.

To a large extent—I would say almost to 100 per cent.—it would stop anybody who had stolen stock from attempting to sell them through auction saleyards. Of course, there are other sources through which stolen cattle might be sold; for example, through private individuals, through being slaughtered and sent to Nelson's Meat Market, or some avenue like that. Nevertheless, in my opinion the provision would help considerably towards overcoming the problem and I hope the Minister will look at the proposal with a view, perhaps, to bringing our Act more up to date. In fact, there have been no amendments made to the Act since 1937. I believe the two Acts could be consolidated and perhaps some of the provisions of the Victorian Act, which might be regarded as reasonable and useful, could be incorporated in a composite Act.

I will take the trouble to go into this further to see whether there are any more provisions which, in my opinion, are worthy of incorporation in our Sales by Auction Act. I am prepared to undertake that and to give the Minister some notes if he would be good enough to have his department look into the matter.

It is the privilege of any person who moves a motion to have the right of reply at the conclusion of debate. It is a privilege which, of course, can be enjoyed and used with discretion. Sometimes the duty of a reply is somewhat onerous. At other times the reply can be a pleasure, because the member has the opportunity to deal with speeches which have been made in the House and to show appreciation for contributions to debates. Often the right of reply can be an advantage over other speakers in several ways;

namely, by having the last words on the subject, or by unwittingly or deliberately misconstruing the words or the intention of the speaker or speakers who have spoken previously.

Last week in the debate on the Supply Bill I dealt with the cost of the proposed school at Tammin and with the cost of the courthouse at Kellerberrin. When dealing with those items I put in a plea for the establishment and setting up in this State of a public accounts committee and a public works committee. I had in view what has been done, I believe, by the Federal Government and by several other States; that is, I felt the Government could be saved money by the establishment of these committees. Thus the funds—loan funds on the one hand and those from Consolidated Revenue on the other—could be spread to further uses.

In replying to the debate, either unwittingly or deliberately, I believe the Minister misconstrued my speech. I do not know, Mr. President, whether it was an attempt to sport with my feelings or to put my principles to the test. If it was the former, to some degree the Minister succeeded. If it was the latter, I think the background of my principles over the many years I have been associated with Parliament and in public life cannot be disputed.

The Minister did not deal at all with that part of my speech which referred to the setting up of the committees I mentioned. He made a general speech about buildings in different areas, and referred to the fact that I had intimated I was not too pleased with the buildings in my area.

At no time have I expressed my dissatisfaction with the public buildings that have been erected over the years in the Central Province—which you, Sir, and I represent. My concern was at the cost of the buildings which had been erected.

The Minister had a tilt at me by saying that he had been trying to please me for years but had never succeeded in doing so. I would point out that on occasions the Minister has pleased me.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am not doing at all well this time.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: No, the Minister is not. I have no desire to misunderstand the Minister's speech, but having had a look at it later, and considered the manner in which he said it at the time, I have no doubt at all that he was having a slight tilt at me over this matter.

Had the Minister given reasons for his belief that the buildings were not overcostly, or why he thought a public accounts committee, or a public works committee would not be of some benefit to the State, I would certainly have been very pleased; I would have been satisfied

had his arguments been such that they would have proved him right and me wrong.

I can only reach one conclusion from the Minister's speech, however: that he is not particularly concerned about the costs of public buildings.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Now, now, now!

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: It is possible, however, that I am not aware of the Minister's true intentions.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Perhaps you are not.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: If I have misunderstood the Minister's intentions I will certainly apologise to him, but from the tenor of his speech and from what he said about the quality of the buildings and my not being satisfied, I can arrive at no other conclusion. As I pointed out, my concern was not that the buildings were of a good quality but that they cost so much; that the cost was far greater than it should have been. I am still convinced that the public buildings to which I referred have cost more than they should have done.

One only has to view the buildings that have been built throughout the province to appreciate that they are purely utility buildings, and they should have been constructed for the purpose for which they were intended, whether they be schools, hospitals, courthouses, or anything else. But the people who have constructed these buildings have incorporated in them features which are really not necessary. I would point out at this stage that a number of my colleagues are of the same opinion.

We all know that an architect charges 7 per cent. of the cost of the buildings when he draws up his plans and specifications. This charge is made for the supervisory work which is carried out; but when extra features are incorporated the cost of the building naturally rises and, of course, the amount the architect receives for his 7 per cent. becomes higher with each rise in cost.

Some years ago a school was built in Kellerberrin. I think you know the one to which I refer, Mr. President. At that time Mr. Watts was Minister for Education, and I would point out that in that school tinted Belgium glass windows were incorporated. Is there any reason why a school should be fitted with tinted Belgium glass windows when plain glass windows would have served the purpose? This is not the only example I could quote; there are many other buildings that have been erected in this State which have unnecessary features included in them.

That is why I feel I am justified in pointing out to the Minister that I do not like to be derided on matters on which I am trying to help; on which I am trying

to do something not only in the interests of the Government and the people of the State, but also in the interests of saving money. With those few remarks I support the motion.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (South Metropolitan) [3.6 p.m.]: There are several topics on which I would like to touch in addressing myself to this motion. Many previous speakers have spoken about the last State election, so I think I will commence my remarks by dealing with that subject.

At the declaration of the poll in the Fremantle Town Hall I rightly said that the Cockburn roll was in a mess. I meant this, because when postal votes were being run through to the various committee rooms to people desiring postal, absentee, and sick votes, we found that some in the new areas were not enrolled at all. This would be reported; the State roll would be checked against the Federal roll, and we would find that while the people had been enrolled by the Commonwealth electoral officers—who carry out a canvass in these areas—they had not been enrolled on the State roll.

The Minister defended the action of the department. I do not say this unkindly, but the next day there was a headline in the paper to the effect that the Electoral Office had been defended. I appreciate that it is, of course, the responsibility of all people to see that they are correctly enrolled; but the whole thing goes far deeper than that.

When we compare the policy of enrolment that exists in other countries, and that which exists here; and when we consider all the implications of naturalisation it is not difficult to appreciate how very complex it is for the new citizen who comes to our shores; how difficult it must be for him to understand that the onus is on him to enrol.

Although it is compulsory for the electors in England to enrol, it is not compulsory for them to vote. In England there is one roll, whereas in Australia we have the Commonwealth roll and the State roll, and a number of migrants do not understand this set-up. We cannot expect migrants who have come to this country to know that it is compulsory for them to enrol after a couple of months' residence.

When they apply for enrolment on one of the rolls they think it is all that is required of them; they do not realise that they must be enrolled on both the State and the Commonwealth rolls.

I know of some people in Coolbellup who have been in residence for three years and who are still not on the roll. The Commonwealth department does carry out a check; and only yesterday in Beaconsfield, I saw one of its officers canvassing for the Commonwealth roll. It would appear that he was going through the southern section of the Federal electoral division.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Are they getting ready for a Federal election?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: That could be so, but I understand that each year, particularly in the new areas where there have been changes of address due to people transferring, the Commonwealth carries out a check.

As I said before, I do not speak unkindly about the department, because I realise it costs a lot of money to do this. However, I think the State should contribute something towards the cost of employing canvassers and have the work carried out in conjunction with the Federal canvassers. Two sets of cards—Federal and State—could be carried to stop the overlapping that is now taking place.

On the day before the State election I went to the Electoral Department and obtained 400 claim cards and envelopes, which I placed with our helpers at polling booths where I considered they would be needed most. The polling booths were at East Hamilton Hill, Coolbellup and East Coolbellup schools, and Medina. I went around to the polling booths at 10 a.m. and one of the poll clerks said, "Do you mind if we take these cards, because we had only 25 claim cards to start with and we ran out within the first hour on account of people claiming to be on the roll when they were not." To cut a long story short, when I visited the booths again at 2 p.m. I found that the 400 claim cards had been handed out to people who were not on the roll. Had they had them, the poll clerks could have got rid of another 400 cards.

I believe that three months after the Federal election—I have not the precise figures—the roll increased by 700 or 800. There is something sadly amiss. Most of the people concerned would probably be migrants or the wives of men who had become naturalised, but who had been in the country for only a short time. I think members know that it is not necessary for a wife to serve a five-year qualifying period for naturalisation. If her husband is naturalised, and provided she can speak English of a sufficient standard, she can become naturalised forthwith.

I would ask the Minister for Justice to ensure that his department has a close look at what I have suggested to see whether anything can be done. I do not think it would be to the benefit of any particular political party. It is an educational programme which we, as a Parliament, should provide for the people.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Wherever there is a change in boundaries, the Electoral Department sends out cards to the people concerned giving them this advice.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I agree.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We insert advertisements in the newspapers, and advertise on television to the effect that both

enrolment and voting are compulsory. The only thing we do not do is lead people to the office.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: That is true; but I think I have demonstrated that people who come from England have had to be on only one roll in that country. Within the last three-year period there have been two Federal polls at which these people would have had to record their votes, and naturally they would think they were on the roll for State elections.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: They have two rolls in England, parliamentary and local government. Here there are three; Commonwealth, State, and local government.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I am referring to parliamentary rolls. I feel that at very little cost my suggestion could be put into operation, particularly in regard to the newer areas where migrants are settled.

I now wish to speak concerning deserted husbands.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: They can look after themselves.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I would expect that interjection from a lady, but the position is not always as it may seem. I would say that 95 per cent. of the cases that come before the married women's courts usually concern an action against a husband because of his misdemeanours. Out of the 95 per cent. of cases, possibly 60 per cent. are due to misdemeanours by the husband only, and possibly the other 35 per cent. would include misdemeanours by both the husband and the wife.

There is a small proportion of cases where the wife only has committed a misdemeanour. Everybody says that this is a woman's country; and I think it is fair to say that in many cases where a husband appears before a magistrate, the action has been brought by a wife who has left home. She leaves the household with the children and takes action through the courts so that the husband will have to support the children. I would think the magistrate would say that it is the husband's responsibility and therefore he should pay maintenance. In some cases, if there were several children involved, the wife would receive \$20 per week; and she may even set up house and live with a *de facto* husband. However, she still receives this weekly maintenance from the father of the children.

I know of cases where the husband has done the right thing all along the line, but the wife has left him and obtained a maintenance order against him and the husband has had to pay.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Do you know that such payments are out of net income?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: That is quite true. Two cases were brought to my notice since Christmas where the wife had left

her husband. In both cases the wives are living with other men and maintenance orders have been issued against the husbands. In each case a new home was being purchased in joint names. This means that if the husband does not want to sell the house he has to keep paying for it in the joint names, and when it is finally paid for the wife will be a half owner in the property. Alternatively, if he wants to sell the property his wife's signature has to appear on the transfer; and, if she says "No," he cannot sell the house. He will have to keep paying the rent and his wife will know that if there is an eventual sale of the property, or the husband dies, she will benefit.

I believe this is a problem which is world-wide; therefore I am not critical of the department or the Minister. I know it is Australia-wide. I do not know whether any Governments have ever tackled this question realistically, but I think it is about time they did, particularly in cases where husbands, although they have been in the right, have been denied the love and friendship of their children, and still have to pay out weekly.

Then there is the other type of woman who leaves her husband and divorces him. The woman marries again, and she usually marries someone who is financially able to support the children. However, the father must keep paying maintenance until the children are of age. This denies the first husband—the father of the children—the opportunity to remarry and experience the friendship and companionship to which he is entitled. He has then to live on a *de facto* basis with a woman who may be working, and this, in most cases, goes against the man's grain. This is usually for religious or other reasons.

I do not think there is any easy solution to the question but I do think we should look seriously at the question of maintenance orders to see whether some variation is necessary. Some years ago it was necessary to go before a judge in chambers to get a variation of a maintenance order, but I believe this necessity has been relieved to a certain degree now. I am not *au fait* with the law but I believe at the present time a maintenance order can be varied through the local court. I hope the Minister will look at this matter to see whether we can do something to protect some of the males who are being discriminated against at the present time.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: We will have to set up an organisation for the emancipation of man!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The women started all this many years ago, and have received many benefits.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You want to be sure to show a copy of your speech to your wife.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I do not think my wife would be cruel to me! I know that some women are cruel to their husbands.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Do not let us get personal.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Mr. Ron Thompson is a good husband, that is why his wife is not cruel to him.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I try to be a good husband, and I think that most men also try.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I do not think he is always a good member, but rather a good husband.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Backslapping is not necessary. On the 8th June, this year, a minor disaster occurred at Naval Base. A cockeyed-bob went through the caravan park and the holiday camping area. It caused considerable damage and left some people homeless although, fortunately, it did not cause injury to any person. However, if the disaster had occurred a week earlier, on the Foundation Day weekend, the caravans and holiday homes would have been crammed full of people and children.

In all, six families were rendered homeless. They were people who lived permanently in the area because either they work in the Kwinana district or they have been unable to get State homes. In Western Australia, as in other States of Australia, we have the Civil Defence and Emergency Services organisation. I have not perused all the material I have at my disposal, but I note that since 1957, when a training programme was put into operation at Macedon, in Victoria, 1,100 people from Western Australia have been to that centre for training.

In 1966, 102 people went for training at a cost to the Commonwealth of \$330,000. The equipment has cost \$316,000, making a total of \$646,000.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Commonwealth or State expenditure?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Commonwealth. In 1965 the State spent \$35,000; and in 1966, \$48,000. The operational headquarters, in Epsom Avenue, Belmont, cost \$40,000, and the north-west emergency radio service cost \$17,500. So it can be seen that the actual cost to the State has been \$140,500, and the cost to the Commonwealth on behalf of Western Australia, \$646,000. I bring these figures to the notice of the House. I will read an extract from *Emergency*, which is the quarterly newsletter of the Civil Defence and Emergency Services of Western Australia, and is dated the 30th June, 1968. It is headed "Disasters," and reads as follows:—

During the quarter the State has had its share of disasters. Fortunately only of a minor nature and with no

casualties—but to the individual a tragedy. They started with a storm in Mt. Magnet followed by high winds at Naval Base and White Gum Valley, severe floods at Moora and extensive flooding throughout the North-West. Despite reports to the contrary we can assure you that Civil Defence was present at Naval Base and our services were available had they been requested.

That last statement is the point on which I intend to speak. One family which was rendered homeless included four children; another family had a six-weeks old baby; and another family had eight children. Also, an aged man and woman were rendered homeless, as well as another man and his wife. The cockeyed-bob struck between 7.30 and 8 a.m. The police were very quickly on the scene, as was the State Electricity Commission. Also, the Cockburn Shire Council, to a man, turned up to clear the debris and assist people who were affected.

The highest praise should go to those three bodies of people, because they did a marvellous job. However, let us look at the other two organisations which claimed they were in the area. I am not saying they were not in the area but I say emphatically that they did nothing. I refer to the Civil Defence and Emergency Services of Western Australia, and the Red Cross. What I have said can be borne out by Press statements made by the people concerned in that area. A home was not found for the man with eight children until four o'clock in the afternoon. Not one representative of the Red Cross or of the civil defence organisation approached any of the families concerned.

If this is denied I will, for the purposes of the record, give the names of the persons involved. The families concerned were Smith, Nichols, Ralph, Franklin, Sweetman, another Smith, and White. At no time did the Red Cross or the civil defence organisation approach these people to see if they could do anything to assist them. Yet the civil defence organisation had the audacity to put in its newsletter that its officers were present at Naval Base and that its services were available had they been requested.

How would anyone know they were there? No one would know unless the officers of that organisation tried to assist. But they did nothing. How would anyone go about requesting their services? How could one contact them? For the amount of money that the State, apart altogether from the Commonwealth, is expending on civil defence in Western Australia I think we should be getting a better deal.

Following this disaster I was approached by a person who had been associated with the civil defence organisation and who had decided to pull out. He resigned from

it because he said there was no leadership whatever in it. He said to me, "I went to Macedon, did my training, was invited to two lectures, and from there on I have had no contact with them as a body. There is no organisation at all and I do not know where I am going. I would not waste my time in an organisation such as that, and so I pulled out."

We must appreciate what happened to the people at Naval Base who were affected by this storm. In the main they lost all their furniture. Very little of it could be salvaged because it rained the whole of the day of the storm, the next day, and the day after. As a result all the bedding was sopping wet, and the people had no clothes. Mrs Mickle, from the Naval Base Hotel, and Mrs. Anderson, from the little store there, made an appeal and they were able to obtain sufficient bedding and clothing for the children, and for some of the parents. Had it not been for this assistance the people concerned would have had no warm clothes on the night of the storm, no food, and no shelter.

A member of the civil defence organisation said, "Why don't you have a look at our store in Belmont?" So in company with another member I inspected the store. I did not go to Belmont for the specific purpose of making an inspection, but we were passing through the area one day and I saw the civil defence sign. We went in and asked permission to have a look around. It is absolutely amazing to see the quantity of equipment in this store. I would say 95 per cent. of it has never been used since it was first placed there. There would be sufficient beds, blankets, and utensils in that store to outfit the average sized hospital.

Yet the people at Naval Base were left wanting. After I was able to secure State Housing Commission homes for two of the families, and private accommodation for another two, I asked a radio station to assist me in an appeal for beds and bedding. As a result my phone was jammed for two hours with calls from people in the community who were only too prepared to offer help. I also wish to offer my thanks to the Fremantle City Council for the services it rendered in delivering the equipment which had been offered to the people who needed it. Yet when one goes to Belmont one finds enough goods in perfect condition in the civil defence organisation store to provide for all of those people whose homes and contents had been destroyed. But no effort was made by the civil defence organisation to offer any help.

The Red Cross sent a lady down on the Monday, and if members care to read the Press cuttings in regard to the matter they will find that the Director of the Red Cross Society did not know anything

about the disaster until he read about it in the paper the next day. The same applied to the officer in charge of the civil defence organisation. Where is this organisation breaking down? Why is the Government expending money if the civil defence organisation cannot handle a simple emergency? After all, what happened at Naval Base was only a minor tragedy. I think the Government should examine the whole position to see what is going on.

I would even be prepared to move for the appointment of a Select Committee to examine the organisation's affairs. I do not want to knock it; I think it is a good organisation; but I want to see it placed on such a footing that when something happens, or a catastrophe occurs, and emergency service is required, its officers are there to render assistance. I would be one of the first to go along and assist its officers. However, we find that that sort of service is lacking.

I have come to the conclusion, after reading the article which quoted certain statements attributed to Mr. Nalder, that he was completely misled by the organisation. Mr. Nalder has my sympathy because it is obvious some member of the organisation wrongly advised him about what took place. Therefore, how much credence can one place in what one reads about the civil defence organisation when it says its officers were present to assist the people at Naval Base? If they were there then they are the only people who knew about it. I can give all the names and addresses of the people concerned to prove that they were not contacted by the officers of the organisation.

I would like to quote one Press cutting and I shall skip the part of it which pats me on the back. The part I want to quote reads as follows:—

"We all had to find our own accommodation and only friends and local people came to our assistance." said William Smith, who with his wife and four children lost all their furniture.

He went on to say—

"The S.E.C. were down here immediately and the Police Force and members of the Lions Club were a great help but there was no sign of the Red Cross or the Civil Defence Department."

Yet these people wrongly advised the Deputy Premier (Mr. Nalder), who was deputising for the Premier at the time, and tried to whitewash themselves in the Press. That is not good enough. We have had too much whitewash; let this organisation make some progress and do something for the money that is expended on it.

From what I can see all the civil defence organisation is concerned about is planning for defence against nuclear attacks—attacks which might never occur—but we

will always have minor catastrophes and this organisation ought to be playing its part, otherwise it should be disbanded.

Following the appeal over the air the Director of the Red Cross rang me and asked whether there was anything else I required; and on the Friday after the storm—that is seven days afterwards—the Red Cross did deliver some wardrobes, cupboards, and a cot to people who were in need of this type of furniture. In my view the Red Cross were more anxious to do something than were the civil defence organisation; and I say that because that organisation had all the materials required at its disposal. No offers of assistance were made. Therefore members can see that there is room for complaint.

I pass on now to an argument that has been going on for some time, and I think the Minister for Fisheries will be interested in this matter and possibly he knows more about it than I do. During the season some 23 fishing boats were operating in the Rockingham area.

For a number of years the fishermen have been using the Palm Beach jetty to unload their crayfish. However, following some alterations being made to that jetty, the crayfishermen were denied the use of it. The Western Australian Fishing Fleet Masters' Association wrote several letters to the Minister for Works in an endeavour to have this necessary facility made available to them again for the unloading of crayfish. The use of the jetty has been denied the fishermen, because it is claimed it is to be used only for tourists.

I can well understand that pressure could be brought to bear on the department to ensure that the jetty was used only for tourists. I think it was about 18 months ago that a decision was made to remove the Palm Beach jetty, because it was unsafe and dangerous. From memory, I think the Fremantle Port Authority, the Rockingham Shire Council, and the Government came to some arrangement to finance the repair of the jetty.

As the operators of these 26 crayfishing boats are primary producers, and contribute a good deal to the export earnings of this State and the Commonwealth, I think the Minister for Fisheries and other departments concerned should review the matter and an approach be made to the Minister for Works with a view to ensuring that the jetty is made available for a limited period daily. I agree it would not be fair or equitable, should the jetty be made available once again to the crayfishermen for them to monopolise it for a full day, or for days on end. Therefore, I consider that if they are granted the use of the jetty again a restriction could be placed on the crayfishing boats to ensure that their use of the jetty was limited. For example, they could be permitted to use the jetty between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., or be-

tween 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., because most of the boats can get back from the sea and unload within a two-hour period.

Since the fishermen have been denied the use of the jetty it has been necessary for most of the boats to anchor about 400 or 500 yards out in the bay. Sometimes, when the boats have a large catch of crayfish, they are required to make two or three trips backwards and forwards in their dinghies to unload their catch and, further, they have to go to the trouble of rowing supplies to the boats in order to provision them for the next day's fishing.

I will be pleased, therefore, if the Minister for Fisheries could have a close look at the problem confronting the fishermen. I know that some officers in the Fisheries Department have expressed the view that the crayfishermen will never be allowed the use of this jetty again. This has been expressed to the fishermen by officers of the Fisheries Department. Of all the letters that have been written on this subject, to me the most unusual one is the following, written by the Minister for Works:—

The Fremantle Port Authority has only recently become aware that the jetty has been used by fishermen in the past and the modifications recently made to the jetty are for private purposes only and make no provision for its future use by fishing boats.

It has never been the intention to use the jetty at Palm Beach for commercial purposes other than for servicing Garden Island and the Fremantle Port Authority and the Harbour and Light Department insists the fishing boats use the excellent facilities provided for them at the Fremantle fishing boat harbour and discontinue all use of the Palm Beach jetty.

The distance the fishermen would have to travel to the fishing boat harbour is 17 sea miles; that distance was measured by one of the boats. So it can be seen that not all primary producers in Western Australia get what they want.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.2 p.m.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Following the receipt of the letter from the Minister for Works, which I have read out, the fishermen did the right thing and moved away from the jetty, although they are sincerely hoping that some sanity will prevail and they will be permitted to use it for a limited period each day. The smaller boats, numbering about 20, then moved further west to a place commonly known as Marchants. On this freehold property there is a slipway with a small jetty, and at the best of times there is on the average something like 4 ft. 6 in. of water.

Things went along rather smoothly, in respect of the use of these facilities, until the Water Supply Department stepped in.

In order to drain the Rockingham Park Estate it constructed a drain from Bungaree Estate into Lake Richmond. It has constructed an open drain which borders on Marchant's property. At present there is about eight inches of water running along this drain, but it prevents access, to a limited degree, to Marchant's property.

The fishermen are at a distinct disadvantage. If this drain is opened up to full flow from Lake Richmond—which should be done very shortly—it will mean that because of its angle or gradient the slipway and jetty will be silted over in a short time. Even with the trickle of water which passes along the drain there is some siltation. The Minister for Fisheries might be interested in this matter. I think he has heard about it.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I have had a good deal of correspondence and discussions on these matters.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: This freehold property is at the present time the subject of probate. I think it should be purchased by the Fisheries Department. A certain amount of dredging will be necessary in order to cater for the larger boats, but I would point out the slipway is already there, and fishermen from as far south as Mandurah now use it.

It is in constant use, and it is a facility which should be preserved, because if siltation blocks it up then the facilities at the Fremantle fishing boat harbour will be overloaded. It is ridiculous that such a number of boats should have to travel 17 sea miles each way every day—a total of 34 miles—to unload the catches of fish before they return to the fishing grounds.

I trust some consideration will be given to this matter. Other than the comments I have made, I have nothing more to add, because I gave an undertaking that I would not be very long. I honour that undertaking, and support the motion.

THE HON. J. HEITMAN (Upper West) [4.7 p.m.]: I join with other members in congratulating the new members who have been elected to this House; and I extend my sympathy to those who have been defeated. We all realise, as members of Parliament, that we have to put up with this sort of thing after every election. I feel sure that those who have been defeated also realise the position. The new members who have been elected should consider themselves lucky in this respect.

I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. The Government has done a tremendous job for the State, but I know it is difficult to satisfy everybody. As we have heard during this debate, quite a number of members are upset by the housing position, but that is nothing new. I read a book dealing with this subject in 1947, when a Labor Government was in office. It prophesied that

it would build 3,000 houses; the cost was about \$2,400 each. However, at the end of its term of office it built only a little over 1,100 houses in that year. Every Government has had its worries over the housing position.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You must remember that during that period every bit of building material had to be released.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: Labor was then in office, and it was up to that Government to decide whether or not releases should have to be obtained for building materials.

The Hon. R. Thompson: There was a world-wide shortage of building materials, and you know that.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: I know there were difficulties in housing; but in its next term of office the Labor Government was still in difficulties with housing. It is a very healthy sign; when a Government is faced with difficulties in housing it shows the State is advancing, and the population is increasing through migration. That tends to make the housing situation a lot worse than if the State were at a standstill and no new arrivals were coming in.

Although many people in the country are in need of housing at the present time, the position is under control; but in the metropolitan area there are difficulties in providing sufficient houses because migrants and other new arrivals are coming into the State to swallow up the houses that are erected.

The Government has decided to undertake a full survey into the use of marginal land on the fringes of the agricultural area and at the start of the pastoral area. This land borders the agricultural area from Mullewa in the north to Esperance in the south. Surveys are being undertaken into soil types, rainfall, and other matters.

A few years ago most of this land would have been classified as marginal, and I am afraid quite a lot of it still fits into that category. Without adequate rainfall this land is not as productive as some people believe.

In my view many of the pastoral holdings which are being investigated do not have an adequate rainfall to enable the land to be used for agricultural purposes, but certainly there is a corridor between the safe agricultural land and the pastoral country which could be looked at, with a view to releasing it in bigger acreages for cereal growing, or for chaining and the running of sheep.

In the northern part of the State where this type of land is found, many of the pastoralists have chained the land. They do not burn it, but leave the scrub and timber on the surface to prevent erosion and the sun from evaporating the moisture. Land treated in that way is producing much more feed than it did in past years;

so much so that quite a lot of this country is carrying, not one sheep to 50 acres, but one sheep to five acres.

If pastoralists are allowed to take up 10,000 to 20,000 acres under special leases to enable them to grow cereals, they might not get a good crop every year but they would produce much more feed than the land has produced in the past. In a bumper year they should be allowed to sell or store the surplus oats or other cereals to safeguard against dry periods in the future. By that method the potential of land in this area can be developed.

The pastoralists, into whose holdings inroads are to be made, will be able to obtain some relief from having smaller acreages by their properties carrying a greater number of sheep. If they can carry one sheep to the acre, or one sheep to two acres, it will boost their carrying capacity on a smaller acreage, and will make their properties economic units.

On many occasions it has been suggested that a faculty of veterinary science should be established at the University, in order to train people to care for animals. I have discussed this matter with a number of veterinarians in the northern part of the State, and they are very keen to see another aspect of veterinary science being developed. It is known as the "Animal Nursing Auxiliary Scheme." It is very similar to the scheme used in the training of nurses to work in hospitals, except in this case there will be trained nurses to care for animals after they have been operated upon.

I understand that in England such a course takes two years. While these people are undertaking studies and preparing for examinations they could be sent out to various veterinary surgeons to learn the job on the spot. I understand that in England their services are keenly sought after. They would prove to be a terrific boon to the veterinary surgeons not only in Western Australia, but also in the other States.

It is the first time I have heard of it here, but I saw in the paper recently that some girls have been helping veterinary surgeons to care for animals. They have also been assisting with operations although they are not qualified to do so. Therefore, if qualified nursing aides were available for veterinary surgeons in this State I feel it would help the surgeons to do a lot more research work than they are able to do at present.

There are three veterinary surgeons in my province, but I would say there is work for at least five or six. If the veterinary surgeons had assistants of the type to which I have referred, they would be able to do more research into animal husbandry and care and thereby save the agricultural industry a great deal because of the animals which would be kept alive.

We heard Mr. Ferry speaking about the land board sittings. From time to time I have heard quite a few people ask why the board does not do this thing or that thing. I have sat in on many meetings of the land board. One was held at Carnamah last year at which some 536 applicants were heard in connection with 69 lots. It was a three-week sitting and I must say that the board did a terrific job in sorting out the applicants.

The chairman of the land board (Mr. Ted O'Brien) has been a farmer and has also been an officer of the Lands Department for many years. He has therefore gained a terrific amount of experience. The others with him from time to time are also experienced land board officers. They have had a tremendous amount of experience in country areas and consequently they know a great deal about soil analysis, and what not.

I believe that one of the greatest difficulties experienced by the board would be overcome if it had the use of a lie detector when evidence is being given. If the board knew when an applicant was telling lies, many of the troubles experienced after the land has been allocated would be avoided. From time to time I receive a list from the various organisations of the Farmers' Union, containing the names of farmers who have been allocated farms, but who are not playing the game. I take the list to the Lands Department and inspectors are sent out to make reports on the farms and gradually the position is being cleaned up. However, it is not fair to any district that these chaps who are allocated farms should leave them as they are for four or five years without making any attempt to clear them up and make them going concerns.

It is difficult for those who are allocated farms when they try to get school bus routes, roads, and all the other amenities, but if everyone in the area fulfilled the requirements as laid down by the Lands Department, these difficulties would be overcome. I know the members of the land board do all they can to ferret into the background of every applicant. Incidentally, of course, these applicants make sworn statements and give sworn evidence, but I am afraid that on many occasions the fact that they are giving sworn evidence does not mean a thing to them.

During the past seven or eight years, a great deal of land has been opened up and this has necessitated the making of many new roads. We often hear people screaming about the roads and saying they are atrocious and we should have better roads than we have. I am sure these people do not realise the work done by the Main Roads Department engineers. They have to map the roads, help the shires to find the money to make the roads, and so on; and every district still has to get its quota.

I have had a lot to do with road work in country areas and I have always taken my hat off to the departmental engineers. In practically every instance they make a good road. They know the types of soils which when mixed will stand up to the traffic. They know the type of crossings to use for creeks. Taken all in all they do a magnificent job throughout the State with their engineering ability and know-how. There is not a shire in the State which does not use their services—free in many instances—but then those same shires abuse the engineers when things go wrong. In my view the engineers have done a wonderful job and I am always prepared to take off my hat to them because of the amount of work they do and the mileage of good roads for which they are responsible throughout the State.

Since the last election, there has been a bit of an upset over the result in the Kimberley. Quite a few accusations have been made in regard to the native voting, and a number of people seem to be upset because Mr. Rhatigan lost his seat. However, I was up there for a fortnight during the campaign and I visited the native welfare establishments and asked them the method they use in trying to educate the natives in regard to voting. They showed me a series of pictures which were about 2 ft. 6 in. by 1 ft. 6 in. They depicted a polling booth with a native going in, the poll clerk sitting at his desk, the questions which would be asked, a sample of the voting paper, and practically everything else they would want to know. It was all in picture form so that even if the natives could not write at least they had the opportunity by visual means to understand how to vote.

In addition, at Broome a native girl was working in the native welfare office and she assisted the others to teach these natives the right way to vote. It is because of all these factors that I believe the natives must have gained some knowledge of what they were expected to do when voting. Of course, there will always be a few who are dumb, no matter where we go.

I went to Beagle Bay Mission and there I met many of the natives who work on the mission. We asked them about voting and told them who Mr. Ridge was, but we were surprised that so many of them could read and write and knew exactly what they were going to do on voting day. The first person we met was the father in charge of the mission and he told us he would take us to Charlie, who is the boss. This native was in his fifties and we showed him one of our cards and he read it out as well as anyone else would. I asked him if he would read the card to the other natives, whereupon he told me they could all read or write, except for a few old fellows. These old fellows, incidentally, were in their eighties. I thought it was a very

good omen that it was possible to go to a place like that and find the natives were being so usefully employed and able to join in the activities of the district through the various jobs on which they were engaged. No-one could tell me that these people would not know how to vote.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Beagle Bay is the most advanced mission in the area.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: They could read and write—

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Definitely.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: —and would pass the information on to others. In addition, in most of the booths some natives were always willing to assist those who could not read. Possibly I was lucky, because everyone I spoke to could read and write.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: These other missions are hundreds of miles away.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: Even in Broome the chappies were extra good and they are employed by the shire. I thought they were particularly bright so far as voting was concerned.

I feel sure that the statements or the accusations which have been made were not the reason for Mr. Rhatigan's defeat. I think we have in Mr. Ridge a candidate who appealed to the people, and this is it.

I would like to say that I noticed in Derby all Mr. Ridge's signs were pulled down as fast as they were erected. When I came back I saw Mr. Rhatigan, and he asked me how things went. I told him that everything had gone quite well, but that I was not happy about his party having pulled down our signs. He told me he knew who was responsible, and that he would do something about it. Some more signs were sent to Derby, but even on the day before the election, our signs were being pulled down. We do not stoop to this sort of thing. There is no need for it.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I thought it was only Liberals who did unethical things!

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: That is what we are led to believe, but it would be a different proposition if people could see what is done. As far as Mr. Ridge is concerned it would not be possible to find a better candidate.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you know what they came down with from up there? A big bunch of sour grapes!

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: I think the Minister is right there.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Little people think little.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You would know that.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: There is not much more for me to say except that I support the motion. The Government is doing a mighty job, and I think the people in the north believe this, otherwise they would not have elected Mr. Ridge at the last election.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson.

House adjourned at 4.27 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 15th August, 1968

The SPEAKER (Mr. Guthrie) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (28): ON NOTICE

HOUSING

Canning: Completions in Last Six Years

1. Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Housing:

Relative to his answer on Tuesday, the 30th July, 1968, could he advise in what areas of the Canning electorate the State Housing Commission homes were built from 1962 to 1968?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

The areas in which the 91 units of accommodation referred to in the answer to question 50 asked on the 30th July, 1968, were: Brentwood, Cannington, Gosnells, Kenwick, Maddington, Riverton, Rossmoyne.

BRENTWOOD SCHOOL

Water Fountains

2. Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Education:

Will he give consideration to having drinking fountains established at suitable points at the Brentwood State Primary School?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

This is at present receiving attention and the work will be put in hand as soon as the location of the additional fountain has been determined.

DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Training and Employment

3. Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) When will the recruitment and training of dental hygienists in Western Australia begin?

- (2) When will he be able to give a general outline of the course content?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) No decision has yet been made.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

State Subsidies

4. Mr. CASH asked the Premier:

Will the 1968-69 Commonwealth Budget proposals for the provision of libraries for Government and non-Government secondary schools throughout Australia enable increased State Government subsidies to be given for primary school libraries in this State?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No. I would point out that although we have no final details in respect of the grant—it is yet to be worked out by the Minister for Education—to my knowledge and in the light of my experience no grant of this kind by the Commonwealth ever allowed for the State to decrease its allocation of money for the particular subsidy. Therefore I think the Commonwealth would expect we should continue to make a State contribution to the secondary school libraries at the same level and to continue with the primary school libraries with the same degree of responsibility.

KIMBERLEY ELECTION

Counting of Votes

5. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Was the aboriginal voter George Widdjoe, No. 2659 on the Kimberley electoral roll, requested to give an explanation as to why he failed to record a vote at the general election?
- (2) If "Yes," was a reply received and what reason was given?
- (3) If "No," why was he treated differently from other electors who failed to vote, which included some who were deceased?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) A notification was posted to elector, George Widdjoe, No. 2659 on the Kimberley electoral roll, requiring him to state the true reason why he failed to vote at the Legislative Assembly general election held on the 23rd March, 1968.
- (2) No reply has been received to this notification.
- (3) Answered by (1).