

types? Not the slightest relief, as far as I know, has ever been offered to a person to commence a private business of any type in a country town.

Yet, in the city I think the Government still carries guarantees for private business to the tune of about £6,000,000. I believe that if we are going to start on decentralisation, then we as a Government and the Commonwealth as a Government should be prepared to offer this type of man a guarantee. I am of the opinion that a certain sum of money should be set aside annually to be used as a fund for decentralisation so it can be said to a middle-class businessman who wants to start a business in, say, Northam, Kellerberrin, Katanning, or perhaps in any medium-sized country town, "Yes, we will provide some money for you to subsidise the freight and other additional costs you will have to meet for power, water, etc. in the establishment of your business."

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: It might take half a lifetime though to establish it.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: That would have to be worked out. I agree that some limitation should be put upon it, and the whole project would have to be considered as to whether it would be a successful venture in a number of years. It is the same idea as is adopted in land development. It is decided that it will take a lot of capital to develop a property over a period of three to five years. The same system could be applied to business concerns.

If we are to advocate decentralisation, we must be honest about it and do something to assist it. I do not believe that merely establishing bigger businesses such as Laporte and a super works in this or that port is the answer to the problem. The answer is to give every encouragement to people to start their small businesses even though they might only employ between two and ten people. They are still increasing the population of those country towns where they commence operations and are thereby encouraging others to go there.

I believe the Government should give sincere thought to this matter and work out the possibilities of encouraging the middle-class man to commence his business in the country areas where he could supply direct to the farming community and the country-town dwellers rather than force them to buy everything from the cities or the coast.

That would be the answer to our problem rather than just talking about decentralisation and doing nothing about it. On that note I conclude and support the motion.

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

House adjourned at 3.43 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

[Thursday, 8 August, 1963.]

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

WATER MAIN

Provision for Thornlie

- Mr. D. MAY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:
 - Has any further consideration been given to the provision of a 12-inch main from Albany Highway to Thornlie in order to expedite residential building development in this area?
 - Is he aware of the concern expressed by the local authorities and residents regarding the continual procrastination attributed to a stalemate which exists between the Government and a private company?
 - Has any real endeavour been made by the Government to resolve the present unsatisfactory position?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes. The department is prepared to help to the fullest extent. The subdivider has been approached for a contribution but to date has not agreed to assist.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Manning-Koonawarra Area

- Mr. D. MAY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

As the Minister for Housing has indicated that residential development in the Manning-Koonawarra area is dependent on sewerage and drainage, will he advise when this work will be commenced?

Mr. WILD replied:

No funds are available this financial year. Commencement of work will depend on its position in priority, when considered in relation to the needs of all parts of the metropolitan area.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES

Number Built in Canning Electorate in 1962-63

3. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

Will he advise the number of houses—"spec." and war service excepted—built by the State Housing Commission for the year ended 1962-63 in the following districts—

- (a) Manning-Koonawarra;
- (b) Riverton-Rossmoyne;
- (c) East Cannington;
- (d) Kenwick;
- (e) Maddington;
- (f) Thornlie;
- (g) Gosnells;
- (h) Canning Vale?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (a) Nil
- (b) 5
- (c) Nil
- (d) Nil
- (e) Nil
- (f) 1
- (g) 2
- (h) Nil.

4. *This question was postponed.*

STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY *Expenditure from Commonwealth Government Allocation*

5. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What amount of money was set aside for the standard gauge railway by the Commonwealth Government in June, 1963?
- (2) What amount was spent by the State Government from such provision on the standard gauge railway?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Commonwealth Treasury's allocation to the project was £2,500,000. (It is assumed that the words "in June 1963" are intended to read "to June 1963".)
- (2) £2,162,557.

SCHOOL CROSSING

Bournemouth Crescent and Weaponess Road Intersection

6. Dr. HENN asked the Minister for Transport:

Will he give further consideration to the placing of a manned school crossing at the dangerous intersection of Bournemouth Crescent and Weaponess Road in Wembley Downs?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

An on the spot inspection by the special committee and a separate traffic count were taken within the last three months and the recommendation was that neither a pedestrian crossing nor a school crossing was warranted.

JOHN STREET BRIDGE, FREMANTLE

Tenders: Tabling of File

7. Mr. HEAL asked the Minister for Railways:

Will he lay on the Table of the House the file dealing with the calling of tenders for the construction of the John Street Bridge, Fremantle?

Mr. COURT replied:

As advised previously, the file is available for the honourable member's perusal. I have no objection to his constituent also seeing it. If, after he has examined the file, he still wants it tabled, I am prepared to give the matter further consideration.

WATER RATES

Reduction for Aged or Invalid Pensioners

8. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Have any representations been made to him regarding a reduction in water rates payable by aged or invalid pensioners?
- (2) If so, what was the result?
- (3) If the reply to No. (2) is unfavourable to pensioners, will he undertake to reconsider the matter?
- (4) If no representations have been made, will he favourably consider the introduction of such a concession?
- (5) If not, will he state the reason?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No reduction was made.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) and (5) Answered by No. (1).

9. *This question was postponed.*

CLASSROOMS

Number Built

10. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Education:

What number of classrooms were built in each of the years—

- (a) 1959 to 1962 (both inclusive);
- (b) 1963 to the 30th June?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (a) 1959 — 193
- 1960 — 223
- 1961 — 259
- 1962 — 281

(b) 1963 to the 30th June — 140.

PAINTERS' REGISTRATION BOARD

Painters Registered

11. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) How many painters have been registered under the Painters' Registration Act?

Income and Expenditure

- (2) What is the total amount received by the board?
- (3) What payments are to be made to board members?
- (4) What is the fee payable to the registrar?
- (5) Does this fee cover all office expenditure?
- (6) If not, what items are not covered?

Inspections and Investigations

- (7) Who is to carry out inspections and investigations?
- (8) Is a person to be appointed on either a full-time or a part-time basis?
- (9) If so, when will an appointment be made and what will be the terms of such an appointment?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) 482.
- (2) £2,474 14s.
- (3) Chairman £5 5s. per meeting.
Members £4 4s. per meeting.
Limited to 12 meetings per annum.
(Rule 5)
- (4) £300 per annum.
- (5) No.
- (6) Rent, telephone, and office services, for which £300 per annum is allowed.
- (7) Not yet decided.
- (8) Part-time for initial period until the need becomes clearer.
- (9) Public applications are being called and it is expected an appointment will be made within a month on terms to be determined.

MOSQUITO MENACE

Campaign to Combat

12. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) What steps does the Government propose to take to combat the mosquito menace in the metropolitan area during the coming summer?

- (2) If any, will it be a programme of complete eradication, as in the instance of the Argentine ant, or only one of temporary suppression?
- (3) If not a complete eradication, why not?

Local Authorities' Programmes

- (4) Is he aware of the fact that certain local authorities have neglected to undertake an anti-mosquito programme during the past two summers?
- (5) Is he further aware that there has been a complete lack of both co-operation and co-ordination by local health authorities in this regard, which has rendered most anti-mosquito campaigns ineffective?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) (a) The Government, through its Public Health Department, proposes to co-ordinate the anti-mosquito activities of local authorities, and to assist them to achieve more effective control.
- (b) The broad extent of the problem, as identified by the department, was demonstrated to all authorities involved at a recent meeting; and it was agreed that each local authority would submit a schedule of major works which was required to be done, together with estimates of costs. When all these schedules have been received by the department, they will be collated and considered by the Government.
- (2) and (3) Complete eradication of mosquitoes is impracticable. The problem is not comparable to that of the Argentine Ant. The aim in mosquito control would be constant suppression and prevention of breeding.
- (4) No; but if the honourable member is prepared to furnish details, the matter will be investigated.
- (5) I am aware that there is a need for greater co-ordination in this regard between local authorities, and the Public Health Department is endeavouring to attain this.

13. *This question was postponed.*

SOUTH KALGOORLIE SCHOOL

Fencing

14. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What were the reasons why a request from the South Kalgoorlie School Parents and Citizens' Association for the complete fencing of the South Kalgoorlie school could not be met?
- (2) Can he indicate a likely date when this work can reasonably be expected?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) Fencing at South Kalgoorlie school is not considered necessary.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

Publication of Reports of Cases

15. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Labour:

Will he give consideration to approaching the Law Society for the purpose of establishing an editing committee to examine all decisions of the Workers' Compensation Board with a view to having published reports of appropriate cases that have been dealt with by the board—such reports to be available to subscribers?

Mr. WILD replied:

Yes. Inquiries will now be made of the Law Society.

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL

Provision of Gymnasium

16. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

Is he now in a position to advise when a gymnasium will be provided at Eastern Goldfields High School?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

No: the financial position will not permit of gymnasiums being erected in high schools during 1963-64.

COMPANIES ACT, 1961-62

Value of Section 222 (1)(g)(i)

17. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

With regard to section 222 (1)(g) (i) of the Companies Act, 1961-62, could it not be considered that this provision is unnecessary, being a vague criterion as to the opinion of the inspector, when subsection (2) of this section provides sufficient

material for determining when a company is, in fact, incapable of paying its debts?

Mr. COURT replied:

No.

Deficiency of Section 169 (7)

18. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

With regard to section 169 (7) of the 1961-62 Companies Act, is it considered that the provision is deficient in that it does not make it clear what weight should be given in subsequent proceedings to the contents of the report mentioned?

Mr. COURT replied:

No. Section 171 (10) is pertinent to this matter.

PERISHABLES: AIR FREIGHT SUBSIDY

Application to Marble Bar-Nullagine Area

19. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Transport:

In view of the unreliable refrigerated road transport service during the last twelve months to the Marble Bar-Nullagine area, does he now agree that an all-year perishable air freight subsidy is essential to this area?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

The reliability of the service has improved under new management, but interruptions have been caused by abnormal weather conditions on which occasions air subsidy has been approved.

MARBLE BAR-PORT HEDLAND ROAD

Improvement

20. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Works:

In view of the frequent closures of the road Marble Bar-Port Hedland during the recent rains, what steps are being taken to make this an all-weather road, as was originally intended?

Mr. WILD replied:

It will be many years before the roads in the north will have been constructed to the stage where they can be regarded as all-weather roads. For some years now over one-fifth of the funds available to the Main Roads Department has been spent north of the 26th parallel. In each of the last two years over £70,000 has been allocated to the Port Hedland-Marble Bar Road.

STATE HOUSES

Safety Measures Against Cyclones in North-West Towns

21. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In view of the extensive damage caused to State houses at Onslow during the recent cyclone, what steps have been taken to ensure the safety of State houses in future cyclones in all north-west towns?
- (2) Is he satisfied that the design of State houses in the north-west is suitable for the area, bearing in mind cyclonic conditions?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Precautions against cyclone damage are taken according to the likely incidence and strength of cyclonic storms in the respective towns. It is not economical or practicable to build dwellings in timber-frame construction that would resist all damage if the house is in the direct path of a major cyclone. During the course of the repair action at Onslow, the roof members will be secured more rigidly.
- (2) Yes, for the reasons stated above.

MT. GOLDSWORTHY PROJECT

Latest Developments

22. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines: Will he acquaint the House with latest developments concerning the Mt. Goldsworthy project?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Mt. Goldsworthy Associates have carried out continuous operations at Mt. Goldsworthy in regard to the exploration of its iron ore deposits. These operations have included field, geological, aerial and geophysical work, a considerable drilling programme, and mine development by way of test pits, shaftsinking, adits, etc.

The consortium has proved the existence of reserves of hematite ore totalling 64,000,000 tons of a grade between 55 per cent. and 64 per cent. iron, and has obtained approval from the Commonwealth Government, after its experts inspected and confirmed the tonnages, to export this quantity at an annual rate of up to 4,000,000 tons.

The consortium has surveyed a railway route, and has conducted marine surveys and is continuing

with examinations in connection with the location of a suitable harbour.

It has investigated groundwater resources and availability of materials for ballasting purposes etc. It is negotiating abroad in regard to marketing contracts.

TIN IN PILBARA AREA

Reserves Granted

23. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Have reserves over areas thought to contain tin been granted in the Pilbara area to the Rio Tinto Group?
- (2) If so, what is the acreage involved and the locality?
- (3) What are the terms of agreement concerning the reserves?
- (4) Have reserves over this mineral ever been given on any other occasion, and if so, to whom?
- (5) If not, what is the purpose of the precedent in this case?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) One reserve has been granted for tin to C.R.A. Exploration Pty. Limited.
- (2) 454 square miles in the Corunna Downs area.
- (3) A copy of the conditions reads as follows:—

Conditions of Right of Occupancy of Temporary Reserve for Minerals (Other than Gold or Iron and Exceeding 300 Acres).

(1) That the occupant shall within 14 days of approval of the right of occupancy appearing in the *Government Gazette*, mark at a corner of the boundary of the Temporary Reserve a landmark consisting of a post or cairn to serve as a commencing or datum point and shall advise the Minister for Mines in writing the position of such point.

(2) That the occupant shall not use the land comprised in this Reserve for any other purpose than that of prospecting for tin.

(3) That the rights of occupancy will not give any rights to the occupant to prospect for any mineral other than tin, and in the event of the discovery by the occupant of payable mineral other than tin, the Minister for Mines, may by notice, require the occupant to apply for mining tenements for such mineral.

(4) That the right of occupancy does not include any tailings or other mining materials lying on the land and the right is reserved to the Crown to grant licenses in respect of such tailings or other mining materials, as provided under the Mining Act, 1904, and Regulations thereunder.

(5) That the existing rights of any prospecting area, claim, lease or authorised holding, shall be preserved to the holder thereof and shall not be encroached on or interfered with by the occupant of this Reserve.

(6) That the rights granted under this authority shall be no bar to any person desiring to acquire mining tenements for any mineral other than tin, in the said Reserve or to any person desiring to acquire a holding under the Land Act, 1933, provided the land applied for does not include any of the occupant's workings which may in the discretion of the Minister for Mines be secured to the occupant of this Reserve.

(7) That this authority to occupy may be cancelled or the area reduced by the Minister for Mines upon application being made by any person for authority to prospect for tin, on any portion of the Reserve if prospecting thereon by the occupant is not carried on to the satisfaction of the Minister for Mines. The Minister for Mines reserves the right to grant any mining tenement within the Reserve upon being satisfied that the applicant for such mining tenement was already carrying out bona fide prospecting operations before the creation of the Reserve.

(8) Any land alienated or in course of alienation, and any land reserved (not being Crown Land within the meaning of the Mining Act, 1904), and any land registered or to be acquired and held under the Mining Act, 1904 is excluded from this Reserve.

(9) No transfer of this authority to occupy will be permitted without the approval of the Minister for Mines first obtained.

(10) To such further conditions as may in the opinion of the Minister for Mines from time to time be deemed necessary.

(11) That the Minister for Mines may cancel the right of occupancy upon being satisfied that the whole or any of the conditions are not being or have not been fulfilled.

(12) That the occupant of this Reserve shall commence prospecting operations forthwith, and shall furnish the Minister for Mines with a monthly summary report applicable to operations being carried on within the said Reserve.

(13) That at the end of each calendar year or upon surrender, expiry, cancellation or abandonment, the occupant shall furnish the Minister for Mines with a complete report of all operations carried out on this ground, including the following information:—(1) Methods of exploration; (2) details and results of all geological and geophysical work; (3) details of excavations and drill holes; (4) nature of material tested with all assay results. Plans and sections are to be supplied wherever practicable.

(14) That the rights granted under this authority shall be subject to the provisions of the Forests Act, 1918, and the Regulations made thereunder.

(4) Yes, to—

T. W. Greenhill and Party.
F. G. Forman.
Aberfoyle Tin N.L.
H. L. Kent.
J. Hansen.
Westfield Minerals Ltd.

There have also been a number of reserves granted from time to time over the years for all minerals other than iron and gold.

(5) Answered by No. (4).

STATE SHIPPING SERVICE

Damage to Wharves and Ships at Darwin

24. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for the North-West:

(1) What charges have been raised against the State Shipping Service for damages to the Darwin wharves arising from State ships berthing there, for each of the past three years ended the 30th June, 1963?

(2) What is the cost of damage done to State ships while berthed at Darwin wharves for the same periods?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) 1960-1961—Surveyor's fees £6 6s.
1961-1962—Nil.
1962-1963—Nil.
- (2) 1960-1961—£5,500.
1961-1962—£120.
1962-1963—£170.

PASTORAL PROPERTIES

Basis of Annual Rentals

25. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Lands:

Are annual rentals of pastoral properties in Western Australia assessed on a uniform basis? If so, what formula is in use?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Rentals of pastoral properties are fixed by the Minister on the advice of a Board of Appraisers consisting of the Surveyor-General as chairman, and two members approved by the Governor. Rentals are based on the pastoral capabilities of the land, its distance from a port or railway, or other circumstances affecting its value for pastoral purposes.

ROADS

Assistance to Local Authorities for Repairs

26. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What direct and positive action has the Government taken to assist local authorities to minimise delay in returning hundreds of miles of washed-out roads to something approaching normal conditions?
- (2) Is he aware that in many cases abnormal road damage and excessive erosion caused by heavy and continuous rains during the past three months, has imposed a heavy burden much in excess of local government resources of finance, road equipment and manpower?
- (3) If Main Roads Department gangs have not already been detailed off to assist local authorities in minimising delay in road repairs, will he without further delay institute assistance of this kind, or, alternatively, extend financial assistance to shire councils affected?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) As on past occasions when damage to roads is considered to be abnormal, an assessment of the cost of rehabilitation will be made and consideration given to providing financial assistance wholly or partially. This process of assessment is proceeding now.
- (2) and (3) Answered by No. (1).

GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY

Closure of Baandee Section

27. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Could he indicate how many days, during the past two months, the Great Eastern Highway at Baandee was closed to normal traffic?

Introduction of Bailey Repair System

- (2) Was serious thought given to the possibility of introduction of the Bailey military system of emergency road repairs, to enable road users to negotiate bad sections at Baandee?
- (3) Does he realise that lack of prompt action by the Government in devising a means of combating road wash at Baandee, resulted in severe criticism by the general travelling public, business people, and many resident farmers?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) About 20 days.
- (2) Such treatment was not a practical proposition.
- (3) Much publicity was given to the availability of alternative routes to be taken by traffic. Both the York-Bruce Rock-Merredin Road and the Northam-Goomalling-Wyalkatchem - Merredin Road were used to bypass the flooded area.

NATIVES IN HOSPITAL

Commonwealth's Contribution to Hospital and Medical Charges

28. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Does the Commonwealth Government make any contribution towards the hospital and medical charges which are incurred by natives when they are admitted to hospital for treatment, as is the case when a person is a member of a hospital benefits fund?
- (2) If so, what contribution does the Commonwealth make?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The same as for any other person.

SMALL DREDGES

Capacity and Operating Cost

29. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the daily capacity of the small dredges which are operating near the Garratt Road bridge?

- (2) What is the daily operating cost of these dredges?

Suitability for Dredging Gascoyne River

- (3) Would these dredges be suitable for dredging the south arm of the Gascoyne river at Carnarvon?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) and (2) The dredges referred to are privately owned.

Capacity, operating cost, and performance are not known to the department.

Probable daily capacity (8 hours) up to 150 cubic yards per dredge.

- (3) It is unlikely that these dredges would be suitable for Gascoyne River dredging at Carnarvon.

NATIONAL ROAD TRAFFIC CODE

Adoption by Government

30. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it the intention of this Government to adopt the National Road Traffic Code, and if so, when is it to be adopted?

Amendment to Regulation 240 in Lieu

- (2) Should the Government not adopt the National Road Traffic Code, is it his intention to amend traffic regulation No. 240 to allow heavy traffic to have an allowable speed of 40 m.p.h. outside built-up areas?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. I should add that so far as the adoption of the code is concerned, this State is making provision for practically all features of the code except for one point in regard to speed limits, and that has been referred to the National Traffic Committee which will meet about next October.

TONNAGE FEES

Payment by Carriers in Area North of Minilya River

31. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that carriers licensed in the Carnarvon Municipality and the Shire of Gascoyne-Minilya have had to pay tonnage fees when transporting goods for use and consumption in that part of the Gascoyne-Minilya Shire north of the Minilya River?
- (2) If so, what were the rates charged?

- (3) Were any fees imposed on a mail contractor whose mail route takes him north of the Minilya River in the Shire of Gascoyne-Minilya?

- (4) If fees or tonnage rates have been charged on goods delivered north of the Minilya River, will he give the reason why those people living in that area should be burdened with an extra charge because they live in that area?

- (5) What is the tonnage fee to be charged on—

(a) bulk cement;

(b) other materials carted by road to North West Cape for the construction of the American Radio Communications Station?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Licenses granted to Carnarvon carriers authorise the transport of goods from Geraldton for use or consumption in areas south of the Minilya River. Where circumstances warrant, permits are granted for transport of goods to places north of the Minilya River. No fees are payable on mileage north of the 26th parallel South Latitude.

- (2) Permit fees vary according to the nature of loading and distance but are calculated only on that portion of the journey south of the 26th parallel.

- (3) No fees are charged for transport of mails.

- (4) As a concession to the north-west no fees are charged for transport north of the 26th parallel.

- (5) Regarding the construction of the American Radio Communications Station at North West Cape, permits will be issued at a fee of 10s. per month per ton of load capacity of a vehicle to any carrier employed by a contractor or subcontractor engaged in the construction.

AGRICULTURAL ADVISERS

Appointments in the North-West and in the South-West Land Division

32. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many agricultural advisers are employed by the Agricultural Department in—

(a) the north-west;

(b) the South-West Land Division?

Number Required

- (2) How many more agricultural advisers are required by his department in—
 (a) the north-west;
 (b) the South-West Land Division?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) (a) 11.
 (b) 36.

In addition there are 86 professional officers of various classifications stationed in the metropolitan area whose interests are State wide.

- (2) Changing conditions make it impossible to forecast future requirements with any accuracy, but at present all applicants with suitable qualifications and experience willing to accept adviser positions are being recommended for appointment.

WATER SUPPLIES TO CARNARVON TOWN LOTS

Availability, Applications, and Cost

33. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) When will water be supplied to Carnarvon town lots Nos. 660 to 674 on the North-West Coastal Highway?
 (2) How many applicants are there in this area for a water service, and what is the cost of such a service?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Water will be supplied to lots 671 and 672 (medical officer's new quarters) by the 30th September, 1963.
 (2) No application for a water service has been received in respect of any of the other lots nominated—660 to 670 and 673 and 674. Lots 673 and 674 can be supplied with water on application on a rated service basis. Applications for water to lots 660 to 670 would involve an extension of the main; the cost to the consumer would depend on the amount of additional revenue to be derived from the extension.

34. *This question was postponed.*

TENDER PRICES FOR GOODS

Terms of Preference

35. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

What are the precise terms of the preference or concession which is allowed in tender prices for the supply of goods of W.A.

origin and manufacture, as against goods from elsewhere for departmental purposes?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

A preference not exceeding 10 per cent. on articles of Western Australian manufacture, against those of Eastern States or overseas, is granted by the Government Tender Board. Articles not totally manufactured in Western Australia are granted preference in proportion to the percentage of local manufacture.

ALCOA OF AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.

Claim in Advertisement

36. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Did he see an advertisement on page 15 of *The West Australian* of the 9th July, 1963, from Alcoa of Australia Pty. Ltd. which claimed: "We'll refine skyscrapers, salt shakers, escalators at Kwinana, W.A."?
 (2) Is the claim made in the advertisement true?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
 (2) If the full text is considered and the heading is not used out of context, the advertisement is a fair statement of the position.

The full text shown in conjunction with a map of Australia (which clearly shows where the respective operations take place) reads:

We'll refine, skyscrapers, salt shakers, escalators at Kwinana, W.A.

Kwinana is the western seaboard of Alcoa's fully integrated aluminium industry. Here rich bauxite is refined to produce the white powder of alumina. The refinery is a vital link in Alcoa's all Australian aluminium operation. From the alumina comes the aluminium for Australia's future. The skyscrapers, the clocks, the rolling stock—the everything for tomorrow is made possible by Alcoa's all-Australian aluminium operation. Alcoa is now at work in the mining, refining and smelting of aluminium. This £45 million enterprise, through its 49 per cent. Australian ownership, is an important factor in Australia's economic framework.

Mr. Hawke: Very misleading!

ESTATE DUTIES*Effect of Livingstone Case*

37. Mr. EVANS asked the Treasurer:

- (1) Has the decision by the High Court in Livingstone's case, reported in 34 A.L.J.R., 425, resulted in any change of policy as to levying duties in respect of the nature of beneficial interest in property the subject of an unadministered or partly administered estate?

- (2) If so, in what manner?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) No.
(2) Answered by No. (1).

**LAW REFORM (PROPERTY,
PERPETUITIES AND SUCCESSION)
ACT**

Amendment of Section 7(3)

38. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Have any representations by the Law Society's Law Reform Committee been made to the Government in respect of amendment to subsection (3) of section 7 of the Law Reform (Property Perpetuities Succession) Act, 1962?
- (2) Is it considered that section 7 (3) will need to be amended?
- (3) If so, is any such amendment contemplated this session?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) No.
(2) No.
(3) Answered by No. (2).

COMPANIES ACT*Appropriateness of Section 222(1)(f)*

39. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has any consideration been given to the suggestion that the circumstances outlined in section 222 (1) (f) of the Companies Act appear to be an appropriate reason for the removal of such directors, the appointment of an inspector, or the intervention by the court under section 186 rather than for direct winding-up by the court?
- (2) If not, will he have this suggestion examined?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) Answered by No. (1).

**MINISTERIAL EXPENSE
ALLOWANCES***Payments in December 1962 and
January 1963*

40. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Treasurer: What were the respective expense allowances paid by the Treasury to each Minister of the Crown for—
(a) the month of December, 1962;
(b) the month of January, 1963, outside the normal salary (private member and ministerial combined) and reimbursement of expense allowances?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied: On the assumption that the information required relates to travelling expenses paid during these months, the details are as follows:—

	December, 1962.	January, 1963.
Mr. Brand	£6 0 0	N11
Mr. Nalder	£29 0 0	£38 11 6
Mr. Court	N11	£53 4 0
Mr. Lewis	N11	N11
Mr. Wild	£20 12 6	£111 5 6
Mr. Griffith	£37 10 0	N11
Mr. Bovell	N11	N11
Mr. Hutchinson	N11	N11
Mr. Logan	N11	N11
Mr. Craig	£11 0 0	N11

ALBANY REGIONAL HOSPITAL*Enlargement of Parking Area and Road
Widening*

41. Mr. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) As the parking area at the Albany Regional Hospital has become inadequate to meet the demand, will he undertake to have the matter investigated with a view to enlargement?
- (2) As the road serving the Albany Regional Hospital is being taxed to capacity by vehicle traffic, can he advise if any provision has been made for the widening as the demand requires?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) This matter is being investigated.
- (2) It is assumed that the road referred to is Hardy Road. It is considered that it would be desirable for this road to be widened and as the local government authority is responsible, it will be approached in the matter.

Use as Training Centre for Nurses

42. Mr. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) As the Albany Regional Hospital is of very modern design with the latest equipment, can he advise

why Albany has not been declared a training centre for nursing staff?

- (2) Is it the intention of the Department to set up the Albany Regional Hospital as a training centre for nursing staff, and if so, when is it likely that training will commence?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) This hospital has been used for the training of nursing aides for about six years; but the intake of patients, particularly those with acute illnesses, has hitherto not been sufficient to justify using the hospital for the wider purpose of training general nurses.
- (2) This matter will be reviewed periodically, but no indication can be given at this stage as to whether or when the hospital will be brought into use as a general training centre.

WAYCHINICUP WATER

Tabling of Stileman Report on Usage

43. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

Will he lay upon the Table of the House the file relating to the Stileman report on the usage of water from Waychinicup area, Albany?

Mr. WILD replied:

It is regretted that although a close search of available records has been made, the requested Stileman report on the usage of water from Waychinicup area cannot be located. I would point out to the honourable member that Mr. Stileman was Engineer-in-Chief of the Public Works Department from 1926 to 1931.

HOUSING FOR NATIVES

Lining and Ceiling of Houses at Wonthella

44. Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

When will the homes built for and occupied by native families at Wonthella be ceiled and lined?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

The State Housing Commission was advised on the 5th August to accept the tender submitted by Thermotechnic for the ceiling of 12 type V houses, including three houses erected at Wonthella. The contract is to be completed within six months.

FLATS AND DUPLEX HOMES

Legislation to Give Clear Titles

45. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

When is it proposed to introduce "strata" legislation which will enable clear titles to be issued for flats and duplex homes?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The matter is still under consideration.

T.A.B. AGENCY AT SOUTH TERRACE, FREMANTLE

Prosecution of Former Agent W. G. Donohue

46. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

(1) What was the charge made by the Crown against William Gerard Donohue, who had been in control of a T.A.B. Agency in South Terrace, Fremantle, and in connection with which he was fined £25 in the Fremantle Court on Tuesday, the 6th August?

(2) By whom was the complaint made, upon which the prosecution was based?

(3) Was the charge as actually made against Donohue in conformity with the original complaint?

(4) If not, what alterations were made and what were the reasons for any such alterations?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

(1) For a breach of section 37, subsection "b" of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act, 1960.

(2) The original complaint was made to Police by the T.A.B. Chairman and the actual complaint bringing the matter before court was made by Detective Trigwell, on which the defendant was summonsed to court.

(3) The original complaint made by the Chairman of the T.A.B. was one of deficiency of moneys and it was not known if the money had been actually stolen or not. C.I.B. inquiries revealed a deficiency, the circumstances of which were submitted to the Crown Law Department, which advised that the present charge should be laid.

(4) The original complaint from the Chairman of the T.A.B. was one of deficiency of moneys, which upon C.I.B. inquiry resolved itself as set out in question No. (3).

47. *This question was postponed.*

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE*Residential Addresses*

48. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:
How many justices of the peace reside in—
(a) Osborne Park;
(b) Tuart Hill; and
(c) Mt. Yokine?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:
The Premier's Department records indicate the following justices of the peace whose addresses have been advised as—

(a) Osborne Park	3
(b) Tuart Hill	6
(c) Yokine	4

FLOOD DAMAGE REPAIRS*Special Grants to Local Authorities*

49. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it proposed to make special grants to local authorities for the purpose of repairing flood damage experienced recently?
- (2) If so, will the distribution of special grants for flood damage repair cause any reduction in the amounts of normal grant moneys to local authorities?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes. An assessment of abnormal damage is now being made by the department's divisional engineers.
- (2) No.

SINGLE-UNIT FLATS FOR PENSIONERS*Construction in Albany and Other Country Centres*

50. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Was he correctly reported in *The West Australian* of the 7th August, 1963, S.H.C. seeking land in Fremantle area for the construction of single pensioner flats?
- (2) If so, can he advise the policy of the State Housing Commission, with reference to the erection of single pensioner flats in country centres, and in particular, Albany, where there is an acute shortage of single pensioner housing accommodation?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Government has commenced to tackle this problem and will continue to do so. The flats erected so far have been where the need is considered to be the greatest.

BLUFF POINT SCHOOL*Replacement of Existing Building*

51. Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister for Education:

Will he give some indication as to when a new school will be built at Bluff Point to replace the existing old one?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Plans and specifications are at present being prepared for a new four-roomed school at Bluff Point. It is anticipated that a start will be made towards the end of the current financial year.

PERTH-MERREDIN RAILCAR SERVICE*Replacement by Road Buses*

52. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is it proposed to replace the diesel electric railcar service on the Perth-Merredin section with a road bus service?
- (2) If so, what is the reason for discontinuing the railcar service, and when is the changeover likely to occur?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The altered working is being introduced to provide a faster service for the public and the road bus is planned to commence to operate on Monday, the 9th September, 1963.

MARRIED PERSONS SUMMARY RELIEF ACT*Amending Legislation: Date of Second Reading*

53. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

As the Women Justices' Association is interested in possible amendments to the Married Persons Summary Relief Act, will he make known to the secretary of this association the approximate date upon which this Bill will be outlined to the Assembly?

Mr. COURT replied:

The approximate date is uncertain at this stage.

LEAVING AND JUNIOR EXAMINATION*Entrance Fees: Payment by State*

54. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that the finding of the fee of £5 for each of the Leaving and Junior examination

entrances causes economic hardship to many families?

- (2) As State education is alleged to be free, why cannot the State meet the cost, as teachers and staff are available to compile and supervise the examinations mentioned?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No. In any case the fee for the Junior examination is only £4 for nine subjects and £3 10s. for eight subjects.
- (2) The public examinations are conducted by the Public Examinations Board of the University of W.A.

ALCOHOL AND NICOTINE POISONING

Effects and Control

55. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have his departmental officers made any recommendations regarding the effects of alcohol and nicotine poisoning in the community?
- (2) Does the department believe these are of less importance to control than the decaying teeth of children in the community?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) A reduction in the prevalence of alcoholism and excessive smoking is largely a matter of education. Departmental officers have supported and contributed to a programme of education through the Health Education Council. The Mental Health Department is active in the treatment of alcoholism, and rehabilitation of alcoholics is being undertaken in the Government's new centre at Karnet.
- (2) No; but alcoholism and smoking cannot be readily and effectively controlled.

CHRISTINE KEELER'S LIFE STORY

Complaints Concerning "Sunday Times" Article

56. Mr. BRADY asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Have any complaints from W.A. electors been received by his department regarding the article appearing in last week's *Sunday Times* regarding the life of Christine Keeler?
- (2) Has the department power to deal with any complaints received?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) As far as I can ascertain there has been no breach of any law. That is to say, of course, in the printing of the article.

CLOTHES CLEANING FIRMS

Agents in Government Departments

57. Mr. BRADY asked the Premier:

- (1) Have any representations been made to the Government by any clothes cleaning firms to permit them to have agents in various Government departments to collect dry cleaning?
- (2) If so, can the names of the firms be stated?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) There are no agents for clothes cleaning firms in Government departments. However, six Government departments have availed themselves of an offer by firms to pick up parcels at a central point within the respective buildings.
- (2) Hordens Dry Cleaning Service. Swan Dry Cleaners.

GUILDFORD STATE SCHOOL

Additional Playing Grounds

58. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has any decision been made regarding additional playing grounds for the Guildford State School?
- (2) If not, when is it expected a decision will be made?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. Negotiations are now being carried out to acquire a further area south-west of the existing school site.

CREDIT BETTING

Minister's Attitude to Observance of Law

59. Mr. TONKIN: asked the Deputy Premier:

As the Minister for Police in answer to a question on Tuesday gave a statement which was tantamount to a declaration that he would not take any action to have the law observed, thus placing the Crown in the position of not observing the law, will he direct the Minister to observe the law or alternatively ask for his resignation?

Mr. NALDER replied:

I feel quite sure that the Minister is doing his utmost to observe the law.

KENNETH MALCOLM JOHNSON*Protraction of Police Prosecution*

60. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is he aware that Kenneth Malcolm Johnson, who pleaded guilty to a charge of having stolen £57 while working for the Totalisator Agency Board, and was fined £50 on the 31st July, was obliged to make six appearances in the Perth Police Court and four appearances in the Supreme Court, and that his case was finally disposed of in ten minutes?
- (2) How many remands were granted on the application of the prosecution?
- (3) What explanation is given for the protraction of this case with its resultant hardship and cost to the accused?
- (4) Is it not most unfair that the very laudable intention of Magistrate A. G. Smith to ensure the proper administration of the law should come to nought and result only in occasioning greater hardship to the accused?

Tabling of Depositions of Case

- (5) Will he table the depositions of the case?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) The prosecution applied for three remands in the Police Court, owing to the inability of the court being arranged or available to hear the case. At the Supreme Court, although four appearances were made, only one remand was required by the prosecution owing to a Crown witness being absent in the Eastern States, and this was brought about through the accused's change of plea.
- (4) Police Magistrates reserve the right and are empowered to make decisions as to whether a matter should be dealt with in the Police Court or Supreme Court, in such matters as this.
- (5) No.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**KENNETH MALCOLM JOHNSON***Tabling of Depositions of Case*

1. Mr. TONKIN: With regard to the reply the Minister has given to part (5) of question No. 60 on today's notice paper, I would point out that these are public documents, the contents of which have already been made available to the

Press. I ask the Minister for Police: What is the Minister's reason for not tabling the depositions of the case for which I asked?

Mr. CRAIG replied: I understand that my reply follows normal procedure in this House over the years. But in view of the explanation of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition I will make further inquiries into that particular aspect.

FISHERMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE*Composition and Areas Represented*

2. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Who are the members of the Fishermen's Advisory Committee?
- (2) Which sections and what areas of the industry do they represent?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) Director of Fisheries, Chairman; N. Wright, Quindalup, via Busselton, representing deep-sea fishermen other than crayfishermen; G. Travia, Geraldton, representing crayfishermen; W. Matthei, Yunderup, representing estuary and beach fishermen; R. C. Smith, Perth, representing non-commercial fishermen.

CRAYFISHING*Evidence Taken by Fishermen's Advisory Committee*

3. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Before the Minister's recent decision on revised closing dates for the crayfishing industry, was evidence taken by the Fishermen's Advisory Committee from—
 - (a) crayfishermen resident in Bunbury;
 - (b) crayfishermen who had fished the Bunbury area?

Spawning Season South of 33rd Parallel

- (2) When is the spawning season for the area south of the 33rd parallel?

Female Crayfish Caught North of 30th Parallel

- (3) What percentage of crayfish caught north of the 30th parallel were mature female crays approaching the spawning period during the season 1959-60, 1960-61 and 1961-62?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No. Attendance before the committee is entirely voluntary, and all interested parties are invited

by public notice to attend to give evidence. When the last meeting was held at Fremantle in September, 1962, only 2,500 lb. of crayfish had been taken in Bunbury waters by local resident fishermen, and of the total catch of crayfish taken south of 33 degrees in 1962, only 20 per cent. was taken by Bunbury residents.

- (2) Eggs begin to make their appearance as "berry" about the end of September. The "tar spot", showing that the females have been impregnated, first appears in August, similarly to crayfish caught in the Fremantle and Geraldton areas.
- (3) No figures of this kind have been recorded.

STATE HOUSES

Safety Measures Against Cyclones in North-West Towns

4. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:
 - (1) Arising out of his answer to question No. 21 on today's notice paper dealing with dwellings in cyclone areas, in which the Minister stated that it is not economical or practical to build dwellings in timber-frame construction that would resist all damage if the house is in the direct path of a major cyclone, is he aware that timber dwellings are already erected there which have been in the direct path of a cyclone—particularly private buildings in Onslow—and in most cases these houses were erected at a lower cost than State Housing Commission houses to withstand cyclones?
 - (2) In view of this, would he make further inquiries in connection with this matter as to the future construction of Housing Commission houses to withstand cyclones?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) I will make further inquiries.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Use of Aerial Spraying

5. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister for Health:

Does the Government intend, during the forthcoming summer, to employ aerial spraying methods for controlling mosquitoes?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

I am not in a position to inform the honourable member or the House just what measures will be

taken at this point of time to control mosquitoes or minimise their nuisance. It has been conveyed via the Press and per medium of answers to questions the honourable member has asked today that it is hoped to co-ordinate the efforts of local authorities and the Government towards the minimisation of the nuisance of mosquitoes. When we are in a position to ascertain what is the best course to pursue and the type of campaign that should take place, then money will be spent and the efforts of local authorities and the Government will work together. Until that point of time it would appear that money spent would largely be wasted.

Mr. H. May: Does that apply to the country, too?

6. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister for Health:

Will he undertake to give consideration to employing aerial spraying?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

This suggestion will be conveyed to the Commissioner of Public Health; but I would ask the honourable member to give consideration to the answer I have just given him.

MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY'S LINE

Removal by Standard Gauge Engineers

7. Mr. COURT: Yesterday I promised the member for Maylands I would obtain some information regarding a train in which he was interested.

Mr. Oldfield: Not the train; the line that wasn't there.

Mr. COURT: I find it was a ballast train and all work in connection with the taking up of the existing Midland Railway Company line was carried out in full collaboration with the company, and all train movements during this period were under the control of the company. It is understood that the instance referred to was due to a Midland Railway Company's ballast train, hauled by a Midland Railway locomotive and in charge of a Midland Railway crew, experiencing braking difficulties on wet rails, which caused the locomotive of the train and one hopper wagon to overshoot the end of the line.

UNEMPLOYED MIGRANT

Period in Western Australia: Personal Explanation

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [2.56 p.m.]: When I was speaking in the House on Tuesday I stated that a pattern maker from Great Britain had been five months in the country unemployed. The gentleman to whom I referred was present in the House at the time and reminded me afterwards that that statement was not correct. I had to wait until I got the transcript of what I said in order to check on what I did say and I found that I did tell the House this Englishman had been here five months.

The facts are that he arrived here on the *Fairsea* on the 14th June and he worked, as I stated, a fortnight with McAlister and has been unemployed ever since. I regret I misled the House to the extent of stating he had been here five months when the period was something under two months. I hasten to take advantage of this opportunity to put the matter right. With regard to everything else I said that night I accept full responsibility; and to the best of my belief it was all perfectly true.

RESERVES BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 7th August, on the following motion by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [2.58 p.m.]: This Bill proposes to cancel the existing reserve classification of, firstly, the land which has been named for a great many years as the Hale School site; and, secondly, the land which has been known also for a great many years as the Observatory site. Those two areas of land are adjacent to this Parliament House building and are therefore well known to us.

The Observatory has been used for observatory purposes for a great many years, and is still being so used. Hale School, as such, operated on the other area of land for a considerable number of years, and continued so to operate until some 18 months or two years ago. The Hale School site land was purchased by the Government of the day on behalf of the State some four or five years ago and, in more recent months, has been used by the Education Department, Hale School activities having been transferred to the new set of Hale School buildings in the Wembley Downs area. In the circumstances there could not be any objection to the proposal in this Bill to cancel the existing reserve classifications as they apply to those two areas of land.

In connection with the other part of the Bill, which proposes to place both areas of land under the one reserve and the one classification to enable the whole of the land to be used for the requirements of the Government in the future, there may be some difference of opinion as to whether the provision made in the clause in that regard is sufficient to meet all requirements, particularly in relation to such requirements as Parliament itself might have in future years.

I understand this aspect of the situation has been considered today by members of the Joint House Committee of Parliament House, and that there has been some discussion between representatives of that committee and the Acting Premier. Therefore, presumably, when the Minister is replying to the debate we will hear something from him about that; or, maybe before the Minister replies, the Acting Premier may have some information to give to members on that particular point.

The only other angle I wish to discuss is the great haste with which it has now been found necessary to have this Bill brought before Parliament. We find as soon as Parliament assembles for this session a motion is brought forward to suspend Standing Orders so that the Bill might receive speedy consideration and a swift and successful passage through both Houses of Parliament.

It would appear that someone was very lax in this matter last year, because it seems to me someone in the Government service—some of the leading officers in one or more of the departments, if not one or more of the Ministers—should have known that the action now proposed in this Bill should have been put in hand and carried through before the last session of Parliament was completed; and I would like some explanation from the Minister or the Acting Premier as to why such action was not taken before last session concluded, therefore making it necessary for all this rush and bustle at the beginning of the new session.

I have also heard and read some very strong complaints made, I understand, on behalf of the personnel of the existing Observatory about the steps which the Government proposes in relation to taking away that site and making it impossible therefore for the Observatory operations to be continued there; and also in relation to the proposed new site upon which the new Observatory will be constructed. I believe that site is somewhere in the Darling Range up Bickley or Kalamunda way.

If the Minister has more information which would answer whatever criticism has been voiced in that matter, I think members of the House might appreciate any information he is able to make available. I support the second reading of the

Bill and trust that in his reply the Minister will give us further information before the Bill passes into the Committee stage.

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Deputy Premier) [3.3 p.m.]: In regard to the points made by the Leader of the Opposition, I would like to indicate to the House that the future requirements of Parliament House and the land adjoining have been discussed by the Joint House Committee and a recommendation has been made to which the Government is not opposed. The proposal is to include two more words in the present Bill to help in regard to the future requirements of Parliament. In other words, the addition of these two words will satisfy the House Committee in connection with future requirements of Parliament House. It is considered necessary that a portion of land should be made available for any future requirements, and the Government has no objection to the inclusion in the last clause of the words "and Parliament."

My suggestion is that we in this House pass the Bill as it is at present and have the proposed amendment made in another place. I do not feel it is necessary to go into any details, because the House Committee has discussed this fully and it believes that further buildings or further parking space may be necessary in the future. Therefore the Government is quite happy about making this provision, which I feel should be satisfactory not only to the House Committee but also to members of Parliament.

With regard to the other point raised by the Leader of the Opposition—the necessity for haste—I must explain that this has been the result of an oversight. One of the officers dealing with this matter had retired from the Public Works Department, and when the subject was brought up later this year it was found it had been overlooked. This has, of course, happened before. It has been necessary often to suspend Standing Orders to introduce some special legislation, and in this case it is absolutely necessary for the reasons outlined by the Minister for Lands last night. I think we can accept the fact that the matter was a complete oversight and that no-one is to blame.

MR. HEAL (Perth) [3.7 p.m.]: I have no desire to oppose the second reading of this Bill, but I am concerned with one section of it. In relation to the Hale School site, I feel that is a first-class area on which Government offices could be erected because of its close proximity to Parliament House. However, I am a little concerned about the Observatory site being used for this purpose. From the Minister's speech I gather that the Hale School site and the Observatory site will be used in the future for Government offices.

As the Leader of the Opposition explained, the Observatory has been on its present site for many years. Since it was announced that it will be shifted to a more suitable site—more suitable for the efficient operation of the Observatory—many people have raised objections, both in my own electorate and outside it. They have stated that the Observatory where it is at present situated is close for the public to inspect it, and has been a landmark for many years. As a matter of fact, it is one of the best landmarks and best pieces of land in Perth.

My personal opinion is that Government offices should not be erected on it as is the proposition outlined to us by the Minister. This piece of land, which practically overlooks the river and is on one of the highest points in Perth, should be used for a more specific purpose. For instance, it could be used for a future residence for the Governor of the State. No doubt the present building occupied by the Governor will in the future be used for some other purpose. It was erected in the early years by the convicts and it could be used as a show place in Western Australia. I am not for a moment advocating that it should be demolished, but am suggesting that it could be used for some other purpose.

The piece of land on which the present Observatory is situated is too valuable to be used for Government offices and should be put to better use—perhaps providing some attraction for tourists. I do not mean to imply that Government officers are not good enough to use such a site. However, the Hale School site is available, and I have no doubt that any building erected on it will be of a high standard. But, I do believe that the Observatory site should be utilised for something other than Government offices, and that suggestion is one which should be given consideration by the Government in the near future.

MR. DAVIES (Victoria Park) [3.10 p.m.]: Like the previous speakers, I feel somewhat concerned over the future of the Observatory and the lack of concern that has been shown in connection with resiting it. Although the Acting Premier said he hoped the House would accept the excuse that a man retired and the matter was overlooked, I do not accept that at all. This is the type of oversight that should never occur. One of the most important features of the provision of a new building is to say when and where the land will be available. Surely no-one could overlook the fact that the Observatory was there.

Perhaps some people consider observatories as not being necessary in our way of life; perhaps some even think they might be associated with the casting of horoscopes, or something like that. But

the Perth Observatory, because of its location, has played an important part in various readings and scientific surveys that have been conducted.

Mr. Nalder: You misinterpreted the explanation I gave. It dealt with the transfer of the reserve, not the transfer of the Observatory. The transfer of the Observatory has been in hand for quite a long time.

Mr. DAVIES: I am delighted to hear the Acting Premier's explanation on the point, and I apologise if I misinterpreted him. But here again the transfer of the Observatory has been in hand for some time, so why is it to be rushed through now and the work it is doing—so I understand—seriously disturbed? It would have been necessary, I imagine, to start planning some years ago to resite the Observatory so that the transfer of the scientific work done there could be made without any undue disturbance or delay.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Agreeing that there will be some disturbance to the Observatory facilities, would you say that because of that we should not press on with the other propositions which necessitated this move?

Mr. DAVIES: If I am to be cross-examined—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: No.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. DAVIES: I believe that consideration should have been given to it before, and I am criticising the Government for not having given the matter prior consideration. I also believe we should look at the position of whether other sections of the proposed buildings could be built first rather than start by shifting the Observatory as the initial move. Those are the two points I make, and I feel I am quite justified in making them.

I do not know a great deal about the Observatory myself, but I have done a little research and have been given some information.

Mr. J. Hegney: Have you looked at the stars?

Mr. DAVIES: In effect we are ringing the death knell of the Observatory, and I suppose we are to see its rebirth at Mt. Gungahlin. It is interesting to note in *The West Australian* of the 30th September, 1896, the account of the laying of the foundation stone of the Observatory. With the indulgence of the House I would like to read it.

The report is in rather flowery language, and it makes me wonder whether the newspaper reporters these days are getting their money easily; or perhaps there was a dearth of news back in 1896 and they had to find something to fill up the columns. If members read the report

they will find some of the statements made by officials at the time ring true today. The report is headed, "Perth Observatory. Laying the Foundation Stone," and it states—

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Perth Observatory was yesterday performed by the Premier, Sir John Forrest, in the presence of a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen. The nakedness of the unfinished building was concealed as much as possible by the use of bunting and greenery, which were used with considerable effect, while uprights and supports of the platform were wreathed with similar decorations, and in back a large screen was erected festooned with flags, flowers, and evergreens, with the royal arms in the centre, and over this the names of the world's four greatest astronomers, Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, and Herschel. In front of the building was a roped enclosure, part of which leading to the foundation stone was carpeted, while the other portion formed a passage giving access to the platform. In the passage was placed a table where the visitors signed the plans and visitors' roll to be deposited under the stone with the other documents. Opposite was a marquee for the entertainment of the visitors, and near this the band-stand for the Headquarters-Band, who, under Bandmaster Bryan enlivened the proceedings with a selection of music. As already stated, there was a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen. Among those present to meet the Premier and Lady Forrest were Sir George Shenton (President of the Legislative Council) and Lady Shenton, Sir James G. Lee Steere (Speaker of the Legislative Assembly) and Lady Lee Steere, Mr. F. H. Piesse (Commissioner of Railways), Mr. J. W. Hackett, M.L.C., Mr. D. K. Congdon, M.L.C., Mr. H. J. Saunders, M.L.C. (Mayor of Perth), Mr. M. L. Moss, M.L.A., Mr. J. Cookworthy, M.L.A., Mr. L. S. Eliot (Under-Treasurer), Mr. G. T. Poole (Colonial Architect)—

It looks like the opening of Kununurra. To continue—

—Mr. F. Spencer (Auditor-General), Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P., Right Rev. Bishop Gibney, Lieutenant-Colonel Phillips (Commissioner of Police), Mr. H. F. Johnston, Mr. J. J. Harwood, Mr. R. Pether (Government Printer)—

He does not get into the proceedings too often these days—

—Captain J. A. Campbell, Mr. J. Davies (General Traffic Manager), Mr. R. Fairbairn, R. M., Mr. D. Lindsay, Mr. B. H. Woodward, Mr. Stafford, Mr. L. Goodrich &c. &c.

Mr. W. Hegney: They left Charlie Court out!

Mr. DAVIES: The report continues—
After some delay in the proceedings, occasioned by the somewhat lengthy process of obtaining the signatures of the visitors to the roll.

The Commissioner of Railways apologised to those present for the delay which had taken place, and said when he took part in the laying of the foundation stone of the Mint a few days before—

Incidentally the Mint is just about to be killed, I understand. To continue—

—he was hardly aware he should so soon be called upon to speak on such an occasion as this. No doubt this was an age of progress—

By golly, that rings true today—

—and the laying of the foundation stone of the Observatory was another indication of the great progress of the colony. No one could appreciate this wonderful science and its more recent discoveries better than Sir John Forrest himself, who had experienced its advantages in carrying out the work of exploration from time to time. Those who knew the colony would admit that they did not expect to see the Observatory commenced so early—

We did not expect to see the Government buildings commence so early, either. Continuing—

—and he thought Sir John Forrest might take credit for having brought forward the idea much earlier than the Mint. (Applause.)

The following were placed in a lead-en box:—

Mr. H. May: Who were they?

Mr. DAVIES: This is what the report states—

A copy of the plans of the building signed by a number of the visitors; a list of maps of the goldfields; plans of the city of Perth; the port of Fremantle, and other towns; the "Mining Handbook," and other books connected with the mining industry; the present issue of the West Australian postage stamps and post cards; the coins of the realm, nine in number; copies of the leading Western Australian journals and the *Government Gazette*; plan of existing railways of the colony; list of members of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly; a box containing the Röntgen rays tubes, and a description of the process, together with specimen photographs; the meteorological report and the "Nautical Almanac" for the year. These having been sealed up in a box, and the latter deposited in a cavity beneath the stone.

It will be interesting to see whether they are in a similar state to the relics we found last year under the foundation

stone of Parliament House. No doubt the Historical Society will find great interest in them.

Continuing—

The Commissioner of Railways handed Sir John Forrest the gavel and square, and invited him to perform the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone. He mentioned that the stone was a block of granite from Boorabbin, and was another indication of the progress made by the colony and, he hoped, a token that in future they would be able to show to the world proofs of the great resources and capabilities of Western Australia.

We see such words and phrases in the Press every day, even in these times, but this report was made in 1896. Continuing—

The Premier then tested the laying of the stone and declared it to be well and truly laid. After this the gathering was photographed.

I do not think I will go on reading the rest of it.

Mr. Hawke: Oh! Do!

Mr. DAVIES: Very well. Continuing—

Sir John Forrest then addressed the gathering. He said this was another important occasion in the history of the colony. Last week they were engaged in laying the foundation stone of the Perth branch of the Royal Mint, and this week they were engaged in laying the foundation stone of the Perth Observatory. Both of these occurrences were evidences of the progress of the colony. The present occasion, however, showed more than that: It showed that in the time of our prosperity we were trying to elevate and improve the public mind and to do something for the encouragement of the arts and sciences in this colony. Everyone knew there was nothing so elevating as the study of the work of nature, and of all her works, so beautiful and incomprehensible, there was none more beautiful and incomprehensible, more awe-inspiring and infinite than the movement and the constitution of the heavenly bodies.

So it goes on. I thought it would be of interest to read to the House this newspaper report, which shows that politicians in those days were much the same as those on the Government side of the House today.

Mr. J. Hegney. They laid it on with a trowel.

Mr. DAVIES: We hear time and time again about the great leap forward and now it appears it was started from a block of granite from Boorabbin. However, I am seriously concerned at the disruption that will take place to the Observatory work. As I said, I am no astronomer and I do

not know a great deal about this science, but there are a number of people around Perth who are extremely interested in the Observatory and its work and who have gone to some trouble to give me some information on the results of its services.

It appears that in 1887 a conference in Paris decided to prepare catalogues and a star chart of the whole sky on a standard basis. In carrying out the necessary photographic work in the southern hemisphere the Perth Observatory took over nine zones, including the section originally planned for Rio de Janeiro. The equipment used to pinpoint the position of certain bright reference stars was a transit circle telescope. The same was done by a number of almost identical instruments throughout the world. The results were then collected, compared, and finally published. Perth completed its photographic work in 1922 and began to publish its results.

Mr. Rowberry: Did they see the constellation fall on the horizon?

Mr. DAVIES: In 1922 all finance to the Observatory was suddenly cut off, the staff was drastically reduced, and the publishing work had to be completed by Paris. Owing to lack of trained staff and finance, instruments—particularly the transit circle telescope—had to be left idle, and they deteriorated so much that it will now cost nearly £8,000 to put them in working order.

In the last few years, due to the improvement in instruments, the movement of stars in the past 50 years, and the higher degree of accuracy demanded by astronomical navigation, as well as new fields of study opened up by men like Einstein, astrophysicists, and others, it has become obvious that a new survey is necessary. For obvious reasons, it is desirable that as many of the original observatories as possible should take part; and to help Perth recondition its instruments, a grant of £8,000 was made by an American foundation through the International Astronomical Union.

However, as at the moment there is doubt about the future of the Observatory, the Government is holding this money in the Treasury and will not allow it to be spent. In other words, if this situation continues there is a possibility that the State may lose the grant altogether.

I understand that to ensure there will be no difference in the readings taken from the Perth Observatory it is essential they should be taken on the same site as that on which the last readings were taken, and for this reason the Observatory staff had hoped they would not be disturbed from their present position for a period of five years. However, arising from the desire of the Government to proceed with the building of the Government offices, I understand a committee was

appointed to inquire into the advisability of shifting the Observatory; that is, to inquire into site and accessibility. But we are not quite certain who the members of that committee are.

Mr. Bovell: I told you who they were in my introductory remarks to my second reading speech.

Mr. DAVIES: I looked for a copy of the Minister's second reading speech, but I could not find it in time.

Mr. Bovell: I have it here.

Mr. DAVIES: The Minister is a little far away from where I sit and I regret I did not hear the names of the people that were read out.

Mr. Oldfield: He has such a soft, sweet, dulcet voice that it is difficult to hear him.

Mr. DAVIES: The fact is that the committee brought down recommendations, but the Observatory staff are still not very happy about shifting from their present site within such a short period. There is other work being undertaken at the Observatory which I understand is important not only to Western Australia but also in relation to international scientific work that is being carried out. I have been given to understand that the work will now have to cease because of the building operations nearby, and it will be impossible for the Observatory staff to use the delicate instruments that are necessary to gauge the movements of the stars. It seems a pity that the decision that has been made was not made some years ago so the Observatory could have been shifted without its work being disrupted.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You do not think this money should be spent on housing instead of on another Observatory?

Mr. DAVIES: I suppose that is meant to be a trick question; but I would say that everything must be taken in relation to its importance. If one is going to start talking like that, one could say that the civil servants should continue to work in their present offices.

Mr. Tonkin: One might ask why £25,000 has been spent on a telescope if it is not to be put in an Observatory.

Mr. Oldfield: Perhaps Government members might want to get some practice with it for next year.

Mr. DAVIES: I would like to know when the decision was made to advance the date for the demolition of the Observatory. The other important point is: Why was not the Hale School site used for the first stage of the building rather than the way it is now being used? No doubt there are reasons, but I do not know whether they are acceptable. It seems to me we are going about this matter in the wrong way. Although I understand a recommendation

has been made by Professor Stephenson—I did not catch the name when the Minister made his speech last night—for the building of Government offices on that site, I have heard people who are interested in town planning, though not with the same qualifications as Professor Stephenson, criticise the recommendation.

There is one aspect with which I do not agree. The building of Government offices on the hill will disturb the balance of the city skyline. I find the flats on top of the hill in Mount Street rather upset the balance of the Perth skyline, although I do not imagine that is an important factor. However, that view has been expressed, and I for one am inclined to agree with it. A group of buildings situated on a hill dominating the city does not improve the skyline.

I conclude on this point: The important thing is why the Government is going about the matter in this way. Why were not arrangements made to shift the Observatory in plenty of time and with plenty of notice, so that there would be no disruption of the work being carried on at the Observatory on an international level?

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary) [3.32 p.m.]: It is appropriate that I should say something about the remarks that have been made. One remark of the previous speaker that the Government has shown a lack of concern over the siting of the new Observatory is rather unfair. It is true there will be some disturbance of the work of the Observatory; but that has arisen because the commencement of the new buildings for the Public Works Department has been pushed forward, as has the construction of the switch road linking the present road system with the northern section of the city.

I cannot give the exact date, but the decision to push forward with those projects was made as a result of the rapid progress in the growth of the city, and the increased traffic. That is obvious to every member. Those factors have occasioned the Government to step forward, in order to keep abreast with the progress being made in the city's growth. There will always be some sentiment expressed at the demolition of old buildings which have served for a long period of time.

Mr. Davies: I was being practical, not sentimental.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: There will always be some sadness, or some form of sentiment expressed about the destruction of old buildings, to give way to the new. The crux of the situation was for the Government to make up its mind on whether or not to proceed with the building of a new Observatory on a new site. The Gov-

ernment has made its decision, and it has resolved to go forward with the building of a new Observatory.

Mr. Davies: Why a delay of four years?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The plans were proceeding to put the building on another site, but they had to be hastened because of the need to push forward with the progress in the city's growth. The Observatory will be established on a new site, which the Minister for Lands described when he introduced the Bill. For many years it had been considered by astronomers that the existing Observatory was wrongly situated. One reason—which even applied many years ago—was the growth of the city and another, which applied in recent years, was the light from the city at night, which interfered with the reading of the stars.

Mr. Davies: That is not disputed.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: So the Observatory has to be removed from its present site in due course. There is a very strong school of thought—there may even be proponents of that school of thought in the Opposition ranks, and it might have been there when the Opposition was in office—that the work of the Observatory is not truly a State function, and should be undertaken as a Commonwealth function; and, possibly, even on an internationally shared basis.

With these factors in mind the Government appointed a committee, the composition of which is as follows:—

Mr. F. Gregson, Consultant Special Projects, State Treasury.

Mr. T. W. Meharry, Chief Geodetic Surveyor and Inspector of Plans and Surveys, Survey Branch, Lands Department.

Mr. J. Gibson, Assistant Under-Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department.

Mr. G. Cooper, Senior Inspector, Public Service Commissioner's Office.

Assisted by the Acting Government Astronomer, **Mr. B. Harris.**

On its present site on the hill the Observatory is wrongly situated, and Professor Stephenson had this to say about the site—

The Observatory itself as the city grows would be better placed in the hills where there would be less interference from artificial lights at night and no atmospheric pollution.

Mr. R. Davies: Are you reading from the Minister's speech?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: That is contained in the Stephenson report. That expression of opinion gave plenty of opportunity to the Government which the honourable member supported to take action. Having regard for what I have said

as to whose function this matter is, whether or not the Observatory should be shifted, how soon, and when, I would point out the time has arrived when those things should be done; and this Government took action. But as soon as the Government takes action there is criticism. I suppose there will always be some who criticise.

Mr. Kelly: And with justification.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The first site selected was at Mt. Gungin near Kalamunda and Bickley. The Minister for Lands did inform us that the advice of Professor Bok and Dr. A. R. Hogg of the Mt. Stromlo Observatory, and others, was sought, and that finally a site was selected in close proximity to this one. It is about 2½ miles east of the Bickley townsite, and £40,000 has been placed on the Estimates this year for the commencement of the new Observatory, and planning is now under way.

The Main Roads Department engineers have visited the site and road alignments have already been worked out. It is expected that the capital cost of the new project will be in the vicinity of £125,000. It is also expected that astronomers from a European country will come out here, and perhaps put in some money to provide buildings and housing facilities to study the southern skies. I admit there will be some disturbance of the work of the Observatory, and it is regretted that should happen.

Mr. Davies: You acknowledge that?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I acknowledge there will be disturbance of the work of the Observatory, and that is regretted. The circumstances being what they are, the Government has taken steps quite quickly to try to overcome the circumstances, and provide an Observatory for the future; and, indeed, no matter how long we take the stars will still be there.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Belmont) [3.40 p.m.]: I propose to support the motion. It was due to the foresight of the previous Government that the Hale School site was acquired. The then Government obtained the necessary finance and eventually secured the site for future public offices. We should not lose sight of that fact, because there is no doubt that in its action the then Government made a contribution to the future development of Perth.

We know that offices in the city have become badly overcrowded and we have great difficulty in finding parking space. Future members of Parliament will be in a better position than we are today. There is no doubt that what is happening to the Hale School site is due to the changing development of Western Australia. The State is going ahead rapidly. I do not propose to criticise any Government; the State is going ahead rapidly in spite of

Governments. I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on his foresight and initiative when Premier and Treasurer in securing the Hale School site for future public offices.

The remarks made by the member for Victoria Park concerning the historical background of the Observatory were interesting. In the past I have heard Labor members who were very critical of the Observatory, and when the Estimates were under discussion they moved a reduction of £1 in the vote in order to show their displeasure.

The Observatory has made a contribution to the State from a scientific point of view; and, for that matter, it has made a contribution throughout the world, because it has been used by people from all walks of life. I went there on various occasions when I was a young man. I took an interest in what was happening in the universe, as do many other people, and I was encouraged to visit the Observatory.

Noise has become the curse of this age and there is no doubt that noise has had an effect on the future of the Observatory. I understand that prominent astronomers recommended that the site should be changed from its present position to the hills, and it is the intention of the Government to transfer the Observatory to a site near Bickley.

We are all aware of the development that is taking place in Perth. I remember when there were two tramlines going down Hay Street. When the Government of the day proposed that one tramline should be taken away, commercial concerns opposed the move because they thought it would interfere with vested interests and would take away their sources of revenue.

Time has marched on and there is no doubt that there is a need for new public offices on the site proposed. The Labor Government secured the Hale School site for that purpose, and the proposition was recommended by Professor Stephenson in his report. Professor Stephenson also recommended that the Observatory site should be shifted. I hope the Government will give full consideration to the grounds of the Observatory being put to the best possible use, having regard for the future of the State.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.4 p.m.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: As I was saying prior to the suspension, this consolidation of public buildings associated with the Government of Western Australia is an important issue. I indicated that a few years ago the Hawke Government showed foresight in acquiring the Hale School site for this purpose; and I hope this Government, immediately it gets the necessary authority by the passing of the Bill, will take a great leap forward and push on

with the construction of the buildings so that a considerable amount of work will be found for those engaged in the building trade. I say this because I know there are many people engaged in this section of industry who are out of work.

We can all see that the State generally, and particularly the City of Perth, is going ahead by leaps and bounds, as I said before, in spite of us all, and we cannot hold it back. However, we must ensure that we have the authority to plan properly so that we will not experience the difficulties that have been experienced by other capital cities in respect of congestion through bad planning. I think the departments will be well sited, and when they are housed in the area opposite it will make a good deal of room in the city available for other types of commercial activity. An important feature is that most of our departments will be centralised opposite the Parliament of Western Australia and members of Parliament in days to come will find that most convenient and economical.

I support the measure and I hope the Government will get on with the business and thus provide employment for many workers in the building industry who at present are out of work.

MR. H. MAY (Collie) [4.7 p.m.]: I support the two-word amendment proposed by the Deputy Premier, but I feel I should take this opportunity to express my disgust at the way this matter has been dealt with. As most members know I am a member of the House Committee; however, I am not speaking in that connection this afternoon but on my own behalf. Some time ago the authority was advised by letter by the House Committee regarding its requirements, but not another word did we hear until the Deputy Premier introduced this Bill yesterday.

Mr. Nalder: That is not correct. You know that.

Mr. H. MAY: That is my statement and I will stick to it.

Mr. Nalder: The Chairman of the House Committee has been in touch with me for some time over this matter.

Mr. H. MAY: We had no official reply until a letter from the Minister in connection with the matter was read this morning. The Government selects members of the House Committee to do a job and that job is to look after this Parliament in every way. The House Committee has looked ahead and worked out what will be needed in the years to come as regards accommodation for members of Parliament.

Mr. Nalder: And the Government has respected its views.

Mr. H. MAY: All right! You will get your opportunity to have a say in a minute.

Mr. Nalder: I have already had my say.

Mr. H. MAY: And I am having my say now and I intend to put the facts on record and the way in which we have been treated in regard to the matter.

The first that members of the House Committee knew of the agreement on the inclusion of the two words in the Bill was when the Acting Premier mentioned it to-day. I do not know who it was, but somebody in authority completely ignored the recommendations of the House Committee on this matter. I was very disturbed, and I expressed my opinion this morning when the members of the House Committee were hastily called together in order to deal with the letter from the Acting Premier.

Even then there was no guarantee that the proposals submitted by the House Committee would be embodied in this Bill. It was not until the conclusion of the meeting, and when the Chairman of the House Committee was directed to interview the responsible authority—I do not know whether it was the Acting Premier or who it was—to find out why there was no mention of the proposition put forward by the committee that we found the inclusion of the two words had been agreed to.

So far as this Bill was concerned, apparently the recommendations of the House Committee were to be left high and dry. Those recommendations concern future accommodation for members and the parking of their cars. The number of members in this Parliament is not always going to be the same. It is visualised that it will be double and therefore twice as much accommodation will be required. However, we got no satisfaction whatsoever in regard to the recommendations made. I am now speaking on my own behalf. I made it quite clear to the members of the House Committee this morning that we had been completely snubbed.

It was only after extreme pressure from the House Committee that the Acting Premier saw fit to include the two words. The inclusion of those two words in the Bill was all that was required. I take this opportunity to express my disgust at the way the House Committee has been treated in regard to this matter.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [4.13 p.m.]: I support the Bill, especially as we now have the assurance of the Acting Premier that the two words in question will be inserted in another place.

Mr. Tonkin: Do not place too much reliance on assurances!

Mr. W. A. MANNING: We can confidently do that. We can depend on this Government. The inclusion of the words "Parliament and" before the word "Government" will meet the situation which

has arisen and ensure that the land will be used to the best advantage by the Government and the people of this State.

I believe this is a forward move to establish the Government offices in a readily accessible position in the City of Perth. The point that occurs to me, however, is that this is the outcome of some forward planning which originated in the report by Professor Stephenson, and it has involved many alterations to the planning of the city, and many expensive additions; and eventually there will come the proposed western switch road which will run to the east of Parliament House, making necessary the demolition of many Government offices. As a result, this Bill is brought down for the speedy erection of new Government offices on the Hale School site adjacent to Parliament House. We cannot disagree with this move, because it is an indication of the progress of the State according to our plan.

However, there is an angle to it which occurs to me. As we have had foresight enough to prepare a plan for our metropolitan area in the future, and in view of the fact that we have paid much money for that plan and that millions of pounds will be spent to implement it, I think we should also give some serious consideration to the planning of the whole State. I advocate this because the city has a larger population than it should have in relation to the size of the State, and in relation to the population in the rest of the State.

Therefore, in view of the fact that we have prepared a plan for the metropolitan area in the future—and a wise one it is—we should also have a plan for the development of the whole State. We should commission someone to prepare such a plan for the future construction of arterial roads, the planning of transport of various kinds, and to ensure that the utmost use is made of outports instead of all our shipping being concentrated at Fremantle and Cockburn Sound. Greater use should be made of the ports of Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, and Geraldton.

Mr. Bickerton: And Onslow.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I will not mention that one! The ports I am mentioning are certainties, and they are convenient to the hinterland. If they were developed they would be of importance to the agricultural, mining, and pastoral industries. There is tremendous potential for the extension of our agricultural production.

So I repeat that, as we have planned for the metropolitan area in the future, we should also have an over-all plan for the whole of the State so that transport, including shipping, could be planned years in advance. If it is considered profitable to plan ahead for the metropolitan area so that we can achieve the utmost gain in the future by avoiding bottlenecks, I think

it is just as important—if not more important—that the country areas should be similarly planned and we should select points for the provision of speedy transport of goods to the ports.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I hope the honourable member can relate these remarks to the Bill.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I can.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Well, I would like you to do so.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: We have been told that the reason why this Bill should be passed as soon as possible is because of regional planning, and if it were not for regional planning we would not be discussing this Bill today. Therefore, my remarks are vital to the subject under consideration.

We have been told that somebody missed out because this Bill was not agreed to last session, and therefore we have to expedite it today. The explanation given for its delay was that these events have occurred in a hurry. I consider we have to take cognisance of the fact that it is due to our planning for the metropolitan area, and therefore the same should apply to the country areas. If you think I am off the track, Mr. Speaker, at least I have conveyed my feelings to the House; and if a similar Bill is brought forward for the planning of the country areas I will wholeheartedly support it.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [4.18 p.m.]: I prefer to leave the selection of the Observatory site and consideration of all its associated problems to the astronomers, syzygists, and stargazers because possibly, they would know more about it than I would. However, I wish to say a few words on the over-all scheme of things in the immediate vicinity of Parliament House. I hope you will bear with me, Mr. Speaker, on this, because tied to the proposal before us today is the problem of the future development of Parliament House, its grounds, and the immediate need of facilities for members.

You will be aware, Sir, that in 1961 a road closure Bill was passed in this House which vested in the Parliament House Reserve that part of Harvest Terrace between Parliament Place and Malcolm Street. By law that portion of Harvest Terrace is closed, but it is true the Statute has not been proclaimed. The House Committee was quite satisfied in accepting that portion of Harvest Terrace as a replacement, more or less, for the amount of territory it will lose when the Mitchell Freeway cuts off a slice of land at the bottom of the Parliament House reserve.

But a month ago, to the amazement of members of the House Committee, we saw a Press photograph featuring several Ministers, including the Minister for Works,

looking at a full-scale model of the Mitchell Freeway and its associated road works. Together with the photograph there was a detailed explanation as to how the system of highways would be used when the ultimate plan was completed. In that ultimate plan the free use of Harvest Terrace was again planned without any reference to the House Committee or mention of its requirements. This had been incorporated by the planners in the entire scheme of development in this area.

Mr. Graham: What is more important, it was done without any reference to Parliament itself.

Mr. JAMIESON: That is so; but I hasten to remind members that the section of the Act has not yet been proclaimed; so, although it is not actually law, it is so close to law that it does not matter. It has had the blessing of both Houses of Parliament.

After having discovered this change of plans, the members of the House Committee discussed with the Main Roads Department on that occasion several alternatives in the proposal that the Government's advisers saw fit to put up; namely, that by shifting the top part of Harvest Terrace to the west slightly, and making it a one-way street for traffic coming only from King's Park Road there could be included a certain section at least of Harvest Terrace in the Parliament House Reserve.

In other words there would possibly be a garden strip separating the public road, and portion of the area would revert to Parliament House Reserve for Parliament House purposes. The House Committee thought it was a fair compromise because of the various proposals associated with other development, one of which was that there would be a three-storied car park constructed immediately opposite Parliament House, which would bring the site for the housing of officers roughly on to the level of the present Observatory site.

It was planned to contain in that car park 1,700 cars belonging to personnel employed in the offices built on the area above it. I understand this has again been changed, and this is where the concern comes in. I understand that no consideration is to be given now for that parking. I would point out that hardly a day passes without some member of the House Committee being approached by a private member as a result of his not being able to find space in which to park his car. As a matter of fact the member for Wembley approached me on such a matter only today.

We know there are problems connected with the building; and we also know that there are people who park within the confines of Parliament House Reserve who are not permitted to do so. But we also know, after discussion and advice from the

engineers of the Main Roads Department, that there is insufficient parking for members of Parliament and the parliamentary staff. We know that this must be provided. Having regard for the odd hours that the staff work when Parliament is in session; having regard for the fact, for instance, that the *Hansard* reporters continue for perhaps an hour or more with their duties after the House rises, we cannot reasonably expect them to go to the other end of King's Park Road to pick up their vehicles when they knock off. The alternative is that Parliament should provide transport for them. The feeling is that they should go back to their homes in their own time, and that has been the habit in the past.

It would be impossible for the members and staff to find sufficient parking on the Parliament House site as it stands now, particularly having regard for the odd working hours of Parliament, and the fact that we begin work during the peak parking period. We would need at least 160 to 170 parking spaces. We have 60 parking bays in our own car park, plus a few in the street; and we are loaded to capacity at the present time.

That is only one fact of the development. We all know that with the further development of the Parliament House the numbers of the staff will also increase; some of the staff will be upgraded, and those who have a degree of importance will be allocated parking space, as is the case at the moment with the top-grade men. This being so, more parking facilities will be required for such purposes.

Having this in mind, and having finally got to know about the Bill that was to be brought forward to protect the interests of Parliament and its reserves, the House Committee passed and sent to the Deputy Premier, a motion which said in effect that we understood it was proposed not to proceed with the road closure of Harvest Terrace between Parliament House and Malcolm Street, and that the House Committee opposed any change in the reallocation of the "A"-class reserve referred to on the Observatory site until provision was made for the excision of a strip of land on the eastern boundary of that reserve for inclusion in the proposed one-way Harvest Terrace road reserve.

Actually the House Committee is not particularly interested in gaining a piece of the Observatory site, or of the old Hale School site. What the House Committee is interested in is that the provisions made in the over-all plan should be such that public services—such as roads and the like—can be moved further away from us so as to give us more room on this side.

If the parking facilities proposed in the original plan for Government offices are not proceeded with, and assuming that 1,700 spaces will be required for vehicles, it would be almost impossible around this area to obtain parking in any shape or

form. The King's Park Board has had to take action and has specifically said that parking in the park is to be limited to park users. There are notices to that effect.

I do not know where it is proposed to park these people, but they will undoubtedly be a nuisance, and very difficult to control, because it will be necessary for us to have officers on duty directing parking here, there, and everywhere. The position will be more complicated than it is at present, and it is bad enough now.

The planning officers of the Government have not given much consideration to the requirements of Parliament as such. Parliament's requirements have been disregarded in the preparation of these various plans. We must get back to the position where there is some liaison. To that end, Mr. Speaker, you will recall that the President wrote a letter to the Deputy Premier on the 26th July, which reads as follows:—

My Committee understand it is now proposed by the Main Roads Department to *not* proceed with the road closure of Harvest Terrace, as proposed in Section 12 of the Road Closure Act, 1961.

If this be correct, the Joint House Committee wish to advise that it will oppose any change in the reallocation of the "A" Class Reserve 3495—observatory site—until provision is made for the excision of a strip of land on the eastern boundary of that reserve for inclusion in the proposed "one-way" Harvest Terrace road reserve.

My Committee are of the opinion that to continue traffic use of this portion of Harvest Terrace would be a retrograde proposal; consequently, they are reluctantly making the foregoing alternative proposal.

The letter goes on to say—

In order to avoid such complication in the future, would you consider the setting-up of a committee consisting of the Minister for each Department concerned, or his representative, and the Chairman of the Joint House Committee, to be known as the co-ordinating committee, to consider all matters which may directly, or indirectly, affect Parliament House surroundings, and report their decisions to the respective Departments?

Only if that is done will we be able to get somewhere. At present it appears that Parliament House Reserve is being chopped right, left, and centre. As well as the area to be excised for the Mitchell Freeway, there will be others required for truncations of Hay Street and Harvest Terrace. All those excisions will reduce the Parliament House Reserve. I think approximately one-third of the original area set aside will be excised.

If we do not voice our views on this occasion and have them reported in *Hansard* so that everyone will know exactly what is taking place, it will look as if the present Joint House Committee is neglecting the future requirements of Parliament. When this site was originally selected it was done with the idea of retaining the whole area for all time. That was the reason why we made representations to the Government for the inclusion of the word "Parliament" in the Bill. If that is agreed to it will only mean that Parliament does not want anything in that section of land, except to know that it will be developed, or that some other piece of land associated with this reserve will be made available to the Joint House Committee for development at some later stage. That course would meet with the approval of everyone.

It is not the intention of the Joint House Committee to delay progress in the construction of Government offices. It is desirable that planning should go on; however, the lack of co-operation on the part of Government officers and Ministers has been rather obvious. That was evident in discussions between the Joint House Committee and the officers of the Main Roads Department on the proposals. They seemed to think that as long as the Government agreed it was all right, they had no cognisance of the fact that Parliament was the master of the destiny of Parliament House reserve, and not the Government. Having the idea that the Government was the master, no doubt the officers conveyed this into the Bill. Little thought has been given to the views of Parliament, but much thought to the views of the Government to change the face of the land on which the Observatory stands.

If the situation can be overcome by an amendment to probably one clause and to the title, to include the words "Parliament's consideration" then we will have made our point that we are watching the interests of members of Parliament who come after us by seeking to retain sufficient land for the activities of Parliament. The Bill deserves support only because it is a progressive measure, and not because it contains the consideration that should have been given to the over-all planning of Parliament House Reserve.

MR. D. G. MAY (Canning) [4.34 p.m.]: I would like to make a brief contribution to this debate, mainly in connection with the Observatory site. Recently I had pleasure in being a member of the Parliamentary Association which visited Canberra, and had the opportunity of visiting Mt. Stromlo Observatory. I had the good fortune to be introduced to Professor Bok who is world renowned and a famous astronomer. He advised me that the Observatory in Western Australia was of paramount importance for the obtaining of correct time signals

throughout the world; he also told me that the information collated by the astronomers in Perth was most accurate. I say this because this afternoon it was asserted that the site on which the Observatory stands is unsuitable. However, he was of the opinion that the present site was quite good, although he realised there would have to be a change.

He said that if there was any disruption to the functions of the Observatory, it would have a detrimental effect on other observatories in the world, though the disruption would not be of great magnitude. He said the time signals from the national stations emitted from time to time are computed from information from observatories around the world, including the one in Perth.

I am concerned with the prospect of disruption in the work at the Observatory with the proposed transfer to Kalamunda. I think the Government should give careful consideration to ensure the greatest continuity possible in that work. For my own part I support the Bill, because I think the principle is sound. However, I reiterate the opinion of Professor Bok that any disruption in the work at the Perth Observatory could have quite an effect on data received from other observatories in the world.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [4.37 p.m.]: I intend to support this Bill, but there is one aspect in the Minister's speech which perturbs me. I did not actually hear him speak, but I read a statement in this morning's *The West Australian* which is as follows:—

Mr. Bovell said the proposal to establish the western switch road through part of the Parliament House reserve would involve the demolition of the Old Barracks.

I have no quarrel with any other part of the Bill, except the proposal contained in the Minister's speech to which I have just referred.

I do know that prior to leaving for overseas the Premier, when considering this matter, stated that the main portion of the archway of the Old Barracks would be retained, but the two wings would be demolished. He further said that if later on it was found practicable to retain the section embracing the archway it would remain permanently and constitute the approach to Parliament House. I do not know whether the Minister has made a statement contrary to what the Premier said; I sincerely hope he has not.

Even though the Government has gone a long way on this issue—to undertake to retain the main archway and demolish the wings—it should have gone further and taken steps to retain the two wings. For a considerable time the temporary buildings at the back of the Old

Barracks have been an eyesore. Anyone visiting Parliament House could not have gained other than an unfavourable impression.

The western switch road will go right through this particular reserve, and it will be necessary to demolish the Barracks; and this will be the only opportunity during the session that we will have to discuss the subject. For a long time we have put up with what is virtually an eyesore—the temporary buildings at the back of the Old Barracks—and it should not be expecting too much that we continue to put up with the wings for some additional time. By all means demolish the temporary buildings but leave the wings until the improvements to Parliament House are completed, together with all the rest of the things that are planned.

If at that juncture it becomes necessary to demolish the wings, let us do it; but I reiterate that I think it is foolish in the extreme to even think of pulling down those wings until we see how they affect the over-all completed position. We in Parliament House have adopted a rather light-hearted approach to the demolition of something which is of historical importance. The Old Barracks are as much part of the character of Perth as are King's Park, the Swan River, the Esplanade, and other features which help to give Perth its character. We have at the very top of St. George's Terrace a building which is of great consequence historically, and yet we have this light-hearted attitude towards its demolition.

Mr. Graham: The sooner it goes the better.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I think the honourable member will have to discontinue that line of discussion, because the Bill deals with reserves.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I do not wish to dispute your ruling, Sir, but I took the opportunity of mentioning this matter because in *The West Australian* this morning it was pointed out that Mr. Bovell said the proposal to establish the western switch road through part of the Parliament House Reserve would involve the demolition of the Old Barracks.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): That is true.

Mr. GRAYDEN: When he made that statement I was under the impression that he was referring to the reserves mentioned in this Bill.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Merely corroborative verisimilitude on the part of the Minister.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I would welcome an opportunity later this session to discuss this particular matter because I think it is something to which Western Australians should give a great deal of thought.

In regard to the Bill I wish to say that I intend to support it. However, I am at a loss to understand why, at this stage, after all the opportunities that members of the Opposition have had in the past, they should even contemplate criticising the Government for what it intends to do in respect of the reserves in question.

Mr. Graham: I think Chaney has been talking to you.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Members of Parliament have been able to consider this matter not for months, but for years; and it seems a remarkable thing to me that at this late stage there should be criticism of some aspects of the Bill.

Mr. Graham: You are stonewalling anyway.

Mr. GRAYDEN: It is purely a machinery measure. Everybody is seized with the importance of constructing public works on the site of the Observatory and Hale School. There is not the slightest doubt about the desirability of doing this; and it would be fair to assume, in those circumstances, that this Bill would go through without debate. Instead of that we have had members of the Opposition taking the opportunity to debate the measure at length and waste the time of Parliament.

Mr. Rowberry: What are we here for?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Every now and again it behoves members on the Government side of the House to protest against this type of action by members of the Opposition. We have the spectacle of one member after another getting up and speaking on what is a simple, straightforward Bill.

Mr. Hawke: Is that in the Bill?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Members opposite talk at length and detain members on this side of the House. In order to register a protest, members on this side of the House might be doing the same thing; and I think we should have more of it.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. GRAYDEN: Members of Parliament are extremely busy people as they have to do the right thing by their constituents. This involves working every hour of every day of the week, and it is a waste of time to debate a measure of this kind at length. Even before the Bill was introduced, members were aware of its contents and therefore the measure should be passed without debate.

Mr. Graham: Why don't you sit down then!

Mr. GRAYDEN: Purely and simply for the reason that if the Opposition is prepared to waste the time of the House, then I am prepared to do it, too. What I am saying is of equal consequence to some of the things that have been expressed by members of the Opposition. Shortly the House will adjourn and will

not meet again until next week; yet before the House is a censure motion which I thought would be debated very shortly after we met this afternoon. Had the Opposition been willing, that censure motion would have been debated.

Mr. Jamieson: It could have been debated last night.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yesterday the Opposition introduced a censure motion connected with unemployment and—

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I think the honourable member should get back to the Bill.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I will certainly do that, Sir; but those are serious issues and I would have welcomed the opportunity of discussing them this afternoon. Instead, I have been deprived of that opportunity.

Mr. Kelly: Too bad!

Mr. GRAYDEN: I support this Bill and trust that if a move is made to demolish the Old Barracks we will be given an opportunity to debate the matter in this House.

Mr. Hawke: Brilliant!

MR. I. W. MANNING (Wellington) [4.48 p.m.]: It is not my intention to delay the House, but I think it is all-important that the members of the Joint House Committee should express some opinions on this measure.

Mr. Hawke: Hear, hear!

Mr. I. W. MANNING: It is essential that we have some regard for the future as this measure, because of the relationship between the Government of the day and the Joint House Committee of the day, could become a contentious matter. Therefore, it is important that we are clear in our minds and have a clear record as to just what these proposals are.

I support the Bill; and I am pleased the Deputy Premier indicated that an amendment would be introduced which would have the effect of turning the "A"-class reserve under discussion into one for the purposes of both the Government and Parliament. I think it is important that sufficient land be set aside close to Parliament House for future activities and future extensions of Parliament. I think it is only commonsense to suggest that because of the rate at which the State is developing, and because of what we believe the future holds, there will be some extensions to Parliament, both in the number of buildings and in the number of people working therein. So it is important that we have on paper something to give security in regard to the area opposite Parliament House; something to ensure that there will be sufficient space set aside for parliamentary use.

I was interested in the remarks of the member for Perth when he said it was regrettable that this site, which is probably one of the choicest in the metropolitan area, is to be set aside purely for Government offices and that some thought had not been given to using it for other purposes such as he suggested—something which would enhance the tourist attraction of the city. However, Professor Stephenson made the recommendation; and once a decision is made I do not suggest we should start at this late stage making changes.

I do agree with the member for Canning who said that the work of the Observatory will be disturbed. One of those who is interested in the Observatory work mentioned to me recently that the telescope there is one of the best he had ever seen and that great care would need to be exercised in transferring it from its present site to the new one. I do not doubt that this sort of thing will be in the hands of experts; but it does suggest that the transfer of the Observatory from this site to the new one could have an upsetting effect on its functions.

I want now to touch on the point made by the member for Beeloo. He suggested there was a need for a co-ordinating committee between the Government and the Joint House Committee. I myself feel that it is all-important that both these bodies should know where the other is going so far as planning in and near Parliament House is concerned. If there is not some clear understanding it gives a feeling of insecurity to the House Committee as to the extent of its responsibilities. While the Joint House Committee duly appointed by Parliament is charged with the responsibility of looking after these matters and looking to the future, it is necessary that we should know exactly what the future holds for the area around Parliament House.

If as individuals we were regarding this measure we might have some grave doubts about our security under it. However, I think the amendment suggested by the Acting Premier very largely tidies that point up. I believe also that, as has been suggested, it will be necessary to amend the title of the Bill so that it will be clear in the legislation that the area is for the use of the Government and Parliament. I support the measure.

MR. O'NEIL (East Melville) [4.55 p.m.]: Most of the members of the Joint House Committee in this House have had some comment to make on this measure, as the change in the vesting of these reserves, or the nature of them, has some effect upon the activities of Parliament and the activities associated with Parliament.

I was interested to hear the remarks of the member for Beeloo with reference to

a Bill passed last year authorising the closure of Harvest Terrace at Malcolm Street.

Mr. Jamieson: It was two years ago, in 1961.

Mr. O'NEIL: I understood him to say—and perhaps he could answer me by way of interjection as to whether this is so—that this particular provision in the road closure legislation has not been proclaimed.

Mr. Jamieson: That is so.

Mr. O'NEIL: I was unaware of that fact, but I am rather concerned because earlier this year there appeared in the local Press a ground plan of the road development and road treatment around the reserves in question and also around Parliament House, together with the proposals for the Mitchell freeway. It appeared to me that despite the fact that Parliament had agreed to the closure of Harvest Terrace at Malcolm Street, the planners had not taken this fact into consideration. They had gone further, in fact, and suggested that Harvest Terrace be extended from Hay Street through to Murray Street. In fact, if members would go to this area now they would see some of the very old buildings there vacant, and I presume these would have been resumed for the purpose of this extension.

It also appears from that plan that Harvest Terrace, as such, will become virtually a major by-pass road for traffic coming from the south of the observatory. To me it would appear rather lacking in planning to consider that Harvest Terrace, which, in fact, is the back entrance to Parliament House and, in the propositions which are before us will be the only vehicular entrance into the parliamentary reserve, should become a busy road. It is, further, incomprehensible when we realise that to the west of the reserves in question there is Havelock Street which is already established and which continues right through from King's Park Road to Murray Street.

Surely this road should be the major bypass road—if we could call it that—rather than Harvest Terrace. Parliament Place is a particularly wide street and fronts the centre of the back of Parliament House, and provision could quite easily be made there for a good deal of parking, not for employees but for people who will have the need to visit the various Government departments which in the future will all be located on the two sites in question. I would like to see a great deal more thought given to this.

Those of us who use the freeway or go to the city via St. George's Terrace have to turn left out of Harvest Terrace into Malcolm Street or turn right from Malcolm Street into Harvest Terrace. It is a dangerous corner because it has a heavy gradient and is angled. On the other hand, Havelock Street has a very wide

intersection with King's Park Road. Therefore in my opinion it is a much better road to be used as a major bypass.

I have no objections to the Bill but trust that the remarks that have been registered in this House by all members showing their concern as to the future of the Parliament House reserves will be taken into account in the future planning of the area.

MR. GUTHRIE (Subiaco) [5 p.m.]: This measure comes before the House, so far as I am concerned, just 36 years too late. If thirty-six years ago there had been a move to shift the Observatory from West Perth, I would not have had to go to a great deal of trouble burning the midnight oil and spending my time at the Observatory studying the planets, and what have you, which I had to do as part of the curriculum for the geography course which in those days was laid down by the Public Examinations Board of Western Australia. At least we might say that we have struck a blow for those children of the future, even though it may not be a good one. They will not be able to travel to Bickley, and no doubt the Public Examinations Board of Western Australia will have to change its curriculum. The children will not be able to study astronomy as they did in the past.

Looking at it from a more sensible viewpoint, I suppose that is a serious matter, and one which should have been taken into account to a certain extent. It is a pity that one of the functions which the Observatory performs—namely, the education of our children—will not be available to them as it was in the past. However, I have no doubt that the Observatory will, on its new site at Bickley, be able to carry on its scientific work probably as well as, if not better than, it does on its present site.

We must bear in mind the fact that in order to see the planets we have to visit the Observatory at night. It will mean an hour's journey to and from the Observatory, which will entail a little effort, and certainly some expense, on the part of parents. Nevertheless, this is the price one pays for progress.

Mr. Rowberry: Couldn't the school children get on quite well without that?

Mr. GUTHRIE: It would be a disadvantage if they were studying Leaving geography, unless the curriculum has changed.

It is significant that the present site was not always set aside for an Observatory. The Observatory was a comparatively recent development in the history of things. The whole of what is known as the Hale School site and the Observatory site was originally, as I remember it, a 999 years' lease for the purposes of education, and both sites were set aside for the future development of the school now known as

Hale School but which in those days was known as Perth High School. At that time the school did not operate from that site at all, but from a site in George Place opposite the present Public Works Department, where a Christian Science Church is now located.

At the beginning of the century the Perth High School, as it was then known, was the only secondary school in the State. It was subsidised by successive Governments and it was falling on hard times. It might be of interest for me to interpolate that only 85 boys attended the school, which means that at that time there were only 85 boys in the State receiving secondary education. That gives us some idea of the way we have progressed. The Government of the day wanted the site for an Observatory, and pressure was brought to bear on the board of governors of the High School, who surrendered to the Government that portion of the reserve which is known as the Observatory site for the building of the Observatory. In return the board of governors was given 10 acres of ground in King's Park, and that area is generally known as the Hale School grounds. The original planners of the city did not foresee the site being used as an observatory; they foresaw it being used as a school. Time has passed and the site has now been selected—and I believe rightly so—for Government buildings.

I am unable to agree with the remark of the member for Perth that only the old Hale School site should be reserved for Government buildings and that the Observatory site should be used for purposes of tourism or for a future Government House. That would perpetuate a system which we all abhor; namely, of having Government buildings scattered all around the city. I am sure we all look forward to the day when we will have as many Government buildings as possible located in one place. At long last it seems as though that is to come about.

The Hale School site will be nowhere sufficient for the purpose, but the entire site will undoubtedly support five major multi-storied buildings each. I understand, of 11 storeys, thus giving a tremendous space for offices. This will be very much more convenient to those people who have dealings with Government offices, and it will enable as many Government departments as possible to be located in the one place. With the future development of a causeway site, and the future development of the present Treasury site, we may find most of our administrative buildings located in three separate places in the city, all within reasonable distance one from another.

I, like other members, am a little concerned at what is happening to Harvest Terrace. I understood the member for Beeloo to say that the closure of Harvest Terrace would still have enabled traffic to

enter from King's Park Road. My understanding of the matter was that Harvest Terrace would be closed altogether. To my mind that would be a desirable thing. I have not been over impressed with the idea of a six-lane highway being constructed outside the back door of Parliament House. Even though this particular road closure measure may not have been proclaimed, I sincerely trust that the Minister will see the virtue of bringing a Bill before Parliament to repeal the Act; because merely allowing it to remain unproclaimed is an unsatisfactory way of dealing with it. The correct democratic and parliamentary way of dealing with such a problem—seeing that Parliament passed the measure—is to ask Parliament to repeal it, and not merely to leave it to executive inactivity.

I sincerely hope the right will be given to members later in the session to debate the desirability of this major highway, as it will be located outside what is going to be called the back door of Parliament House, but which to most of us will still be the front door. It will not be the front door for ceremonial purposes, but for members it will be their main entrance into Parliament House; and entry for business purposes and for everything else must be by way of Harvest Terrace.

The thought of having to get on and off a major highway running between Parliament House and the Government buildings does not seem to me to make a great deal of common sense, and I hope that some other solution can be found which will preserve the roadway for ordinary traffic in and out of the administrative offices of Parliament House.

I sincerely hope that Parliament will be given an opportunity of debating the measure, and I appreciate the tolerance you have shown members, Sir, in allowing us to touch upon it.

The member for Wellington mentioned the need to amend the title of the Bill. From the point of view of correct parliamentary parlance, we should amend the title of the Bill; but I would point out that the need to do so would merely be because the long title of the Bill might have some possible effect on the construction of the measure if there were some doubt about it. There is a canon of construction by the courts that if there were some doubt as to the language of an Act one would be entitled to look at the long title in order to get some guidance as to what Parliament intended; but if the language is quite clear, then it is of little or no consequence.

On some occasions we pay too much attention in this House to the long title of a Bill. If the language in the operative part of a measure were open to a construction as applying to one subject, or alternatively applying to a totally different subject, then we could turn to the long title

to determine which of the two subjects the measure was designed to cover. But if the operative words that are to be inserted in the section are sufficiently clear, it is of little consequence whether or not we bother about the long title.

I have much pleasure in supporting this measure as I believe it is a step in the right direction to do something for the centralisation of administration in the city; but I hope, as I said before, we will have the opportunity of discussing other matters which are strictly irrelevant to this measure but which have been introduced—I refer to the roadway in Harvest Terrace.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [5.11 p.m.]: I want to thank members for their contributions to the debate.

Mr. Graham: I wonder.

Mr. BOVELL: I must admit that the years I have been in Parliament have changed my opinion regarding Bills dealing with reserves. For many years, until I became the Minister for Lands—and I do not know whether I might be held responsible for it—the Reserves Bill was presented to Parliament and the three readings were dealt with almost immediately. There was never any demur about passing the measure. However, since I have been the Minister in charge of the measure there has always been a long debate and a controversy of some kind or another, although there has not been much on this occasion.

Mr. Graham: You are a provocative Minister.

Mr. Kelly: You spoke when in Opposition.

Mr. BOVELL: Not in opposition to the Reserves Bill. It was always introduced during the dying hours of the session. The honourable member's predecessor, who is the present Agent-General in London, would distribute copies of what was involved in the Reserves Bill, before it was introduced, and I, as the shadow Minister for Lands in those days, examined it, as did other members, and the Bill usually went through a day, or maybe two days, before Parliament adjourned. I suppose my trouble is that I endeavour to get Bills through Parliament a reasonable time before the close of the session and therefore members have a better opportunity to examine them.

Mr. J. Hegney: The reserves you are referring to were only kangaroo and rabbit reserves.

Mr. BOVELL: Not always.

Mr. J. Hegney: This is more important.

Mr. BOVELL: The member for Belmont was Speaker in those days and he will recall—my words are quite true—that the Bills were introduced in the dying hours of the session. However, this is a vital

measure because it involves the expenditure of a large sum of money. The project was envisaged in 1955, long before we became the Government, and negotiations have now proceeded to a point where it is necessary immediately to commence the first stage of the buildings.

The Deputy Premier replied to the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition, and I do not intend to go through the various matters raised by other members because, in principle, everybody has agreed with the measure. The Deputy Premier indicated that amendments would be moved in another place. At the time it was thought that the Bill would receive a speedy passage and we could get it to another place before it adjourned this afternoon. However, I am informed it has adjourned, and the Deputy Premier has advised me that I can proceed with the amendments in Committee so that when the other place meets next Tuesday the Bill will be presented to it as we desire it to be presented.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair: Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Clause 4: Reserve No. A26741 created—

Mr. BOVELL: As indicated by the Deputy Premier it is desired to make a small amendment. I move an amendment—

Page 2, line 16—Insert before the word "Government" the words "Parliament and".

Regarding the matter mentioned by the member for Subiaco, it is my intention, when we get to the title, to move the same amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Title—

Mr. BOVELL: I move an amendment—

Page 1, line 4—Insert before the word "Government" the words "Parliament and".

Amendment put and passed.

Title, as amended, put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, with an amendment, and an amendment to the Title, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands), and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 5.22 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 13th August, 1963.

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

METROPOLITAN REGION TOWN PLANNING SCHEME

Tabling of Report and Plan

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Town Planning) [4.35 p.m.] : I lay on the Table of the House the report and plan of the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme in accordance with section 32 (1) (b) of the Act, together with the text and objections.

In doing so I would like to make a statement, more for the benefit of the new members, in order to give some history relating to the scheme. We go back to 1952 when the McLarty-Watts Government commissioned Professor Stephenson to produce a plan for the metropolitan region of Perth and Fremantle. In conjunction with the then Town Planning Commissioner (Mr. Hepburn) Professor Stephenson, together with many departmental officers, officially produced a scheme which was prepared in plan and text form in 1955.