

Development would be fair enough to concede that any profits made by those State trading concerns were in fact paid into consolidated revenue, and that whenever any replacements of plant or additional buildings were required there were no reserves upon which those State trading concerns could draw for that purpose. Therefore, it was necessary for them, once again, to borrow money and to pay interest on it. That has been one of the handicaps experienced by the State Building Supplies; and I know that under our present Government method of bookkeeping it is not possible to place the profits made into a sinking fund in order to meet the expenditure necessary for any replacements of plant or additional buildings. That fact has been lost sight of whenever any profit percentages have been quoted.

One of the many factors which struck me as being peculiar was the Minister's complete knowledge of the feeling of satisfaction among the men employed by these concerns.

Mr. Rowberry: Imagination!

Mr. TOMS: I would not even say it was imagination. I would almost be inclined to refer to it as hallucination. As I have said before, for 21 years I have been associated with the men employed in these State trading concerns, and the only political interference I was ever aware of during that time was that which occurred when portion of the plant needed to be extended and the money was not available.

It seems to me that members of the Government, as well as perhaps some members of the public have the opinion that a State trading concern is a place to which no-hopers go for employment. That is a misconception. I was fortunate enough to be in charge of one of the departments at this State trading concern, and private builders chose to buy their joinery from this section because of the quality of the work turned out, and also because of the efficiency. In fact, when I was in charge of the department I had private builders say to me from time to time that, to look down the shop, one would never imagine it was a Government enterprise, particularly when one saw the men working so consistently. The men were never driven; they did not have to be driven.

I believe that members of the Government are chafing at the present Opposition. They have some sort of phobia that private enterprise and free enterprise are the answer to everything. The present Minister for Works paid some lip service last year when he indicated that private enterprise and public works could work hand in hand. However, the actions of the Government since it took office belie the truth of that statement; because I believe everything possible has been done to run down the value of State trading concerns and to build up private enterprise as much as possible.

As I said in rising to speak, I felt I should say a few words in support of this amendment. I believe the wording of the amendment is worthy of the support of this House. If the Government really believes that the terms of contract it entered into in order to secure a reasonable and fair price and reasonable conditions for the workers are right, surely it has nothing to be ashamed of in supporting the amendment before the House. I support the amendment.

Debate (on amendment to the motion) adjourned, on motion by Mr. I. W. Manning.

House adjourned at 9.36 p.m.

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 16th August, 1961

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

**QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE****PARLIAMENT HOUSE***Fractures in Archways of Main Corridor*

The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Minister for Mines:

Will he bring to the notice of the President the fact that fractures are now apparent in the archways of the main corridor of Parliament House, as a result of the excavations that are being made in preparation for foundations?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

I have no desire to cause any conflict on this question, but I am of the opinion that questions of this nature are for the House Committee to deal with. They are hardly matters for the Government to deal with by answers to questions over the floor of the House. The limited opportunity I have had to check indicates that matters of this nature should be addressed to the House Committee, which in turn should take them up with the Government when necessary.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****SUPERPHOSPHATE***Conditions of Sale to Farmers*

1. The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has the Minister heard of the proposed scheme to sell superphosphate to farmers at a price which includes the cost of spreading?
- (2) If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes," can he say who will be responsible for any railway demurrage charges that may arise?
- (3) Will the superphosphate be consigned to the farmer, the agent, or the contractor?
- (4) What choice, if any, under this scheme has the farmer, so far as contractors are concerned?
- (5) What control has the farmer over the contractor while the contractor is actually at work spreading superphosphate on his farm?
- (6) What arbitration machinery will exist to settle disputes between contractors, agents, and farmers?
- (7) What provision is made to cover areas which are either too rough, too steep, or too small to be described as "fair average going"?
- (8) What kind of country would be considered to be outside the scope of this scheme?

(9) Are farmers who wish to take superphosphate in bulk, but who do not want to accept the conditions of this scheme, to be prevented from—

- (a) getting the 10s. per ton early delivery discount; and
  - (b) making their own arrangements with any contractor to spread bulk superphosphate on their property?
- (10) Will contractors who have developed a clientele be allowed to participate in this scheme without prejudice to their present customers?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

I have to admit that this reply has been given to me; it is not my reply. It is as follows:—

- (1) to (10) The details requested are not available in the Department of Agriculture. The announcement was recently made by the superphosphate companies, and is a new service available to those farmers who wish to take advantage of same.

I might add that the above answer is not satisfactory to the honourable member who asked it in view of the fact that the subject matter has nothing to do with the Government; it is purely a new procedure carried out by the superphosphate companies. I suggest the honourable member contact the superphosphate companies and discuss these matters with the management. If he does so, he will probably get a much better answer than one through a Government department.

**EDUCATIONAL ALLOWANCE***Payment to Government Employees in North-West*

2. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) In view of the Government decision to pay salaried officers an allowance of £50 per year for each child attending school in the north-west, up to a maximum of £200 per year, will similar allowances be granted to all other Government employees resident in the area?
- (2) If not, why not?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The purpose of the allowance was to assist in the staffing of key positions in the north-west and to encourage officers to seek postings to that area. This same need to foster recruitment does not prevail with all categories of Government employment in the north-west.

**MOBILE AIR COMPRESSORS***Number in Kalgoorlie District, and Operators*

3. The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN (for The Hon. J. J. Garrigan) asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many Government-owned mobile air compressors, controlled by the Mines Department, are in the Kalgoorlie District?
- (2) What are the names of the prospecting parties operating these air compressors?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) One Atlas Copco compressor unit with hoist, rock drill, grinder, and hoses is stationed at Kalgoorlie.
- (2) According to head office records, this is not on hire to any party at the moment.

**BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS FOR MINORS***Introduction of Compulsive Legislation*

4. The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to introduce legislation for compulsory life saving blood transfusions for minors?
- (2) If the answer to No. (1) is "No," will the Government give urgent consideration to this vital matter?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Not at present.
- (2) The present legal position in this State has enabled a recent case to receive fairly prompt attention. However, the subject matter raised by the honourable member is receiving consideration.

**BLACK ROCKS, DERBY***Construction of Deep-Water Jetty*

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

Having in mind that Federal Parliament granted Premier Hawke moneys for costs in full to construct a deep-water jetty at Black Rocks, Derby, is it a fact that—

- (a) as Minister for Works in the McLarty-Watts Government, Mr. Brand sought Federal financial assistance to construct the jetty; and
- (b) as Premier with the moneys at his disposal, Mr. Brand has now decided not to build the jetty?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

In January, 1951, the Government requested the Commonwealth Government to join with it on a 50-50 basis for providing a jetty

at Black Rocks for handling State ships and Singapore boats owned by the Blue Funnel Line. The estimated cost of a jetty was £330,000.

The Commonwealth Government in 1958 agreed to Premier Hawke's request to finance three projects; namely—

- (1) A deep-water port at Black Rocks.
- (2) Construction of a new wharf at Wyndham.
- (3) Investigations at Napier Broome Bay.

This agreement was on the assumption that any expenditure above £2,500,000 was to be provided from State funds. Maunsell & Partners in their report considered the cost of a deep-water port at Black Rocks would not be less than £2,500,000.

Following the Commonwealth Government's approval for the Black Rocks proposal, new soundings were made, and these proved that there was less depth at the proposed jetty head than was recorded in the sounding taken in 1952 and as shown on the plan for the submission. This, in conjunction with conflicting views as to whether Black Rocks was the proper place for a deep-water port, prompted the Government to appoint Maunsell & Partners to report on the matter. Their recommendation was that the port should be at Broome. No final decision on the matter has yet been made.

**MOBILE CRANE***Availability at Merredin for Unloading Railway Trucks*

6. The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN (for The Hon. J. J. Garrigan) asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to have a mobile crane made available at Merredin for the unloading of heavy material from railway trucks?
- (2) If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes," when will this crane be made available?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Contingent upon the return of acceptable tenders, possibly between three and six months.

## ROADS IN GOLDFIELDS AREA

*Sections Sealed*

7. The Hon. E. M. HEENAN asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) What sections of the under-mentioned roads—

- (a) Kalgoorlie to Menzies;
- (b) Menzies to Leonora;
- (c) Leonora to Laverton;
- (d) Yalgoo to Mt. Magnet;
- (e) Mt. Magnet to Cue;
- (f) Cue to Meekatharra; and
- (g) Meekatharra to Wiluna,

are now sealed or bituminised?

(2) What additional sections of the road in each area are proposed to be completed during the current financial year?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) (a) Kalgoorlie-Menzies. Road is sealed for 24 miles north of Kalgoorlie (to Broad Arrow). From 24 miles to 43½ miles the road is primed with bitumen.

(b) Menzies-Leonora. Nil.

(c) Leonora-Laverton. Nil.

(d) Yalgoo-Mt. Magnet. Three-quarters of a mile in the Yalgoo townsite has been primed with bitumen. Two miles of priming has been completed from Mt. Magnet westward.

(e) Mt. Magnet-Cue. One mile of priming completed (Mt. Magnet north). 0.6 mile of road is sealed in the town of Cue.

(f) Cue-Meekatharra. Cue northwards—1 mile of primed road completed. Tuckanarra—0.65 mile of primed road completed.

(g) Meekatharra-Wiluna. Nil.

(2) Funds have been provided for the following works:—

(a) Kalgoorlie-Menzies.	£
Kalgoorlie north: 5m. of widening and sealing	3,750
43.5m.-63m. north of Kalgoorlie: construction and prime	62,600
24m.-48m. north of Kalgoorlie: bituminous sealing	28,100
Menzies Townsite: ¼m. of priming and sealing	3,100
	<hr/> £97,550

(b) Menzies-Leonora.

£

Sealing of creek crossings. Approx. .... 400

(c) Leonora-Laverton. Nil.

(d) Yalgoo-Mt. Magnet.

Yalgoo Townsite: ¾m. sealing	900
Mt. Magnet westward 2m. sealing	2,400
Mt. Magnet west from end of proposed sealing: 2m. construct and prime	8,000
	<hr/> £11,300

(e) Mt. Magnet-Cue.

	£
Reseal crossings	400
Mt. Magnet north: 0.85m. sealing	1,200
	<hr/> £1,600

(f) Cue-Meekatharra.

	£
Reseal crossings	400
Cue north: 1m. sealing	1,200
Meekatharra south: construct and prime	5,000
	<hr/> £6,600

(g) Meekatharra-Wiluna.

Meekatharra east: construct and prime 1m.	£3,500
Total	<hr/> £120,950

## KUNUNURRA RESIDENCES

*Rental Charged*

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

What is the weekly rental charged for each of the nine residences at Kununurra, costs of construction of which ranged from £5,213 10s. to £12,000?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Some years ago a maximum rental of £120 a year was fixed under the Public Service Act, and consequently the weekly rental for each residence is £2 6s. This does not include rent for basic furniture or refrigerator supplied. The whole matter of rentals is now under review by the Public Service Commissioner.

## CARNARVON POPULATION

*Evacuation During Gascoyne Flood*

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

Under which Act did the Government order the total population of Carnarvon to abandon their homes and possessions during the Gascoyne River flooding this year?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The Government did not issue any such order. Residents were strongly advised to evacuate by the Commissioner of Police after he had received information on the situation from the district engineer. The local committee concurred.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed from the 15th August, on the following motion by The Hon. H. K. Watson:—

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

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

**THE HON. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM** South-East) [4.48 p.m.]: Anyone who has taken the time and the opportunity to read carefully the Speech delivered to us by His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator (The Hon. Sir John Patrick Dwyer, K.C.M.G.) at the opening of Parliament this year, cannot help but be deeply impressed, and convinced that this year of our Lord, 1961, is destined to be remembered as one of the milestones in the history of Western Australia.

I do not think there has been a more encouraging Speech by any Governor or Administrator for many years, although I was still couched in fairly moderate terms. Much was not said that could have been said; but nevertheless the overall atmosphere of the Speech was one of encouragement, progress, and indeed good news. I believe that we find ourselves on the threshold of an era of prosperity and progress, and I foresee a blaze of progress similar to that which we experienced at the turn of the century when the Golden West first became the Golden West; and we literally saved much of the economy of the whole of Australia through the discovery of gold.

At that time the population of our State increased almost tenfold within months. It is true to say that although there followed then a period during which the State lapsed into a time, or even became stagnant, the careful scrutiny of this handy little book—called *The Pocket Year Book of Western Australia*, which is available to all, indicates there was very steady progress in

production, agriculture, and industry; and the population of this State increased in all successive years.

There were at least two occasions when the economic position of the State suffered some regression. There was, of course, the calamitous depression. This depression was worldwide, and we felt its impact here. It was a terrible period, that left no one in any doubt that it was a deep and true depression. There is something remarkable in the quality of truth that we find in old sayings. One that comes to my mind is, "The darkest hour is before the dawn."

In recent months we have seen a great deal of publicity, to which fuel has been added regularly for political reasons. This publicity has been contributed to by the so-called credit squeeze. Many people blame whichever State Government happens to be in power, not realising that State authorities have little whatever to do with the present so-called credit squeeze. We have all been caught up in this period of gloom. I, myself, have been guilty of using the term "credit squeeze" and have wondered whether I was reasonable in being resentful of the Government that had deliberately imposed this squeeze—or these economic measures.

I had occasion to talk matters of finance to a group of farmers, and they made me ask myself exactly what I had to worry about. I have put this thought to various groups since. I have challenged them, and I will challenge this House: Just how many members in this Council have suffered in any way by the present so-called credit squeeze? Have they been prevented from implementing a project or a plan they considered essential? It is astounding how few people have suffered from this credit squeeze; because, strangely enough, there have been few people who have not been in a position to acquire a considerable amount of credit. Their projects have been amply covered by their own cash assets; and, with few exceptions, the average working man, the self-employed man, and the small businessman, have not been affected by the squeeze.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Two of the small businessmen in Kalgoorlie suffered.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: But not necessarily through lack of credit. Many people have contributed to this gloom. We have heard about unemployment. But there are persons who are temporarily unemployed; they seek work at the Social Services Bureau in Perth, where they are offered jobs but refuse to take them because they are not in the metropolitan area. I am quoting facts, and any member may check them by picking up a phone. Do such persons go on quite happily receiving social service benefits or unemployment benefits? If so, I say that they are contributing quite considerably to a very false picture of the unemployment position.

It is surprising how many jobs are available to those who are prepared to accept them. There are members in this Chamber—not excluding myself—who, during the days of the big depression, had to leave their homes and their towns to accept work hundreds and hundreds of miles away. I lived in Perth during that period, and I accepted work in Meekatharra; and like many others I did not have the fare for my train passage. But I got there and I accepted the work offered me. A lot of the unemployed today are not prepared to do that.

I suggest that our darkest hour has now passed; and I refer to the day when this State was branded—and probably rightly so—as the Cinderella State. Our darkest hour is very definitely in the past. A few years ago there was a good deal of gloom in this State. Our industrial development, and our agricultural and rural programmes of development were slowly grinding to a halt. There is no argument about that. We remember the publicity in the Press over the closing down of small industries in this State. Small industries were looking to the Eastern States and the possibility of their opening up there.

Many of the conditions at that time resulted from the policy of the then Government. We all recall the criticism that was levelled at the then Government over an order that went out to all Government and semi-Government instrumentalities to the effect that all printing would in future be undertaken by the State printing works, with the result that printing shops—privately-owned printing shops—were closing down after long years of establishment and service to the public. On the other hand, the State printing works suddenly found its premises were inadequate and work was piling up for its machines and staff. The State printing works built a huge new building in one of the suburbs, and its staff was increased.

The same thing applied to the State steel works and the State Building Supplies. Everywhere the instructions were the same, namely, that the needs of Government and semi-Government departments must be handled by State-owned enterprises, with the result that we saw steel works, machine shops, printing works, and the like all slowly closing their doors, and we had a growing force of public workers with an inevitably greater cost to the State.

Let us think back to three short years ago and recall what the metropolitan block was like—the city square. How many buildings of any magnitude were being built at that time? Three that come to mind were Commonwealth projects: the A.B.C. building, a building for the TV station, and a building for the Commonwealth Bank, all under contract. At the same time the head office of the R. & I. Bank was being built by day labour. We

all know of the comparative progress of the two bank buildings, which were started within weeks of each other. What a different picture there is today! Shortly after the electors of this State took matters into their own hands, the picture changed until today I defy any honourable member to walk the streets of Perth, or the metropolitan area, and get out of the sound or sight of huge building projects either under construction or newly completed. We have only to go into the suburbs to see streets of private houses being built.

This is not propaganda; it is just plain simple fact. One cannot walk a quarter of a mile down Hay Street, Barrack Street, Murray Street, or any other of the city streets without seeing a group of people staring up at some new building that is being erected.

Let us take the country districts. How long ago was it that frantic measures were being taken to try to accommodate the harvest? Grain was flowing into the bins—overflowing them. At Merredin the authorities had to use the R.A.A.F. hangars to help with the storage of wheat. But what an incredible change we see today. Speaking only of the railway lines with which I am familiar—and members can apply the same thought to their own districts to make sure that my words are true—from Merredin east, in areas which are not the most lush in the State, and they are certainly not completely in the known wheatbelt area, every siding that ever had a wheat bin has had another new one built or has had a double-sized wheat bin completed in the last couple of years.

The same position applies on the southern line to Esperance. All the bins down there have been at least doubled in size and in one case nearly quadrupled, to accommodate the expected harvest. There does not appear to be any sign of a lack of interest, or a lack of prosperity or confidence in the Government and the future of the State. Since this Government has been in office 2,500,000 acres have been thrown open for production in this State and in the last two and a half years the productive capacity of the area has increased to staggering proportions. But it was a timely move because we have to anticipate the increase in population, the needs of that population, and the new mouths that will have to be fed.

This change came about almost overnight, and it started from the time the new Government came into office with a band of Ministers, few of whom had had any previous Cabinet experience. But they brought new thought into departmental activity; it was like a fresh sea breeze on a hot afternoon. These new thoughts were noticeable in the country areas, in departmental activities, and in many other directions; and they were received on all sides by those who were waiting for some such trigger to be pulled.

As is usual with the approach of an election, many hasty promises were made by the Labor Government about implementing various works. Some of them were actually begun; and, to be specific, we can all recall the point which the new Greenmount diversion road, and the widening of the road over Greenmount hill had reached at election time. The idea was wonderful; everyone praised it; but it stopped dead. How many members recall the months that went by without any work being done, the road just being left with an embankment? Excavation work was done, cuttings were made, and when one negotiated the hill one found wide stretches and narrow stretches of road; and detours had been cut, but the job was not finished. The Government which had planned the project did not have the money to complete it. There were innumerable other projects promised—hospitals, schools, and so on. Then there was the bridge; and all around the place projects which had been started came to a stop because in many cases the money was not available to complete them.

Therefore for the first 12 months of office, the incoming Government had to spend a great proportion of its income in honouring the promises made by the previous Government, thus limiting its ability to implement its own policy.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That happens with all Governments.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I agree that to a certain extent it happens with all Governments, but not to the extent that this Government had to face the position, when literally the whole of its first year's income had to be used to honour promises made by the previous Government—and the sums were not inconsiderable.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: That is not correct.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I might mention the hospital at Esperance because I know the case well. The plans had not been drawn, contracts had not been let, and the money had not been provided, but the incoming Government had to honour the undertaking given by the previous Government that the hospital would be built. For three or four elections prior to that time the same promise had been made—that a hospital would be built, but it had never come to fruition until it was built by the present Government. I believe that the hospital facilities are far in excess of the present requirements of the district; nevertheless we welcome it because of the progress that must take place in the district.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: It is not filled, because the climate there is so healthy.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I have no argument about the healthy climate, nor with the people there. We are proud that we found the money to

give the district a hospital at long last. The people in the district had been waiting for this hospital for some considerable time.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You could have built it eight years ago.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: After the Government had spent the first 12 months of its term of office completing projects which had been started by the previous Government, and commencing new ones which had been promised, it had to face the mighty task of slowly building up the prosperity of the State, according to its policy and on a basis of private and free enterprise. That meant that apart from the planning, the Government had a mere one and a half to two years to do what it has achieved.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Bob Menzies has been feeding the Government.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: And look what has been achieved.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: Unemployment.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I suggest that the honourable member does not talk too much about unemployment; there is an answer for that.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You can rely on your imagination to find an answer for everything.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I have a vivid imagination and I am proud of it.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: There is no doubt about that.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Without an imagination a member would be of little use to his district; and I know of no brighter or more vivid imagination than that belonging to the honourable member who has just interjected.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: He is realistic too; not only imaginative.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Since assuming office, the Government has been taking measures to ensure the progress and growth of the State despite all the bitter and, in many cases, vicious attacks made upon it. Ministers have gone quietly ahead, steadily persevering with their policy although they were faced with motions of no confidence, requests for Royal Commissions, and personal attacks; all with the idea of destruction behind them.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Which Royal Commission are you talking about?

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: It was all done with the idea of tearing down. I agree that it is the Opposition's job to make the Government prove its case.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Keep it honest, you mean.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: And, if necessary, to keep it honest. It is remarkable that with all the Royal Commissions that have been forced on to the State, the court cases which have been heard, and the charges that have been made, there is very little evidence of any of the mud having stuck.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You were the slingers.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Let us look at a time-table of the events I have been mentioning. On assuming office the Government tackled the problem of the Chase Syndicate agreement. That was straightened out as best the Government could do under the circumstances. At the time the Government was facing a no-confidence motion, but it carried on with other projects. The Esperance Road was completed; a betting control Bill was introduced, and at the same time members of the Government were facing bitter personal attacks. Eventually there was a vicious personal attack on a Royal Commissioner, Sir George Ligertwood.

A Bill dealing with the oil refinery industry, and covering the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company Ltd., was introduced and its proposals implemented. A Bill dealing with the disposal of State hotels was also introduced; and Opposition members not only opposed it but also introduced other Bills to try to prevent the disposal of State-owned enterprises, despite the fact that the disposal of those concerns was the expressed policy of the Government. The Government also went ahead with its policy of reducing the size of the Public Works Department day labour organisation to reasonable limits.

Can members recall the packed galleries both here and in another place—packed, I do not doubt, with some thought in mind of embarrassing the Government; but, of course, that move lost its weight when it was found that the unemployed, as they were said to be by various speakers, who filled these galleries were actually trainloads of workers brought from the Midland Junction Workshops and other places. There was no thought or likelihood of their being unemployed. Despite all that, projects were undertaken, and are still being undertaken, because of the steady attempt by the Government to bring about the industrial prosperity which it had planned and promised for the State.

The following are some of the projects in respect of which agreements have been reached:—

	£
B.P. Kwinana .....	10,000,000
Australian Paper Manufacturers .....	4,000,000
Cable makers .....	500,000
Laporte Industries .....	4,000,000
Bauxite mining .....	5,000,000
Sponge iron .....	10,000,000
B.H.P. steel .....	40,000,000
Standard railway gauge .....	40,000,000

The latest addition to the list relates to the development of the iron ore deposits at Tallering Peak. At long last one of our most worthy mining companies—Western Mining Corporation and its subsidiaries—will have the opportunity of breaking away from its tradition of mining for gold in order to mine other minerals. These are all very encouraging signs and give the lie to the picture which those in opposition are trying to paint. With all this going on we were faced with strikes in the coal-mining industry and on the wharf.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Did you mention the Chevron-Hilton Hotel in that list?

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: It is of no particular import to include it. The Chevron-Hilton Hotel project was started by some international private undertaking. The intention was to build the hotel in time for the forthcoming Empire Games. For some reason the project was discontinued, but I understand that several interested bodies are negotiating to complete the hotel. I do not know in what way that project reflects on the Government of the State or the Commonwealth.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Except, of course, that you can be happy about the delay that has been caused.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I now come to the point about which I am most upset. Every Government is prepared to expect opposition from various levels of industry if the intention of the criticism is good. We have now reached a new low in industrial sabotage, with union officials writing to their counterparts overseas and selling this State short. They have peddled poverty, privation and unemployment in this State as a reason for discouraging migration here.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is right.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: That is far from being right. It is the basest form of treachery I have seen perpetrated against the State. Propaganda advanced for political purposes is proper, provided it does not consist of misstatements or dishonest imputations of failure by the Government.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It sounds as if Mrs. Hutchison wrote the letter.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Does Mrs. Hutchison imply that the Government should take the responsibility for unemployment?

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Absolutely; and I shall tell you why.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: That is a most astonishing statement. Does the honourable member believe that any union official is justified in taking the action which two of them took recently? I agree

that truth should never be suppressed, but dishonest statements should not be tolerated.

I now want to refer to the population of this State and the unemployment figures during the term of office of the Hawke Government and at the present time. In December, 1958, when the Hawke Government was in office, the population was 713,583. Today the population stands at approximately 750,000, or an increase of some 30,000. When the Hawke Government was in office in 1958—after it had been in office for nearly six years—the unemployment figure was 7,431.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That was caused by the action of the Commonwealth Government at the time.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Today the number of registered unemployed in Western Australia is 6,616.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Your Government can now export all the iron ore it wants, and yet there is unemployment.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): I ask the honourable member to address the Chair. I also ask Mrs. Hutchison not to interject so frequently.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I repeat: the unemployment figure, after the Hawke Government had been in office for nearly six years, was 7,431 in December, 1958; but today, with an increase of 30,000 in our population, the figure stands at 6,616. If the statements which have been made are sincere, the Government in 1958 was most culpable—if unemployment is the responsibility of Government. If, as was claimed, the Federal Government was responsible for unemployment, it is dishonest on this occasion to imply that unemployment is a responsibility of the State Government.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You are all in one group—the State and Federal Governments.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: Despite the calamity which some people predicted would befall this State, the population has increased by 30,000. If there was unemployment in 1958 in the time of the Hawke Government, irrespective of the cause, why did not the same union officials, who are so concerned about the unemployment situation today, send a warning to other countries against migration?

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Why should they not?

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: I agree with the honourable member. Why should they not? The point is they did not. Today Western Australia has the lowest percentage of unemployment in the Commonwealth; and the figure of unemployment today is less than that of

six years ago. These union officials have basely sold out their own State by indulging in savage and vicious propaganda.

Once this programme of projects which I have outlined gets fully under way, the difficulty of obtaining sufficient workers will be great. Yet, here we have union officials trying to convince their counterparts overseas that the prosperity of this State is not sound. The figures which I have given can be verified.

I now refer to the credit restrictions which were imposed by the Federal Government this year. When one's health is poor and one is prescribed unpleasant medicine, that is no reason for one to change the doctor; and when the Government has to impose some unpleasant economic medicine to cure a temporary economic ill, that is no reason for changing the Government. Probably the doctor and, in this case, the Government were doing what they thought best; and they ultimately hope to prove that the medicine was for the good of the country or the patient.

I have said that 2,500,000 acres of new land have been thrown open for production in this State since the present Government assumed office. If that land were to be divided among all the farmers in the State, not very much would be received by each one, but taken as a whole the figure is large. One would imagine that this new development would have satisfied the demand for new land, but that is not the case. Members of the South-East Province have been pressed to urge for more new land to be thrown open for agriculture and farming purposes, not in the lush lands of the State, but in the marginal areas or dry farming areas.

Most people, including business men and bankers, believe that centres like Southern Cross are dead, or dying, mining districts. In fact, the Southern Cross district is incredibly flourishing. It is a growing agricultural district. Farmers in and around Southern Cross are probably some of the soundest and most prosperous in this State. Many requests have been made to members representing the South-East Province to press for the opening of land east and south-east of Southern Cross.

That being the case it is difficult to understand why three or four years ago when an application for the establishment of a wheat bin at Southern Cross was made, the application was dismissed off-hand. It was contended that the district would not produce sufficient wheat to warrant the installation of such a bin. Finally, when a bin was put in it was overfilled in the first year of operation. Since that time this bin has been doubled in capacity, but still it is not big enough to accommodate the harvest in the district. This is an area which has been looked upon as a fringe wheat-producing area, where farmers who could not find land elsewhere

settled. The people who have made requests for the opening of new land around Southern Cross have the finance to develop it. Their cry is, "Open up and lift the restrictions on the land and give it to us. We are not asking the Government for loans to develop it."

Roads are easy to construct in this area. There is no necessity to put in costly roads, although ultimately bituminised roads will be required. If thrown open, this land will be in production before then. This is an area that has in the past been considered to be too dry for practical farming.

If what I am saying is true—and I think that my colleagues representing that area will substantiate completely what I am saying—I suggest that this is not a case for the story that we are a State which is stagnating, or that the unemployment we have today is normal. It is obviously only a temporary position which will not only rectify itself but which will rectify itself in a way which will startle us and take us all by surprise. We will not be able to fill the vacant jobs.

The demand on the Government's purse today is not for millions of pounds for unemployment benefits, although an increase is needed. The Government knows that this is only a temporary demand; and even then, in Government finance, the sum is not great. Where the demand is heavy is for superphosphate works, water supplies, and expansion in roads, schools, and hospitals; and these are all signs of progress, growth, prosperity, and security. It is certainly nothing to hang one's hat on in the cry of stagnation.

Let us mention something of the goldfields. People who are inclined to say that the State is in trouble and that things are bad, point to the goldfields and say that they are on the decline. In a few weeks members of this House will have an opportunity of paying a visit to the goldfields to see this town that is going down; the district that is dying! I think they might be surprised to see at the Government Hospital, a new nurses' wing costing thousands of pounds, and a new maternity wing costing many thousands of pounds; and the St. John of God Hospital is for the first time building a maternity wing.

The Hon. J. M. Thomson: That speaks for itself in regard to prosperity.

The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM: A dying town? Certainly not! The high school is almost doubling its original size, which in itself demonstrates the future prosperity and prospects of the district. The demand has grown until it is almost certain that a high school hostel will have to be provided to accommodate the influx of students from around the district.

This is partly due to the fact that whereas once the sheep population of the goldfields districts numbered hundreds, today it numbers tens of thousands. One

cannot leave the goldfields area now without passing through leased property which produces hundreds of bales of wool.

One mining concern up there, far from feeling that the industry is a dying one and the town has no future, has plans already made and orders put in for a power house costing some £300,000; and already it has had a request that it reconsider the matter and install a £500,000 plant to supply the local government. This is not a picture of retrogression.

I think that every member of this House—whether Opposition or Government—has heard of the gospels of biblical times and knows what they mean: good news. They have here in this publication—*Industry Commerce Facts and Figures*—another gospel. It is not a biblical one, but if "gospel" means "good news" they have a gospel here. It is an industrial gospel and is certainly good news for the State. I am very proud to belong to a Parliament which has something to say in the Government of the State at this time. In the future we can look back with pride and say that this was the time when it all started and we ceased being the Cinderella State. This is the time when Western Australia has started to take its place in the sun.

**THE HON. A. R. JONES (Midland)**  
[5.35 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, and in so doing I would like to refer to His Excellency's Speech delivered on the opening day of Parliament. It is one of the most important documents we have seen for quite some time because it gives a very rosy picture of what has taken place in the immediate past and what will take place in the future. Anyone reading this document cannot feel other than that there is a very prosperous time ahead of us and that it is the awakening period of far greater expansion that we have ever before known in Western Australia.

My only regret at this time—and I share this regret with every member of this House, I suppose, and every member of the public—is that there is more than the normal number of unemployed with us at present. However, I feel that this Government cannot be blamed for it. Just where the blame can be placed I do not know. It would possibly be only hazarding a guess if one tried to place the blame anywhere.

However, Governments as we all know are advised from time to time by economists: men who make a study of such matters all their lives. I suggest that the economists on this occasion did not see or plan far enough ahead and, therefore, gave bad or wrong advice; although, perhaps, not intentionally.

I think it is a very good thing that the Federal Government and the State Government, the latter taking its cue from the Federal Government, were able very quickly to try to change the position which has

deteriorated over the past six months. Both Governments as far as possible have speeded up their programmes of public works to relieve the position. Anyone who condemns and criticises, unless he can make a worthwhile contribution, is unjust. It is all very well for us to condemn out of hand, but if we cannot offer some constructive suggestions towards solving the problem which confronts us, we should not be so vocal in our condemnation.

I believe that within the next two or three months, the position will be so changed that we will be amazed that we ever had the numbers which are at present unemployed. When one reads a document such as the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech and can appreciate the full significance of what it means to the State, one wonders whether each Government when elected should have a longer period in office than three years. This is the period which most people have agreed to for quite a while, but I believe that every Government should have a longer term because in three years a Government does not have very much opportunity to put its plans into operation and see the results. Of course I believe that the Western Australian people are so confident in the present Government that it will be elected for a further term of three years, thus making six in all, and by that time things will have progressed to such a stage that Western Australia will be on top and will have forgotten it was ever the Cinderella State of the Commonwealth.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without making further reference to land development. I still say that land development should come before the development of secondary industries in this country, because we have—particularly in Western Australia—a natural opportunity for land development to take place; and primary industries of all types should be fostered to the fullest extent. Whilst I am not against development of secondary industries, I am against their development at the expense of primary industries. Secondary industries should not receive money which would be better spent on the development of primary industries.

The need here, of course, is for an increased population; and what better method is there to achieve this than to place someone on the land, whether it be in the Esperance district, the Kimberleys, Carnarvon, or on the sandplains running north from here? It does not matter where a person is placed, so long as he is settled on the land to provide the much-needed necessity—food. Of course, when we do develop these areas, not only do we attain what we desire—an increased population—but also the spread of population.

This is the greatest method of decentralisation, because it must be readily agreed that while we put one family on a piece of land, we must make positions for other families to maintain those on the

land; because whatever a farmer grows has to be handled and disposed of, and whatever he needs himself must be provided and delivered to him. Although I do not suppose there are any figures to support my argument, I think it would be safe to say that for every family on the land, there would be two off the land, thus creating further employment.

Therefore, we should realise two of our aims—firstly, we would develop our land; and, secondly, we would further the cause of decentralisation. With all the money available we should develop our land because that is the true way of decentralising our population and improving the overall position of our productive areas.

When considering this problem of land development, we should keep in mind that goods roads should be established. If this were done, private people would be encouraged to use their finance; and, after all, the use of private finance is essential; and, as we know, the present Government realises this and encourages it at all times. But the roads must be established.

The position could be left as it was in the past; but you, Sir, and other members, will know as well as I do that some people have gone broke trying to develop a piece of land because of the terrible roads over which they have had to haul their superphosphate and other requirements to the farm, and over which, when they were in production, they had to haul their produce from the farm. Such people would spend half their time on the roads trying to get through bogs and sand patches. If we are going to encourage private enterprise with sufficient capital to develop the land, the Government must provide services so that the people concerned can use their money to the best advantage.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Water.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: The honourable member in front of me has mentioned water. We know that in some parts of the State water is readily available, but in others it is difficult to find any sort of water—even water for stock. At the present time there is a plan whereby a survey is being made—not quickly enough for me—to see just what the water potential is in various districts.

I feel that where it is established that water is very difficult or expensive to obtain, then some sort of service should be planned well ahead so that as areas are thrown open for development, a water supply could be found and developed. Such water could be brought to the surface and used for stock, when needed; and the cost of providing that water supply should be spread over the period of the conditional purchase of the land.

I think the Commonwealth has a duty to perform, too. If we are going to develop areas 40 or 50 miles from an existing centre, then a phone service should

be provided as soon as possible so that the people, when they go to such areas, will know that they have access through the telephone to the outside world. This is essential, mainly for the womenfolk and the children, and also for the men to a lesser extent. The women and children should be safeguarded so that they can contact a doctor in a hurry; or any emergency service, if it is necessary to do so.

On the matter of transport, I think that any Government in this State would agree that no further rail services should be built by the Government. So a decent road transport service should be provided to any area that might be developed. I feel that in lieu of putting railway extensions into some of the areas where grain bins would be erected, the grain bins should be erected, and the difference between the rail freight and the road freight to the nearest siding of delivery should be paid as a subsidy.

Referring briefly to secondary industry, I know the Government has done many things in the past—not only this Government but the previous Government, too—by sending men to England to encourage the growth of industry here; and I agree with what has been done, and what the Government is doing, provided it does not cost a lot of money. I feel that a number of the industries that have come here have had too much money spent on them or too many services rendered to them; and I feel that the money could have been better spent in fostering our land development. I consider that secondary industries have their place, and that they will develop as a natural consequence once population is here and our land development programme has been filled. If we had a population: purchasers of goods, someone would come in and manufacture the goods.

I believe the development of the oil refinery here is a very fine thing; and I do not think any member quarrelled with the project when it was put forward, because it meant so much to Australia, and particularly Western Australia. The amount of money that was spent, in comparison with the size and the importance of the refinery, was small; and, I think, it was well spent. But I do not agree with some of the other business deals that have been made by this Government; and by other Governments, too. In my opinion they should not have spent as much money as they have in order to encourage small industries.

I turn again to the problem of water in country areas; and I do not particularly mean the finding of water on farms or agricultural land, but the development of a comprehensive scheme to cover the country districts of the State. Recently I asked a question about the surveys that had been carried out and the progress that had been made in connection with water

supplies, with the object of having a comprehensive scheme established for the northern parts of the area I represent. I asked this question—

In view of the Government's intensified interest in water projects, recently demonstrated by the commencement of the Ord River damming and the declared extensions to the present comprehensive schemes, will the Minister supply answers to the following:—

Then I asked about surveys, etc. The Minister for Local Government gave me this reply—

Early thinking envisaged a possible midlands area comprehensive water supply scheme based on Gingin Brook. Present planning envisages such a scheme developing as a future extension of the Modified Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme, with suitable augmentation of the supply available in Mundaring Weir. In the meantime, supplies to towns are being developed as finance becomes available.

From that reply, it seems that Mundaring Weir is going to be called upon to supply more water than it does at present; and we learn from reading the newspaper this morning, or just recently, anyway, that the Minister for Water Supplies is concerned because the level of the water in Mundaring Weir is so low. So it does not seem possible to improve the position there unless supplies from other areas can be harnessed to the Mundaring scheme.

It may be possible to find other sources of water which could be fed into the Mundaring scheme. I am going to ask both the Ministers in this House to press as hard as they can to have more examinations and surveys made further north, because I believe there is water available nearer to, say, Geraldton, than the supply at Mundaring. About 4,000,000 gallons of water per day pass through the Gingin Brook during the mean time, or low in the summer months when, I believe, 6,000,000 gallons is what is needed to provide for a scheme for Geraldton and the eastern parts of my district: Mullewa, Morawa, and so on.

I feel that the water necessary—the additional 2,000,000 gallons a day—could be obtained from the Moore River; not necessarily from the river itself because at times it becomes too salty; but that river is fed by springs out towards Dandaragan that are perfectly fresh. I consider they could be tapped and that a supply greater than the 2,000,000 gallons a day that is required could be obtained. If this supply of water could be harnessed to the Gingin Brook, a scheme to embrace the whole of the Midland Province, including Geraldton, could be put forward.

I am going to ask the Ministers, whenever water problems are being spoken of, to press for a further examination and survey of the area through which sources of water feed into the Moore River. It is well known that when the water reaches the river it is too saline for human consumption, because it passes through some brackish, salt country; but if we tapped the water in the basins at its source, a good supply of fresh water could possibly be obtained, just as a supply is obtained from the basins outside Lincoln in South Australia.

A question I would like to touch on was mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition. He said that this Government received, in two years, something like £30,000,000 over and above the amount received by the previous Government in its last year of office; and he intimated that we did not get very much for it—that maladministration had got away with the money and there was nothing to show for it. What the honourable member had to say prompted me to ask certain questions yesterday when I inquired what this Government received for all spending in 1960 and 1961, and what money was made available to the previous Government in 1959. The replies were that the previous Government, in its last year of office, received £80,000,000—near enough, for the purpose of comparison. In the next year—the first year of the Brand-Watts Government—we received £85,000,000: a rise of £5,000,000, not £15,000,000. The following year the figure reached £90,000,000. So each year there has been a rise, near enough, of £5,000,000. This Government, therefore, has received £10,000,000 extra in two years, not £30,000,000 as was suggested by the Leader of the Opposition.

In that time, the honourable gentleman did say that men had been put off and that sackings had been rife, implying that this Government did nothing but sack people. So I asked for the figures concerning the people employed by the Government. It is astounding to learn that more people are employed by the Government now than were employed by the Labor Government; because in 1958-59 there were 38,822, and the following year the figure rose by 110, and last year—1960-61, it had dropped by 100, but it was still greater than the figure which applied at the time the Government of which the Leader of the Opposition was a member was in office. When we see the wages that have been paid, we can clearly understand what happened to the £5,000,000 extra that the Government received.

The employment figures are near enough to equal, but in 1958-59 the wages paid to all Government employees amounted to £33,000,000 odd. The following year the Government paid out a further £3,000,000 in wages. So, I suggest that £3,000,000 of the extra £5,000,000

went in direct wages; and the other £2,000,000 would have been absorbed quite easily in the essential goods that the Government had to purchase; and a large amount of that sum would have gone out in wages, also. What I have said shows positively that there was no maladministration, but that the Government spent its money wisely.

In the last year, the wages jumped to £38,000,000 for the same number of employees. So, rather than indulging in maladministration, the Government must have performed a miracle, because the wages took all of the extra £5,000,000, but the Government still found money to meet the increase in the cost of the goods it had to purchase. I feel that if ever the Leader of the Opposition is again a member of a Government, he could well take a leaf out of the book of the present Government.

I want now to raise one or two other matters that I have previously mentioned. I have had no notice taken of me in connection with these matters. But, of course, that is nothing new, because I know that Dr. Hislop has, for years, recommended that certain things be done, but without success; but now, after 10 years, we find that he is getting somewhere. I am hoping that if I keep hammering away long enough at my problems I might achieve some success, too.

The Minister for Local Government is smiling; but of course he is the one who will have to submit to the Minister concerned what I am going to suggest. Increasingly, day after day, we have to put up with the smoke and fumes coming from buses and large transport trucks in and around the metropolitan area, and with the increasing noises that emanate from motorcycles and motor scooters that have faulty exhaust mufflers.

There does not seem to be anybody who is in the slightest bit interested in this state of affairs. Sometimes at a crossing, one sits in a car behind a bus that is belching out fumes which are so bad that they almost choke one. Every member in this House must have experienced a situation such as that. It is due only to a fault in the mechanism of the vehicle, which could be obviated if proper and reasonable maintenance were carried out, or if some adjustment were made. In 75 per cent. of such cases as I have mentioned the fault could quite easily be rectified. Therefore, I once again ask the Minister to approach the Minister for Police on this point, because I have received complaints from many people upon this question. I am asked: Is there no law governing the prevention of smoke belching from buses and large trucks? I think the vehicles which are controlled by the M.T.T. offend just as badly as any other buses I have seen with this fault.

In regard to excessive noise from motor-cycles and small motor scooters which are powered with an engine of about one-half horse power, I have encountered some which make more noise than a motor vehicle powered with a 25 h.p. engine. Something should be done about this nuisance. Cars and other motor vehicles have to be inspected before registration for them is granted, and when this inspection is made particular attention should be given to exhaust mufflers or faulty mechanism; and to motorcycles as well to ensure that any excessive noise made by them is obviated.

There is one other point I wish to make in regard to traffic. I have said something about it previously, but I intend to say something more because I hope, as a result of my preaching, I will be able to get something done about the removal of unnecessary stop signs; and the switching off of traffic lights at intersections during off periods of traffic. I consider that many of the stop signs erected at intersections in and around the metropolitan area are just a waste of time. I am speaking of the yellow signs with the word "stop" painted on them. On many occasions one driver will stop at a sign, but another will take no notice of it and cross the intersection in the inside lane. Therefore, I consider that these signs, in many cases, are just a waste of time.

The regulation concerning them is not properly policed; and, as I have said, every day one can see drivers who disregard the signs—drivers who do not stop, and who are not given a ticket. As an indication of this, how often do members read in the Press where motorists have been prosecuted for going through stop signs? Not very often at all. In my opinion many of these signs should be removed and replaced with the 15-mile-per-hour sign. In many instances a driver has to bring his vehicle to a halt at these signs quite unnecessarily, which is a good thing for the garage mechanic because there is no doubt that these unnecessary stops wear out the brakes, bearings and clutch of a vehicle in a much shorter time than would ordinarily be the case.

I think a survey could therefore be made of all the stop signs that are installed in and around the metropolitan area with a view to removing at least 90 per cent. of them and substituting the 15-mile-per-hour sign.

In turning my attention now to traffic lights, at most intersections traffic lights are necessary and are a great aid in helping the traffic to flow, especially when the volume is extremely heavy. But surely, when the traffic has lessened, and especially during those times when the peak period has been passed, many of these traffic lights could be switched off and thus, instead of vehicles being brought to a halt unnecessarily they would be able

to continue on their way unhindered. For instance, how often does one find oneself in one's car at the intersection of William Street and St. George's Terrace with the light showing red, and having to wait there for a minute or so before being able to proceed, when for at least 200 or 300 yards either way, there is not another vehicle approaching.

Therefore, I think that in off periods the traffic lights should be switched off as they are in Melbourne and Sydney. We have learned a great deal about the policing of traffic from the large capital cities in the Eastern States and have followed their lead by installing traffic lights at many points throughout the city. Surely we could again take a leaf out of their book and switch the traffic lights off during those periods when they are not considered necessary.

This afternoon I asked some questions about Singapore ants, and I hope the information contained in the replies I receive will amply cover the position. I did want to know whether the ants are considered by the authorities to be a nuisance, because infestations of them have occurred at Dalwallinu, Wonthella—which is a suburb of Geraldton—Albany, East Fremantle, and Melville. Therefore, I trust the Minister will be able to furnish satisfactory information in reply to the questions I have asked.

There is just one other matter I wish to mention which I am going to head with the title of "Strange but True." It does seem strange to me, and unfortunately it is true, but we have to put up with it, that within our community life we have many diseases and complaints which have been brought about through excessive use of certain commodities which prove detrimental to our well-being. The first of these I wish to mention is the excessive consumption of intoxicating liquor. In this House we passed legislation enabling people to manufacture intoxicating liquors; and legislation enabling boards, committees, and licensing authorities to be constituted so that public houses can be properly conducted for the sale of such liquor.

We make laws which enable people to consume any quantity of liquor at all and laws which enable us to prosecute others who consume too much. Therefore, the whole position has become a vicious circle until we have reached the stage where we have to consider the establishment of various institutions to treat those people who have done themselves harm by the excessive consumption of intoxicating liquor.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We do not have a law prohibiting people from having too much liquor, but we have a law to punish them when they have consumed too much.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: Provided it is taken in moderation and for the purpose for which it was manufactured in the first

place, intoxicating liquor can be a very beneficial beverage, but it seems exceedingly strange that those people who are fond of overindulging in the consumption of intoxicating liquor have to become a burden upon the State. I do not intend to be offside and be in the minority in regard to this question, because on occasions I enjoy a drink of intoxicating liquor myself, but nevertheless it does seem strange that we should allow a position to continue whereby a fair percentage of our community is becoming sick as a consequence of overindulgence.

For example, there are many patients in Heathcote who are receiving treatment because they are alcoholics. We also have large numbers of patients at Claremont because they are inebriates. Further, goodness knows how many other people should be confined to some sort of institution because of their overindulgence in intoxicating liquor. One has only to pay a visit to those parts of the city, such as around James Street and other places, to observe many people who undoubtedly should be receiving some sort of hospital treatment because of the sorry plight in which they have placed themselves.

Although I cannot provide an immediate answer to this problem, I do think that we in this House should take some stock of the position with a view to preventing it from deteriorating further. If we are to continue to allow liquor to be consumed, we should ensure that the people who are able to enjoy this privilege indulge in moderation; and we should educate our people on the proper use of alcohol. That should be our starting point. This Government and succeeding Governments should commence to spend money for the purpose of educating and encouraging our citizens to drink intoxicating liquors in moderation so that they may get the best possible benefit from drinking without injury to their health.

I could go on and mention other beverages which are considered to be injurious to health. For instance, today we find that the majority of children do not drink water as they should, but have a bottle of aerated water such as Coca Cola, or something of that sort. No-one can tell me that the continual consumption of aerated waters can be anything but harmful to their health. Therefore, children also should be educated along proper lines to make them realise what harm they can do to themselves by having too much of a good thing.

Similar remarks might be applied to smoking. At one time I was an extremely heavy smoker and anyone who had said to me, whilst I was smoking, that it was not doing me much good would not have received much consideration from me. It was not until I had to give up smoking for medical reasons that I realised the harm it was doing to me. I am probably in a different position from other smokers because it is extremely bad for my health

if I continue to smoke. However, it took me years to find that out. No doubt, however, a few cigarettes do not harm the average person in any way whatsoever.

We have in our midst doctors who have been educated to the point where they have become scientists and specialists, and who tell us that cigarette smoking is very injurious to the health and brings about diseases such as lung cancer. On the other hand, we have other doctors—who are, I suppose, paid by the people who manufacture cigarettes—who say that, provided one smokes filter-tip cigarettes, and provided one does this or that, there is not much chance of one's contracting cancer. So where do we go from there? We have one section of the community telling us one thing and another section telling us another. Eminent doctors even advise against us eating white bread. Do we do anything about that in this Parliament? No; we allow people to continue to eat white bread because it is not killing them; but, on the other hand, it is not doing them much good.

Merely mentioning these matters before the House, and the effect that they have on one's health is not sufficient. I consider that the curriculum prepared by the Education Department should include something which will enable our young people to be educated in regard to what is beneficial and what is harmful to the human body, and what would be worthwhile for them to observe during their lifetime in regard to smoking, the excessive consumption of intoxicating liquor, and the eating of many foods which are harmful to health.

An owner of a motorcar takes great pains over the care of the engine by ensuring that it has sufficient water in the radiator and the battery; that it has sufficient oil; and that it is lubricated at regular intervals. In most cases we look after our motorcars like new born babes. However, we know little of our own bodies and we pour anything and everything into them without caring how our systems may be affected. I think attention given to increased education in regard to this matter will solve the problem with which we are faced today. Those people who overindulge in regard to liquor and in regard to smoking could be educated to a point whereby they would be better able properly to look after themselves.

**Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. F. Hutchison.**

*House adjourned at 6.13 p.m.*