

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 4th September, 1963

CONTENTS

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY :	THIRTEENTH DAY—	Page
Speakers on Motion—		
Mr. Graham	810
Mr. J. Hegney	821
BILLS—		
Abattoirs Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	828
Albany Harbour Board Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	828
Bee Industry Compensation Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	828
Beekeepers Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	827
Bunbury Harbour Board Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	828
Bush Fires Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	828
Criminal Code Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	827
Firearms and Guns Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	827
Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	828
Land Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	828
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	828
Motor Vehicle Drivers Instructors Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	827
Noxious Weeds Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	827
Occupational Therapists Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	827
Offenders Probation and Parole Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	827
Painters' Registration Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	828
Pig Industry Compensation Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	828
Prisons Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	827
Rural and Industries Bank Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	828
Sale of Human Blood Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	827
Vermis Act Amendment Bill—		
Intro. ; 1r.	827

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—

Agricultural Research Station—Establishment in Lower Great Southern	806
Education—	
Cyril Jackson High School : Tenders for Landscaping	803
Faculty of Agriculture : Establishment of Branch at Albany	806

Education—continued

School Bus Services : Policy of Government	804
University Finances—	
Increased Commonwealth Grants	805
Increase in Fees	805
Housing—	
“Southlea” and “Westlea” Flats—	
Basis of Admission and Rentals	806
Ownership and Administration	806
Source of Funds	806
Spencer Park Housing Scheme : Provision of Playing Fields	806
Iron Ore—Continuance of Mt. Goldsworthy Project	806
Land—	
Land at Palmyra—	
Classification and Ownership	807
Relinquishment of Control by Melville Town Council	807
Tabling of File	808
Land Resumed for Chord Line : Transfer to State Housing Commission	807
Pensioners—Vehicle License Concessions	807
Railway Buses—	
Number on Other than Bunbury Routes	804
Number on Routes from Bunbury	804
Royal Mint, Perth—Future of Building and Staff	806
Traffic—	
Accidents—	
Number at Canning Highway Intersections, and Fatalities	806
Number before and after Installation of Lights	806
City Bus Stands : Kerbside Space	807

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—

Building Heights—Restriction in Vicinity of Parliament House	810
Bursary to Glen Porter—Use of Money	806
Juvenile Delinquency—Availability of Report	801
Land Tax Assessments—Irrregular Issuance	801
Murders in Nedlands—Alleged Confession to Police Department	806
Water Supplies—	
Comprehensive Water Scheme : Enlargement—Case Submitted to Commonwealth : Availability to Parliamentarians	801

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

CYRIL JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL

Tenders for Landscaping

- Mr. TOMS asked the Minister for Works:
 - Have tenders been called for the landscaping of the Cyril Jackson High School?
 - What does the proposed programme include?

(3) When is it intended that this work will be—

- (a) commenced;
- (b) completed?

Mr. WILD replied:

(1) The planting of all lawns and the preparation of soil for general planting were included in the original building contract and have been completed.

Tenders for the supply and planting of trees, shrubs, etc. necessary to complete the landscaping scheme will close on the 24th September.

(2) The programme is for a scheme of planting to embrace the whole site.

(3) Work is expected to commence at the end of September, and to be completed approximately five weeks later.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

Policy of Government

2. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it compulsory for school buses to pick up and set down within two miles of school, children under nine years of age?
- (2) If not, will he undertake to review the school bus policy in this regard?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) No; it is not compulsory, but if there is room on a bus after those living outside the radius have been picked up the department requires that children within the radius shall also be picked up.

(2) Yes.

RAILWAY BUSES

Number on Routes from Bunbury

3. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) When were the bus routes operating from Bunbury first established?
- (2) Since that date, how many—
 - (a) new buses;
 - (b) reconditioned buses from the Bunbury centre;
 - (c) reconditioned buses from other routes in the State
 have been placed on these routes?

Number on Other than Bunbury Routes

- (3) How many other bus routes are operating in the State?

(4) Where are these routes and when did each of them come into operation?

(5) How many new buses have been placed on these routes since inception, and in what years were they so placed?

(6) Do certain bus routes in the State have favoured treatment in the matter of new buses?

(7) If so, why?

(8) If there is in fact favoured treatment in the matter of placing new buses on certain routes, what happens to the buses so displaced?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Collie—8/11/47.
Flinders Bay—5/1/48.
Northcliffe—31/5/48.
Boyup Brook—31/5/48.

(2) (a) Seventeen new buses were utilised on the new routes when established and the majority of these operated from Bunbury. Five more were allocated in later years after use from the Perth depot.

(b) Five.

(c) All major overhauls are done in the Perth depot and buses for overhaul are replaced by other buses from the Perth depot. There is no record available of the number of times buses have been interchanged between the two depots.

(3) Twenty (20).

(4) Perth-Kojonup-Albany—1/9/49.
Perth - Kojonup - Rocky Gully—14/5/52.

Perth-York - Narrogin - Kondinin-Albany—30/5/60.

Albany - Denmark - Walpole—1/9/49.

Perth-Hopetoun—3/7/60.

Perth-Bunbury—5/1/48.

Perth - Narrogin - Kondinin - Pingaring—10/7/50.

Corrigin-Narrogin—11/7/50.

Katanning-Pingrup—1/7/57.

Katanning-Jerramungup—1/7/57.

Northam School Services—10/2/47.

Perth-Northam—13/2/49.

Perth-Toodyay-Miling—6/9/49.

Northam-Ballidu—17/9/51.

Perth - Merredin - Mukinbudin—30/5/60.

Kalgoorlie-Esperance—26/4/62.

Perth-Narembreen—9/8/49.

Perth - Hyden via Quairading—11/7/50.

Perth - Brookton - Corrigin—
22/8/50.

Geraldton-Mullewa—30/5/60.

- (5) Only seven new buses have been put into operation since 1950 and of these three de-luxe buses have been allocated to the Perth-Albany and Narembeen services. These have operated since 1962. Three semi de-luxe have been allocated to other routes including Perth-Pemberton, Perth-Albany via York, Perth-Northam and as relief to the de-luxe services. These came into operation in 1962 also. The seventh bus which has just come into operation will run on the new Perth-Merredin service.
- (6) to (8) No. Certain types of buses are concentrated on prescribed routes for purposes of operational efficiency and standardisation where there are insufficient of such types of buses to be allocated in a general way. Where special type buses are used regularly on certain routes, a higher fare is charged.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Number at Canning Highway Intersections, and Fatalities

4. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Police:
- (1) For the years 1960-61, 1961-62, and 1962-63, will he indicate the number of accidents which have occurred in the vicinity of the following localities:—
- (a) Hurlingham Hill, Canning Highway, South Perth;
- (b) Thelma Street and Canning Highway, South Perth?
- (2) How many of the accidents resulted in fatalities?

Number before and after Installation of Lights

- (3) When was the present traffic-pedestrian lighting system installed at these points?
- (4) For the periods mentioned in No. (1), will he indicate in both instances the number of accidents which occurred—
- (a) prior to the installation of the lights;
- (b) since the installation of the lights?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) Hurlingham Hill—
1960: 6 accidents including
2 pedestrians injured.
1961: 5 accidents including
2 pedestrians injured.

1962: 3 accidents including
1 pedestrian injured.

*1963: 2 accidents including
1 pedestrian injured.

(b) Thelma Street—

1960: 3 accidents

1961: 3 accidents including
1 fatality (not pedestrian).

1962: 6 accidents including
1 pedestrian injured.

*1963: 1 accident

*The figures for 1963 are up to the 30th June only.

(2) Hurlingham Hill—Nil.

Thelma Street—One.

(3) Hurlingham Hill—Lights installed on 26th May, 1959.

Thelma Street—Lights installed on 6th January, 1957.

(4) (a) At both localities the lights were installed prior to the check periods requested.

(b) Hurlingham Hill—16 accidents.

Thelma Street—13 accidents

UNIVERSITY FINANCES

Increase in Fees

5. Mr. EVANS asked the Premier:

- (1) As it has been reported that the policy of the University of Western Australia laid down by the University Senate in 1961, is to increase fees from time to time in relation to financial needs until they are comparable with those in the Eastern States, does he agree that the Western Australian fee level should be governed by fee policies adopted by other Australian universities?

Increased Commonwealth Grants

- (2) As it has also been claimed that the latest fee rise in W.A. has been necessitated by the need to attract the maximum Commonwealth grant, will he undertake to seek the support of other State Governments for an early approach to the Commonwealth Government requesting increased Commonwealth grants to Australian universities, so as to obviate any future need for steep student fee increases?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) This is a matter for the University Senate to decide in the light of its financial needs.
- (2) Submissions for increased Commonwealth grants to universities are made by all States at regular intervals. These submissions are examined by the Australian Universities Commission which then

forwards its recommendations to the Prime Minister. In view of this procedure for the consideration of the financial needs of Australian universities and the level of Commonwealth assistance, I can see no advantage in taking the action suggested.

- (iv) Insurance.
- (v) Caretaking and gardening.
- (vi) Lighting of common area.
- (vii) Vacancies and defaults.
- (d) None, in view of (a) above.
- (e) McNess Housing Trust.

"SOUTHLEA" AND "WESTLEA" FLATS

Source of Funds

6. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing: Respecting the *Southlea* and *Westlea* flat projects respectively—

- (a) What was the source of the funds for the erection of the flats;

Basis of Admission and Rentals

- (b) what is the basis of admission of tenants;
- (c) what is the basis of rentals charged;
- (d) are rental rebates allowed;

Ownership and Administration

- (e) are the flats owned and administered by the State Housing Commission, or the McNess Housing Trust?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (a) Equal contributions by Lotteries Commission and a non-repayable interest-free grant by the State Government for each project.
 - (b) (i) *Southlea*—Civilian widows.
 - (ii) *Westlea*—Civilian widows and elderly single women, both over 60 years.
- Eligibility for both projects was—

A. Whose sole income did not exceed the Age or Widow's pension, plus the 10s. rent allowance allowed by Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

B. Application of moderate means test.

C. Reasonably fit and able to live alone and in harmony with others.

D. Condition of existing accommodation and rent paid.

E. Working life or any other hardships.

- (c) Rents were assessed to cover outgoings for—

- (i) Maintenance of building.
- (ii) Operation of hot water system.
- (iii) Concessional rates.

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Establishment of Branch at Albany

7. Mr. HALL asked the Treasurer: Would he undertake to place before the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Western Australia, for its consideration and investigation, the possibility of establishing a branch of the faculty at Albany?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No. In view of financial considerations, it is not feasible at this point in time to contemplate the establishment at Albany of a branch of the Faculty of Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION

Establishment in Lower Great Southern

8. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has any decision been made relative to establishing an agricultural research station in the lower Great Southern area?
- (2) If not, will he give earnest consideration to the suggested proposal?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) and (2) No. Many requests have been made from this part of the State, but no decision has been reached.

SPENCER PARK HOUSING SCHEME

Provision of Playing Fields

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

- (1) With the advent of a £250,000 State Housing scheme for Spencer Park area, Albany, has provision been made for playing fields, and if so, what acreage has been set aside for the purpose?
- (2) If land has been set aside for playing fields in the Spencer Park area, what sports will be provided for, and what sporting bodies have made representation for ground space in the area?
- (3) Have negotiations taken place with the Albany Municipal Council for the granting of land for playing fields, and if so, what arrangements have been made?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Provision has been made for public open space areas in the preliminary subdivisional design prepared for the commission. The total area set aside for this purpose is 34 acres 2 roods 20 perches.
- (2) Representations have, to date, been received for land for football and hockey. When the subdivisional design is approved by the Town Planning Board and survey has been completed, public open space areas will be transferred, in the normal manner, to Her Majesty for vesting in the local authority. Thereafter, allocation of this land for specific purposes will be a matter for determination by the local authority.
- (3) Albany Municipal Council is aware of the situation set out in No. (2), and has been advised from time to time of the progress in finalisation of the subdivisional design of the area, in response to their enquiries.

CITY BUS STANDS

Kerbside Space

10. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

What is the total length of kerbside space set aside for bus stands in the Perth city area, bounded by the railway line, Irwin Street, the Swan River, and Milligan Street?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

The length is 6,052 feet.

PENSIONERS

Vehicle License Concessions

11. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has he power to grant free or concessional vehicle traffic licenses under sections 11 and 21A of the Traffic Act?
- (2) If so, would he agree to enlarge the category of persons eligible to apply for concessional benefits, by adding after the words "totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen and civilian invalid pensioners" aged pensioners whose income is not more than £3 per week in excess of the basic wage, and the necessity for such license to be supported by a doctor's certificate?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes, under section 11 of the Traffic Act where the local authority considers exceptional circumstances warrant it.

Section 21 of the Act deals only with motor vehicles brought into this country from overseas for which, subject to the observance of specific conditions, the issue of a free license is mandatory.

- (2) It is not proposed to extend the field of concessional licenses to include aged pensioners.

LAND RESUMED FOR CHORD LINE

Transfer to State Housing Commission

12. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) How much land is still retained by the W.A.G.R. which was originally resumed for the proposed Bayswater-Welshpool chord line?
- (2) Has consideration been given to transferring this land to the State Housing Commission or otherwise disposing of same?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Approximately 19 acres.
- (2) The land has been offered to the State Housing Commission which has taken three lots suitable for its purpose. The whole of the land has been freed under the provisions of section 29 of the Public Works Act and the remaining 19 acres, 0 roods, 19.5 perches, less the lots occupied for railway housing purposes will be disposed of by the P.W.D. during 1963-64.

13. This question was postponed.

LAND AT PALMYRA

Classification and Ownership

14. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Was an area of land of approximately 83 acres and situated adjacent to the intersection of High and Stock Roads, south of Palmyra, held by the Melville local authority under a Crown grant?
- (2) If "Yes," what were the conditions under which the grant was made?
- (3) Did the Regional Planning Committee propose to classify the land as open space?
- (4) Did the Town Planning Department object to the use of the land or any part of it for industry?

Relinquishment of Control by Melville Town Council

- (5) On what date did the Melville Town Council cease to have control of the land?

- (6) What were the circumstances under which the Melville Town Council relinquished control?

Tabling of File

- (7) Will he table the file in connection with the matter?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes. The area concerned comprised approximately 80 acres, described as Cockburn Sound Locations 719 and 747 contained in Certificates of Title Volume 703 Folio 16 and Volume 796 Folio 41.
- (2) The grant was made under the provisions of the Land Act, the conditions being the lands were to be held in trust for the purpose of an endowment to be used and held by the local authority with power to lease for any term not exceeding 99 years.
- (3) Under the Interim Development Order dated the 17th December, 1959, Map No. 3B, the whole of the area is classified for urban development which meant it could be used for any purpose which the local authority saw fit consistent with the regional plan and subject to the approval of the Town Planning Board.
- (4) No.
- (5) On the 18th July, 1961, portion of the land containing 40 acres now surveyed as Cockburn Sound Locations 1941 and 1962, was transferred by the local authority to the Crown. The local authority has now agreed to transfer the balance of Locations 719 and 747 to the Crown.
- (6) In consideration of the transfer of this land to the Crown the local authority has been paid the sum of £68,000 through the Department of Industrial Development.
- (7) Yes. Lands and Surveys File 1114/61 will be tabled.

The file was tabled for one week.

ROYAL MINT, PERTH

Future of Building and Staff

15. Mr. DAVIES asked the Premier:

- (1) In view of the establishment of a Commonwealth Mint at Canberra, can he say the period of time the Royal Mint, Perth, will continue to produce coins?
- (2) What provisions have been made for the future of the staff of the Perth mint once the Commonwealth mint becomes operative?

- (3) Does the State Government propose to continue to use the Perth mint for gold refining once production of coins ceases?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) At least three years.
- (2) and (3) In view of the fact that the Commonwealth intends to offer employment in the Canberra Mint to suitable members of the staff and as the State Government proposes to continue the Perth mint as a gold refinery, it is not anticipated that any great difficulty will be experienced in continuing the employment of existing staff.

IRON ORE

Continuance of Mt. Goldsworthy Project

16. Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:
- (1) Has the company, in accord with the Iron Ore (Mount Goldsworthy) Act, 1962, given the Government notice that it does intend to proceed further with the project?
- (2) If not, has there been mutual agreement between the Government and the company for an extension of the period in which notice must be given?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes, as provided in the agreement.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BURSARY TO GLEN PORTER

Use of Money

1. Mr. H. MAY asked the Minister for Education:
- (1) Is the Minister aware that bursary money at the rate of £80 per year is being paid to a Thomas Porter of 8 Derby Road, Subiaco, who is the father of Glen Porter, the boy concerned?
- (2) Does the Minister know, as reported to me, that this money is not being used for the purpose intended?
- (3) Can the Minister arrange for this money to be paid through some other channel whereby it will be used for the purpose intended?

Mr. LEWIS replied: I thank the honourable member for notice of this question. The replies are as follows:—

- (1) to (3) I do not readily recall the case but I will have immediate investigations made into it and advise the honourable member.

LAND TAX ASSESSMENTS*Irregular Issuance*

2. Mr. HALL asked the Premier:

As there appears to be a consistent irregularity in the distribution of land tax assessments to owners of properties, can he advise the House of such action by the Taxation Department?

Mr. BRAND replied: I would like to thank the honourable member for notice of this question, and the answer is as follows:

In view of the necessity to revalue each land district periodically, it is not possible to issue land tax assessments at the same time each year.

COMPREHENSIVE WATER SCHEME: ENLARGEMENT*Case Submitted to Commonwealth: Availability to Parliamentarians*

3. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Works:

In view of the very important nature of the document, can he explain why a case which was submitted to the Commonwealth Government for an enlargement of the comprehensive water scheme was not circulated to members of Parliament?

Mr. WILD replied:

The case was prepared during the recess and the document was prepared by the Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the engineering section of the Public Works Department. Many people were interviewed in this regard and I received a number of deputations from the Rural Water Advisory Council and the Rural Water Committee. When all the necessary data was ready a document was compiled by the Director of Agriculture and the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department. When it was ready it was taken to Canberra by the Deputy Premier of Western Australia, and myself, and I do not think at this stage of the game there was any necessity for it to be circulated to members of Parliament.

4. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Works:

May I ask the Minister why certain shire councils have received copies of the document and members of Parliament are still without them?

Mr. WILD replied:

I am not aware of any shire councils having received them. I think as a matter of courtesy a copy was sent to the Chairman of the Rural Water Advisory Council and the Rural Water Committee. As regards any going to shire councils I do not know of it, but I have no doubt that had they asked they probably would have received them because it is no longer a confidential or silent document.

MURDERS IN NEDLANDS*Alleged Confession to Police Department*

5. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Police:

Will he advise if Eric Edgar Cooke at present being held in connection with the wilful murder of Shirley McLeod, contacted the Police Department some time ago and confessed to the Nedlands murders?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

I have some doubts in my mind having regard to the decorum of Parliament, whether such types of questions should be asked. In this particular case I was not forewarned of the question and I will not answer it. However, if the honourable member likes to place the question on the notice paper I will give consideration to it, but I do not necessarily say I will answer it.

Government members: Hear, hear!

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY*Availability of Report*

6. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Education:

When will the report regarding juvenile delinquency be laid on the Table of the House? I understand certain organisations have copies of the report, and yet no report is available to Parliament.

Mr. LEWIS replied:

I have no report regarding juvenile delinquency. However, a report of the committee investigating youth services has been submitted to me but it is an entirely different matter. As far as I am aware no copies have been circulated—they have certainly not been circulated with my sanction, if they have been—to any organisation. In reply to the earlier part of the question, as to when the report will be circulated to members of Parliament, as I have indicated

this report is before the Government and is being considered. At this stage no indication can be given as to when it will be circulated among members of Parliament and interested organisations.

BUILDING HEIGHTS

Restriction in Vicinity of Parliament House

7. Mr. **OLDFIELD** asked the Premier: Will he give consideration to imposing a limit on the building heights of blocks of flats and buildings in the Malcolm Street, Mount Street, and Mounts Bay Road area in order to preserve the aspect from Parliament House?

Mr. **BRAND** replied:

I think this question should be directed to the Minister for Local Government. However, I will pass it on to him.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY:

THIRTEENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 3rd September, on the following motion by Mr. Mitchell:—

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 Assembly of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta) [4.51 p.m.]: First of all, may I extend my personal welcome to the Premier upon his return to this State, following his extended visit to various parts of the world. So far as his Press reception is concerned, the Premier should thank his lucky stars he was not a Labor Premier. I have before me cuttings from the Press—*The West Australian*—of items originating from the poison pen of a vinegary old gentleman known to many of us by the name of Geoffrey Burgoyne, a noted Labor Party hater. In respect of these trips overseas, because there is a Labor Premier in New South Wales—in which State, incidentally, this gentleman is now domiciled—Mr. Burgoyne uses such language as, “jaunt abroad for politicians”. He also makes references to “the prestige of those who travel about, which will doubtless

open doors—including the doors of clubs—to them, and that they are sure to have a high old time.” There will be nothing else to it. Then, subsequently, he questions the value of trips abroad.

Because the Premier of Western Australia, for the time being, owes allegiance to a political party other than the Australian Labor Party, he has been spared those indignities from the Press. Perhaps to add some fuel to the flames, I might suggest, for the consideration of the Premier—this is not the first time it has been mentioned, and I believe some official approaches will be made to him in connection with it—that as he has undoubtedly gained a great deal of experience and knowledge from the many places he has visited, he should give consideration to decisions that have already been made on a similar line of thought in other States; namely, of the necessity to make it possible for a limited number of members of this Parliament to visit selected countries overseas in order to gain some idea of how the other half lives, and to ascertain how problems are faced, and dealt with, in those parts.

Irrespective of political colour, it is one thing for the Ministers in office for the time being to have trips abroad and familiarise themselves with various matters in which they have an interest; but surely we, who are playing a part in framing and determining legislation, in a world where the various parts are inevitably coming closer and closer together, should have an opportunity to gain a greater appreciation of what is happening elsewhere and how the problems faced by people in other lands are being tackled.

Mr. Brand: How many members do you think ought to go each year? A large group, or a small group?

Mr. **GRAHAM**: With private members, I would suggest one from the Government side and one from the Opposition side, subject to the approval of the Government. They should nominate the country or countries they desire to visit, and the particular industries or projects—whatever it might be—they wish to concentrate their attention upon in order to inform themselves. I am not submitting this suggestion, necessarily, in my own interests; but if I may strike a personal note, I suppose, in length of service, I have been in this House for a longer period than any member on the other side of the Chamber. Altogether, I have been here for more than 20 years. As one who has been a member of Parliament for so many years, and who has been a Minister for six years, it is a reflection on somebody, somewhere, including myself, that I have never seen beyond the shores of Australia.

I would suggest that not only I but all members would gain in knowledge and experience, and be able to make more

substantial contributions, not only to debate, but also towards the solution of various problems that confront us from time to time, either in a ministerial capacity or in any other capacity, if we were given the opportunity of making a trip abroad. I am suggesting this for the benefit of private members, knowing that the Premier and his Ministers, from time to time and in respect of their portfolios and matters pertaining thereto, will find it necessary to go to other parts of the world once, twice, or even half a dozen times because of the importance of the matters with which they are dealing.

As I have already said, I consider the Premier has gained considerably in his appreciation of the world and what it means; and as he, no doubt, will be a private member again some day, surely it would be a good idea for other members to go abroad so that they might equally inform their minds. I am afraid it becomes necessary for me now to become a little more controversial.

Mr. Brand: You started off in such a pleasant way, too.

Mr. GRAHAM: I can assure the Premier that what I have to say will be in accordance with fact and there will be either argument or authority to support my statements. Therefore, to oblige him, I will say it is a pity the Premier had to return to a State which is in a most unsatisfactory condition at the present moment. First of all, as he is aware, in 1963, as in 1962, unemployment has reached an all-time high; new records have been established for the number of persons who are out of work for any time during the post-war years, and Western Australia now has a percentage of unemployed greater than the average of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Of course, this is an extremely poor product of a 4½ years' campaign by the Government in an endeavour to persuade all and sundry that Western Australia is enjoying an instalment of progress; that it is taking a great leap forward to an extent which it has never known before. The official facts and figures disprove those general statements made by spokesmen of the Government; and there are very many of them.

Mr. Bovell: There are more people employed today than ever before.

Mr. GRAHAM: Have we to go through all that again? As I have already stated, previously, at the height of the depression in Western Australia there were more people working in the State than there were a generation before; but does that prove anything? The fact is that in 1963, under this Government, there are more people unemployed than at any time during the post-war years; at any time in the last generation.

Mr. Court: What proportion of the total? You could take that figure through any State in Australia and through the whole of Australia.

Mr. GRAHAM: No, I could not! Western Australia stands out from any other State in regard to unemployment during 1963.

Mr. Court: It stood out during the term of your Government because of its inconsistency of performance.

Mr. GRAHAM: Obviously, the Government is touchy on this matter. It is true we had considerable debate on the issue when an amendment was moved to the Address-in-Reply. The Opposition felt the Government should bestir itself on unemployment and housing. We were—I know I certainly was—somewhat surprised to read in the Press a few days after that debate concluded that the Acting Premier had announced—I think he used the wrong figures incidentally—that the State Government would release £1,133,000 to building societies immediately to boost employment.

It seemed as though the Government had responded to the pleadings of the Opposition. But those of us who know something about the matter dug below the surface a little and found that this is the normal allocation of moneys made to building societies such as has been done every year since 1956 under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement; and we found that in 1962, in the same month of August, a sum, in round figures, of £1,000,000 was announced as being allocated to building societies—£40,000 to this one, £50,000 to that one, and so on.

So this was the false facade that was being presented for public consumption. It was the normal allocation of 30 per cent. of the State Housing Commission funds made available to this State under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. That is the sort of stuff this Government is getting away with. If the Press were a little more analytical, it surely would have exposed this for the ramp and false picture which it was, and which it sought to create and present to the public.

We noticed a certain amount of bleating with regard to the number of persons unemployed—some 559 more for the month of July as against the month of June. Of course there are people with excuses for this sort of thing. I was more than interested to read that this unhappy plight was brought about on account of the adverse weather in the month of July. There was a headline in the Press which read, "Weather Blamed." I had a look at some back pages of *The West Australian*, and I find in the issue of that paper dated the

1st August, 1963, the heading, "Perth's Rainfall in July Below Average." Part of the article reads as follows:—

Perth's July rainfall of 636 points was 51 points below the average of 687 points.

Yet it was announced quite seriously that there had been so much rainfall during July, that that was the principal contributing factor in the increase in the number of unemployed. The principal factor is, of course, that this Government has no programme or policy for the people. It is too intent on selling out Western Australia to overseas investors; and the rights and opportunities to which the people are entitled come a very poor second or third—certainly a long way up the queue. The Government has no thought for the rights of local residents.

If this Government paid more attention to the things to which Governments have customarily paid attention throughout the years that we have had responsible Government, instead of flirting so much with foreign capital, there would be a much prettier picture than that which exists at present.

It is my intention shortly to say something serious in connection with the State Housing Commission, or things appertaining to the State Housing Commission. Meanwhile, however, let me deal with one or two lesser aspects. First of all, let me express my disapproval of the new policy of this Government—I think it is the first time there has been such a policy since the State Housing Commission was established—of making available business sites in certain areas; of having an auction sale, but providing no requirement whatsoever that shops shall be built within a certain time; or that certain essential types of shops shall be provided.

To explain myself: Hitherto the procedure has been that at least a certain number of shopping sites are made available on the understanding that within a period of, say, 12 months, shops shall be built, and be open for business—that there shall be a grocer shop, a butcher shop, and perhaps two or three other essential shopping facilities.

But under the new policy of this Government it is a question of, "To hell with the people, as long as we are obliging the business people." Blocks are made available, and anybody can buy them, including the speculator. Let us say the speculator buys all the five lots offered at auction. There is now no obligation on him to do anything about those lots. He can sit on those blocks without erecting shops, knowing full well that we have such things as zoning and town planning schemes, and that nobody else can build shops to service the people in that area.

Previously, if somebody acquired sites in a particular area and did not get on with the job, there was the danger, from his point of view, of somebody else building a block a street away, or a few doors away; or something of that nature. But now this is a preserve exclusively for shopping, and nobody else within a radius of perhaps half a mile can build business premises. That has greatly interfered with the people in the new suburbs where, as a rule, there are no footpaths; where the lighting is poor; and where, in the very nature of things, there are children in the community together with women some of whom may be expectant mothers. In spite of all this there is no obligation on the person to whom the land is sold to erect shops and open premises.

I think the Government should be a little more concerned for the people in these Housing Commission estates, just as it should be—as I indicated earlier—more concerned about unemployment, and the rest of it. I wonder why—unless it is a matter of just trying to be difficult and different—the Minister for Housing should have sought to introduce old English names into the new suburbs being developed; and I refer to Nollamara and Mirrabooka. These are aboriginal names; the former meaning Kangaroo Paw and the latter the Southern Cross. Because they form part of the history and culture of Western Australia, and in order to harmonise with that fact, the street names in Nollamara were given those of an aboriginal context.

We find now, under the present Minister for Housing, that in the suburb called Nollamara, one half of the streets in the town are given old English names like Winchester and Woolchester, and the rest. This of course means that one half of the township is screaming at the other. It does not make sense. I suggest the present Minister for Housing—because this must have been done with his consent—is doing the wrong thing. I wonder if this is a continuation of the policy started in the early life of the Government, to erase any of the features for which the previous Labor Government was responsible.

I instance the Housing Commission suburb named Beeloo. The Minister decided to change it to Wilson, notwithstanding the fact that there is another housing suburb situated a distance away called Wilson Park. The name Beeloo was accepted by everybody, including the Nomenclature Committee, and yet the Minister changed the name to Wilson without referring the matter back to that committee. That is the sort of statesmanship we have!

We find these meddlesome Matties interfering without rhyme and reason, or anything else, merely because it builds

up their ego to some extent to think that they have been able to erase some action taken by a previous Labor Government. As members are aware, we had a similar procedure in connection with the naming of the bridge across the Narrows.

Mr. Bovell: We did not give names such as Graham or Hawkeville or Nulsen Haven.

Mr. GRAHAM: That has not happened yet; but as a matter of fact, the late member for Bunbury, in a Dorothy Dix type of question, more or less invited the Minister for Housing to do that very thing in connection with a large block of flats at the corner of Collins Street and Hay Street. So neither the Minister nor the rank and file supporters of the Government are innocent of that.

I suggest, therefore that in respect of housing the Premier give consideration to a reallocation of portfolio. It is basically wrong that a portfolio, which touches so closely and so intimately the lives of so many people—to wit, the housing portfolio—should be reposed in a Minister at the other end of this building, and in a House where there is a restricted franchise. It becomes rather difficult for those of us who choose to debate this matter, and to fire questions at the Government, when we know perfectly well there is a Minister in this House representing that portfolio by proxy only, and he cannot be expected to know about the situation. I suggest this more personal portfolio should be reposed in one of the Ministers who have seats in the Legislative Assembly.

It is necessary on another count. It appears the Minister for Housing is seldom in his office. I do not know how much money has been spent by him in getting rid of the Graham "germs" which were left in the office of the State Housing Commission, but I do know that not very long after I vacated my offices at the State Housing Commission they were renovated completely to suit the incoming officeholder. Everything from light fittings in the ceiling down to floor coverings had to be altered to suit his particular taste. I do not think I would be exaggerating when I say that he has not spent 20 hours in those offices in the 4½ years he has been Minister for Housing.

Mr. Jamieson: He is the only Minister with three sets of offices.

Mr. GRAHAM: Here is another point I cannot understand: A Mr. Lewis, who is quite an efficient officer in the State Housing Commission, is the parliamentary liaison officer for the commission. I find that on two occasions out of every three when I seek to confer with him on matters affecting clients of the commission, Mr. Lewis is in the office of the Minister, discussing other affairs with the Minister.

Is this a new procedure where the Minister, for personal or other reasons, chooses

to work through an officer who is probably 50th or 100th down the list of seniority, or should the Minister do business through his departmental head? Frankly, I have never heard of such a practice.

In some cases, perhaps, the Minister can be pardoned for interviewing lesser lights in the commission on matters in which they have specialised, or have particular knowledge; but by and large the business should be done through the chief administrative and executive officer. In this case it appears the Minister for Housing chooses to go a long way down the ladder of seniority in dealing with the liaison officer; and to the extent this officer spends his time with the Minister, members of Parliament are denied access to the officer.

I do not believe in the poppycock that is talked by those opposite, but I do know the position in regard to housing is bad, and is getting rapidly worse. We have heard various statements made by Ministers opposite. First of all, there was the statement by the Minister in reply to a question by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that there was a waiting period of up to 18 months for rental homes. Then, within the last fortnight, we heard the Acting Premier say there was a waiting period in the metropolitan area of up to 12 months. I have a case before me which dates back to 1959—nearly four years ago—when the applicant applied, but he is still waiting.

Emergent housing cases were fixed up in the critical time when the Legislative Council got rid of the legislation on rent control, and when 60 families were evicted in one week by the local court. The Housing Commission had to do something then, and those cases were fixed within a few days or a couple of weeks. I have instanced one case, and I have the papers here if the Premier or any other member would like to see them.

Since April I have been trying to have an old couple residing at Tuart Hill, who have been given notice to quit by their son-in-law, treated as an emergent case. The son-in-law is not heartless; he is a young ex-service man with a family, and had been transferred to the country but has returned to Perth. He is now renting a house at Thornlie at £6 a week, in addition to which he is paying the contributions in the process of purchasing a war service home. That is only one of the emergent cases I know of; nothing has been done by the commission and no progress is being made.

Since 1955 I have not known the housing position to be as bad as it is at the present moment. No progress is being made, or has been made in the metropolitan area to advance the date in the order of the applications over the last six months. The date has not been advanced by even one week. Yet, we hear from the Government the talk about better days around

the corner and the great leap forward, bursting at the seams, and other glamourised statements. It made my blood boil to read the statement made by the Minister for Lands the other day in which he said the following about the Lonnie mission, as reported in the Press:—

So far 338 family units had been housed by the State Housing Commission. The maximum delay so far has been 14 weeks.

What a damnable and shocking indictment of this Government! There are now thousands of decent Australian citizens—men, women, and children—looking for somewhere to live. Many of those people are distressed, sick, and worried; and yet new arrivals from 10,000 miles away—consisting of people who have never seen this country before—are granted in every single case accommodation within 14 weeks. What is this Government thinking of? Has it not any heart or feeling for Australian citizens? Has it not any sense of responsibility?

It is easy for members opposite to say that we of the Labor Party are anti-immigrant, but we are nothing of the sort. We contend the Government has a responsibility to the people of this State, and we say that immigrants from overseas should be brought out here when we are able to ensure that they can be provided with proper housing and proper employment; but to bring them out here without ensuring that those requirements can be satisfied is an act of gross irresponsibility.

I know it is difficult for us, on this side, to get the message over to the people, but the figures I have quoted can be verified from any source. The position is as I stated, and the present state of affairs in respect of housing is damnable. This Government is covering up the position, and merely shrugs its shoulders; it gets on with the job of having another whisky and joining with the big boys to talk in millions, or hundreds of millions, of pounds, and about all the great things that will happen in this State towards the end of the century. It has no feeling or compassion for the ordinary citizen.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The number of applicants awaiting houses has been lowered.

Mr. GRAHAM: I have a limit to the time I can speak in this debate. I dealt with the position and gave the facts a week ago in this House, and they are contained in *Hansard* No. 4 of this year. If the Minister cared not to listen, he could refresh his memory by referring to *Hansard*. I pointed out the position and gave the number of outstanding applications. There were 6,000 new applications received, but only 3,000 families were given homes. In my language there were 3,000 more families waiting for houses, excepting of

course wastage. But from the figures produced by this Government the number of outstanding applications is shown to be decreasing! Let the Minister examine the figures I gave, because they were extracted from statements which both he and the Acting Premier made.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Those figures were taken from the same officers who worked for you when you were in office.

Mr. GRAHAM: I have already explained the reasons given by the Government to whittle down the number of outstanding applications, because they do not reveal the true situation.

I want to say something about the Commonwealth Games, although I would have preferred that there was no necessity for me to do so. We can say that the organisation and the staging of the Games proved to be eminently successful, and that Western Australia has every reason to be proud of such an achievement. I say, not egotistically, but because it is a fact, that I was a member of the finance committee, being one of the original half-dozen or so invited by the Lord Mayor to form that committee under the chairmanship of Mr. F. A. Johnston. Subsequently I also became a member of the fund-raising committee which, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. L. Paton, was given the task of raising some hundreds of thousands of pounds. I attended practically all of those meetings; and as a matter of interest I have here the minutes of the meetings over that period. I also did a lot of work and running around as well.

The finance committee has not met since October, 1962. As a member of that committee responsible for passing or authorising all accounts, and responsible for raising the tremendous sum of £250,000 by donation and otherwise, I have no idea whether a loss of £500,000 was made; whether a profit of £500,000 was made; whether a certain sum is being set aside to assist athletics in the future; or exactly what is happening. I have made my protest to people who occupied the highest posts in the Commonwealth Games Organising Council and the finance committee itself and I cannot get a meeting held. I have never had such grave discourtesy displayed to me in my association with, I suppose, several hundred organisations over the years I have been associated with public life, in bodies large and small.

There have been statements in the Press from time to time of announcements by somebody or another, and whether they are in accordance with fact or not I have no idea whatsoever. Let me say here and now I have no grounds for being suspicious that there is anything fundamentally wrong with the funds, or that anybody has absconded, or anything of that nature—nothing approaching that whatsoever.

However, to my mind it is foolish, ridiculous, and most unbusinesslike that this committee has not met since the Games were held; and its last meeting was in October, 1962. We have not even been told our job is over. As for final accounts or a progress report, goodness knows what the situation is.

Mr. Brand: Who is the convener of the committee?

Mr. GRAHAM: The chairman is Mr. F. A. Johnston and the secretary, Mr. John Howson.

Mr. Brand: Have you taken this matter up with any of the members?

Mr. GRAHAM: Yes. Members will appreciate that over a period of years in association with persons, one develops quite a friendly relationship. I could, and indeed I will, privately, if the Premier cares, give the names of those to whom I made the request.

Mr. Brand: They would be responsible for calling it together; not this House.

Mr. GRAHAM: I will go so far as to say the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and the Secretary of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Brand: What was their answer?

Mr. GRAHAM: That "we are still going into things." Of course we were still going into things prior to the Games being held, and we met at reasonably frequent intervals. The fund-raising committee met almost every fortnight and the finance committee approximately once a month—sometimes more frequently and sometimes less frequently, depending on what was occurring. So the matter is most unsatisfactory.

Mr. H. May: How did the bill finish up in regard to housing?

Mr. GRAHAM: I intend to say something about it. In fact, before getting back to something which will definitely interest the Premier, first of all let me say this: I am one who has advocated—I hope the Premier does not throw it back at me and say why did I not do something when I was part of the Government—more frequent meetings of Parliament. For quite a number of reasons something which occurs in January or February is dead meat by August or September; and whilst it may be handy that the Government, whatever its political colour, cannot be assailed in Parliament I think, at the same time, it is most unsatisfactory that certain matters cannot be ventilated effectively, because the incident is over and done with.

So, notwithstanding my earlier intention of making out a case and moving for a searching inquiry into the Games Village houses, because of the passage of

time, it is not now my intention to do that. But I want to have a few words to say in regard to the set-up, anyhow. In the first instance I would say what I have said previously: that I have never seen in Western Australia, apart from minimum housing, such a dull, drab, uninteresting, and uninspiring group of houses. My reaction has been the same as that of 99 per cent. of the people of Western Australia; and even those who came from other States were entirely in accord with some of the points I previously submitted, and some of them on other points. However, overall, the fact was that it was anything but picturesque—anything but what would be a feature to show and attract visitors, and so on and so on.

Mr. Oldfield: They had to cut their losses to sell them.

Mr. GRAHAM: Perhaps the member for Maylands will allow me to make my own speech.

Mr. Court: You have trouble with him too, do you?

Mr. Oldfield: I was only trying to help.

Mr. GRAHAM: When I want aid from the member for Maylands, I will ask him for it. This village set-up started off on the wrong foot. The Government—because, I suppose, of its anti-socialist idea—snatched proceedings away from the State Housing Commission. The State Housing Commission had no say whatever in the layout and design of the estate. The State Housing Commission had no say whatsoever as to the type and design of the houses that were to be constructed. The State Housing Commission had no say whatsoever in regard to the siting of the particular designs of houses. The State Housing Commission had no say whatsoever in respect of the colouring schemes. Indeed it must have been a blind man who had the say, because there is no colour there whatsoever. The State Housing Commission had no say whatsoever in the matter of fences or walls; and one would almost think one was around about the Fremantle gaol when traversing the village area.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That is an exaggeration.

Mr. GRAHAM: I will say this: The Minister or any of his colleagues cannot point out an area in the whole of the metropolitan area where there are houses with even 25 per cent. as much garden walling as there is at the Games village.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: These houses were in demand. They have all been sold.

Mr. GRAHAM: The point I am making is that the authority which has been responsible for the mass construction of minimum houses, to houses costing £10,000 and more—I repeat it has built thousands of these and supervised their design and

all the rest of it—was brushed aside completely by this Government in its eagerness to hand it over to private architects and a specialist committee, and so on. The only authority qualified and experienced in mass development of a housing estate was the Government's own State Housing Commission. This work was taken from the commission and given to outside people. I wonder why?

Mr. Dunn: The people bought them—they must have liked them.

Mr. GRAHAM: If the member for Darling Range will contain himself, I will come to that point in a moment. I say: Why give this commission, whose responsibility it is to build houses, and which specialises in the development of large estates, the wipe-off? Why hand over the building of the houses to people to whom professional fees had to be paid?

Mr. Dunn: Don't you know we are for private enterprise?

Mr. GRAHAM: Why not close up the State Housing Commission and hand it over to, shall we say, the Reid Murray Group or something of that nature?

Mr. H. May: John Allan.

Mr. GRAHAM: I had intended saying quite a deal with regard to the point of view of the building contractors, some of whom went bankrupt over the job. There were stories going around that certain work that had been inspected in the early stages was proceeded with and the contractors continued the work to the point of completion and then found there was a doubt on the basis of faulty material—that is, on timbering, flooring, and the rest of it.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Who were the inspectors?

Mr. O'Neil: Yes; who inspected them?

Mr. GRAHAM: Inspectors from the State Housing Commission. The supervision was carried out by them.

Mr. O'Neil: You said they had nothing to do with it.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not know whether this is a deliberate attempt to waste my time; but the point is that I mentioned instances of all categories in which the State Housing Commission was completely ignored. The commission had two responsibilities only—one, the supervision of the work; and, two, the payment of the accounts. That is all.

There is no need for me to make up stories in connection with this matter. The facts speak for themselves. When the fun and games were over, the houses were passed to the Rural and Industries Bank to sell. I do not know why they were not left to the State Housing Commission, because there were only 150 of them. Good heavens! When the Hawke Government was in office in 1955 we were completing 150 houses every fortnight for the whole of the 12 months.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: When was that?

Mr. GRAHAM: In 1955.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: How many did you say?

Mr. GRAHAM: One hundred and fifty.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: How many did you produce 18 months after that?

Mr. GRAHAM: I am talking about 1955. Why was it necessary to wipe off the State Housing Commission which has sold thousands of homes?

In answer to questions—and I suppose we can believe what we are told by Ministers; or we should be able to—we were told that the dearest house cost £6,468 to build. Its selling price was £6,985 which means it was sold for £517 more than it cost to build. However, the Minister's own information told us that the land was worth £1,165 on average; that the development of the land cost £455; and that there was about £100 additional for administration, insurance, etc., making a total of £1,720—and the Government recovered £527. In other words, because of the unattractiveness of the area, these houses were sold for between £1,000 and £1,200 less than they should have. This was necessary because they were a bad bargain, and in order to attract buyers the price was cut.

The Government was able to do this because it received the land gratis from the Perth City Council. Let the Chief Secretary speak to his colleague, the Minister for Housing, and see if he can find how many houses sold by the commission in the past have been sold for less than the cost of the construction of the house, the value of the land, the cost of administration, and the cost of the development of the area which includes clearing, surveying, and levelling, and all the rest of it.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: We cannot win because if we had added on £500 or £1,000 you would have accused us of charging too much.

Mr. GRAHAM: No. It is bad business for the commission or anyone else to sell a house for less than its final cost.

Mr. O'Neil: You told us last year we sold them too cheaply.

Mr. GRAHAM: What I am suggesting now is that if they had been more attractive houses, costing exactly the same amount of money, the Government could have asked another £1,000 to £1,200 a house and they would have been good buys.

Mr. O'Neil: I think the fact that they are all sold is important.

Mr. GRAHAM: Of course they have been, because the price was written down.

Mr. O'Neil: You told us last year we sold them too cheaply.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman): Order! The honourable member must address the Chair.

Mr. GRAHAM: The member for East Melville seems to be making himself happy saying the same thing over and over again. The same situation applies if we study the cheapest house built. It cost £4,373 to build, and the selling price was £4,900 which was £527 over the actual cost of the house. However, again the figures for the land, development, administration, and so forth are not included and this means the house was sold for about £1,200 less than it should have been and would have been if there had been a businesslike arrangement as has existed all down the years. The State Housing Commission has found no difficulty in disposing of either its cheapest or dearest houses.

We now come to the riddle of the maintenance and repairs to the Games houses at the conclusion of the Games. I understand the problem is still unresolved. In regard to what I am about to say, I want to assure suspicious Ministers that I have not had any conversation with departmental officers.

When the Olympic Games were held in Melbourne it cost, I am informed, an average of £25 a house to carry out the maintenance after the houses had been vacated by the athletes and officials. We must remember that vandalism was evident in Melbourne. Baths, basins, walls, fittings, and so on, had been smashed, and there were some shocking messes and deliberate vandalism. Fortunately in Perth there was very little of that; in fact, scarcely any.

The original estimate of the Games Organising Council and Finance Committee, of which I was a member, was about £2,500 for maintenance after the Games in Perth—an average of £15 to £17 a house. We felt we had learned something from the experience in Melbourne. However, we allowed £5,000 in the budget, a provision of £30 to £35 a house. We doubled up. Yet, lo and behold, a claim was lodged for the sum of £10,557 9s. 6d. for maintenance—an average of £70 a house! Subsequently, this claim was reduced to £9,482—why, I know not. I believe now there is an argument, and the figure is probably £1,000 below that, or about £8,500.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Were there some factors brought in which perhaps should not have been brought in?

Mr. GRAHAM: They were itemised, and I have the prices, but there is no need to go into them. Of that £10,557 9s. 6d., a sum of £5,643 was for painting which, incidentally, was all done in six weeks. There must have been a mighty team of painters on the job.

Now, there are some peculiar features about this maintenance. One of the occupants was the manager of the Hong

Kong team. I know a person who went into this house both when the Hong Kong manager was in residence there and after he had vacated it, and he said that nothing had been touched; that it was not possible to realise anyone had been in the house. Yet, according to the State Housing Commission accounts, £80 expenditure was necessary on this house.

The manager of the Australian team was Mr. Edgar S. Tanner, C.B.E., E.D., M.L.A., Victoria, and £51 15s. was necessary for the maintenance on his house. For the information of members here, this member of Parliament—the general manager of the Australian team—is a non-drinker.

A State Housing Commission officer occupied one of the houses and an expenditure of £50 was necessary for maintenance on this house. There is truly something fantastic about all this. I am informed that it costs approximately £75 for a complete internal repainting of a house; and yet, in respect of one of the houses—

Several members interjected.

Mr. GRAHAM: Internal painting, this is.

Mr. Guthrie: A lot more than that.

Mr. GRAHAM: That would be largely the P.V.A. paint, or the water paint for the walls. Except when somebody got pretty excited and poked a broom through one of the ceilings, the ceilings would not have been touched. It is hardly likely that every wall would be painted. For this particular house the cost was £118.

Mr. Lewis: Was he a non-drinker, too?

Mr. GRAHAM: I could not say. There was the feeling that in the general exuberance of the occasion, because of the successes in the various sports, and during the relaxation period after the Games were over, there would perhaps be some malicious damage, or damage caused through foolhardiness; and therefore an insurance policy was taken out by the Games Organising Council. The insurance company, together with an official of the Games organisation and an assessor from the insurance company, went over all the structures. The most which could be claimed by the Games Organising Council, and the most which was paid by the insurance company, was £220 for malicious damage. Therefore the balance should have been for a simple touching-up job here and there.

There are some devotees of private enterprise in this House, and they will be pleased to know that a leading architect—I know his name, but I will not mention it—and the village committee inspected each house before it was taken over, and each house after use. Naturally, they were shocked at the extent of the maintenance claimed, in connection with which

there were discussions with the Minister for Housing and the Premier, before the latter took his trip overseas.

I should mention—and I think I am right in saying this—that there was no reference whatsoever to the Games Organising Council before the contract was undertaken. In other words, "Somebody else is going to pay, so let us hop in and tinkle everything up."

I think we are entitled to ask some questions in connection with this. The Games Organising Council asked the State Housing Commission to refrain from applying the last coat of paint over the internal portion of the buildings; that it should be done afterwards, because it wanted the houses to be new for the prospective buyers when, in due course, the houses were vacated by the Games athletes and officials. But no; the Housing Commission went ahead and put on the coats of paint. This meant virtually four coats of paint being applied to the buildings instead of only three. This was discussed with the Chairman of the Housing Commission, because he was sitting on the committee—the Housing Commission itself was locked out.

Why was the final coat of paint put on these buildings? Furthermore, as this maintenance work was completed and the account submitted to the Games Organising Council, what is the position regarding the maintenance which it is customary for building contractors to carry out, usually three months after the completion of houses? I suppose all of these costs are being debited against the Games Organising Council. I suggest, therefore, that without having regard for pounds, shillings, and pence one way or the other, the Premier should see that there is an inquiry into this matter to find out who is responsible for the unnecessary bungling and expense which was occasioned.

Who made the decision to complete the decorating—in other words, to put on the final coat of paint? What would have been the position of the contractors had they been relieved of the ordinary maintenance for which they are responsible? The matter is most unsatisfactory and confusing. I am right in saying that the matter still has not been finalised, and presently we will be celebrating the first anniversary of the completion of the Games.

Time is marching on, and I may have to seek the indulgence of the Government for an extension of time. First of all, I wish to say this: Naturally, everybody was pleased with the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and her consort within relatively recent times. But in respect of some of the arrangements, I say they were disgusting. The place of insignificance awarded to the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition is something which requires a protest. There was a reception at the

University, and instead of the Leader of the Opposition being on the platform, he was placed with the also-rans—the general public. But that is not the point. There is a gentleman by the name of Sir Alex Reid, whose responsibility it was to introduce the Premier of the State, who was pleased to address some words to Her Majesty.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order! The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not present at the function, but I heard the broadcast of it. In all my life I have never heard such an appalling and disgusting spate of words. Here was a marauding party politics, speaking in terms one would expect to be used by a chairman at the opening of an election campaign. He used such terms as, "The Honourable the Premier is beloved of the people of Western Australia, even by his political opponents," and so on. Let us keep this on a reasonable plane.

Mr. Guthrie: You are the one who is being unreasonable—quite unreasonable.

Mr. GRAHAM: If the Premier has those merits, is anybody going to suggest that in a welcome to Her Majesty that was the appropriate place to give expression to such thoughts?

Mr. Guthrie: That was a matter for the gentleman himself.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am deploring and criticising the irresponsibility of a man who has letters and titles, and who occupies responsible positions.

Mr. I. W. Manning: I think you are exaggerating.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. GRAHAM: I listened to the broadcast not once but twice, and I was equally sick on both occasions.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I heard the same sort of eulogistic terms applied to Mr. Hawke when he was Premier.

Mr. GRAHAM: Before Her Majesty? No. I well remember the occasion when Her Majesty came to Western Australia when Labor was in Government. An instruction was issued—and it was carried out—that no Labor minister should appear in a photograph with Her Majesty, because it would be improper for any Government to obtain reflected glory from the Royal visit. I am assuming that was the reason. The instruction was carried out.

I well remember when the Queen Mother was here. I had the privilege of playing host at a youth rally on the Perth Esplanade, and *The West Australian* did me the honour of blocking me out and putting somebody else's face in the picture. It is quite humorous, really. If members se

the photograph, they will find Mr. Ern Halliday's face and body in it, but the hands are the hands of Herb Graham. It has its lighter side.

I felt it was the bounden duty of somebody to express in terms as strong as possible this irresponsibility on the part of Sir Alex Reid. He ought to be ashamed of himself for abusing his position to the extent that he did on that occasion.

If the Government will permit me, I should like to say a few words with regard to other matters—I trust, more constructively and without direct reference to personalities. Let me say, first of all, that we are all appalled at the road toll, and if I have an opportunity I wish to address some remarks to the Minister for Transport. On reading a recent issue of the *Safety News* we see that in 1962, for which the last complete figures are available, there were 7,927 accidents on the roads as against 7,037 the previous year—a rather substantial increase—and the number of injuries went up from 3,073 to 3,570.

I feel there is some responsibility on the Government in connection with this matter, because I recall the debates and differences which occurred during the time the late lamented Charles Perkins was Minister for Transport. Those debates and differences occurred because of the confusion that existed on account of the uncertainty of the give-way-to-the-right rule on the road. I think it was the present Minister for Education who moved the adjournment of my motion, for a certain period, which extended the time of uncertainty.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

Extension of Time

Mr. ROWBERRY: I move—

That the honourable member's time be extended.

Mr. BRAND: Mr. Speaker, I am quite agreeable to an extension of 15 minutes.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order! There will be no discussion on the extension of time.

Motion (extension of time) put and passed.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member may proceed.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not know the experience of other members but to me it is perfectly clear that the average motorist does not know the give-way-to-the-right rule. Scarcely a day goes by without somebody winding down his window and heaping curses upon me or waving his fist as close to my face as he can get; that is, of course, if that motorist on my left so much as looks to his right. The position is, as we

know, that the motorists themselves are declaring controlled access roads. That means, if a motorist is proceeding up Hay Street he thinks there is no reason for him to give way to the right or left; and the motorists do not even look to the left or the right.

Mr. Craig: They are improving, though.

Mr. GRAHAM: In my experience they are getting worse, and the Minister is a contributing factor.

With regard to "Stop" signs, let us take Hay Street. At certain intersections motorists are required to stop before entering Hay Street, but at other intersections they do not have to stop. Many a motorist, seeing one of these "Stop" signs, declares it a protected road; and when he reaches the next corner, which may not have a "Stop" sign, he indulges in the same behaviour as at the previous corner with the result that an accident can occur.

Mr. Craig: You are wrong.

Mr. GRAHAM: No; I am not wrong. Let the Minister have a look at his own figures with regard to accidents at intersections. If there were a hard-and-fast rule those accidents could not occur.

Mr. Craig: There is a hard-and-fast rule.

Mr. GRAHAM: If that is so a "Stop" sign should be placed at the four approaches to every intersection: If there were a hard-and-fast rule, then on every occasion the person on the right would have the absolute right-of-way.

Mr. Craig: That is the existing rule.

Mr. GRAHAM: No it is not, because if there is a "Stop" sign at an entrance to a road, a motorist proceeding down that road has no need to stop. Because of the existing law he keeps going and the motorist behind him also continues.

Mr. Craig: There is a law stating that you must give way to the right.

Mr. GRAHAM: The Minister should not be so garrulous while he is sitting down; he can make his speech later.

I did not want to say this, but only two or three weeks ago the Commissioner of Police said there has to be a certain amount of commonsense applied to this ruling, because if every car gave way to its right on a road like Stirling Highway there could be cars banked up for miles along that highway. In other words, it depended on whether the motorist felt like stopping, because under those circumstances he would not have to do so.

I suggest the Minister should re-examine this question and make the rule complete and absolute in the simplest possible language. Here again, I was interested to read in the Press that this Government is going to do something mighty again. I suppose it will be some time in the far distant future.

Mr. Nalder: Yes; this Government will still be in office then.

Mr. GRAHAM: For a moment I thought the Deputy Premier had awakened from his deep sleep, but obviously he is still dreaming. The Press article in question stated—

Archaic W.A. Statutes will soon be revised.

I have no doubt that towards the end of the century this Government might do something. Before I left office as Minister for Transport I issued an instruction—as far as that Minister could issue instructions to the Commissioner of Police, who was under another Minister—that I wanted the Traffic Act—which is a volume about half an inch thick—and the traffic regulations, which are in another volume, also about the same thickness—redrawn in abbreviated form.

Mr. Craig: We hope to do that in the near future.

Mr. GRAHAM: It is 4½ years since I vacated that office and I have not seen the abbreviated version of the Act or the regulations.

Mr. Craig: We will send you a copy as soon as it is available.

Mr. GRAHAM: If that is a measure of progress I wonder when the archaic State laws will receive the treatment that so many people ardently desire. I am concerned that even the Bench—the judges—believe that there is no definite responsibility on all motorists to give way. In other words, the full responsibility does not fall on the motorist who fails to give way to his right; and in the matter of compensation, invariably two-thirds of the responsibility is placed on one person and one-third on the other. I think that is a shocking state of affairs.

Again I say that the law should be clear and unmistakable: that a motorist is a "foe" if he is hit on the right-hand side of his car. At the moment there is an obligation and responsibility on a motorist to give way to the traffic approaching from the left or right. I have already said, and I repeat it, that in my view all "Stop" signs should be abolished. It is on record, and the Commissioner of Main Roads was in agreement. Subsequently about 50 per cent. of those signs were uprooted. But, of course, there has been a build-up of them since then. Because of these "Stop" signs people are being educated to ignore the cardinal rule of the road—give way to the right.

I will ask the Minister a question, which he need not answer across the House: Why is it that new parking signs in the metropolitan area are placed so that they are virtually parallel with the kerb? Once it was possible to see what was on a sign as a motorist pulled in to the kerb,

but now they are placed virtually parallel to the road and they are difficult to see. Motorists have usually gone past a parking bay before they can see whether it is reserved for loading, etc. They have usually gone further than they are allowed to back legally, and so there is nothing to do but make a "U" turn.

After all, pedestrian signs are placed facing the approaching motorist as are "Stop" signs and so on. But the signs regarding parking, no-standing, and the rest of them, are placed in a position where it is difficult to see them. I know it is in conformity with the rest of the States with regard to certain standards; but—bless my soul—is not the Minister in charge in Western Australia? Let somebody be the leader. Let us show that we in Western Australia can set the example.

I put another proposition to the Minister, and I am not charging him for any of these suggestions.

Mr. Craig: You don't want me to answer the last one?

Mr. GRAHAM: Not now. There is a requirement for vehicles to be fitted with signalling indicators, indicating a turn to the right or a turn to the left—in other words, dual indicators. Why is there no traffic regulation requiring the use of the left-hand signal?

Mr. Craig: You can suggest it if you like.

Mr. GRAHAM: I suggest seriously to the Minister that it be made mandatory.

Mr. Craig: Most courteous drivers do use it.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is so; but the troubles are all caused by the not-so-courteous drivers.

Mr. Craig: I will agree with that.

Mr. GRAHAM: One frequently sees a vehicle at an intersection giving way to another vehicle approaching on the right. Then one sees that vehicle turning to the left. Had the driver concerned used his left-hand indicator the motorist waiting for the traffic on his right to pass could have moved on without any danger. The law states that these indicators shall be installed to indicate turning both ways, and I think something should be done to make it mandatory to indicate a left-hand turn.

I would say that the great majority of vehicles on the road are already equipped with mechanical or automatic signals indicating a turn to the right or a turn to the left, and this includes some of the older cars which were not equipped with these indicators originally, because it has been compulsory for new vehicles only since the 1st January, 1960.

Many thousands of new cars have been placed on the roads since 1960, and they are equipped with these signalling devices; but many of the older cars have been

fitted with them because it costs only from £5 to £7, which, when one considers the costs associated with a motor vehicle, is not a great deal. I think we should fix a time when all motor vehicles should be equipped with a signalling device.

Mr. Craig: On new vehicles?

Mr. GRAHAM: No; all vehicles on the road.

Mr. Craig: It is working that way now.

Mr. GRAHAM: I think it should be done, because it is amply demonstrated at night time, and when it is raining and the windows are wound up, that to give a quick signal by hand in an emergency is impossible, and at night time it is impossible to see a hand signal when given.

Mr. Craig: One of the difficulties is that there has been no uniformity in the type of trafficator or the height above the ground. That has been decided upon.

Mr. GRAHAM: That may be so; but surely there should be a requirement that vehicles not so equipped should conform to whatever regulations are laid down.

This afternoon I asked some questions regarding the length of kerbside space set aside for bus stands. From memory the answer was something in excess of 6,000 running feet.

Mr. Craig: It was 5,000-odd feet.

Mr. GRAHAM: It is 6,052 ft., which is a lot of valuable kerbside space in the heart of the city.

Mr. Craig: The city is a big place.

Mr. GRAHAM: No; as a matter of fact it is very small in the matter of length of streets where parking of vehicles generally is permitted, because there is a certain length of kerbside devoted to the "no approach" to traffic lights and the followthrough and so on. I want to tell the Minister that when there was a discussion with the Perth City Council to get it to rescind a resolution that had been on its books for many years and to allow bus shelters to be built in the heart of the City of Perth for the first time, it was on account of the contemplated move of the Government to introduce the Metropolitan Transport Trust, which would have the effect—and this was the purpose and the origin of the M.T.T.—of introducing a system known as through-routing.

This was so that motor buses would not be standing during the day in the centre of Perth, but space would be set aside as stopping places only to allow passengers to board and alight. The idea was to have buses running from Fremantle to Perth and then on to Midland Junction; and others from Fremantle to Perth and then out to Victoria Park, Cannington, or wherever it might be. The buses would wait in those places instead of waiting in the heart of the city of Perth.

If that were done I am certain the length of kerbside space allotted to bus stands could be considerably reduced. Indeed, during the day time it should be possible to allow private vehicle parking on portions of bus stands. Most members are familiar with the length of many of these bus stands, and therefore I shall not weary them with details. However, it is only during the peak periods that this great length is required, and then it is only because of the bus parking that takes place.

After all, if space is required for a dozen buses at a certain point in St. George's Terrace at about 5 o'clock in the evening, only sufficient space for three buses should be necessary during the day—in other words, during the off peak period—and the rest could become available to private motorists who wanted half an hour to transact their business. As members know, there is a process of masking and unmasking parking meters. It works quite effectively, and the same system could be used with regard to bus stands.

Whilst there are a number of other matters that I desired to touch upon they will have to wait other opportunities. I want to thank the Premier for allowing me this extra time; and because I undertook not to proceed beyond the 15 minutes' extension, I will now resume my seat.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Belmont) [6.6 p.m.]:
Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Hawke: Give 'em hell!

Mr. J. HEGNEY: —I have read through the Address-in-Reply debate, and at this stage I would like to make reference to the passing of four members of Parliament. One whom I knew quite well was the late Sir Ross McLarty, who entered Parliament on the same day as I did. During the years we were here I found him to be a most likeable chap and a perfect gentleman. He certainly fought for his own side and his own point of view, but there was no bitterness in the late Sir Ross McLarty. He was warmly regarded for having that trait.

Then there was the late Mr. Evan Davies, who represented the West Province in another place for many years. He was the Acting Lord Mayor of Fremantle, and he was also the chairman of the Australian Labor Party for many years. The late Mr. Davies was a very conscientious member of our party; and we mourn his passing. Much the same can be said in respect of the other two late members: The Hon. W. R. Hall and The Hon. C. H. Simpson. Both of those members represented country territory and travelled far and wide contacting the people they served. For their part they endeavoured, at all times, to put the point of view of their constituents.

Since the close of Parliament last session I have frequently listened to statements made on development and events in

the far north of the State. There is no doubt that unless members take the opportunity to visit those parts they cannot fully appreciate the difficulties associated with those far-flung areas. With this thought in mind, I took the opportunity in May last of making the round trip to Darwin, during which trip I was able to visit Derby, Broome and Port Hedland, and whilst there I was able to look around those centres.

Subsequently, I spent 3½ days at Wyndham and visited Kununurra and the east Kimberley research station. Whilst there I saw the development that is taking place following the establishment of the irrigation scheme. I sincerely hope that scheme will succeed and that those persons who go there to develop the land with the assistance of irrigation will enjoy the fruits of their labour in future years.

When I first entered this Parliament I was given the opportunity of visiting what is now known as the Harvey area, which the member for Wellington now represents. The late Alex McCallum was then Minister for Works, and many members of Parliament were invited to the opening of the Wellington Dam, following which we travelled around the district inspecting some of the irrigation channels. As a younger man I also was fortunate in having the experience of working in an irrigation area in New South Wales at a place called Griffith out from Cootamundra. In those days no produce was grown, but it had been well planned for future development. The residential sites, farming sites, and industrial sites were all properly zoned. There was no population to speak of at that time. In fact, I used to have my meals at a tent boarding house in the early days of the district's development.

I have since seen the products from Griffith and I have been amazed at what it has produced. If our venture in the northern portions of this State is as successful as the venture in Griffith in New South Wales, and even in Harvey in the south-west of this State, the returns will be ample for the funds which have been spent in that particular area.

It is to be hoped that the Commonwealth Government will advance many more millions of pounds, which finance will be necessary to dam the Ord River so that more water will be available for the future and more extensive development of that area. Whilst there I came in contact with many of the residents; and in discussing with them their needs, I found that their most urgent and particular requirement was accommodation for people who have left the city area to live in those locations, particularly in Derby, Wyndham, and Broome. They have gone to those centres to take up employment, and most of them are single men and women. There is no doubt that their greatest need is accommodation.

At Wyndham there is only one hotel; and, of course, the first thing a young man has to do on reaching that centre from the city is to obtain accommodation so that he may continue with his work. The accommodation at the hotel, however, is strained to the utmost. Many of the residents have to share rooms; many have to sleep on verandahs; and, as a result, they enjoy very little privacy. In that centre alone there is indeed a pressing need for accommodation for single persons. I understand the State Housing Commission does build houses there as far as it is able to, but I believe there is a waiting list for houses not only in Wyndham but also in many of these other northern centres. This waiting list, of course, is made up mostly of married men.

I became acquainted with this problem when, in my own district, a mother-in-law asked me to secure accommodation for her son-in-law who had gone to Wyndham to take up work as a motor mechanic. Subsequently, I contacted this man's wife. The young couple have two children, and I submitted their case to the Housing Commission. Subsequently I discussed the matter with the member for Kimberley when he returned to Perth, because at the time he was making a trip through his electorate. I mentioned this case to him so that he could continue to give it his attention if necessary.

I took the opportunity also of discussing with the member for Kimberley the urgent need for accommodation in northern centres. He told me that he had received a letter from the Wyndham Parents and Citizens' Association in which he was implored to obtain more accommodation along the lines I have already indicated to the House. If young people are to assist in the development of new industries in those far-flung portions of the State, it is vital that housing accommodation should be made available to them.

In one of the letters received by the member for Kimberley from the Wyndham Parents and Citizens' Association, it has amplified its plea by stating that concrete plans should be made for the early building of a Government hostel and/or flats for single Government employees in the town area, and any alternative steps thought to be expedient as a solution to the problem should be taken. It then concludes by saying that it would welcome advice of any action the Government may be contemplating. Its concern in that location is for accommodation.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

MR. J. HEGNEY: Before the tea suspension I was referring to some of the things I saw in the north, together with some of the aspects of life I gathered in the course of my visits to the various places, and in

conversation with people associated with that area. I was emphasising the need for housing accommodation, and pointing out how urgently necessary it was to provide the young people there with houses.

I think it is obligatory on the Government to do all it can to meet the needs of the people in that area at the earliest possible moment, because we cannot possibly hope to populate the northern part of our State if the workers who seek employment, and who endeavour to establish themselves there, cannot obtain suitable accommodation. As I have said, it is a real difficulty, and a very real need. I know the members for the north-west have represented this matter on several occasions; and I know they have urged the Government to make such accommodation available. As a member of this Assembly, and as one who has had the opportunity of visiting the northern part of our State, I support all that has already been advocated by the members for that area.

While he was speaking, the member for Balcatta suggested that a representative from each side of the Chamber be given the opportunity to visit overseas countries in order to keep abreast of events which might be of importance and of benefit to Western Australia. We all know that from time to time visits have been made overseas, particularly by Ministers, but the difficulty about such visits is that we do not hear enough about them, or about the experiences of the people who make those visits. Only in a cursory fashion are we told of what they saw and learned. The experience gained from such visits is no doubt of great importance, but unless we are told about those experiences in this Assembly such visits lose their significance.

It is of little use for the person who makes the visit to keep to himself all that he saw and experienced; it is important that it be made public, so that we can all benefit. At this juncture I would particularly refer to the Premier's visit overseas, and suggest that he take an early opportunity of addressing this Chamber in order to narrate his experiences, and the conclusions he reached. That would be of great assistance to all of us.

Should the Government agree to send private members on overseas visits it would also be necessary for such members to give us a run-down of their experiences, and the difficulties, if any, which they encountered while abroad. It would need to be obligatory on them, when they returned, to address this Assembly, and to make such information as they might possess available to members of this Chamber.

Recently I travelled on the State ship *Kangaroo*. It is a new and modern vessel, quite up to date in its accommodation—in fact, the accommodation and the service

leave nothing to be desired. I can recommend it to any member who wishes to visit the north. While on my trip it was strongly brought to my notice from time to time that there appeared to be some apprehension among people using the State Shipping Service as to what its future was likely to be. They wanted to know how long the State Shipping Service was to be continued.

We know that the jetty at Onslow has not been rebuilt, and that cargoes are taken off and brought on by lighter. Quite a deal of apprehension has been caused by the Government's policy of pinning its faith in the building of all-weather roads to serve the north-west. When these roads are finally established they will provide considerable competition for the State Shipping Service, which has given the people of the north excellent service for many years.

I think members will agree that the State Shipping Service would be far more efficient than road transport, particularly over long distances. I have met many people who have been living in the north for a number of years, and they all expressed a fear as to the future of the State Shipping Service in the next few years. I hope the Government will look long and hard at this matter before it decides to interfere with that service, or hand it over to any organisation outside the State.

The question of roads, and the Government's policy, were also mentioned in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech, and reference was made to the State's road programme. Mention was made that approximately one-fifth of the amount we receive from the Commonwealth road funds—that is, of £10,240,000—will be spent north of the 26th parallel; and we were also told that the bituminous surfacing of the Eyre Highway would be continued.

Only yesterday I received a letter from the Belmont Shire Council expressing concern at the limited amount of finance available for the purpose of looking after roads in its area. I understand that all metropolitan shire councils are equally concerned. They point out that whilst under the Federal Aid Roads Agreement evidently about 40 per cent. of the funds available to the State must be spent in the rural areas, in fact much more than 40 per cent. is being spent in those areas. As member for Belmont, I am urged to do something about this matter.

I know there are many roads in that area which carry very heavy traffic, and the local authority certainly has insufficient income to maintain the roads at the required standard of repair. The shire council has urged me—as I have no doubt other shire councils have urged their members—to impress on the Premier

the necessity to formulate a new agreement under the Federal Aid Roads Agreement Act when he visits the Eastern States. I hope, therefore, that the Premier will bear in mind that further money should be made available to help maintain roads in the metropolitan area. The letter goes on to state further—

My Council consider that when the above agreement is reviewed in 1964, the State Government in addition to requesting an increased allocation of Petrol Tax funds for expenditure by the States on roads, should incorporate in such agreement a stipulation that a fixed percentage of the moneys provided be expended on metropolitan roads.

I have been directed to request your active endeavours to induce the Premier to act accordingly when the time comes for the agreement to be reviewed.

I know that the Federal members for Stirling and Swan have been approached in a similar strain. I raise this matter so that the Premier will be aware of the thoughts which are permeating many shire councils in the metropolitan area in respect of road problems.

Another matter which has been discussed at various times is the proposed Commonwealth legislation on restrictive trade practices. The Federal Attorney-General has been endeavouring to obtain support for this legislation throughout the Commonwealth. He has submitted the matter to the people, and has explained the proposed legislation in the various States so that people, including those engaged in commerce, and Governments will understand what is proposed. Unless the State Governments agree to the legislation to support the action of the Commonwealth Government, the proposed measure will not be as effective as the Federal Attorney-General wants it to be, because it will have only interstate application, whereas he hopes it will have intrastate application as well.

Members of the present Government were very critical of a Bill introduced by the previous Labor Government, dealing with this matter, particularly with unfair profits and unfair trading. For many years they levelled criticism at the legislation. When the present Government took office, it repealed that legislation by the narrow margin of one.

A Select Committee was appointed by the present Government, the sponsor of which was the then Attorney-General (Mr. Watts). The committee heard evidence on the issue and made recommendations. Arising from that, a Bill known as the Trade Associations Registration Bill was introduced in this House, and was passed. Several annual reports have been submitted to Parliament in respect of that

legislation; but, as we all know, it is of very little value in trying to accomplish what is supposed to be accomplished.

I was very interested to read some of the criticism made by the leading newspapers of this State which, generally speaking, are the mouthpiece of the Liberal Party and the commercial interests. The first is the leading article appearing in *The West Australian* of the 8th July last. It refers to the restrictive trade practices Bill, and to what it intends to achieve. The leading article is headed—

Restrictive Trade Bill Deserves State Support

There was an exchange between the Minister for the Interior (Mr. Freeth) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Hawke) on this issue, and the Minister indicated there was no need for the law to be operative in this State. The Leader of the Opposition took the opposite view and contended that that measure should have application in Western Australia, as well as in the other States. The article continues—

—the Commonwealth legislation will apply only to interstate trade. To apply intrastate it will have to be matched by State Acts. It would still work, even if Western Australia and other States refused to support it. But, obviously, it would not work as effectively as it should.

The Federal Minister seemed to think that the legislation should be restricted to interstate activities, and it should not be more far-reaching to cover intrastate activities. The article continues—

There is no doubt about the need for legislation of some kind. It is known that restrictive practices exist throughout Australia.

It remains to be seen, when the Bill is submitted to Parliament, whether the Commonwealth proposals meet all requirements. But the principles on which Canberra is working are good and they deserve support in Western Australia. The State Government's aloofness in this matter is in striking contrast with its tacit approval of Federal actions that do not serve W.A. interests and its general subservience to the Menzies Government.

It is true that the Federal move for registration and banning of unjustifiable restrictive practices is only an extension of the present W.A. Act. The big difference is that the Commonwealth Bill will have teeth.

The criticism is that the law of Western Australia has no teeth at all, and contains insufficient powers to deal with those problems here. Further, the article goes on to state—

Certainly there would be no justification for Western Australia to stand aloof in the hope that its own ineffective legislation would be an added

attraction to investors. Though our Government sometimes does not seem quite clear on the point, we do not seek investment at the price of exploitation.

Australia is not breaking new ground in these proposals. It is simply adopting principles that have been applied for years in Britain, the United States and elsewhere. The object is just as much to preserve free competition as it is to protect the public from unfair business practices.

That criticism was made in July of this year; and Sir Garfield Barwick, the Federal Attorney-General, has been indulging in much propaganda to try to obtain support for the proposed legislation. It appears that the only two States which are not giving support are Western Australia and Victoria.

I refer to an article which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 22nd August last. It is as follows:—

Federal Attorney-General Sir Garfield Barwick estimates that there are between 500 and 600 trade associations in Australia, most of which have agreements to eliminate or reduce competition in some form. He gives 32 examples of restrictive practices—every one designed to stifle competition.

This is in a system known as free enterprise. The article continues—

There is evidence that agreements made to prevent competition can subject the public to artificially high prices, with up to 122 per cent. profit, and curb industrial and commercial expansion by choking off competitors.

It has to be remembered that some practices are not harmful. Where the aim is reasonable standard prices for basic commodities, for instance, they could be beneficial.

Though the details are not known yet, the principle of the proposed Federal legislation is that all practices will be registered, and any which cannot be justified and are contrary to the public interest will be banned.

This is a good principle, but to be fully effective the legislation will have to be supported by all the States. The Brand Government's lack of interest in the proposal is curious because it enlarges on the registration of trade associations already in force here.

The difference is that restrictive practices cannot be stopped or penalised under the West Australian legislation.

The admission is made that any of these practices that take place in Western Australia cannot be dealt with. To continue—

The one exception is collusive tendering, which carries a penalty of £500.

Most of the opposition to the Barwick proposals is coming from interested parties. What Sir Garfield is aiming to do is not to destroy the free-enterprise system but to preserve it by eliminating abuses.

That is pretty caustic criticism of the State Government in connection with its attitude to this measure, which is unquestionably of great importance to the people throughout Australia.

The other evening on television I saw a man named McKinley who, I think, is an ex-president of the Chamber of Manufactures. He was putting over quite a deal of propaganda and said there was no need for such legislation to come into force in Australia. I have no doubt that opposition will strengthen as the days go by. The point that seems to come home to me is this: If a Commonwealth Labor Government were trying to obtain support throughout Australia from other Labor Governments, and a question of principle were involved, I have no doubt that that support would be forthcoming.

But here we have a Liberal Government in the Commonwealth sphere and it cannot get support from its own people in the States, when it is of paramount importance that the State Governments should support this legislation. I am rather surprised at the attitude of the Government in this connection. There is no doubt that the time has come when the Government should put on its thinking cap and endeavour to see this legislation is brought into line for the benefit of the people of Australia.

During the last few weeks I have been dealing with quite a number of social problems, and there is no doubt that many people in our community on lower incomes are battling to secure their homes and pay for certain things; and when unemployment or sickness comes along those people get into difficulties. On two occasions last week I had to go around to the Police Court and the Sheriff's Office to deal with a difficult case; and I certainly gained a great deal of experience in my talks both with debt-collecting companies and quite a number of members of the legal profession.

I found that an organisation has been built up here that does nothing else but live on the difficulties of the people. A lot of these debt-collecting firms make it difficult for the person concerned, and further costs are added to the debt. The time arrives when summonses are taken out and the cost is added to the debt until it is probably 30 per cent. higher than it should have been.

These debt-collecting companies are actually living on this type of thing. That is something that is happening in our community. One chap rang me last Monday week about 8.30 p.m. and said he was

in difficulties and that he would go to prison if he could not find sufficient money to pay a debt. The debt was in connection with a television set which had been repossessed by a certain debt-collecting company on behalf of a finance company. Approximately £53 was still owing on the television set.

The woman herself had a family of four children and had been in and out of hospital for the past 12 months. It was necessary for her to have a heart specialist at her bedside day and night in an endeavour to restore her to health; and that family was dependent on a daughter who paid the accounts and kept the house going. The result was that they got into difficulties—they got into the clutches of this debt-collecting firm—Mark Wake (W.A.) Pty. Ltd., of Stirling Street. An amount of £5 was paid into the local court as part payment of the debt, but this firm would not accept it and insisted on the full amount being paid or the worker would be committed. As a matter of fact, he was committed to prison.

He made an appointment to meet me outside of the Sheriff's Office on a Tuesday morning before 9 a.m., but when I got there unfortunately he had been taken into custody and locked up in Roe Street. Subsequently, after a lot of negotiating, I was given the opportunity to meet him in Roe Street. He was a New Australian. I did not know him, but he knew me because of naturalisation ceremonies. I found out what his difficulties were, and as a result of the information I obtained I subsequently sought an interview through the Clerk of Courts with one of the magistrates; and I was able to convince him that if a man had to stay in Roe Street for 10 days he could not pay his debts, and that he should be released so that he could go back to work. Because the magistrate saw that point of view, this man was released for the purpose of going back to his job so that he could earn money to help pay his debts.

My complaint is against these firms that are fattening on the difficulties of the workers in this community. Many of them are making things unbearable for people who are in difficulties, and the time has arrived when the Minister for Justice should bring down a Bill to have debt collectors registered, just as was done in the case of land and estate agents. If this were done, we would know who they were and rules would be laid down; and if they infringed those rules they could be dealt with by an association.

It is important that they should be registered. They should not be making things unbearable for working people, causing them much apprehension and much concern. Sometimes the difficulties are thrust on these people, and they have no control over them whatsoever. This is a matter which I intend to pursue further at

other times because I think it is important that the registration of these debt-collecting firms should be brought about.

The next matter with which I wish to deal is a perennial subject in my territory—the cement dust at Rivervale. I have here a newspaper report concerning a petition in connection with this dust, which was submitted to the Premier before he went to the other side of the world. The member of the Belmont Shire Council did not see fit to approach the member of Parliament for the district to accompany him. He apparently thought that being a good Liberal, he might be able to influence the Premier where I had been unsuccessful. The report reads as follows:—

Rivervale people were "up in arms" over dust from the Swan Portland cement works, Belmont Shire Councilor R. F. W. Cracknell told Premier Brand today.

Cracknell presented the Premier with a petition bearing the signatures of 650 Rivervale residents.

He said that the company's cement-making activities seemed to have increased in recent months.

The petition asked the State Government to act under the Factories and Shops Act or the Local Government Act to control the alleged dust menace.

Cracknell said that up to 100,000 people from surrounding areas could be affected at various times by dust from the cement works.

"Intolerable"

In some parts—such as Rivervale—the position was often intolerable.

Mr. Brand said that he had received a report this month that the company had installed new dust-control equipment.

He said that there were similar problems all over the world and there seemed to be no easy solution.

He would pass the petition on to the Minister for Labour. The Government would examine further reports to see what it could do to help.

In this connection, over the years, I have been endeavouring, as the member for the district, to have brought under control the emission of the dust into the atmosphere. There is a provision in the Factories and Shops Act to deal with this problem. As a matter of fact, some years ago I submitted an amendment to the Health Act which would have been stronger than the provision in the Factories and Shops Act. However, the Government of the day forestalled me by amending the Factories and Shops Act, thereby placing the power in that legislation to deal with the problem.

There followed a change of Government and a change of Ministry, and the member for Mt. Hawthorn became the Minister in charge of this legislation: I immediately took steps to ensure that the law would be carried out. Various conferences were called under the authority of the Minister, representative of the Belmont Shire Council, and other persons interested, being present. Arising from these conferences, a committee was formed consisting of Dr. Snow of the Health Department, Mr. Warman of the Factories and Shops Department, and the chief chemist. This committee, from time to time made observations at the Swan Portland Cement works to ensure that appropriate washing down of the yard was effected. As a matter of fact the area was bituminised.

When willy-willies occurred as a result of the south-westerlies, the dust was caught up and carried for a mile or two further into Rivervale. Subsequently the company reduced the number of its staff and sought to manufacture lime products. The dust problem of course, immediately diminished. However, I have received complaints from time to time—and some only recently—that the dust is now present for about a mile around Rivervale and is becoming a great nuisance.

One has only to look at the red granolithic verandahs in the area when it has rained, or there has been a heavy dew, to see that because of the cement dust settling on them, they become grey. The same thing occurs to motorcars which are left standing for any time. The dust is in the atmosphere, and when it becomes moisture-laden and falls on the motorcars, it puts a coat of grey on them.

There is no doubt that the question of atmospheric pollution is very important to this country, and particularly to this State. I remember mentioning, when we were discussing legislation which ensured that Western Australia would gain more industries here, that this problem would increase and that it was therefore important that we should exercise every power available to make sure the dust is brought under control.

The Minister for Labour is not here at the moment, but I would appeal to him to take steps to make sure that the committee, to which I referred earlier, does its job. I know that the firm concerned has stated it is installing precipitators. However, if this firm finds it necessary to remain in operation so close to the metropolitan area, there is an obligation on it, even if it means further expenditure, to provide suitable arresters rather than create a nuisance to the people in the area. Therefore I raise my voice again in this connection and trust that the officers of the department will check on the matter to ensure that the legislation is at least policed.

Drainage is important in my territory. Many problems have arisen there following the recent severe rains. Not very long ago, on behalf of the local authority, I took a deputation to the Minister for Works in connection with this problem. I must thank him for his prompt action in the matter. He agreed to a further extension of what is known as the South Belmont drain to give relief to people in the Cloverdale area.

However, there are still more problems to be solved in that location. There are hundreds of houses either completed or in the course of erection. It is a new district; and if this drainage scheme had not been agreed to and proceeded with, the property values in that locality would have greatly deteriorated. Therefore I thank the Minister for his help in that matter. There are other problems in connection with drainage to which I will be applying myself at a later date.

I will not apply for an extension of time. I have raised the matters I intended to bring to the notice of the Assembly; and other problems appertaining to the well-being of those in my electorate I will discuss as further opportunities arise during the session.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-Reply thus adopted.

BILLS (21): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. **Beekeepers Bill.**
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.
2. **Sale of Human Blood Bill.**
3. **Occupational Therapists Act Amendment Bill.**
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Health), and read a first time.
4. **Firearms and Guns Act Amendment Bill.**
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Craig (Minister for Police), and read a first time.
5. **Prisons Act Amendment Bill.**
6. **Criminal Code Amendment Bill.**
7. **Offenders Probation and Parole Bill.**
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.
8. **Noxious Weeds Act Amendment Bill.**
9. **Vermin Act Amendment Bill.**
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.
10. **Motor Vehicle Drivers Instructors Bill.**
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Craig (Minister for Police), and read a first time.

11. Rural and Industries Bank Act Amendment Bill.
12. Bush Fires Act Amendment Bill.
13. Land Act Amendment Bill.
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands), and read a first time.
14. Abattoirs Act Amendment Bill.
15. Pig Industry Compensation Act Amendment Bill.
16. Bee Industry Compensation Act Amendment Bill.
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.
17. Bunbury Harbour Board Act Amendment Bill.
18. Albany Harbour Board Act Amendment Bill.
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Wild (Minister for Works), and read a first time.
19. Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Wild (Minister for Water Supplies), and read a first time.
20. Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Health), and read a first time.
21. Painters' Registration Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Graham, and read a first time.

House Adjourned at 8.27 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 5th September, 1963.

CONTENTS

BILLS—	Page
Albany Harbour Board Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	858
Message : Appropriation	858
Bee Industry Compensation Act Amendment Bill—2r.	857
Beekeepers Bill—2r.	834
Bunbury Harbour Board Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	857
Message : Appropriation	858
Criminal Code Amendment Bill—2r.	850
Firearms and Guns Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	845
Land Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	837
Message : Appropriation	843
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	844
Message : Appropriation	858
Motor Vehicle Drivers Instructors Bill—2r.	854
Noxious Weeds Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	851
Message : Appropriation	858

Occupational Therapists Act Amendment Bill—2r.	843
Offenders Probation and Parole Bill—	
2r.	846
Message : Appropriation	858
Pig Industry Compensation Act Amendment Bill—2r.	858
Prisons Act Amendment Bill—2r.	850
Sale of Human Blood Bill—2r.	836
Stamp Act Amendment Bill—2r.	843
Vermin Act Amendment Bill—2r.	854

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—

Australia Hotel at Kalgoorlie—Government Purchase	829
Bridges—	
Johnston's Bridge at Leschenault : Replacement	832
Swan Street Bridge at Guildford : Tenders and Completion	833
Child Welfare Officers—Clerical Assistance Education—South Kalgoorlie School : Provision of Suitable Fencing	830
Fluoridation—Harmful Toxic Effects : Opinion of Dr. Brusch	833
Fluorides and Drugs—Opinions as to Safety	833
T.A.B. Betting Premises—Establishment near Cannington Hotel	831
Harbour Development at Albany—Provision of Small Craft Anchorages	831
Housing—	
Homes for Cloverdale : State Housing Commission's Programme	832
Housing Commission Purchase Homes : Assistance for Kalgoorlie Applicants	830
McNess Homes in Swan Electorate	832
Single-unit Flats in Suburban Province	832
Iron Ore—Green Range Deposits	831
Keenan, John—Tabling of File	830
Line Maps of Western Australia—Air Photographing, and Availability	830
Mosquito Breeding Grounds—Treatment by Local Governing Bodies	833
Police Station for Geraldton—Building, Cost, and Site	831
Railways—	
Railway Refreshment Services : Female Staff—	
Employment of Kalgoorlie Girls in Buffets	829
Facilities Available for Off-duty Hours	829
Filling of Vacancies	829
Road, Australind—Reconstruction between Bunbury and Australind	832
Superphosphate—	
Concession by Companies	831
W.A.G.R. Freight Concession	831
Table of Precedence—Gazetted	832
Traffic—Flashing Lights : Installation at Hannan Street Crossing	829

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE—

Timber—Road Transport to Metropolitan Area	834
---	-----

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