

shortly consideration is to be given to Liberal endorsement for South Perth. That may have some bearing on the matter. There is a by-election on Saturday in Victoria Park, and he has taken a big part in that. Because he thinks he may have the sympathy of the Press on certain items he is using the House to appeal to the people. That is what he has been endeavouring to do these last few days. He has not in the past been interested one iota in what happens in the House; but in order to submit something which the Press can grab and use to his advantage and the advantage of his party, he has exhibited unusual interest.

The amendment moved by the member for Mt. Lawley should be passed. Again I say there has never been any mandate at all for a change of electoral boundaries. That is abundantly clear; otherwise those people in South Perth would have voted Smith, or whatever his name, instead of the present member for South Perth. Likewise they would have elected the other candidate from Mt. Lawley who, incidentally, was credited at the time by the newspapers with having won the seat. Therefore on the balance of figures no mandate has been given to change the electoral boundaries. So this amendment is quite in order and should be passed.

[The Speaker (Mr. Hearman) resumed the Chair.]

Many members of the Opposition have been put to unnecessary expense to make sure that the law in this State has been upheld, and it ill behoves the Government not to uphold the law. Yet it has been prepared to condone the breaking of the law and put many members of the Opposition to the expenditure of both time and money to indulge in legal battles to ensure that the law is fairly carried out.

If the law is not being fairly carried out under one particular Act, then one wonders whether it is being carried out under any of the other Acts being administered by the Treasury Bench occupied for the time being by the Liberal and Country Party members. So let us have no more of this rubbish about having a mandate for any changes, and let us clearly indicate that the action taken by the Government on this occasion was a wrong one, a deceitful one, and one that should never have been perpetrated by those responsible for it.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—18.

Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Brady	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Curran	Mr. Moir
Mr. Evans	Mr. Norton
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Hall	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Heal	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. May

(Teller.)

Noes—20.

Mr. Bovell	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Cornell	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Craig	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Grayden	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Owen
Dr. Henn	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Watts
Mr. W. A. Manning	Mr. Wild
Sir Ross McLarty	Mr. I. W. Manning (Teller.)

Pairs.

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Burt
Mr. Toms	Mr. Crommellin
Mr. Graham	Mr. Mann
Mr. Oldfield	Mr. Brand
Mr. Nulsen	Mr. Court

Majority against—2.

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Brady.

House adjourned at 9.29 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 24th August, 1961

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

VETERINARY SCIENCE COURSE

Establishment at University

2. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER (for The Hon. J. M. Thomson) asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has consideration been given to establishing a veterinary science course at the University of Western Australia?
- (2) If so, what conclusions resulted from such considerations?
- (3) What would be the approximate cost of establishing the faculty at our University?
- (4) What is the salary of a veterinary officer?
- (5) What would be the minimum requirements for:—
 - (a) apparatus;
 - (b) laboratory for effective functioning of a veterinary surgeon?
- (6) What would be the cost of the necessary apparatus?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) The capital cost of establishing the new School of Veterinary Science at the Melbourne University is estimated at £800,000. It is considered that the cost of establishing a similar school at the University of W.A. would not be less than that amount. In addition, the annual expenditure required for maintaining the school, based on Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane figures, would be approximately £100,000 to £150,000.
- (4) Salaries of veterinary officers are as follows:—

Chief Veterinary Surgeon	£3,026 - £3,096
Chief Veterinary Pathologist	£2,386 - £2,956
Asst. Chief Veterinary Surgeon	£2,642 - £2,700
Senior Veterinary Surgeons and Senior Veterinary Pathologist	£2,410 - £2,584
Veterinary Surgeon, Grade 3	£2,180 - £2,352
Veterinary Surgeon, Grade 2	£1,974 - £2,136
Veterinary Surgeon, Grade 1 and Veterinary Pathologist, Grade 1	£1,488 - £1,920
- (5) and (6) It is presumed that this question relates to a Government veterinary officer stationed in a country district.

(a) All the equipment necessary to carry out field investigations and general diagnostic work is supplied. Such equipment includes post-mortem instruments, hypodermic syringes, boxes for the preservation and packaging of specimens, bacteriological pipettes and slides and an assortment of general surgical equipment.

(b) All laboratory work is centralised at South Perth; and the Animal Health Laboratory is fully equipped for pathological, bacteriological, biochemical, viral, and parasitological work of both a diagnostic and research nature. The cost of the equipment required by a veterinary officer stationed in a country district would be approximately £200.

SUBIACO SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

Additional Improvements

3. The Hon. G. BENNETTS (for The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery) asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Are the planned additional improvements at the Subiaco Sewage Treatment Works complete or near completion?
- (2) What was the estimated cost?
- (3) What was the final cost?
- (4) From what source was this work financed?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes, for capacity requirements to 1966, when it is anticipated full ultimate designed capacity will be required.
- (2) The estimated cost, made in 1957, for completion of the work to full ultimate capacity was £1,200,000.
- (3) The cost to date is £1,000,000 and the estimated future additional sum required for development to full ultimate capacity is £140,000, making the total anticipated cost £1,140,000.
- (4) Loan funds.

NORTH-WEST HARBOUR SCHEMES

Tabling of Files and Correspondence

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

In connection with question No. 4 asked on the 22nd August, 1961, will the Minister lay upon the Table of the House all files and correspondence relating to the Black Rocks (Point Torment)

scheme, Napier Broome Bay proposals, and extensions to Wyndham jetty, which he stated were rejected by the Commonwealth Government in February, 1952?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

These files are in constant use. The honourable member can peruse same if he calls at the office of the Public Works Department.

BRIDGE OVER CANNING RIVER

Survey of Site for New Structure

5. The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN (for The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery) asked the Minister for Local Government:

In view of the proposal of the Melville Shire Council to prepare a safe bathing area and a take-off landing base for water skiers on the Canning River adjacent to Beryl Place, Mt. Pleasant, will the Minister please inform me:

- (1) Has the survey for the proposed bridge south of Canning Bridge been completed?
- (2) Has the final site been decided upon?
- (3) If so, at which point will the proposed bridge be sited on the Mt. Pleasant side of Canning River and on the eastern side near Mt. Henry?
- (4) Has the bridge itself been planned as yet?
- (5) When is it proposed the approach work will commence?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) A full and detailed engineering survey has not been completed.
- (2) A decision on the final site depends on completion of the full survey.
- (3) Answered by No. (2).
- (4) No.
- (5) It is not expected that this project will be necessary for some years.

6. *This question was postponed.*

CHILD WELFARE

Committal of Under-age Girls to Institutions

7. The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN (for The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery) asked the Minister for Child Welfare:

- (1) Would the Minister advise the House of the names of the homes or institutions to which under-age girls are committed by the children's courts?
- (2) Are there any such under-age girls at present confined in the Fremantle gaol?

- (3) If so,—

- (a) how many are there; and
- (b) what are their ages?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) The names of the homes and institutions to which under-age girls can be committed by children's courts are—

Home of the Good Shepherd.
St. Joseph's Orphanage.
Nazareth House (Geraldton).
Salvation Army Girls' Home (Cottesloe).
Parkerville Children's Homes (Parkerville).
Swanleigh Church of England Homes (Midland Junction).
Methodist Children's Homes (Victoria Park).
Benmore Presbyterian Home (Caversham).
Sister Kate's Home (Queen's Park).
Fremantle gaol.

- (2) No.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by The Hon. F. J. S. Wise (for The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery), leave of absence for six consecutive sittings granted to The Hon. E. M. Davies (West) on the ground of ill-health.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from the 23rd August on the following motion by The Hon. H. K. Watson:—

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

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

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [2.40 p.m.]: In rising to support this motion, I wish to make my contribution to the debate on the Address-in-Reply, so ably moved by a member of the Metropolitan Province (The Hon. H. K. Watson), and I heartily associate myself with the message of loyalty which we desire to convey to His Excellency. Also, I want to take this opportunity to cover at least some of the points

raised by some honourable members, and as far as possible to convey to them the information which they sought.

Mr. President, as you will recall, the sixth Australian Area Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was held in April at Parliament House. This was the first occasion on which one of these conferences had been held in this State, and I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on being elected chairman of the conference, and on the manner in which the conference proceedings were conducted.

Following the conference, the delegates were taken on a tour of the south-west and great southern regions; and I regret that I was unable to be present on this tour, as I believe it was most successful and that the visitors were greatly impressed with the portion of the State they were able to see in the time available.

I am sure that the thanks of members generally should go to the joint presidents of the branch, and to the members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association executive for their handling of this important event.

At approximately the same time, I had the opportunity of taking some Housing Ministers from other States on a tour of the south-west, concentrating particularly on the timber areas; and this visit, I am sure, was also very successful, and gave the Ministers from other States first-hand information on the timber potentialities of the south-west.

Turning to Mr. Watson's expression of thanks to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator, when initiating this debate, I am sure all members will agree with me that the honourable member registered full honours.

The words of praise and encouragement proffered by Mr. Watson are appreciated, and I consider they are deserving of the special thanks of all those who can recognise the many present signs of prosperity in Western Australia. His appraisal of the economic position of the State was obviously a genuine one, and a tribute to the very high measure of successful achievement of the Government. With the early prospect of even brighter horizons, the mention of "more business in Government" by the honourable member was particularly well directed.

Of all the many good things being said about the Government, the aspect which particularly appeals to me is the high regard for the manner in which the policy on which it was returned to office has been carried out without fear or favour.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I am glad you used the word "favour."

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It does appear to me that the theme adopted by the Opposition on this occasion is constantly to keep on saying that conditions

in this State are not as bright as they appear to be, and that in fact they are not bright at all. Whether or not it is the intention of members of the Opposition to try to create a feeling of uncertainty within the State, that is what they are doing. I decry an attitude such as that, as being destructive to the State.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You are forgetting what you and your party did at the last elections.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not know to what the honourable member refers.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I am referring to destroying confidence in the State.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I know that before the last general elections there was not the air of confidence in this State which exists today.

I turn now to the remarks made by Mr. Strickland; and Mr. Bennetts ably supported him later in the debate when he said—

It put me in mind of a Christmas cake with plenty of everything in it. Mr. Watson said it was a beautiful speech, and no doubt His Excellency would make a good speech, but I would like to hear a speech which he himself had written.

Of course, those words can rebound. Nevertheless, Mr. Bennetts supported his leader in much the same spirit as his leader dealt with His Excellency's Speech.

Adverting to the ceremonies of the opening day, I would like to draw a parallel between the opening remarks of the leader on the opposite benches when criticising the composition of His Excellency's Speech, and the remarks of the commentator on the film of the opening speech of Her Majesty to the peers, which many of us viewed in this House some evenings ago. The comments of both of those speakers were along somewhat similar lines, but I venture to say their thoughts were miles apart.

If my memory serves me rightly, the commentator pointed out the solemnity of the occasion. He emphasised the formal presentation of the prepared speech to Her Majesty, her gracious deliverance, yet with no committal of Her Majesty as to its exactitude.

We have no need for recourse to memory for the honourable member's words. They are here before us in *Hansard*, and as I said previously, are very similar to those used by the news commentator when describing the opening of the Imperial Parliament. It seemed to me that from the heights of this Imperial occasion, the commentator was, in effect, speaking down to the people when explaining the origin of the Imperial Address. He turned from the significance of the occasion, and the pomp and ceremony surrounding the Imperial presence, merely to explain to

those who might not know better, how it was that Her Majesty was so apparently well informed on a multitude of her Government's activities.

On the other hand, we in this Chamber were confronted with the same type of comment from Mr. Strickland, a former Minister of the Crown, who considered it desirable to remind honourable members that the Speech was—and I quote his own words—"compiled on the advice he receives from Her Majesty's Ministers, and to that extent, of course, we understand that His Excellency may not, in some cases, have been properly advised."

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It gets a sort of indigestion.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Sometimes it does. If the honourable member were to examine the speech made by Mr. Strickland on that occasion he might find that to be the case, because I went through the speeches which have been made in this House by the representatives of Her Majesty over a period of ten years. We all know, as the commentator of the film I referred to told us the other night, that the information which Her Majesty gave to the Mother of Parliaments was delivered on exactly the same basis as the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to Parliament on this occasion.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: What is your objection?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: My objection is that it suited the honourable member to play the speech down and to accuse His Excellency of not being advised.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I accused the Minister of not properly advising him, which is totally different.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I suppose it depends on the interpretation one places on such matters. I am glad that I was obviously wrong.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You twisted my statement.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You know you were wrong.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I shall come to the remarks of the honourable member shortly and tell her how wrong she was. The Speech that was delivered to Parliament by His Excellency was prepared by members of the Cabinet. Nobody would be better aware of that than the honourable member.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: We do not dispute that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Members will have noticed that Mr. Strickland did not elaborate on the term "properly advised," and I think this was so because he immediately regretted having used the phrase. At least I would like to think so.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I am not apologising to the Ministers who advised him.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Nevertheless the expression of view across the table by the former Minister can only be regarded as representing the views of past ministries in the preparation of Governors' Speeches for opening days. The honourable member in his haste to come out from under said that in criticising the Speech he was not criticising His Excellency; and I have dealt with the matter very carefully. I do not feel I have given it any more attention than it deserves.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Who wrote those words?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Which words?

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Those words you are uttering now.

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

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I wrote these words and I am responsible for what I am uttering in this House. Members I am sure will agree with the right of self-expression in this House and I trust that this is not a right which will be denied me. Mr. Strickland advanced his reasons for attacking His Excellency's prepared Speech. I shall now deal with some of these in turn.

Members may recall having heard the honourable member at the outset say that he had studied the Speech with some very great interest. What surprised me most of all was the reference to the many millions of pounds at the disposal of this Government, followed by the question, "Where has the money gone?"

That was a most surprising question for the honourable member to ask in view of his statement previously that he had "studied the Speech with some very great interest." We must all agree that the Speech itself is a review of the activities of His Excellency's Government during the last 12 months and a preview of what is going to happen in the next 12 months.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Unfortunately!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have come, not unreluctantly, to the conclusion that the question was, to a degree, of a facetious nature. It is unquestionably a fact that the member for the North Province is only too well aware of the substantial funds spent, for instance, in the Kimberleys and the north-west. If not, let us have some verbatim quotations from His Excellency's Speech which might throw some light on the matter. These are some of the facts contained in the Speech—

Construction of the new Wyndham jetty has been completed.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Special grant.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: To continue—

The many problems associated with the deep water ports in the North-West are receiving attention.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Who commenced the work on the Wyndham jetty?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have not attempted during the course of this speech, nor will I at any stage of it, to try to gain any capital out of saying that this or that was started by one Government or another. I am merely pointing out to the honourable member some of the activities in the north. Whether they were started by the previous Government or not, they were carried on, and I am simply enumerating some of them. We know full well that the previous Government commenced the construction of the Narrows Bridge, and later in this speech I will make some reference to that. The Premier when introducing His Excellency on the occasion of the opening, gave the previous Government full credit for it.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: And some of us members of Parliament did not get an invitation to it. Shocking!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: To continue these quotations from the Speech—

Prompt relief has been given by the Government to those affected by the serious floods at Carnarvon, and the cyclone damage at Onslow this year.

A concentrated and co-ordinated drive to control vermin in the Pilbara district is being initiated as part of a rehabilitation programme.

The new passenger cargo vessel being built in Brisbane is expected to be delivered to the State Shipping Service in September of next year.

Water supply improvements are being effected in a number of country and north-west towns.

Last year's expenditure of £2½ million on school buildings constituted a record.

New hospitals at Albany, Port Hedland and Osborne Park will be opened this financial year and substantial additions to the King Edward Memorial Hospital and the hospitals at Narrogin, Kalgoorlie, Carnarvon and Harvey will be completed.

All major contracts connected with the Ord River diversion dam project have been met, and work on the dam has commenced. Construction of the modern township of Kununurra is well advanced.

In addition we will have a record year for spending on housing in the north-west, something of which I will be able to tell the honourable member more as we go on. I understand he will be going up to his province shortly and he will want to know the situation before he goes.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You postponed the vital questions.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Coming down from the north for a minute for some breath, I could, at the risk of tiring other members, recite a lengthy list of the many projects upon which our money is being spent: such as the fourth unit at the Bunbury Power station, the completion of the £9,000,000 Serpentine main dam, the major breakaway extension at Bunbury and the projected land-backed berth, additional improvements at Albany harbour and at Busselton—

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Don't forget Esperance.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will come to Esperance in a moment. To continue—Other projects are: a decision to press on with the comprehensive scheme using State funds alone; preliminary work on the new Logue's Brook dam; the modernising of the *Australind* and *Albany Progress* trains; the completion of the School of Engineering, and the School of Chemistry at the University; a capital expenditure of nearly £8,000,000 on housing. But the list goes on and on, and much of it was contained in His Excellency's Speech which the honourable member studied so closely.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You did not mention the £250,000 on Vesty's leases.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: There are very many things which one could go on saying, but I think that those I have quoted illustrate to the House and to the honourable member that the money has been wisely spent in a record of good Government.

Even though this Government has this financial year and last financial year had more money to spend than the previous Government, do not let us decry the situation but let us be thankful that we have the money, because we need it—and how we need it!

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: We do not decry that but only the fact that there are so few being employed.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: But the honourable member wanted to know where the money had gone.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: And why there are so many out of work.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would suggest to the honourable member that this question of unemployment is another plank on which members of the Opposition have been told to hit and hit hard.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Rubbish!

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: There are 6,000 people without wages.

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

The Hon. J. M. A. Cunningham: There were 7,000 in 1950.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That does not excuse the position now.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In the opinion of the honourable member it may be rubbish.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: My word it is.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In every speech made in this House by members of the Labor Party it has been a principal part.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Because we are trying to help them.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No-one, by any stretch of the imagination, is happy about the present position of unemployment.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Surely you are not going to make politics out of unemployment.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not making politics out of anything at this stage. I am merely endeavouring, as is my duty and the duty of my colleague, to reply to the debate and the questions submitted by members.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You are making accusations.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am relatively very young in this House, but that has been the policy ever since this House became a House of Parliament, I understand.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Yes; and every member in this House has the right to question unemployment.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Certainly every member, including me, has the right to question the matter of unemployment.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: That is right.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In the course of going through the Speeches that have been delivered by Her Majesty's representatives in this country, I found that in the one delivered by the Governor, and prepared by the previous Ministers of the Crown, in 1956, there appeared a reference to the disquieting feature of the unemployment figures, which at that time were in the order of 4,000.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: We were honest about it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes; I will tell the honourable member how honest he was. In 1956 the figure was 4,000, and it was mentioned in the Governor's Speech. In 1957 it reached a limit of something just over 5,000; in 1958 it reached 6,000, and in 1959 it reached 7,500.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You were there then.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I could not find anything about unemployment in the Governor's Speeches, prepared by the former Ministers of the Crown in 1957 and 1958.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You just read it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: So it was a disquieting feature in 1956, when there were 4,000 unemployed, but it was no longer a disquieting feature in 1957 and 1958, because Ministers then did not even see fit to mention it.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: What have you got in the Speech this year?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We all know that the unemployment situation is one which nobody likes; no Government likes to see its people unemployed. Surely that is commonsense. As I said the other night the Government is trying to do all it possibly can to get to a stage where we have not got the same problem of unemployment as we have now; and we will continue to strive to see whether the figure can possibly be reduced; of that the honourable member may be assured. In the meantime, of course, it will be convenient to make it a political football because there is a by-election at Victoria Park.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You want to read some of the pamphlets you distributed in 1959.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Let us not get on to that subject, because I have seen some of the pamphlets that were distributed.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I said, "1959."

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member will get the opportunity at some later date of telling us about that, but when he was delivering his speech the other night he should have been very grateful to the *Daily News* and *The West Australian*, for had it not been for some Press cuttings he may not have had so much to say. They were helpful to him.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You happen to have an army of clerks to prepare that for you.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is an accusation which I do not appreciate, and I am sure other members in this House do not appreciate it either—that I have an army of clerks to prepare these notes.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: That is right.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: What happened when Mr. Strickland was in office, happens today. He was the Leader of this House and he knows that when a member asks a question concerning a department being administered by a Minister in another place, a process of checking up takes place.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I admit that; but why accuse me of using publications.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I just said the honourable member should be grateful to the newspapers because he may not have had so much to say had he not used Press cuttings.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I will have a lot more to say next time.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! The Minister will please address the Chair.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am sorry, Mr. President, but the honourable member was doing to me what he said I was doing to him the other night: I was looking at him. In the first seven months of the financial year 1960-1961, the total Australian exports declined by 8½ per cent. compared with the same period last year. However, the Western Australian exports rose by 56 per cent.—a remarkable increase from £63,000,000 to £99,000,000. The net value of production rose in Western Australia from £78,800,000 in 1958-1959 to £86,300,000 in 1959-1960.

New factories and new businesses were started, details of which I will not bother to give at this point of time. Mr. Strickland said that Western Australia, like the rest of the Australian States, was suffering a severe recession. I think the information I have just given regarding our exports alone indicates the contrary.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You have not read the views of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am just telling the honourable member what the situation was in regard to exports. When quoting the unemployment figure of 7.431 for 1959, Mr. Strickland referred to there being a destructive Opposition and not a constructive one at the time.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: That's right.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Perhaps the cap fits on this occasion. He also said that we were disposed to destroy the attempt of the previous Government to build the Wandana Flats. I have said it in this House before, and I repeat it: I would not raise my hand to build a block of flats like Wandana for the reason that I think people are better off if they are housed in their own homes. Wandana is a good financial proposition. It was built with 3½ per cent. Commonwealth money, and in fact it shows a good return. However, I still think that people are better off living under their own separate roofs.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: It does not alter the fact that you delayed the work on them.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We did not delay the work.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Yes, you did.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We did not. We had nothing to do with delaying the work.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: What a pity!

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

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In any case the Wandana Flats were built in 1954.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: That's right. You opposed them.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In that year there were not 7,500 people unemployed; there were about 1,400 unemployed, so what is the purpose of the argument? A very small percentage of the population was unemployed in Western Australia in that particular year. So what efforts we did make—

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You built it up to 6,000 by the time you got into office.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We built it up to 6,000 by the time we got into office?

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: By your destructive opposition.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will let members judge that statement for themselves. The honourable member then got on to the question of iron ore exports and said he was very disappointed to see a number of big overseas companies being granted large reserves. I thought it would be an interesting exercise for the House to be informed of what I, as Minister for Mines, had done in this respect. I have had compiled a list showing the names, the number of the reserves, and the area of the reserves for iron ore prospecting purposes that have been given to various persons, organisations, and companies. I shall not read the list right through but will send a copy over to the honourable member so that he can have a look at it for himself.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Move that it be printed.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It has been run off on the typewriter; this is a carbon copy.

Point of Order

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Mr. President, might I request, through you, that the Leader of the Opposition interject in a louder voice so that we can hear him over here. With his interjections being in a conversational sort of tone, we over here can only hear the Minister's replies; we cannot hear the interjections. They are in such a tone that it is possible for the *Hansard* reporters and the Minister to hear them, but they are inaudible to us. I think it would make the debate more interesting if we could hear both sides.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Mr. President, I will raise my voice.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Interjections, of course, are distinctly disorderly, and I would prefer it if they were eliminated altogether from the conduct of the House.

Debate Resumed

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am afraid we are all disorderly at times by reason of the fact that we do interject. We feel sometimes when we hear statements made that they may not be correct or that they should be challenged, and conscientiously believing this we take the opportunity of interjecting. I must say that I have also offended.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Some people speak in a provocative manner.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is also true. However I will make this list available to Mr. Strickland. It does show the names of the people who have the reserves. With the exception of one company, all three companies—the Utah Development Company, the Cyprus Mining Company, and Consolidated Gold—to whom these reserves have been granted are Western Australian or Australian companies.

The idea that we have handed reserves to overseas corporations is of course not true. Nevertheless I have been very pleased indeed to be able to attract some of these overseas companies to Western Australia, because I knew that they would bring with them the necessary capital together with the knowledge, ability, and willingness to prospect for the mineral riches that this country no doubt has, and which have not yet even been discovered.

To advise the House that I am very carefully endeavouring to protect that which belongs to Western Australia in the conditions and the right of occupancy for the temporary reserves of iron ore, I would point out that the list of conditions reads as follows:—

It is to be understood that in imposing such conditions there is not necessarily any implied commitment that export will be permitted by the State, but this will be the subject of negotiation at the time, additional to and independent of any policy laid down by the Commonwealth Government regarding export.

Since it is the policy of the Western Australian Government to encourage and foster local industry, special consideration will be given in regard to conditions where local processing is proposed of the ore recovered.

The remainder of the conditions lay down what these reserve holders will do. I would like to make it very clear that this is a temporary reserve which gives the holder the right to prospect for the mineral iron ore within that reserve. At this point of time it is nothing else.

I feel this move will bring to Western Australia in the form of the companies I have mentioned, the opportunity for prospecting of such a nature to be done that not only will other iron ore deposits be discovered but, I hope, other minerals as well.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: And the prospector will get the benefit of his discovery. That is important.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is important. He has the exclusive right to prospect in that area.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: But having found it, does he get his lease?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: He has the following conditions to fulfil:—

That in the event of the discovery by the holder of this reserve of payable iron deposits, mining tenements under the provisions of the Mining Act, 1904, and the Regulations thereunder will be granted on conditions determined by the Minister for Mines after negotiation regarding royalty, method of operations, treatment and processing.

So when and if he discovers a worth-while deposit of iron ore he must get in touch with the Mines Department and the Minister for Mines and advise what he proposes to do with it. We will give greater encouragement, as I have said, to those people who put forward a proposition that they will process locally, than we will to those who wish to export iron ore as raw material.

I recognise that there will be exceptions to that. For instance, there are the Talling Peak deposits. The Government has just concluded an arrangement with the Western Mining Corporation—which is a Western Australian company—for the mining and export of those deposits. Very shortly the Mt. Goldsworthy deposit just outside Port Hedland will come up for the same sort of tender negotiation. Mr. Strickland went on to say—

The Federal Liberal-Country Party Government, no doubt with the acquiescence of the States—the Commonwealth Government no doubt being a partner with the States—set about deliberately to disorganise the labour force.

The honourable member also pointed out that as at the 30th June, 1961, the percentage of the work force unemployed was 2.3 per cent. He was at some pains to find a record figure, and went back as far as 1949 to quote 2.6 per cent. of the work force being unemployed. But this was hardly necessary, in view of his admission of 7,431 unemployed at the end of January, 1959, as this figure itself represented 2.57 per cent. of the work force. Incidentally the percentage figure of 2.3 in

Western Australia compares favourably with the Australian average of 2.7 per cent.; and that was at the end of July last. Mr. Strickland further said—

There is also £5,000,000 which the Hawke Government obtained in conjunction with an all-party delegation to Canberra for expenditure in the Kimberleys.

I would think the Hawke Government had ample opportunity to commence the projects for which this money had been requested, had it been in a position technically to do so. These projects have since been placed in the hands of consultant engineers and are receiving consideration. In referring to main roads expenditure His Excellency said—

For this financial year, £8,820,000 has been allocated from Commonwealth Aid Roads Funds for road improvement. Substantial work on the Eyre Highway is planned, and, in the metropolitan area, planning for the Western Switch Road is proceeding.

It is well known that the Government carried on with the construction of the Narrows Bridge—which I mentioned a little while ago—and its approaches at a cost of £3,500,000 upon assuming office, and then made successful representations to the Commonwealth Government for special funds for roads in the north.

So we find the present Government expending far greater proportions of main roads funds in the northern areas of the State. The north has greatly benefited from record allocations, not only in the amount allocated itself, but in the proportion which those allocations bear to the total State receipts.

To break it down to clear-cut figures, the comparison is clearly shown in the change from the 1958-59 to 1959-60 figures, while the total allocation for 1959-60 was only £375,000 more than that received for 1958-59, the allocation for northern roads was £400,000 more in 1959-60 than in 1958-59; and this increase continued into 1960-61, which showed a further increase for northern roads of £330,000 over 1959-60; and again 1961-62 will show a further increase of £390,000 over last year's figures. The percentages of expenditure on northern roads ran as follows:—

	Per cent.
1955-56	11.2
1956-57	12.4
1957-58	12
1958-59	12.4
1959-60	17.1
1960-61	19.8
1961-62	22.9

In view of this new picture in the north, it is hard to understand Mr. Strickland inquiring how the increased main roads

funds have been expended. Expenditure in the north-west of the State during the last two years of the previous Government's administration consisted of the following amounts:—

	1957-58	1958-59
	£	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund	1,790,333	2,191,071
General Loan Fund	1,238,086	831,140
Commonwealth Grant for northern development	—	170,766
	3,028,419	3,192,977

During the first two years of the present Government, expenditure was substantially more. The relevant figures are—

	1959-60	1960-61
	£	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund	2,322,443	2,655,558
General Loan Fund	949,720	1,661,093
Commonwealth Grant for northern development	484,151	1,207,571
	3,756,314	5,524,222

The State Housing Commission has given special attention to housing needs in the north-west. Due to the severe climatic conditions, special design and construction methods are adopted and considerable attention has been given to these points with a view to improving the living conditions of the tenants and the security of the home against the elements. The special design and higher transport and labour costs result in much higher house costs; and every endeavour is made to keep the costs to a minimum. In addition, special consideration is given as regards rental subsidies or rebates.

Up to the 30th June, 1961, the commission had completed a total of 528 houses from Shark Bay northwards. These houses were built in 16 centres and included 69 houses built during 1960-61 in 10 centres. Of the 528 houses built to the 30th June, 1961, there were 448 built under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, 27 under the State Housing Act, 3 under the War Service Homes Act, and 50 for other departments.

At the 30th June, 1961, there were eight houses under construction—six at Wittenoom and two at Wyndham—and it is anticipated that a further 102 houses will be built during 1961-62 at an approximate cost of £415,000. I think I have given ample evidence in answer to the question, "Where has the money gone and on what is it being spent?"

In regard to the credit squeeze, the average buying price of the shares of 18 major companies fell between September, 1960, and January, 1961, by 25 per cent. in Melbourne, 19 per cent. in Sydney, and 11

per cent. in Perth. Mr. Strickland previously referred to the increased funds available to the Government in the past two years. As against £80,000,000 available to the Hawke Government in 1958-59, the present Government received £85,000,000 in 1959-60, and nearly £91,000,000 in 1960-61. The increased moneys accordingly aggregate something in excess of £15,000,000. Of this £15,000,000, no less than £4,700,000 was paid in the aggregate over the two years by way of wages, salaries, and emoluments to Government employees.

When thinking in terms of a credit squeeze, it is well to bear in mind that this £4,700,000 was disbursed in respect of a similar number of employees in 1960-61 as in 1958-59—approximately 38,820. I can well remember my colleague, Mr. Logan, saying in answer to a question the other night that the labour force had not increased appreciably, but that the wages in respect of the same labour force had been very greatly increased.

Mr. Strickland said that he could find no mention of oil in the Minister's advice to His Excellency, through the medium of the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. He said that for some reason or other best known to himself, the Minister has decided that the little that is being done in the search for oil is sufficient to meet the need for what should be done, and he is taking no action to revitalise the search for oil in Western Australia, which we know is a vast potential oilfield. Mr. Strickland and Dr. Hislop both mentioned oil search.

Although parts of Western Australia are very old geologically, we are fortunate in having large areas which are of a suitable geological age for the development and accumulation of oil. The geological age of these areas has been established beyond doubt.

Last year, a mission of three geologists from the Petroleum Institute of France, under the auspices of the Commonwealth Government, made a general evaluation of the oil possibilities of Australia. It was pleasing to note that this mission considered the best prospects for the discovery of oil in Australia were in the Fitzroy and Carnarvon basins of Western Australia. Of the eight basins in Australia which they selected as worthy of more detailed investigation, four are in Western Australia; namely, Canning-Fitzroy, Carnarvon, Perth, and Bonaparte.

The old saying that "commercial oil does not occur south of the equator" is a fallacy. The proportion of the world's land surface south of the equator is small compared with the proportion north of the equator, and the search for oil has not been pursued south of the equator until more recently, and then in a much smaller way than in the northern hemisphere.

There is only one continent—Australia, which is the smallest—and a portion of two others—South America and Africa—south of the equator. In South America the following countries are producing oil:—

	Million barrels per year.
Argentina	64
Brazil	28
Peru	19
Chile	7.2
Bolivia	3.2
Ecuador	2.4

In Africa, Gabon is producing at the rate of 5.7 million barrels per year, while Angola is also producing oil in commercial quantities; and the search for oil is in progress in other African countries. West Australian Petroleum Proprietary Limited is, of course, the major operator in this State and has spent some £17,000,000 to date. Its programme of exploration is being stepped up. This year it has been undertaking marine seismic work in the Exmouth Gulf costing approximately £100,000; drilling at Eneabba near Three Springs; and seismic work at Learmonth and the Perth basin.

The company has a completely new seismic party arriving at Fremantle on the 11th September, and it will operate in the Canning Basin with 25 men. A further new seismic party fully equipped will arrive on the 1st November and will operate in the Carnarvon basin, south-east of Learmonth. It will also comprise 25 men. The cost of these two units is £35,000 each per month, and their work will provide drilling sites sufficient to ensure continuous drilling operations during 1962.

I would point out here to Mr. Strickland that as these companies apply for renewals of their permits to explore, I am requesting each one to supply details in writing of the work it intends to do immediately. If a satisfactory explanation in regard to a definite programme for this coming period is not received by me, from the companies, I am going to reconsider the question of granting a renewal of their permits. It will then be interesting to see whether anybody else will take them up. But I do hope that Wapet—of all the companies, it is spending the most money—will continue as it has done in the past. Mr. Strickland, in referring to the big improvement in railway finances, said—

If he had been properly advised by the Government he would have told the people that this improvement had been brought about for several years in succession—not merely two years.

Well, that is correct. But Mr. Strickland has named 1953 as the year railway finances gained an improvement; and February of that year saw a change of Government from a Liberal-Country Party Government to a Labor Government.

Nineteen fifty-three was a disastrous year; and it was the year which sustained the full impact of the Australian metal trades dispute, when the battlefield was Western Australia. This extract from the Railway Commissioners' Annual Report for 1952 clearly states the position:—

Western Australia's fine record of industrial peace has been sadly marred by the worst strike the State has known. As time passed, it became evident that Western Australia was chosen as the "battle ground" for the Metal Trades Federation's claim for doubled margins in defiance of the award issued by the Commonwealth Conciliation Commissioner, Mr. J. M. Galvin, whose jurisdiction did not extend to metal tradesmen in this State. The strike started on 21st February without reference to the Railways Commission, Government, or the State Court of Arbitration, and was an obviously inspired challenge to the principle of arbitration which has, over the years, done so much to improve the pay and conditions of workers.

While there may be genuine differences of opinion as to the justification for an increase in margins, there is general disapproval of action which is anti-social and has resulted in great financial loss and the throwing out of employment of many honest workers, through no fault of theirs. The Railways Commission has expressed its sympathy with such employees in every possible and practical manner and has stood men down only when its financial responsibility to the State and the public made it essential to do so. The strike has done incalculable harm to all classes in the State, but the heaviest impact will, as is often the case, fall on the workers themselves, most of whom it is believed were entirely out of sympathy with the conduct of the strike, even though many may have supported the principles of the claims made. Work was resumed on the 18th August, 1952.

Railway results for the six years preceding 1953 showed an excess of working expenses over earnings ranging from £378,000 to £1,502,000; that was during a Liberal-Country Party Government. For the six years subsequent to 1953 during the regime of the Labor Government, the excess of working expenses over earnings ranged from £1,233,000 to £2,382,000, so there can be no claim of improvement on those figures.

Now let us look at the results for the past two years taken on the same basis as the foregoing. For the year 1959-60 the excess of working expenses over earnings was £370,000—the lowest deficiency for 13 years; and for 1960-61 the earnings exceeded working costs by £987,000, the best result since 1925.

Full credit should be given to the commissioner and his staff who have achieved these improvements in the face of very heavy inescapable increases in costs from basic wage, and wages margin decisions of the Arbitration Court.

I think the honourable member answered his own query regarding the heavy deficit sustained in the 1952-53 year of the McLarty-Watts Government, when he referred to the metal trades strike. Unfortunately, he made a serious mistake when he referred to the strike as "Government prolonged." He well knows that this was not so. The strike was prolonged because of a group of agitators who had no regard for the State's economy or their fellow workers.

It is not denied that improvements in the railways financial results started to appear more than two years ago although the deficit of 1958 (£5,422,597) actually increased over 1957 (£5,279,937) with a reduction in 1959 (£5,047,072).

However, it cannot be denied that the most spectacular and sustained improvement has been over the last two years. In 1960 the deficit was £4,396,691; and in 1961, when finalised, it will be down to about £3,250,000. Perhaps the most important feature of the last two years of railway reorganisation and operations is the great improvement—

In the morale of the railways;

In its public relations; and

In its operating efficiency, which is reflected in the better utilisation of manpower, locomotives and rolling stock.

I have almost come to the end of the remarks made by Mr. Strickland; but he stated, in connection with the Chevron-Hilton hotel, that this was an instance where the Government rushed in and gave away a tremendous asset to a company which did not have the money to finance the project. Well, the Government—

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You cannot deny that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We cannot deny it now, in the light of circumstances.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It was somewhat similar to Esperance and the previous Government.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Perhaps I had better not make any comment about that. We cannot deny it now, and we are very sorry there is a hitch in these negotiations; and I think the Opposition should share the sorrow because it is detrimental to the State.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Anyhow, you did not give anything away.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No. On the question of giving away, we sold the land to this company, whose offer was by far the best that anybody had made for

the land. I have forgotten the figure that the Taxation Department offered the State, but this figure was far greater. It is not yet a lost cause.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It is the land of the people.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It is Government land under the agreement.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: As Mr. Logan says, it is still Government land under the agreement. In so far as the replies which I give are pleasing to members, it goes without saying that the early speakers have an advantage because, I think members will agree, it is quite outside the bounds of possibility for me to obtain replies to the very many points raised by several of the speakers last evening.

I was particularly impressed with the proposal made by Mr. Watson for a wider distribution of the Governor's Speech, and of the *Pocket Year Book* within primary and secondary educational establishments, and I forthwith took the matter up with the Minister for Education, believing that both the Speech and the book would be valuable contributory factors in citizenship studies.

I am pleased to let members know that the Minister in charge of education in this State is of a mind to arrange for a copy of the Governor's Speech to be presented to the library of each high school and each independent school. This would involve no more than about 100 copies which would be available in the libraries, not only to the pupils, but to the teachers.

The Director-General of Education, while agreeing that the suggestion to present a copy of the *Pocket Year Book* to each child on leaving school was a very useful one, considers that much greater value lies in an alternative suggestion of making this very valuable publication available to last-year students at the beginning of their school year.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: You ought to send them a copy of the Opposition Leader's speech.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: He can do that himself. Inquiries are at present being made as to how this might be arranged, and as to the cost factor; and I believe the proposal would have been agreed to in respect of the current publications had not the current Estimates been drawn up. Consequently, there is no financial provision for this outlay during this financial year, but the suggestion has prospects for the future.

I desire to support whole-heartedly the appreciative remarks passed by members of Dr. Hislop's studied survey of the impending entry of Great Britain into the European Common Market, and its expected effect upon the Australian economy and that of our near neighbours in the north.

The honourable member's contribution by way of arguments in favour of empowering a court to include in an award of damages under the Fatal Accidents Act a limited amount as a solatium for grief and suffering is, I believe, typical of the learned doctor's interest in the application of his private profession as affecting the social well-being of the community. I have ascertained the contrary arguments to this rather involved question, and I take the opportunity of reading to the House a report on the matter made available to me by my colleague, the Attorney General—

- (a) The scheme of the Fatal Accidents Act is to compensate for financial loss and such a loss may be fairly accurately determined. It is not possible, however, satisfactorily to assess grief in terms of money.
- (b) The amendment moved by Mr. Guthrie during the passage of the Fatal Accidents Bill, 1959, was to authorise a court to award a solatium "not exceeding £300 in the aggregate as the court thinks just." It would be difficult for a court to draw any distinction between the suffering of one widow and that of another, while the grief and suffering of children would also be difficult to assess. Once the court had awarded the maximum amount by way of solatium in any case, there would be dissatisfaction with the award of any less sum in any subsequent case. It would be difficult to apportion any sum so awarded between all the dependants of the deceased. If the court should award different amounts in different cases there may be fewer settlements out of court on the ground that it would be mere speculation as to the view a court might take as to fair award for the grief and suffering.
- (c) If the legislation should provide for a definite fixed sum in every case by way of solatium, the legislation might be inappropriate in some cases, although the only remaining difficulty would then be to apportion the amount amongst all the dependants.
- (d) It is contrary to the general policy of the law to award solatium.
- (e) It could be anomalous that the law should provide for a solatium to the dependants of a person killed through negligence in a fatal accident but not to dependants of deceased persons not so killed.
- (f) The principles of legislation providing for a solatium has been rejected by all States except South Australia.

Dr. Hislop touched on oil—a matter which I believe I have dealt with already when replying to Mr. Strickland. I appreciate the support given to Dr. Hislop's reference to workers' compensation as related to silicosis by the several members representing the eastern goldfields.

By an amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act last year, the restrictive period of three years in which a silicotic mine worker may claim compensation after leaving the industry was removed, so that now a mine worker developing silicosis at any time after leaving the industry may claim compensation. This was a major step in the interests of the mine workers, and is indicative of the Government's desire to help these men. I would like to explain the entitlements to compensation and benefits a mine worker has at present.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.3 p.m.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Prior to the short suspension I was intending to give some idea of the benefits and compensation entitlements that are at present paid to a worker.

A mine worker notified of advanced silicosis under section 16 of the Act, shall be deemed to be totally and permanently incapacitated for work within the meaning of the Workers' Compensation Act, and shall be entitled to full compensation of £3,018 payable at an assessed weekly rate, or in special circumstances—approved by the Workers' Compensation Board—in a lump sum.

When the compensation is exhausted at the assessed weekly rate, or, in the event of a lump sum settlement would have become exhausted at the assessed rate, the mine worker goes on to benefits under the Mine Workers' Relief Act, which are prescribed in scale 1 of the second schedule, and which provide a maximum benefit of £4 10s. per week, assessed at £2 for the beneficiary, £2 allowance for his wife and 10s. allowance for one child under 16 years of age.

A mine worker prohibited for tuberculosis under section 13 of the Mine Workers' Relief Act is not entitled to compensation under the Workers' Compensation Act, because tuberculosis is deemed not to be an industrial disease within the meaning of the Workers' Compensation Act, but such prohibited mine worker immediately becomes a beneficiary of the fund under the Mine Workers' Relief Act.

At present, such a beneficiary has to exhaust £750 at a maximum weekly rate of £3 10s. before he goes on to the scale 1 benefits, which provide a maximum benefit of £4 10s. per week, as explained above.

An early silicotic who leaves the industry becomes entitled to percentage compensation consistent with the degree of silicosis-caused disability he has suffered. If and when the silicotic condition

deteriorates and the mine worker's incapacity for work increases, the mine worker becomes entitled to increased compensation according to the increase in his incapacity. Should his condition deteriorate to such an extent that his incapacity is assessed at 65 per cent. or more, he is then deemed to be an advanced silicotic and becomes entitled to the balance of the full compensation, and when this has been exhausted at the assessed weekly rate, he becomes entitled to the fund benefits as mentioned above, provided he has registered as an early silicotic who has left the industry and has continued contributing to the fund.

Compensation and fund benefits are paid in addition to any social services pension to which the mine worker may be entitled. In fact to ensure that mine workers are able to derive the full benefit of the compensation and the pension, the compensation rate is often reduced to a figure which does not exceed the allowable income for the purposes of the Social Services Act. In this way, the mine worker receives his full compensation at a lower rate, but for a longer period, and thereby his pension rate is not reduced.

The Mine Workers' Relief Fund is only a small contributory fund to which the mine worker subscribes 1s. a week, the employers 1s. per week per man, and the Government an amount equal to the total contributions of the employers. As the small contribution suggests, the fund was not established to provide a pension or superannuation scheme, but a small benefit to supplement compensation or Commonwealth pension payable to a man who had become incapacitated for work due to tuberculosis or silicosis.

The Government's contribution to the fund is approximately £14,000 per annum, while a further £22,000 is paid annually for the examination of mine workers and for pensions under the Miner's Phthisis Act. The Mine Workers' Relief Fund is paying approximately £60,000 per annum in benefits.

My officers are at present studying proposals for increased benefits, but it is obvious that any increases in benefits must be accompanied by increased contributions; and if the scope of the fund is extended to cover chest diseases at an earlier stage than silicosis—that is, bronchitis, which is what I feel Dr. Hislop is intending—then it may well be that the whole structure of the fund will need to be altered.

There are two schools of thought on the proposition of encouraging early silicotics to leave the industry by offering greater financial inducement to do so. Medical opinion supports the proposition on the grounds that early silicosis and continued exposure to dust predisposes towards tuberculosis. On the other hand, early silicotics are usually men who have been in the industry for at least 15 years,

and therefore are experienced and the most productive, so that their withdrawal would be injurious to the industry.

Another problem associated with increasing the benefits is whether the marginal mines can withstand the additional costs involved, whether they be paid by way of contributions to the fund or as premiums for workers' compensation. Particularly is this so in respect to the goldmines, the continued existence of a number of which depends very largely on the Commonwealth Government's gold subsidy.

A further problem is that in some mining ventures the mine workers and companies are obliged to contribute to the fund despite the fact that the nature of the mining operation does not present any silicosis hazard. I refer to surface mining for ilmenite, gypsum, etc. The contributions do afford cover for tuberculosis but the operations mentioned do not predispose towards tuberculosis as mining in silica country does, and these men and companies are not in favour of contributing to the fund at all, far less paying additional contributions.

The only other matter of concern dealt with during the course of the honourable member's speech, was the question of penalties under the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. I have referred this matter to the appropriate Minister, and can assure the honourable member that it is being studied very carefully with a view to providing him with a suitable reply.

I wish to thank Mr. Baxter for his able contribution to the debate, and appreciate his dwelling, as a country member, on a matter which has been the source of some resentment throughout the country areas in Western Australia over a number of years. I believe the information kindly provided by my colleague, the honourable Mr. Logan will be appreciated by Mr. Baxter.

I am indebted to Mr. Logan, also, for dealing with the rather contentious matters raised by Mr. Ron Thompson regarding acquisition of land by the Town Planning Authority. This coming within the province of the Minister for Town Planning, it is considered appropriate the reply should be handled as was done.

The question of more courtesy within the constabulary has been put before the Minister for Police, who no doubt is giving every consideration to the views expressed by Mr. Ron Thompson.

Such opinions as those expressed do, I feel, emanate from the particular personal treatment of oneself and one's friends at the hands of the constabulary. I know we could probably all instance examples of harshness or apparent harshness. On the other hand, I recall a case which came under my notice just the other day when a young man, in fear of losing his license,

appeared in court to defend himself. Unbeknown to him the police speed constable was there to put in a good word for him to make quite sure that the magistrate was aware the accused had not been driving in any way to the danger of the public.

I think we should leave that one for the Minister for Police, but the honourable member may be assured that any information coming to me which could have a bearing on his complaint, will be passed on.

No more wholehearted appreciation of His Excellency's speech was heard, I think, than that addressed to members by Mr. Cunningham. Unlike several other speakers, the honourable member could see the year 1961 as destined to be remembered as one of the milestones in the history of Western Australia. He could easily be quite a good prophet in this regard; and, I repeat, Mr. Cunningham's speech was a worthy contribution to the debate, adding much detail as it did to His Excellency's meagre outline of the great achievements made, and of those pending.

While several speakers have touched upon the great industrial advances and achievements in secondary industry in the metropolitan area and the south-west, Mr. Jones quite rightly dealt in a very able manner with the advantages of encouragement to primary industries, for with all the great advances made in industrialisation, it would be a very short-minded person who would forget the debt we all owe to the primary producer and the important role which he is to continue to play in the future of this great State of ours. As emphasised many times, the policy of the Government has been one of balanced development. This is apparent when one views with unbiased eyes the trends in Government expenditure. One has only to conjure up the vision of Esperance in the south and Wyndham in the far north to appreciate the picture I am endeavouring to put before members.

The fact that the Government is opening up for selection arable land at a rate of 1,000,000 acres a year is indicative of the desire of the Government to press on with primary development. There is a school of thought which places limits beyond which this development should be hastened; and, while the speed of all development is, admittedly, governed by the size of the Treasury purse, there are in fact difficulties especially applicable to this State which—difficulties which, in regard to the opening up of new areas, require a great deal of money to overcome.

The resolving of some of these problems calls for huge capital outlay, such as the provision of electricity to farms, water supply services, roads, and the many other facilities the Government desires to make available to attract people to the land. With the ever-increasing mechanisation of farming, there is probably something in the thought that a good proportion of

the additional population needed to consume our produce should be found employment in secondary industries, as these industries have the added advantage of providing career opportunities for the young men and women of the State who could not otherwise be gainfully employed on the land or whose natural bent is not in that direction.

I believe that where there is a strong component of secondary industry within the economy of the State, the economic repercussions of adverse market conditions overseas for primary products are less marked because the high employment factor in secondary industry acts as a buffer within the local economy.

The Government is endeavouring to the best of its ability to develop primary production and foster secondary industry on a complementary basis, and so overcome the rather lop-sided aspect of our economy up to this time.

Mr. Jones, who, we recall, played a very important part in the initial representations regarding a northern comprehensive water scheme, will be interested in the following comment which I have obtained from my colleague, the Minister for Water Supplies:—

Cycles of poor rainfall years, as now being experienced, cause temporary concern over storage in Mundaring Weir, but the estimated safe annual draw of 5,000 million gallons will supply the Comprehensive Scheme Area at present envisaged and as submitted to the Commonwealth Government recently with a request for further financial assistance. Any expansion would require that Mundaring be augmented, and departmental planning is to utilise all sources of potable water ultimately.

Although the salt content of the Moore River, even during the most favourable time of the year, is higher than desirable, it would be tolerable when mixed with other less saline waters. This aspect would be considered at the appropriate time.

The expense of supplying Geraldton with scheme water, plus the anticipated increase in consumption, makes it most unlikely that Comprehensive Scheme water would be as economical as that from local sources. Any scheme for the Midland Province, therefore, would more likely emerge as an extension of the present scheme.

The expression of views by Mr. Jones regarding the need for an educative programme to build up resistance to excesses within the community has much to commend it. Incidentally, we shall probably hear something further on this matter later in the session in the event of legislation coming forward with respect to the

Health Education Council. In the meantime, the views of the honourable member have been placed before the appropriate Minister.

Members heard tell, the other evening, by Mrs. Hutchison, of many of her experiences abroad, about which the honourable member said, "I could not help thinking of the many nations which I have travelled through recently where over-full employment exists." The expression was made in relation to the sending abroad by unions of publicity which many people consider adverse and unreal.

If I recall rightly, the several countries particularly mentioned by the honourable member were the United Kingdom, West Germany, Italy, Holland, and Switzerland. I challenge the overall impression created by the honourable member's speech that the average working man is better off in these countries, and has better prospects of continual employment than he has in Australia—and particularly in Western Australia.

For one thing, those who are working in many of the countries referred to are labouring for a much longer week than they would be in this State. Even in America the general level of hours worked per week in September, 1960, was 40.6.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That was not my point. I said that while we have a country which provides many advantages to us, we should have less unemployment.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The figures I propose quoting when refuting the honourable member's case, are taken, for a very good reason, from the *International Labour Organisation Statistical Supplement* for June, 1961—figures which the honourable member may not like to challenge. The general level of hours of work per week in France in September, 1960 was 46.1; Germany 45.6; United Kingdom 47.7; and Japan 52.1.

The unemployment figures quoted by the I. L. O. as a percentage of the labour force in January of this year were as follows:—

	Per cent.
Canada	10.8

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Mrs. Hutchison was not in Canada.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I shall start again. The figures were—

	Per cent.
Canada	10.8
U.S.A.	7.7
Austria	6.4
Belgium	10.7
Denmark	8.1
Germany	8
Italy	8.8
Holland	1.6
United Kingdom	2.0
Yugoslavia	8.7
Australia	2.7

The lowest rate of unemployment is found in Western Germany at the present time. There the very basis for making up the highest figure of employment exists because of the almost total destruction of certain parts of West Germany in the last world war. When I was there four or five years ago I could see evidence of the devastation which had been caused. The need to rebuild, the willingness of the people in that country to rebuild, and the money poured into that country by the U.S.A. were the significant economic factors which gave West Germany the desirable unemployment rate—not that I think any rate of unemployment is desirable. Western Germany has the lowest rate of unemployment—.8 per cent.

How many nations, I ask, did the honourable member visit, or travel through recently, where over-full employment exists? The answer is fairly clear. Living, generally, is so good and of such a high standard in Australia that when, unfortunately, some of our fellow workers suffer, there are those who would use them to advertise to all their plight for the purpose of embarrassing whatever Government is in power at the time. People should not concentrate on doing that sort of thing. They should do what the Government is trying to do; that is, to find a method to solve the problem.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: You know that is not true. You deliberately caused it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If the honourable member were making a speech I would ask for a withdrawal of her remark, because what I have said is true: we are doing everything we possibly can to overcome the problem.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Yes; by selling the State's assets.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We are doing everything possible to reduce the amount of unemployment. Even so, the figure of unemployment in this State today is certainly not as bad as the figure when the previous Government was in office. In case the honourable member thinks that living conditions abroad surpass those in this part of the world, I would like to quote some figures showing the comparative consumer price indices covering all groups, including food, and related to a 1953 base of 100. The indices as at January, 1961 were—

Canada	112
U.S.A.	111
Austria	104
Belgium	110
Denmark	104
Germany	114
Italy	117
Holland	122
United Kingdom	123
Yugoslavia	145
Australia	122

The minimum hourly rates vary between 3s. 3d. and 4s. 4d. so with the 48-hour week, the rate would be about £9 as compared with our basic wage for a 40-hour week. Clerks earn about £12 6s. per week, as compared with much higher salaries here.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Those figures were looked up by somebody for you.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In reference to that charge, the statistics were most certainly looked up for me. I have had the great advantage of visiting not a great many countries, but some. I well remember the occasion when I returned by ship to Australia. On the morning the vessel reached Fremantle I got up early and went on deck. I was happy to smell the scent of gum leaves. I felt then that we certainly lived in the best country in the world. We should not try to criticise it or to destroy confidence in it.

Personal Explanation

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I did not criticise our country at all. I said it was the best country in the world, and I think that, too. All I was doing was drawing a comparison between countries which we expect to be worse off than we are, but where there is full employment as the Minister has seen, and Australia, which has a great potential, but where there is unemployment. The Minister should make the story correct.

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): The honourable member should make a note of the exception she takes to the Minister's speech, and bring that to the notice of the Chair at the conclusion of the Minister's speech.

Debate Resumed

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If I have misquoted the honourable member I apologise, but there are people who say that conditions are not bright in Western Australia, and they try to destroy confidence in the State. It is far better to point out that we are living in one of the best countries in the world—a country which is not torn by war and where it is relatively safe for the people to walk down the street without fear.

Of course, we could speak of the wonderful benefits of living in this country of plentiful food, fresh fruit, sunshine, comfortable living, motoring, surfing, and the many other sporting facilities available to all, and still not convince those unwilling to admit the advantages of working in this part of the southern hemisphere, much less of our offering to share all these with our less fortunate friends overseas.

At the risk of wearying members, I feel I should deal with one or two further points raised by the honourable member,

although I realise this speech is very lengthy indeed, so I shall try not to be diverted from the main point at issue.

Something was said, however, regarding the huge benefits accruing to the people of Great Britain through the health scheme. No one doubts this for one moment, but there are some who doubt that it can last. It may surprise some members if I let them know that the latest *Official Year Book* of that country quotes public authorities spending over £3,000,000,000 a year on social services; and this figure represents no less than £72 per head of population per year.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Nearly as much as their football pools.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The annual expenditure on the National Health Services amounts to nearly 3½ per cent. of the total national income, and the greater part of the cost falls on the Exchequer to be met from general taxation.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: And that is why the economic position is so bad there today.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That could be so.

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

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Speaking of taxation, a man on £18 a week, with a wife and two children, pays £37 income tax in England, against £10-£15 in Australia, according to deductions claimed and allowed; and we must not overlook the fact that the small amount of taxation paid here does cover many social services available to the lower income group—unemployment benefit, pensions of all sorts, etc.

I repeat, the general health services are a boon to the population at present, but when we think over some of the points made by Dr. Hislop when addressing the House on the matter of the European Common Market and his statement that Britain recently had to request the International Monetary Bank for a loan of about £890,000,000—and, as the honourable member says, this would probably be about as much as the bank had to lend—one wonders just where they are heading.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Dr. Hislop did not mention that over there doctors, when they retire, receive a pension for working under the scheme.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Dr. Hislop may or may not have mentioned that fact. I know it to be true, because I had the opportunity of going to England, too. This country at present certainly has an undesirable state of affairs with regard to unemployment, but everything possible is being done to bring it to an end.

I was surprised that the honourable member implied that the party to which she owes allegiance was unable to counter unemployment problems because of lack of

funds, and I believe there is evidence at times of a great deal of funds available for fighting other measures.

While I appreciated the description given by the honourable member of the nice compliment paid to women-folk attached to local government, I thought her remarks were attended by a spirit of criticism of our own local authorities, when she said that in England local authorities do much more in local government.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: The function of local government is much wider; that was what I said previously.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Perhaps I may have misunderstood the honourable member so I will not make the other remarks I was about to. However, there are thousands of people in local government who contribute substantially to the welfare of this State and who are of real assistance to central government; and side by side they live and work together very closely.

I agree entirely with the honourable member's feeling regarding the excessive use of alcohol, and the great damage it can cause to the individual, and, through him, at times to the community.

I refer now to the discourse on epilepsy. This subject, as was the one previously mentioned, was a worthy contribution to the debate by the honourable member, and I shall make it my business to place her views before the authorities.

I have made inquiries on the honourable member's behalf regarding difficulties associated with female teachers marrying while still under contract to the department, and am advised that in both New South Wales and Victoria, women teachers who marry may continue as teachers on the permanent staff. This step has been introduced in recent years, presumably to meet the serious teacher shortage in those States.

In Western Australia the shortage of teachers has never been so acute as to warrant this step. Were women permitted to continue as permanent officers after marriage, the number of employment opportunities for students leaving school would rapidly decrease and youth unemployment would result. The Government has a responsibility to maintain avenues of youth employment in preference to employing married women whose husbands presumably are in employment. But of course I would add that, to my way of thinking, if a married woman gets a job and wants to work, that is her own private affair, so long as she is not doing so to the detriment of other people.

Regarding the contract entered into by teacher-trainees with the Education Department, the honourable member should realise that a student enters into a legal and binding contract that she will give the department three years of service as a teacher—on a very good salary it might be mentioned—in return for two years of free tuition and training, during which

time she also receives allowances totalling £694, a book allowance of £20, certain travel concessions, the payment of university fees if selected for university studies, and, if living away from home, an additional allowance of £290 over the two years. If the student is selected for longer training the allowances rise proportionately. The minimum cost to the Government of training a two-year student living at home is over £1,200.

If a girl breaks the contract while still in training or in her first year of teaching, by resigning to marry, she is required to pay back the actual living allowance she received less a proportionate amount for the period she has taught in the schools. She is not charged for tuition, books, university fees, or travel. This should not come as a surprise to her guarantor or to herself as her responsibility is clearly indicated in the agreement which she entered into before starting the course.

The contract permits a girl who has completed one year of service in the schools to fulfil her contract by teaching after marriage if the department has need of her services and can offer her employment. She is allowed five years to complete her contract.

The honourable member must realise that this contract is a fair business agreement whereby, in return for a professional training that will ensure employment in virtually any English-speaking country in the world, a girl is expected to give three years of service to Western Australia. If she does not, surely it is not too much to expect that she repay at least the allowance she has received.

It should be remembered that the money involved has been contributed by the taxpayer, and the Government has a responsibility to see that it is not wasted on people who lightly enter into an agreement, and as lightly break it.

The foregoing explains the background. However, the Minister assures me that he will again look into the question of the agreement and marriage to see whether any concession can, in justice to both parties, be made.

In replying to Mrs. Hutchison's allegation of niggardliness on the part of the Government regarding university expenditure, she has my unqualified assurance that the Government has taken steps to ensure that no deserving student, irrespective of colour or creed, who is academically qualified, will be denied the University course.

The University found it essential to increase fees, as a review of the estimated financial position of the University in 1961 had revealed that, despite assistance towards running costs from the State and Commonwealth Governments, including an additional sum of £100,000 from the State—making a total State grant of £861,000

for 1961—the University would be critically short of funds and unable to cope with increasing costs and a further rise in enrolments.

The Senate was convinced that additional funds were essential to maintain proper standards, but felt that, in view of the extensive demands from numerous sources on State funds, it would be unreasonable to request further substantial aid from the State Government towards running expenses as, in addition to the grant for this purpose, the State Government would be required to contribute substantial sums during the period 1961-63 towards new buildings, in order to attract building grants from the Commonwealth Government.

In reaching this decision, the Senate had given careful consideration to all aspects of the matter, and had especially taken into account the fact that 65 per cent. of full-time students are in receipt of some form of financial assistance, in which case their fees are paid for them.

The Senate was anxious to ensure that no academically deserving student would be prevented from taking up, or continuing, a university course as a full-time student, as a result of the increased charges, and it made the means test for Hackett Bursaries more liberal. To assist in this, the State Government had agreed to a request from the Senate that a special annual grant of £6,000 be provided to supplement the Hackett Bursary Fund, and the Senate was confident that it would be possible to meet all the legitimate demands for assistance from deserving students whose means made it difficult for them to pursue a course as full-time students.

Any further comments which I may make on members' speeches will, of necessity, be brief. Mr. Loton made reference to log hauliers. He would like to see these vehicles off the road—at least after sunset. The expression of his views has been placed before the Minister for Transport.

The other matter which the honourable member raised—the one dealing with the Fatal Accidents Act, and in support of Dr. Hislop's speech—was a useful contribution to the debates and to the *Hansard* record. This is a highly technical legal matter outside the scope of my portfolio, and I believe no good purpose would be served by my adding to the reply already given.

Mr. Teahan interested us with a very pleasing account of the good life on the goldfields, and of the degree of self-help evident in those areas of the State. He paid a little tribute to the Prospectors' Association; and I concur in his views on measures taken to deprive careless drivers of their licenses. I believe the Government has shown that it has found the

answer to juvenile speeding, though, of course, this is not to imply that all offenders come within this category. Many are mature drivers. There is no question but that the regular drivers on the road now feel much safer.

More than one honourable member dealt, I believe, with the question of giving way to the right, and I agree in particular with Mr. Teahan that continual change of our traffic laws could cause confusion.

I desire, as far as it is possible, to deal with the many points raised by members representing the eastern goldfields separately, but must ask their indulgence where all speakers dealt with similar subjects.

Mr. Teahan, speaking on water rates, was supported by his colleagues, and expressed surprise that the rating increases were so high, after being advised they would amount to only shillings, yet the cases quoted by the honourable member represented—in three cases out of four, at any rate—increases of only several shillings.

I am at a loss to understand the persistence in complaints from the goldfields regarding water rating, believing, as I do, that most people pay very small amounts indeed, while the Government, in the overall, loses a tremendous amount of money in taking water over that great distance.

Mr. Bennetts will be pleased with what I have to say now, because there is a promise of some progress being made on work which is already in hand with a view to providing modern *Westland* and *Kalgoorlie* express trains. Goldfields members will be pleased to learn that it is the intention of the Government to modernise both these trains.

We have listened to some complimentary remarks from members of the goldfields regarding the workshops; but, on the other hand, they will appreciate that progress will, of necessity, be dictated by the capacity of the workshops to effect them in relation to other important work.

In planning the proposed improvements, emphasis has been placed on providing the maximum of passenger comfort by the installation of modern furnishings and fittings throughout the train, which will consist of four second-class and three first-class sleeping cars, with either a one-class lounge buffet car, or a dining car.

The general decor of the interior will be in pastel shades; and the first-class cars will cater for 18 passengers in two-berth modernised compartments, each equipped with the latest fold-up type sleeping berths, sponge rubber mattresses, ample wardrobe and dressing facilities, fluorescent lighting, and individual incandescent berth and service lights. In addition, oscillating fans, wash-basins with hot and cold water, and

electric shaver power points will be provided in every compartment. The floors will be carpeted to match the decor of the flush panel walls; and toilet and shower compartments will be provided in each car.

The second-class sleeping cars will cater for 18 passengers, also in two-berth compartments with fold-up sleeping facilities and lighting similar to that in the first-class cars. Lavatory and toilet accommodation will be provided in each car for ladies and gentlemen, and two electric shaver power points will be available in the gentlemen's toilet compartment. This work is progressively in hand. Consideration is being given as to whether a lounge buffet or dining car can be provided. Should a lounge buffet eventuate, it would, of course, be fitted with a counter-servery equipped to serve hot or cold snacks, and I do not think there would be any doubt but that this would be the answer to the honourable member's request regarding the revision of the menus.

Mr. Bennetts' remark that "he is a bit scared of electoral boundaries" has not passed unnoticed. The honourable member, when he complains of the £6,000 called for as a voluntary contribution on the eastern goldfields for the British Empire Games, is adopting a very different view this year from what he adopted last year. He obviously regards this as an imposition. Last year, the honourable member did not rise to his feet in debate when the Bill was under discussion. In connection with electoral boundaries, Mr. Wise gave sage advice to him the other night, which I shall not repeat.

I have noted the honourable member's remarks regarding the possible future use for the township of Bullfinch in respect of the Koolyanobbing project. I would suggest that thoughts along these lines are somewhat premature. The shortage of time has prevented me from obtaining any information of consequence regarding the honourable member's desire for a land-backed harbour at Esperance.

Several other matters dealt with by the honourable member; namely, the development of the Marvel Loch-Narembeen area, dentistry, pasteurised milk at Norseman, school hostels and the frustration of the honourable member in regard thereto, the question of taxis picking up passengers, and several other items which do not at the moment come to mind, were the means of bringing a little brightness into an otherwise quiet debate. We all enjoy listening to the honourable member, especially to his speech on the Address-in-Reply; and many of the aspects of life on the goldfields touched on by him provide a useful contribution to the debate. The honourable member does induce a note of brightness when he is talking to the House, and he relates to us many aspects of life on the goldfields with which he is so familiar.

Turning to the excellent outline of the goldmining industry given us last evening by Mr. Heenan, I would say that we can always rely upon the honourable member to give us a learned treatise on some aspect of life in the State—more likely, of course, bearing on life on the goldfields. His remarks on this occasion were well worthy of inclusion in the historic volume of *Hansard*, and no doubt will be read by future generations seeking to widen their knowledge of the history of the State.

The honourable member chided the Government on the extent of its expenditure on prospecting, and he was supported later in the debate by Mr. Garrigan. Shortly after I assumed the portfolio of Mines, I visited the goldfields and was interviewed by the Prospectors' Association in regard to the prospecting sustenance then being granted by the Mines Department.

I would like to say, as I said last night by way of interjection, that the £11,000 that is spent by the Government on these old prospectors is not the only money that is spent on prospecting. Companies, individuals, and business organisations spend hundreds of thousands of pounds; and the money that is spent by the Government on prospectors is given to the old type of prospector—I think the honourable member will agree with me there—the type whom I personally do not want to see go. I get a lot of pleasure out of talking to them when I go to the goldfields because they have undoubtedly performed a great service to the State.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: I think I conceded that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes. It is given to them more in the nature of a social service than anything else, and not so much for the finding of gold. Many of these old fellows, as goldfields members know, are not happy unless they are out with a loaming dish or a pick looking for gold or fossicking around in the mineral areas. After reviewing the information given to me, I approached Cabinet and had the sustenance payment increased from £4 10s. per week in the eastern goldfields, to £5; and from £5 10s. in the northern and north-western goldfields to £6 per week.

I also arranged that modern mobile compressor units should be purchased by the department and placed in strategic parts of the State where they could be loaned, at a very modest rental, to prospectors requiring them. These compressors are now available at Kalgoorlie, Marble Bar, Meekatharra, Mt. Magnet, and Northampton. Subsequently, when the Prospectors' Association put forward the proposal to educate as many of the Eastern Goldfields prospectors as were so desirous in the art of loaming, I provided an incentive

by way of an amount of £250 to the discoverer of a certain amount of gold as a result of loaming methods.

This was all done in conjunction with the Amalgamated Prospectors' Association, and has proved to be very helpful. In addition, of course, to the direct assistance provided to prospectors, the Government lends tools and provides explosives. Assistance under the Mining Development Act for the development of such of their mines as warrant same, is also always available.

I believe members are well acquainted with my views regarding compensation for silicosis—Mr. Heenan ably supported Dr. Hislop's approach to this subject—and associated mining disabilities.

In concluding, Mr. Heenan wound up his speech with some very fitting tributes to persons and organisations associated with the goldmining industry in Western Australia.

Mr. Garrigan opened his speech by saying, "I think it is only fitting that, at this stage, I should make some comments on the speech which was so beautifully written, and so ably presented by His Excellency on opening day". I agree entirely with all the honourable member said in his speech up to that point. The honourable member supported earlier remarks on workers' compensation. The extremely wide field covered by this subject will provide great scope for study and expansion for a long time to come.

Mr. Jeffery's contribution came later in the debate, and covered something like a dozen or more separate subjects, many of which were expressions of opinion, rather than requests for information, or complaints. As a matter of fact, his speech was notable for the absence of criticism—rather to the contrary; there was a constructive note throughout. That is appreciated, and does not pass unnoticed. I would like to have something to say however, about what I consider the most important point of his address, concerning apprentices. This is indeed a complex problem, and needs to be kept in proper perspective if any hopes of smoothing the many facets of its operation are to be realised.

Traditionally, the white-collar worker enjoys certain privileges. Tradition is a very descriptive word, which simply indicates the opinions and beliefs—and in this case, customs—being handed down from ancestors to posterity. Customs do not come into vogue in a day or a year—rather over centuries. The customary and traditional privileges enjoyed by those employees who earn their living by mental exercise is the result, basically, of their value in f.s.d. to the employer. They have little to do with hours of work, or age or commencing work. They are, as I said based on value to the employer in "money".

responsibility"—quite often for the employer's money, and the consequent huge financial losses which could be suffered by an employer through a single undetected error.

As to earnings, the honourable member overlooks the loss of earnings by a junior clerk between the age of 14 and 17, this to be followed later, in all probability, by the expense of a university course. Mr. Jeffery has endeavoured to compare two avocations which have so little in common as to be, in effect, incomparable: one, the exercise of the mind; the other, the exercise of the body. We could point out the degree of responsibility resting on a bricklayer laying a brick properly; a *Hansard* reporter's verbatim record of an important and historic speech on Government policy; that of a physician in respect of the eye of an individual; and that of the engineer or architect in respect of the lives of the community—but we cannot well compare the value of their work in £s.d. On the other hand, we can remunerate them equitably according to the measure of their responsibility to their employer in £s.d.

I did say to Mr. Jeffery last night that the Government had appointed a committee and this committee has been sitting for some months investigating the question of apprenticeship. Personally I believe that the old method is outmoded. Most employers these days do not stick to the procedure of a boy boiling a billy for the first twelve months and watching his master doing the work during that time. They are prepared to see that he gets to work learning things more quickly than used to be the case; but the apprentice still puts in the same amount of time, and it still takes an apprentice five years to go through his course.

The Government is giving consideration to this committee's report. The committee was headed by Professor Bowen, who is Professor of Economics at the University, and there were representatives from the Employers' Federation, the trade union movement, the master builders, and those connected with technical training. As I said, the Government is considering that report at the moment.

In conclusion, I feel as though I have tried to advance the spirit of His Excellency's Speech by filling in the detail to the extent requested by members. I support the motion whole-heartedly, and I believe I have strong support from members in this Chamber.

I have endeavoured as far as possible to give an answer to the questions that have been raised by members. Naturally it is necessary for Ministers to refer to notes, such as I have done, when trying to give replies to members regarding the questions they have asked. If there is any matter upon which I have not given a satisfactory reply to any member, I shall

be only too glad to investigate the position further if he will be good enough to give me a note of it; and I am sure that my colleague, Mr. Logan, will be equally pleased to assist.

Personal Explanation

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: On a point of order, Mr. President, I feel I should be permitted to make an explanation, because parts of my speech made during the Address-in-Reply debate have been presented in a manner entirely different from my intention. As regards local government, the only point I made was that the functions of local government in England are much wider than they are here. I was not casting any reflection whatsoever on members of local government in this State; because in England members of local government attend to many more functions than is the case in this State. I also said that they had adult franchise for local government in England and everyone has a vote; and I stated that in England members of local government took more community responsibility than does local government in this State. That was the point I was making.

As regards unemployment in Europe, I asked why there should be more employment available in European countries than in a country like this when we have so many natural resources and there is so much development that should be proceeded with. I asked why, in view of those factors, we have so many people unemployed. That was the specific point I made, and I did not contend that it was a matter of Government policy.

When I was talking about the health scheme in Britain I was not talking about how much it cost, but what a wonderful scheme it was. I pointed out that if any Government tried to interfere with the scheme it would not last very long.

Point of Order

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have not the slightest desire to stop the honourable member making an explanation; but I can see us reaching a point where, if one honourable member does not agree with another, then a second reading speech can be made in this manner.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): The honourable member has been given an opportunity to correct any inaccuracies made by another member when referring to her speech. But when the honourable member has been given leave to do so, on a point of order, I do not wish her to draw attention to the inaccuracies by making another speech.

Personal Explanation Resumed

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I hope I am not doing that, Mr. President. I am using the shortest possible sentences to make my explanation. As I pointed

out, in dealing with the British health scheme I was not referring to costs or percentages at all. I merely said that it was such a wonderful scheme, that the people would not tolerate Governmental interference with it.

The other point I mentioned was the question of the trainee teachers in Western Australia who are penalised on getting married, and who have to pay a fine. I also referred to the fact that the University was set up as a national free university and should be regarded as such.

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver): What are the words about which the honourable member is complaining? The honourable member seems to be complaining about the Minister's speech.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am. The Minister was trying to vindicate the Government's action with regard to university fees. I spoke about the increased fees and said that our University was a free university, and it should be regarded as such.

Point of Order

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do think this is very irregular, Mr. President. I find myself in the position of getting copies of speeches made by members. I read them, and place a certain construction on them; and reply along those lines. If I am wrong in the impression I have gained there are other opportunities while Parliament is in session for members to correct that impression. Standing Orders provide that an explanation can be made in contradiction of someone else's speech.

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Standing Order 385 provides—

A member who has spoken to a question may again be heard to explain himself in regard to some material part of his speech which has been misquoted or misunderstood, but shall not introduce any new matter, or interrupt any member in possession of the Chair, and no debatable matter shall be brought forward or debate arise upon such explanation.

That thoroughly covers the position.

Debate on Motion Resumed

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

Presentation to the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [5.6 p.m.]: I move—

That the Address-in-Reply be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator by the President and such members as may desire to accompany him.

Question put and passed.

BILLS (4)—INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Dividing Fences Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and read a first time.

2. Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.

3. Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and read a first time.

4. Coal Miners' Welfare Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.

House adjourned at 5.9 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 24th August, 1961

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