

granted for 100 square miles—10 x 10—but has stressed that areas should not be contiguous. This was the first and main point of opposition to the legislation introduced last session. Members who opposed it have been vindicated on that score.

The second point of opposition concerned the question of temporary reserves. Many members took strong exception to the policy of granting huge temporary reserves. In one case in the Kimberley a fantastic area was involved, something to the extent of 33,000,000 acres. The mining committee recommended that the granting of temporary reserves should be abolished. The committee's actual words are, "No further rights of occupancy be granted. The existing rights of occupancy be not renewed." It has also recommended that sections 276 and 277 should be deleted from the Mining Act. These are the sections that refer to reserves.

Exception was also taken to the fact that the Minister of the day, irrespective of what Government was in power, had the right to grant some mining tenements. We felt that all the applications should be heard in an open court. The committee has recommended that this should be the situation except in respect of contiguous tenements.

The last main point of opposition was that there was to be no appeal from the Warden's Court or a Minister's decision except in certain circumstances. The committee has recommended that there should be a chief mining warden to whom appeals can be made and, if satisfaction is not obtained, there should be the right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

As I say, they are the major points to which we took exception. Every one of our recommendations on these matters has now been expressed as a recommendation by the committee. For these reasons I am extremely pleased with the report. There are a number of minor aspects of the report which one could disagree with. I consider there has to be a great deal more provision for the small man. We have to go out of our way to accommodate him to a far greater extent. I will not touch on other aspects which relate to reserves. I am sure that they will meet with the approval of all members of this House. I had intended to deal with this whole question at length, because I am particularly interested in it, but I do not have the time. In these circumstances it is rather silly to continue.

Mr. May: The honourable member will be given time.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I appreciate that. There may be minor changes, but if the new legislation which has been foreshadowed

is based broadly on the recommendations, I am sure we will see a wonderful Act operating in Western Australia.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Bateman.

House adjourned at 9.39 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 5th August, 1971

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

QUESTIONS (4): ON NOTICE

1. PASTORAL LEASES

Uneconomic Properties

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Does the Government plan to compensate owners or lessees of station properties that have been directly affected by Town or City development to a point where the properties are no longer workable as economic units?
- (2) If so, how will compensation be made?
- (3) If the answer to (1) is "no" could the Minister give an explanation for this policy?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) to (3) There is no definite policy in this regard but each case referred would be examined in the merits of its individual circumstances.

2. RAILWAYS

Freight Concessions for Wool

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN, to the Leader of the House:

In view of the Government's decision to subsidise rail freights on wool to Albany by 50 per cent, will the Government give favourable consideration to extending the concession to woolgrowers in other parts of the State, particularly where rail haulage is longer and, in some instances, double or more than the haulage to Albany?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

No. The concession was granted to encourage and promote the shipping of wool through the port of Albany thereby creating more employment opportunities and business activity there.

3. **RURAL INDEBTEDNESS***Action by Government*

The Hon. N. McNEILL, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Does the Government agree that—and I quote from the Labor Policy Speech of the 3rd February, 1971—"all primary producers are seriously affected by a cost structure which places an increasing burden upon them"?
- (2) Has the Government made an assessment of the extent to which the cost structure, as against lowered market returns or loss of markets, is contributing to lessened profitability for primary producers?
- (3) If so, will that assessment be made public?
- (4) What action is the Government taking, or intending to take, in order to—and I again quote—"enquire fully into all aspects of this matter, with a view to bringing about worthwhile savings"?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) to (4) The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Canberra, publishes price and cost statistics in each edition of the Quarterly Review of Agricultural Economics. In addition industry surveys are undertaken by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics which itemise costs and returns. Recent surveys of interest to Western Australia of which reports are awaited are:—
 - (a) Dairy (before 30-6-72).
 - (b) Dried Vine Fruits (nearing completion).
 - (c) Wine Grapes (nearing completion).
 - (d) Eggs (early 1972).
 - (e) Apple and Pear (final report in draft).
 - (f) Pigs (late this year).
 - (g) Cotton (printing in advanced stage).
 - (h) Sheep (regular intervals).
 - (i) Wheat (every 5 years with cost index reports annually).

The Rural Economics and Marketing Section of the Department of Agriculture collaborates with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in this work, and in addition has undertaken separate surveys such as those of the citrus and stone fruits industries which are nearing completion.

Farmers' applications to the Rural Reconstruction Authority for assistance are being assessed by Departmental officers. This work

is providing invaluable background information on costs and returns. The data from individuals remains confidential but contributes to general assessments of costs and returns.

Reforms in meat marketing and in the dairy industry are under consideration and other concessions such as relief in service charges, rates and taxation have been adopted.

4.

EDUCATION*Number of Classrooms*

The Hon. J. HEITMAN, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) How many halls, supper rooms, and other privately owned buildings, were being used as school classrooms on the 31st July, 1971?
- (2) How many of these buildings were used as school classrooms in 1959?
- (3) How many new school classrooms were in the course of construction on—
 - (a) the 31st July, 1971; and
 - (b) the 31st July, 1970?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) 2.
- (2) 1959—records not available. 1961—24.
- (3) (a) 152.
(b) 167.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY*Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 4th August, on the following motion by The Hon. L. D. Elliott:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan—Minister for Police) [2.36 p.m.]: It is regrettable, Mr. President, that a lot of the faces we knew so well are no longer with us. I would like to extend to the relatives of those members who have passed on my deep personal regrets.

I extend congratulations to yourself, Sir, on seeing you again in the Chair. I also extend congratulations to Mr. Baxter—who is Chairman of Committees again—and to the new members may I also say

welcome. As a Minister, may I inform members that they can expect the closest co-operation from me at all times. If any member feels I can be of service to him I am prepared to do my utmost to satisfy his needs.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We will soon give you a chance to try that out.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The honourable member will have plenty of opportunities. I would like to commend all new members on the excellent standard of oratory and diction set during the Address-in-Reply, and other debates. A very good standard was set by Miss Lyla Elliott, the mover of the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. She was followed by excellent speakers, and I hope they all kick on from there. I expect towards the end of their term of office we will be receiving from new members addresses which will be of benefit not only to the House, but to the State.

I intend to make one or two comments on matters in the speeches made by new members. I was interested in what Mr. Withers said when he referred to a little exercise on the variation of times between the Northern Territory and the East Kimberley. Mr. Withers pointed out that one could start off from the Northern Territory and arrive at his destination in the Kimberley two hours and ten minutes before he set off—on a time basis. On the same basis a Minister could have a lot of fun travelling in a plane and crossing the international date line. He would be able to start off on Wednesday and arrive at his destination on Tuesday, without any trouble. He could then return to his starting point and be back on Wednesday. If he kept it up he would not be worried about little things like zone differences.

I did not intend to join in the debate on the Address-in-Reply, but I have since thought that there are some matters which need an explanation, and others which need a little more clarification. If I commence with those freshest in our minds members will appreciate them more readily.

Mr. Baxter, and Mr. White, referred to the necessity for using the news media in order to educate motorists. Mr. Baxter mentioned the lights on cars, and the danger of a car travelling with only one light burning. An added danger is that some motorists, when they find that only one light is burning, immediately turn their lights on to the high beam so as to compensate. This causes added difficulties to approaching motorists. Of course, in a lot of cases it is not the motorists' fault, because a light must burn out at some time. If the light happens to burn out after the motorist has commenced his journey, and he is travelling in a lighted section of the metropolitan area, it is quite possible that he would not know the light had gone out.

There was also a reference to "rubber necks". I think that was the term used. The rubber necks are apparently those who are easily distracted. My concern is: How would a patrolman pick up such an offence without following a driver for some time? I wonder how embarrassed a patrolman would be if he pulled up a car and found that the driver was suffering from St. Vitus's Dance. That reminds me of the doctor who had been treating a patient for yellow jaundice for a period of 12 months. The doctor was highly embarrassed when he discovered that his patient was Chinese. Such circumstances could be most embarrassing.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: There must be a lot of drivers suffering from St. Vitus's Dance.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The honourable member must be following drivers for a long way in order to be aware of this complaint.

Mr. White raised the matter of publicity necessary to cut the road toll, and Mr. Baxter enlarged on that theme. I do not know whether I anticipated that something might be said on this subject, but a month ago I called a conference in my office of representatives of the leading newspapers. There were representatives from *The West Australian*, the *Daily News*, the *Sunday Times*, and the *Sunday Independent*.

The newspapers responded to my invitation to discuss aspects of the road toll and what publicity there should be to educate motorists with regard to their obligations on the road. If we could make them better drivers that would have the desired effect. The newspapers responded by sending along either the editors, or their deputies who specialise in the field of editing. I had present a representative of the National Safety Council, and also the superintendent of the Police Traffic Department.

We discussed all aspects of how the news media could assist in this work. We then fixed the date of the 1st August as being the time at which they would let me know their reactions and suggestions. I am pleased to say that on the appointed date the representatives of the four papers—Mr. O'Sullivan, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Daily News*, Mr. Howard Sattler of the *Sunday Independent*, Mr. Frank Dunn, the Editor of the *Sunday Times*, and Mr. Moroney, the Executive Editor of *The West Australian*—offered their unqualified support.

As soon as the details have been worked out, it can be expected that the papers will engage in the promotion of good driving and in letting the public and motorists know what is expected of them on the roads so they can become better drivers. As a consequence I am sure our roads will become safer.

The Hon. F. R. White: That is excellent.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: One of the things that make me become emotional is when reference is made to the number of people who are killed on the roads. In the minds of many of the public, they become statistics; but when one sees the paraplegics and quadraplegics at Shenton Park it makes one become doubly aware of the tragedy of road accidents, not only fatal accidents but also accidents which cause people a lifetime of pain and sorrow and which cause hardship to the State. That is why in any move I make I will ensure that we have the double aims, not only to reduce fatalities but also to cut down on the tremendous accident rate on our roads.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: You have not mentioned the TV and radio media.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: About two months ago I saw the officers of Channel Nine about this matter and we discussed a proposition. It is essential that all the news media should co-operate, otherwise we will not get anywhere. There is a question of expense and other matters which will have to be worked out, but I can assure members that this aspect has been discussed. I hope that when I can get round to dealing with some of the many things that are on my plate, we will, as regards TV and radio, advance to the stage we have now reached with the Press. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Press for its co-operation so far, and I am hopeful that our efforts will be successful.

I now refer to a matter that was raised by Mr. White in relation to an accident on the Great Eastern Highway. When Mr. White began asking questions on this particular matter I did not have a clue what he was driving at. No Minister could be expected to be aware of all the accidents that take place every day because they occur in a variety of places. Unless there are special circumstances associated with accidents or my attention is especially drawn to them, I am not aware of them.

Mr. White made me aware of this accident on Tuesday. Yesterday I had one of my officers go to the site and examine it fully. I asked him to produce a map for me so that I would know all the details and would be better qualified to understand the position clearly. I did not have time to visit the site myself; however at the first opportunity I will do so.

My officer returned with a detailed map of the locality. He also took some very clear photographs of the scene of this distressing accident. From them I will be able to glean something worth while. I have also had a report from my department on the details of the accident and the stage which investigations have reached. It is expected that the investigations will be completed in a week or two.

From the information I have received so far, I feel this is a place where an improvement can possibly be made. There are two crosswalks in the vicinity, one of which is at First Avenue, directly opposite the West Midland railway station; it has a crossing attendant and is floodlit at night. The other crosswalk is at Third Avenue, where this accident happened. Perfect safety can be guaranteed at the crosswalk at First Avenue. It would be unusual to have a second attendant with a flag on a crosswalk 200 yards away because people can walk down to the crosswalk which is fully attended. I think that if there were a crosswalk in a central position between the two existing crosswalks, it would serve both places. Perhaps when the first crosswalk, with lights, was put in, the second one was not envisaged.

I remind members that a special committee has been set up to deal with the siting of bus stops and all matters associated with them. The committee was not set up by me but by a previous Government or Governments. It comprises a representative of the Traffic Branch—who I think is the top officer—and representatives of the Main Roads Department and the M.T.T. This committee inspects the sites of proposed bus stops and bus shelters and examines any potential dangers.

During my short term in office I have received requests for the moving of bus stops and shelters. After examination, and on the advice of experts, I have been satisfied in every case so far that the correct decision has been made in the circumstances.

It is possible, of course, that the odd one occurs where those circumstances might be wrong. If anybody cares to look at the photographs they will see that the area in which this particular accident occurred is perfectly clear and that the visibility is excellent. The accident was just one of those distressing things that happen, and nobody is more regretful than I not only in connection with that accident, but in regard to any accident at all.

Mr. McNeill referred to the fact that serious crime is on the increase in Western Australia, and I agree with him. I do not believe in sweeping things under the carpet because these things are happening. However, this is not only a Western Australian complaint. Members will find this is a complaint in every State of the Commonwealth. I have seen an annual report from only one other State—that is Queensland—and, in comparison with the statistics of Queensland, the statistics in this State in regard to our rate of solving crimes and their detection are immeasurably superior. I would be quite happy to back my judgment and say that a similar position would apply in regard to the statistics of the other States. In relation to crimes which seem to be on the increase—apart from car stealing which I will

mention later in the session when legislation is brought down—I would say there is a large responsibility on the citizens themselves to see whether they cannot be responsible for crime prevention.

The Hon. N. McNeill: That, in fact, is what I was emphasising.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: These crimes happen, but when we get back to the source we often find a great deal of the blame is attributable to the public. I would refer to a report which was compiled in Britain only a couple of years ago. A copy of the report was given to me by my secretary a few months ago. Mr. Seaford of the Home Office Crime Prevention Council stressed a most important point: that the police still remain the authority on crime, but they now seek a great degree of police-public co-operation in an effort to combat crime by prevention. He also said that the preventive duties of the police provided for the instruction of the people in the techniques of prevention. At the same time, he stressed that the detection of crime was no less important than its prevention.

So I feel it might be wise at this stage to issue a warning to the public that they should pay close attention when the police give them special advice through the news media on how to protect their property, or the precautions they should take on the road, because that advice may not only prevent their suffering property loss but also, perhaps, help in saving someone's life.

I pause at this stage to say how very grateful I am to a member of this House for a small note he sent across to me yesterday. In the stress and worry of our times it is nice to sometimes receive a kind word. I am not referring to the waitress whose customer asked her for two boiled eggs and a kind word. She came back and put down the two eggs and when he asked her, "What about the kind word?" she replied, "Don't eat them."

Yesterday Mr. Jack Thomson sent a note across to me which said, "Thank you, Gerry, for your courteous and satisfactory reply to my question." It is only a small thing, but it is very much appreciated. If ever I am able to do a good turn for members, I am only too happy to do so.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Before you leave police matters, have you had occasion to look at the publication, "Revolt"?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: No. I do not think so, although I might have seen a stray copy.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Some questions directed to the Premier were on the notice paper in another place today. I thought that as the Minister for Police you might have been consulted.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I have not seen the questions.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Well, would you have a look at the publication?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: From where would I obtain one?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I could make one available to you.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: All right, I will have a look at it.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I might mention this type of stuff is not my normal reading.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I was also interested in the remarks made by Mr. Medcalf when he referred to drugs and to the fact that drugs were associated with our affluent society. I could not help but think of his remarks when I saw an article in the Press either this morning or last night about a thief's haul of addictive drugs. That has happened on a number of occasions in the metropolitan area. When people really need drugs they often break and enter chemist shops. There is never anything else stolen; only drugs. This indicates the thieves are not interested in money or other items. I feel the incidence of drug addiction is one of our greatest social problems today, and I will not agree with anybody who says that certain of the drugs are not harmful. A person starts with one drug and then goes to another, and another, until eventually he is on the hard drugs. By that time he is a pretty hopeless proposition. That is when crime begins.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Is there not a regulation regarding drugs held in chemists' shops?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I think there is. I think Mr. MacKinnon brought a Bill here which provided certain regulations, and I have referred to it myself during Address-in-Reply debates on a couple of occasions. I think all the people who are responsible for the distribution and handling of drugs—such as chemists, doctors, and so on—have an obligation to ensure that the drugs are protected in such a way that they cannot fall into the hands of people who use them illegally.

I was a little surprised when listening to Mr. MacKinnon speak and I felt I would have to make some remarks about the two matters to which he referred. He referred principally to South Africa and the associated visit of the rugby team. He mentioned his visit to South Africa and said how impressed he was. Mr. MacKinnon then referred to the right of people to protest and he remarked that there is only one way to protest effectively, and that is through the ballot box.

Protesting by demonstration is nothing new. I remember learning at school—and members probably learned this also in their history lessons—about Wat Tyler who led a demonstration which marched a long way to London. Members have probably heard of this type of demonstration

in which the people start off in one place and walk for miles. Their numbers snowball along the way when they are joined by others.

I feel people have a perfect right to demonstrate. Since I have been in this House I have seen demonstrations by people from all stratas of society not just once but on a number of occasions. A week or so ago we had a demonstration by the Aboriginal population which came to Parliament House to protest about housing and other matters; and I think they were perfectly entitled to do so. We have seen demonstrations by unionists and conservationists. We also sometimes see demonstrations by Conservatives in this House!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: They will probably increase as time goes by.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I thought that had to happen. It is amazing how the Leader of the Opposition always likes to comment although it is strange that since I have been in this House I have never interrupted him while he has been speaking.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Surely he often makes the debate a little more interesting.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Mr. MacKinnon said—these might not be his exact words, but this is how he was reported in the Press—that he did not profess to know all the ins and outs of South Africa, but he believed that country is making tremendous efforts to solve tremendous problems.

It is certainly making tremendous efforts, but it is going about it the wrong way. This is what I want to speak about today.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is a matter of opinion.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Of course it is; but I will give authoritative opinions before I have finished my speech—opinions that come from the United Nations, and those that emanate from the ordinary correspondents who write to our newspapers. I will also give the opinions of leading authorities whose judgment can be accepted—those who write books on these subjects—not on apartheid in particular, but on Africa generally.

When I visited the library I did not go there to look for a book on apartheid or to see if I could find something that was in direct opposition to the policy of South Africa. I picked up the first book on South Africa I saw, feeling that as it was quite a big book it would present the problem fairly and clearly. After I have made a few quotations from this book members will realise that the Minister was a long way off the mark.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: May I point out that I am no longer a Minister.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I am sorry.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am pleased you are sorry.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: One develops a habit in this House which is difficult to break. I daresay the drug habit is very similar. When one develops a habit one does not realise how dangerous it can become. I notice that the United Nations General Assembly in a series of resolutions described the policy of apartheid as a crime against humanity.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They also said the same thing about the treatment of the Aborigines.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: In last night's *Daily News* there is an article on page 15 by C. Bedford Brown. If I remember correctly this gentleman was a State public officer here; he had a very high standing. The article in question is well worth reading, but I would much prefer to take it as read and leave it on the Table for those members who did not see it last night.

The article expresses clearly and plainly what, I think, the majority of Australians feel about the apartheid policy generally, together with some of its associated principles. South Africa, as we know, is one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is quite right.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: This is true whichever way we consider it. South Africa has been blessed by nature with wonderful assets and its Government wants to make sure that it will hold on to these assets on its own terms. I daresay every member in this House has received publications similar to these I have in my hand. We can imagine how many thousands of these booklets are printed and how much their printing and publication costs.

The PRESIDENT: Would the honourable member please mention the names of the publications for the benefit of *Hansard*.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The publication is entitled *South African Panorama* and these issues are for the months of March, April, and May, 1971. I will make the copies of the publication available to members after I have completed my speech.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Is the Minister suggesting that South Africa is the only nation that sends out this sort of propaganda?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I am not suggesting anything of the kind; I am merely pointing out something that is factual.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What is there evil about it?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I have not implied that there is anything evil about these publications or the principle involved; I merely say that the country has indulged in this expensive propaganda.

Let us now consider the attitude of South Africa to sport. As we all know we have had a visit from the South African rugby

team. In this connection I would now like to quote from a publication called *Africa Contemporary Record—Annual Survey and Documents 1968-69*, written by Colin Legum, the Commonwealth correspondent of the *London Observer* and an internationally respected authority of African affairs, and John Drysdale, editorial director of the *African Research Bulletin*, together with seven other members of the Bulletin's editorial staff. One of the chapters in this book is headed, "Year of the Olympics." I would remind members that when people refer to the protests made about such a sporting body—the one that recently visited Australia—they should appreciate the fact that South Africa was excluded from the Tokyo Olympics which was held some four years before the Mexican Olympics. She was excluded because of her racialism in sport.

The South African Government has been using this as a means of trying to ingratiate itself with people in other parts of the world. We all know of the stir that took place when South Africa would not accept the British cricket team, because included in that team was Basil D'Oliviera who happened to be coloured. We accepted D'Oliviera in Australia when he visited us with the last British cricket test team. As a result of South Africa's action as we all know, the South African cricket tour of England was cancelled by the British Government because it felt that South Africa was indulging in racialism to promote sport.

There was also trouble when the New Zealand All Blacks were due to tour South Africa because that team included Maoris who, as we know, are respected citizens; they are respectable people by any standards; their abilities can be considered the equal of any citizen in New Zealand. That tour was also cancelled for the same reasons.

I would point out at this stage that the present Government in South Africa took office with a very narrow majority in May of 1948.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What is its present majority?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: When I have finished speaking the honourable member will appreciate why that Government has a better majority today than it had formerly. It did things to suit itself, and what I will tell the House will convey the same impression that was conveyed by Mr. Bedford Brown in his article last night when he said—

In the World War we fought against the most diabolical regime in the history of mankind.

He goes on to say that the present regime of South Africa is not much different.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He is talking utter poppycock.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: That is your opinion.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: At least I have been there; you have not.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: One does not have to eat a whole egg to know it is bad. May I with your permission, Sir, read a few extracts from this book I have with me. I would recommend it in all sincerity and kindness to Mr. MacKinnon and suggest that he get the book from the library and read it. If he does he will find that it is not written in a biased frame of mind. It tells the whole story of Africa generally—not merely of South Africa. It is told truthfully and convincingly.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Why don't you tell us about our excellent system of integration and how much we have to crow about?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The honourable member can talk about that if he wishes to do so; I propose to make my own speech. When Mr. MacKinnon was speaking I did not say a word even though I disagreed with him inwardly. I decided that the appropriate time for me to reply to his remarks was on the floor of this House when I made my own speech; and I am doing just that.

I would like now to quote from this publication entitled *Africa Contemporary Record*. The article is headed "South Africa" and reads—

The Republic of South Africa has not had an uneventful year since the Afrikaner Nationalist Party—with its promise of a racial solution through apartheid—scraped into power on a minority of the white vote in May, 1948. After an unbroken spell of 20 years of rule, came the stock-taking in 1968. At home, its white Opposition had dwindled steadily; and the non-white Opposition had either been driven underground, imprisoned, gone into exile, or otherwise castrated. There was nothing the regime could not do that it willed—at least in material terms. External forces (though worrying and, at times, a nuisance) were ineffectual.

In this period, Afrikanerdom had gained complete political mastery over its Boer Republic. Richly endowed with natural resources, its economy boomed without let-up—despite even losing the critical gold row with the United States in 1968. Materially, it was the envy of even Western Europe and Japan. In 1968 the Johannesburg Stock Exchange experienced a boom such as it had not known since before the events leading to Black Friday in the 1930's; everybody who could lay hands on cash or loans had stakes in the great gamble for capital gains. South African Eagle, which offered

R 6.35m. worth of shares, was inundated with applications for R 193.4m., from a public excited by the spectacular gains of new flotations like Pick'n Pay, issued at 110 cents only to shoot up immediately to 600 cents.

But the year of boom was by no means all golden. Strains in the white society were shown by an astonishing divorce rate of 40 per cent within the first year of marriage. Crimes of violence soared to new heights; hangings put the Republic at the head of the world's list of executioners. Economic discontent increased with the rise of living costs; tens of thousands of people were forcibly removed to new dwelling places; thousands of families were broken up in fulfilment of the objectives of a number of laws; the prison population rose further; and the spectre of guerilla attacks from the North began to worry the country seriously.

Let us see what has occurred in the 20 years between 1948 and 1968 under apartheid rule.

The PRESIDENT: Will the Minister please quote the page number?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The following is to be found on page 289:—

What 20 years of apartheid rule has brought home to the country is the losing battle against African numbers and against the basic inequities of living standards between whites and blacks. Dr. H. M. Stoker, former director of the S.A. Bureau of Statistics, laid out some of the statistical facts of South African life in November. The White national income per head was R1,400 to R1,500 a year—

A rand is equivalent to our dollar. To continue—

—more than 10 times that of the other three races combined. The national income per head for urban Africans was R120 to R130 a year, and for Bantustan Africans R30 to R35 a year. The non-White population was doubling itself twice as fast as the Whites and the natural increase rate of the Africans (3 per cent. a year) was currently one of the highest in Africa and should double the present African population to reach 26 million in the 1990s.

Dr. Stoker said there were five times as many Africans as Whites under the age of 15, and the cost of rearing these children was largely born by the Whites. The African school population had also doubled in the past eight years to exceed two million; but 70 per cent. of them were below Standard 3 and the high drop-out rate at primary school level led to social and economic problems. Sixty per cent. of Africans over 15 years were illiterate, compared with

50 per cent. of the population of the underdeveloped countries of the world and 82 per cent. of the population of Africa as a whole.

Let us see how the law operates in South Africa. On page 305 of the same publication is a critical analysis by Mr. Arthur Suzman, Q.C., which appeared in the *South African Law Journal*. He gives statistics—and this will be interesting because it will give members a better impression of the situation—and says the following:—

The rate of hangings in South Africa is higher than in any country in the world. According to Dr. B. van D. van Niekerk, senior lecturer in law at the University of the Witwatersrand, between July 1963 to June 1965, 281 death sentences were imposed and 194 men executed. Thus the Republic alone accounted for about 47 per cent. of the world's legal executions.

In 1967, 106 Africans,—

Those are all the Africans who were executed. To continue—

—8 Whites, 12 Coloureds, and 1 Asian were sentenced to death. Of the 8 Whites, only 2 were executed; 81 of the 92 Africans were hanged.

The daily average prison population of the Republic for 1967 was 56,966 Africans; 11,021 Coloureds; 2,892 Whites; and 404 Indians—a gross average for all races of 71,283. This figure, too, constitutes one of the highest rates in the world.

Page 311 deals with education. A great feature is made of the fact that they have schools everywhere. Probably they take Cook's tourists to special schools to show them off; to show them what wonderful schools there are for natives and so on. However the truth is to be found as follows:—

It's frequently argued in justification of South Africa's policies that the Republic does more for its African population than independent African countries. Leaving aside the disproportion of resources—

I interpolate here to say that South Africa is the richest of all those southern African States. To continue—

—and the logical comparison that should be made between what is done for the Republic's white and black citizens—figures published in the *Johannesburg Star*, show that Zambia—just four years after independence—had begun to leave South Africa behind in the education of Africans.

"Zambia has an African population of just under 4,000,000 compared with South Africa's 12 million. This year it is spending R60 million under both capital and recurrent heads—a figure representing about 20 per cent. of the total annual budget and more than

three times as much as is being spent on any other department. The percentage expenditure is among the highest in the world. South Africa's Bantu Education budget this year is little above R30 million excluding the Transkei.

"Primary education in Zambia is already free except in 47 out of the 2,350 primary schools. The 47 are attended mostly by European pupils and the fees are R36 a year. In secondary schools tuition fees are being phased out and will have been abolished by 1969.

"In South Africa there is a frozen upper limit budgetted for African education; all increases must be paid for local and individual taxation by Africans themselves.

"Four years of primary education are now available to all in Zambia. And this year, of those children who completed that period of instruction, 100 per cent. in urban areas and 75 per cent. in rural areas will have the opportunity to enrol for three years of senior primary education. The number of children with a full seven years of primary education will rise from about 30,000 this year to 60,000 in 1970.

Now let us ascertain the deficiencies in the South African Department of Bantu Education published in June, 1967. The following appears on page 312 of the book from which I have been quoting:—

Covering the period to the end of 1966, the report mentions, among others, the following shortcomings:

Only 637 of almost 24,500 teachers employed by the Department of Bantu Education had degrees.

By the end of June 1966, the total number of teachers employed for Bantu Education was 30,276—5,837 of these privately-paid in community schools.

While this was a 5.5 per cent. staff increase over the previous year, the number of post-primary pupils increased by 12.3 per cent., and of primary pupils by 7.2 per cent.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That reads like a complaint from the Teachers' Union here does it not?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: It could do. I think I have given enough—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am curious about one thing. What have I ever done to you to give you the impression that I should lie to you and that you should disbelieve me whom you know and believe those you do not know?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The honourable member is completely unfair.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I merely wanted—

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I have never ascribed to him the suggestion that he might have been telling lies. I said no such thing.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Well, "misled the House" might be a better way of putting it.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I said the honourable member saw one side of the picture and that I was presenting the other side. Because I happened to make reference to authenticated documents there is no necessity for the honourable member to say I implied he did not speak the truth. I have never said that to any member or any person; nor do I intend to do so.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I thought the implication was there.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: If the honourable member feels that the implication is there I will withdraw anything I might have said to cause it so that he will have no such feeling about it.

As I said, I did not intend to speak on the Address-in-Reply debate and I will conclude by saying this: I was delighted to hear Mr. Baxter, who has been here a long while, say that he felt this House had a role to play. He said that if we examined the legislation brought here we would realise how often such legislation was amended, and how often it was thrown out. This he said gave an indication of how well we carried out our duty.

The honourable member indicated that the Legislative Council is a House of review. I only hope that attitude will continue and that members will always weigh up what is presented to them to see whether it is based on reason and fact. When they are satisfied it is, I hope they will support the legislation.

I make one final comment with reference to a statement made by The Hon. S. J. T. Thompson when he said he would support any legislation brought in if we can convince him that one life will be saved. Perhaps he based that statement on one I made in the House to the Leader of the Opposition either last year or the year before. I said, "If ever you bring legislation to this House which will save one human life, it will have my support." I think the Leader of the Opposition will recall that statement. Now The Hon. S. J. T. Thompson has made the same statement and has said he will support legislation if I can convince him it will save human lives.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Before the Minister sits down, I have a copy of the publication to which I referred in front of me. I will not use the four-letter word which is shown twice. I understand this is being circulated in schools. As the Minister for Police, I think it would be a good idea if

you have not seen it to obtain a copy and look into it, because it is filthy stuff to say the least.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The Leader of the Opposition has known me for a few years and will know that my attitude on this is in line with my attitude in my own persona! life.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am surprised you have not had it brought to your notice.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I received a publication from the university which was highly critical of me. The best way to treat these people is to ignore them completely.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You cannot ignore this stuff.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I did this, despite the fact that high legal authorities felt I should take them to court for libel.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You cannot ignore this. It is being circulated to our children.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Anything which is brought to my notice and which requires intervention by the Police Department or myself will be acted upon.

I was going to close my remarks at that point, but perhaps I could make one reference to what I consider are justifiable demonstrations. Recently there was the moratorium march and we heard much criticism about certain aspects of it. Members of the House may contradict me if they wish, but I can refer them to an authority whose word I would take before that of a majority of people. The moratorium march was the biggest march of its kind ever held in Western Australia. Both parties, the Police Department, and the organising committee of the march, stuck to the agreement made before the march took place. There was not one incident, not one occasion on which the police had to speak to anybody. The agreement was kept. This is when I think a demonstration is worth while.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They are rare. The risk is too great.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: They may be rare, but the moratorium march is the only demonstration of which I have had personal experience. I was delighted that this was the case. It set an example for other marches which may be held in Western Australia. People have a right to demonstrate, but there is also an obligation upon them to demonstrate peacefully and lawfully.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: How often do they?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: In these circumstances I may be caught between two fires. I have my duty and oath as a Minister to see law is upheld. I do not care how long

it is—whether one, five, or 10 years—as long as I am a Minister I will always bear that principle in mind.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am intrigued in view of the comments you have made, and which I accept, why you had occasion to order the Police Department film on the moratorium to be destroyed.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: If the Leader of the Opposition will consider the explanation already given, he will see that the initiative to destroy the film was taken by the Police Department and not by me. The department had good reasons for doing this. It is only necessary to read answers to questions asked in Parliament to realise this. I think most questions have been asked in another place, but one was asked in this Chamber. I am sure when the Leader of the Opposition reads them he will feel the action taken was completely justified. I support the motion and I hope members have a very happy session.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [3.25 p.m.]: Mr. President, I desire to preface my remarks by making mention of the deaths and retirements of members now no longer occupying their accustomed seats in this Chamber. The period of recess has been one of a heavy and sad toll in this regard.

In the demise of the late James Garrigan, we have suffered the loss of a cheery and friendly personality, who in spite of health disabilities from his previous occupation always endeavoured to take his seat and make his contribution to debates, particularly those affecting the health and welfare of mining communities.

The untimely passing of The Hon. Edward C. House, D.F.C., D.F.M., removed from our midst a man who had served his country with distinction and recognition and who in the sphere of State parliamentary activities served the interests of the farming community without fear or favour in the debates in this House.

Though he had suffered severely in the months prior to his death, The Hon. Fred R. H. Lavery always came through smiling and with a word of encouragement to others. His rather sudden call away from us has left a void.

The late Harry C. Strickland, former Leader of this Chamber and Minister for Railways, the North-West, and Supply and Shipping, just prior to his death battled against severe odds to continue to attend sittings.

Mr. President, I reiterate the great loss occasioned by the passing of these members.

I mention at this point an appreciation of the outstanding contribution to parliamentary life by The Hon. Frank Wise, M.L.C., former Premier and Leader of the Opposition in this House, as well

as a Minister, whose extensive parliamentary career commenced on his election as the Member for Gascoyne in the Legislative Assembly in 1933, more than 34 years ago.

The Hon. George Brand is no longer with us. He suffered the fate accepted by all parliamentarians—when it does occur—and bowed to the luck of the poll. In George also we lose a friendly-natured colleague and we wish him well in his present undertakings.

Doubly we have lost both the Father of the House and the Doctor in the House with the retirement of Dr. J. G. Hislop, whose many addresses on public health matters, at depth, constituted useful contributions to debate. An asset to his profession, the learned doctor well earned our respect. We wish him good health in his retirement.

And last, but by no means least, is the retirement of the Hon. Ruby F. Hutchison, whose enthusiasm in social welfare lightened and brightened many a debate.

I would now associate myself with other speakers in welcoming new members into this Chamber. The House has, for one reason or another, been deprived of the presence of several very capable speakers in debate, and for this reason it is especially heartening to have listened to the several fine addresses delivered by members when making their maiden speeches in the Chamber.

At this point I would make mention of the parliamentary course held prior to the Opening of Parliament which was conducted by the senior officers of both Houses for the information of members, particularly new members.

It seems to me that the opening speeches of our new members and their obvious knowledge of procedure, reflects the benefits of such an exercise.

In this I might mention both your efforts, Mr. President, and those of The Hon. A. F. Griffith as you both took prominent parts.

I particularly desire to express a note of admiration to the Governor on the fine job he did under most trying conditions on opening day. More difficult lighting conditions for the reading of a prepared speech I cannot imagine.

Not to be outdone, The Hon. Lyla Elliott, in making her maiden speech in Parliament under similar difficult conditions, came through with flying colours.

As I have already indicated, it is not my desire nor my intention to reply at length to every point raised by each individual member during the course of the debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

Nevertheless, I feel it incumbent upon me to devote some attention to the speech delivered by the Leader of the Opposition and particularly to the several

helpful suggestions which Mr. Griffith made during the course of his address to the House.

I concur with the honourable member's suggestion that there is some merit in our being enabled to introduce and take Bills to their second reading stage during the course of the Address-in-Reply debate. Mr. President, you will recall my having taken this matter up with you.

Prompted by the former Leader of the House, I am further disposed to progressively prune the Address-in-Reply speech of the Leader of the Government in this Chamber to essentials.

Mention has been made to the references in the Governor's speech to taxes and present day stresses. I would merely say that I suppose a day of reckoning was inevitable as a consequence of wage increment adjustments; and the new Government has shouldered the mantle.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith, as Leader of the Opposition, did not seek specific replies to many of the points which he raised. However, I have some written material on hand which I will pass on to him.

Regarding the question of the removal of the road maintenance tax, I would merely mention that this involves a substitution of taxing methods and we are working out something more equitable.

The Physical Environmental Protection legislation introduced by the previous Government last year was never proclaimed by them or by us. The previous Government carried on for twelve years without such legislation. We are now getting legislation drafted on the advice of the Director appointed by the previous Government.

Mr. President, in replying, it is my desire wherever possible to direct my remarks to the subject rather than to the person and, in doing so, I shall endeavour to cover generally the points raised by a variety of speakers.

At times it will be necessary for me to refer to particular speakers, as for instance Mr. Withers, who addressed the House on the disabilities of the North and was supported by other speakers from the North.

The honourable member requested me to make a wide range of representations at State and Federal levels regarding several long-standing disabilities of the North. Apart from the matters affecting my own portfolio, which it is my intention shortly to cover, I have considered it proper to pass these requests forward for the attention of the Minister for the North-West. I do this for the reason that the Minister for Mines and the North-West is specifically commissioned to deal in the overall with matters pertaining to those areas. The honourable member may accordingly be assured that appropriate notice has been taken of his representations.

Among the new members to address the House, Mr. Williams maintained the high level of debate with a precisely delivered and interesting discourse on business management and vocational training. He added a timely review of the correct usage of "in words and phrases". The comment which the honourable member made has been passed forward for the information of the Minister for Labour.

Rural reconstruction, country road transport, and communications were appropriately referred to. Members whose names come to mind are Mr. McNeill, Mr. Leeson, Mr. J. M. Thomson and Mr. Wordsworth.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Dans for his most interesting initial speech on shipping problems, as these affected State, Australian and international shipping.

Mr. Medcalf reviewed his overseas trip, covering such subjects as the international economy, and drug addiction.

And, not for the first time in this Chamber, The Hon. C. R. Abbey—invoking the slogan of "time for a change"—on this occasion addressed the House in respect of abattoirs and marketing.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I thought it was the present Government which invoked that expression.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: The honourable member amazes me. Thank you. Mr. Baxter expressed different views and Mr. Syd. Thompson also approached this subject.

In wishing well the present negotiations for a wood-chip industry for the south-west, Mr. Ferry may be assured that his comment has been brought to the notice of the Minister concerned.

To all these members and those who followed in the debate, I express the appreciation of the House.

I am in a position to relate some improvements for the north. In 1972 there will be senior high schools at both Port Hedland and Carnarvon, a high school at Karratha—which will be upgraded to a senior high school at an early date—and a junior high school, class I, at Tom Price. The proposed high school hostel at Port Hedland will be completed also by 1972. This building will be fully air-conditioned and is estimated to cost \$600,000 and will accommodate 100 students.

Also commencing from February, 1972—that is this coming February—there is to be an increase in the boarding allowance which has already been approved.

Members may be assured that subject to availability of finance every consideration is being given to providing secondary education facilities for students in the north.

Currently a report on the living costs in the East Kimberley, as compared with the Perth-metropolitan costs, is under consideration. The disparity in these costs

is of course of long standing and examples of State Government endeavours to alleviate the position are the airfreight subsidies for perishables and the boarding allowance for parents forced to send their children away to school.

Transport problems are constantly under review. I was advised on the 30th July that the Director-General of Transport is currently carrying out a comprehensive tour of the northern regions, to check on the spot any problems and inefficiencies in the transport system which users may be experiencing. His investigations will include airfreight problems and freight on perishable goods.

The Minister for the North-West is awaiting reply to his representations to the Regional Director of Civil Aviation regarding Lombadina and Beagle Bay airstrips.

Another aspect, as affecting transport, is the recent decision by the Commissioner of Main Roads to increase council plant hire rates to the Main Roads Department in the Kimberley region from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. above southern area rates. This represents an increase of 50 per cent. in the Kimberley loading.

In the matter of community disabilities consequent upon rapid development in northern areas, I can assure members that every effort is being made to ensure that the iron ore companies concerned minimise any difficulties which local residents may suffer. In the Port Hedland area, Mt. Newman is committed to spend in excess of \$2,000,000 on dust control—\$1,250,000 has already been expended in that direction.

Disabilities raised in the House with particular reference to Pippingarra and Boodari Stations are under consideration by the Minister for Lands.

Charges for electricity in the north-west were mentioned. It is, I think, accepted that electricity charges must bear some relationship to the cost of supply. It is much cheaper to supply the relatively closely populated areas southwards from a central system than it is to supply isolated towns from local diesel stations.

In this connection it is worthy of mention that metropolitan consumers subsidised country consumers of the commission by \$600,000 in 1969-70 and by more than \$1,000,000 last year. It is a fact that consumers in towns currently being taken over by the Commission between Perth and Geraldton were all paying more for their electricity than most consumers in the north. In Coorow, for example, the top rate was 20c per unit.

It would be unwise to disregard metropolitan consumers who provide a high proportion of the commission's capital required for extension of the system into country areas.

I might mention that the last of the undertakings previously operated by the Public Works Department—Kununurra and Halls Creek—were taken over by the commission in 1970. The commission now operates the undertakings at Port Hedland, Kununurra, Roebourne, and Halls Creek and supplies Karratha by transmission line with electricity purchased in Dampier. In every case reductions in charges were introduced after the commission took over.

It is easy for small inaccuracies to creep into debate. Consequently, I have been informed that a domestic consumer in Port Hedland pays only 2.5c per unit consumed and in Roebourne 4c per unit; both pay a fixed charge of \$5 per quarter and this compares with \$1 per quarter and 2.3c per unit paid by domestic consumers in country towns supplied from the interconnected system.

There are in fact no towns in the north-west where consumers pay an average of 15c per unit. In a few towns the top rate is 15c, but there is usually a sliding scale which reduces the average price paid to a much lower figure.

The charges with which I have been supplied are not great, bearing in mind the distance involved and the size of the undertaking.

I think it fair to say that much is being done to relieve the burden of electricity charges in remote areas and there is more to be done of course within the limits of the available manpower and financial resources of the State.

In commenting on country water charges, I am advised that in 1965 when the present scale of water charges was introduced it had been estimated that at least 90 per cent. of the then 35,780 domestic consumers would pay less for water than they did under the old system which provided for a water allowance for rates paid.

Though the average domestic consumptions have progressively increased from 61,000 gallons to 82,110 gallons, this average is still below the first 100,000 gallons consumed at domestic prices. These are at the lower levels of 20c per 1,000 gallons for the first 60,000 gallons and 25c per 1,000 gallons for the next 40,000 gallons.

The present scale of charges had as its objective—

- (a) Uniformity throughout the country areas.
- (b) Encouragement of conservation of water.
- (c) A "pay as you use" system.

I am further advised that although the present "pay as you use" system has not had the desired effect of conserving water,

consumers can derive some advantage from its introduction; namely—

- (1) A uniform scale of charges applying to consumers in all country towns in the State.
- (2) The domestic consumer can, by careful usage of water, keep his total water charges within limits he considers reasonable.
- (3) Occupiers of rented premises are more equitably treated, as they pay only for what they use.

As to the Port Hedland water supply, I am informed that on the present indicated growth rate it may be expected that the combined Yule-Turner and de Grey supplies will serve Port Hedland until the year 1979-80.

Individually, the safe draw on the Yule-Turner River water supply system has been assessed at 3,300,000 gallons per day, whereas the current usage is a maximum of 2,000,000 gallons per day. Investigations have shown that the potential of the de Grey River supply is a further 5,000,000 gallons per day.

The Minister for Works advises that consideration has been given, both short term and long term, for port improvements at Wyndham. An application has been made to the Commonwealth for funds to extend the jetty to accommodate, at the same time, two vessels of 612 ft. overall length—Bakke Class—and to provide mechanical ship loading equipment and storage facilities.

The feasibility of providing the appropriate night navigational facilities to enable Cambridge Gulf to be navigated at night is also being investigated.

Freezer facilities are now being installed on shore and current work also includes improvements to the rail system on the jetty.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 p.m.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: Before the afternoon tea suspension I was dealing with ports in the north. Three berths are presently available for general cargo at Port Hedland—one land backed and two jetty berths.

As intimated by Mr. Hunt plans have been laid to replace one of the jetty berths by an additional land-backed berth. This work is estimated to cost \$3,250,000 inclusive of dredging which has already been done in part.

The target for completion is 1974 and in the long term the second jetty berth will be similarly replaced.

Mr. Dellar raised the important aspect of water supplies on the Gascoyne. Members will know that investigation for the provision of safe and capacity supplies in that area have extended over a considerable number of years.

A proposal to construct a dam at Rocky Pool with associated pumps and channels at an estimated cost of \$7,000,000 was included in a submission made by the State in March, 1970, for Commonwealth assistance by way of inclusion in the Commonwealth \$100,000,000 water resources development programme. This submission was only in a preliminary form as requested by the Commonwealth.

In deference to Mr. Berry, and because I am sure he will be interested, I ask for permission to table this report on supplementary irrigation supplies for the benefit of the honourable member.

Investigations into the ground water potential and dam have been carried out since then to allow a more detailed submission to be prepared. These investigations are not expected to be completed until this coming September and design and estimates will occupy some time after that.

The investigations to date have shown, however, that any dam would be operated in conjunction with the aquifers in the river bed downstream and upstream of the dam. The Government will, therefore, give priority to the continuing extension of the Carnarvon irrigation supply scheme so that all properties may obtain the security of supply to the extent which is provided by this source. An amount of \$150,000 has been included in the 1971-72 draft Loan Estimates to commence extending the scheme to properties on the north bank.

Last April, comprehensive notes covering the historical background and current situation in Carnarvon were prepared to assist the Premier in formulating the Government's future policy on northern development. These notes are considered most suitable for the present inquiry, and a copy is attached to the tabled submission, for a grant to build a supplementary irrigation scheme for Carnarvon.

On the subject of roads in the Carnarvon, Pilbara, and Kimberley Divisions covered by the Main Roads Department, I have to point out that for many years now a substantial percentage of the Main Roads Department's funds has been allocated for works in the Carnarvon, Pilbara, and Kimberley Divisions of the department. In the current programme the department has allocated \$13,013,400—representing 27.49 per cent. of the department's total programme. This is an increase of \$1,512,500 over last year's allocation.

With the development of the Pilbara iron ore deposits, the department embarked in 1966 upon an eight-year programme, costing \$24,400,000 to complete the sealing of the North West Coastal Highway between Carnarvon and Port Hedland. Substantial progress has been made with basic construction of the road and bridges, and work is continuing according to plan. Despite the concentration of finance and

effort on this road, large sums have also been allocated for other roads in both the Pilbara and the Kimberley Divisions.

Many miles of the Minilya-Exmouth Road have been sealed. Substantial funds have been provided to bring the road connecting Dampier and Karratha to the North West Coastal Highway to the sealed stage. On the Great Northern Highway the seal has been completed to Meekatharra and extended 40 miles beyond that point. As part of the department's planning under the Beef Roads Scheme substantial funds have been spent in the Kimberley region on bringing many miles of Great Northern Highway to the sealed stage.

This financial year we expect to expend \$3,720,000 on North West Coastal Highway. Of this sum \$2,589,000 will be spent in the Pilbara region. In addition, a total of \$3,354,000 has been allocated to the Great Northern Highway over its total length.

With regard to the Minilya-Exmouth road I am advised that because it is not a declared main road it remains the responsibility of the respective local authorities, both as to construction and maintenance.

Nevertheless, the department has been allocating substantial sums objectively to bring the whole road to the sealed stage. This financial year the department will spend about \$548,000 on the road. Works will include—

- 10 miles of new construction southwards from the end of the existing seal;

- priming of approximately 20 miles of road which have been upgraded; and

- sealing of 33 miles of pavement already primed or now to be primed.

The development of this road is being pressed on with as quickly as funds can be made available, having regard for the many other road works which are required in the Pilbara region, including the major North West Coastal Highway project.

It was mentioned to me that a traffic count taken last year indicated a usage of 65 vehicles per day, compared with 168 vehicles per day using North West Coastal Highway.

When the planned works are carried out this year there will remain only 51 miles to be sealed out of a total length of 137 miles.

While on the subject of roads, I desire to make some reference to the Kambalda-Boulder Road, which has been the subject of complaint arising from fatalities.

This road, also, is not a declared main road. It is in fact the responsibility of the local authorities—the Coolgardie Shire Council and the Boulder Shire Council. Responsibility for traffic control also rests with those authorities and it may be that there is a case here for special attention by their traffic officers to control speeding

Fatalities on this road have certainly been the cause of much concern. I am glad to inform members therefore that because of the bad accident record, and in view of the fact that the department was responsible for the design and construction of this road—and conjointly with the Western Mining Corporation provided all the finance—the Commissioner of Main Roads considers that an investigation should be put in hand by the department. A senior engineer has been instructed to carry out a detailed examination of the road in conjunction with the divisional engineer with a view to ascertaining whether, in fact, there are deficiencies in design which might be contributing to accidents. As part of the overall investigations, Mr. Aitken has arranged for radar speed readings to be taken as a check on average travel speeds.

These are the comments I wish to make with regard to the rural industries. The extension of drought relief continues to occupy this Government, and since assuming office relief loans totalling \$104,800 have been granted to 25 applicants. Additionally, some 300 loans in the category of special carry-on assistance have been granted to farmers unable to obtain finance from usual sources.

Anticipating the passing of confirmatory legislation, applications for assistance under the Commonwealth-State Rural Reconstruction Agreement are being processed; and 31 have been assessed as qualifying for assistance—which means an expenditure of \$553,221 under that scheme.

The Marginal Dairy Farm Reconstruction Scheme has progressed to the stage where 12 properties have been purchased for \$313,320 with 11 more under option for \$298,000. A further 19 dairy farmers have been afforded the opportunity to sell, and four of these farms are in the process of being sold.

I feel obliged, Mr. President, to deal with some of the aspects of my portfolio which have interested members. I regret that at this point some brevity is called for, but no doubt later in the session other opportunities will present themselves for me to deal with specific aspects. In the first instance I desire to thank members who have displayed such keen interest in the lot of Aborigines.

I commend Miss Lyla Elliott on her ready grasp of a very serious situation and appreciate her sentiments and concern about conditions prevailing in the south-west of the State. I would like to assure her that, in principle, the steps she has advocated to ease this situation are already being pursued by this Government. There is a particular emphasis on the need for an immediate and substantial increase in funds allocated for conventional housing and it is obvious that the bulk of this finance must come from Federal sources.

To date the advisory council for Aborigines has opted for priority in normal conventional housing. Mention was made of one of 7 houses occupied by Aboriginal families in Halls Creek. A figure of \$32,000 of Commonwealth money was quoted; whereas in fact the cost of that house was \$25,586, and the money was provided from State funds. In any event, homes built from funds derived from Federal sources are in no way different from those provided by this Government.

Members will be interested to know why the ingoing rent for this property was set at \$6 per week. This figure which will rise by \$1 per annum until the economic rent, as calculated by the State Housing Commission scale, is attained was deliberately set at the low figure to enable the Aboriginal tenants to furnish and equip their home. Coming newly into a home of this type from a reserve or transitional home background there would have been no previous possibility of building up an equity in furniture and home equipment. This subsidy is provided to bring the Aboriginal tenant up to par with his European neighbour.

The problems affecting Aborigines are real enough. It would be illogical if these special needs were acknowledged and the remedial action denied on the grounds that the bulk of the community were not receiving them.

Families are being relocated in areas of employment. There is no question of housing being provided in areas where employment opportunities are dwindling or non-existent. I submit this is a fundamental and commonsense approach.

While camping reserves exist and families continue to live in these segregated and inadequate conditions no real uplift can come in standards of health, hygiene, education, and employment. Neither can the general self-expectancy of a decent and comfortable future ever be realised. On these grounds the Government bases its future policy of the eradication of camping reserves and the placement of Aboriginal families in conventional homes within the community.

I commend Mr. Jack Thomson for his suggestion concerning the use of the word "village." It is an excellent suggestion. I already have under consideration the formation of a village-complex at Wyndham and in other areas where there is a preponderance of Aboriginal people in the community. However, reverting to the southern areas of the State, the policy being pursued needs to be continued and augmented—that is the integration of families into the general community through conventional housing and relocation of these families in areas of full employment.

It is hoped that with normal living conditions there will come a greater desire to conform to accepted standards and a greater appreciation of the benefits of education and steady employment.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar supported The Hon. Lyla Elliott and concerned himself with education and the future of the Aboriginal people in this State. The honourable member may be assured that the aspects of education he mentioned are receiving the appropriate and considered attention of both the State and Commonwealth educational authorities. Every effort is being made to increase the opportunities for pre-school education for Aboriginal children.

On the question of discrimination against Europeans, I would comment that the Aboriginal people are already an educationally and economically retarded group in a highly technological society and unfortunately the gap is widening. For this reason the secondary grants scheme was introduced as an immediate and positive attempt to strengthen and enlarge the number of Aboriginal children attending secondary schools. These are special remedies for special circumstances. As a general rule Aboriginal families do not and in fact cannot at this stage be expected to have the same motivational direction over the lives of their children as do other members of the community. Some incentive is necessary.

It is not my intention, Mr. President, to pursue these matters further, at this point, apart from mentioning that the special methods and injections of finance now being provided for Aborigines are short term benefits designed to speed up a process that has been withering for lack of nourishment. It is neither the time nor the place to talk of curtailing these grants and associated special assistance.

Several members—Mr. Jack Thomson, Mr. White, and Mr. Cloughton—touched on the question of House committees and advanced proposals for dealing with subordinate legislation. Mr. Cloughton offered a *modus operandi* involving quicker passage of machinery legislation to enable subordinate legislation to be reviewed.

These matters are important aspects of the Parliamentary establishment—the proper concern of all members of the Legislative Council—and as such are likely to be pursued further by members during the session, as opportunity presents itself.

Though generally accepted these days as being a party house, I believe the Legislative Council will never completely discard its mantle as representing Parliament's Chamber of Review and I encourage this concept in urging members to voice thoughts which are aimed at maintaining the full status of the House so long as it survives.

A question was asked as to why no member of the Legislative Council had been appointed to the Public Accounts Committee. Simply, the position is that it is a House committee of the Legislative Assembly.

By legislation of the 11th November, 1970—moved by the then Premier—the committee was set up under new Standing Orders 406A to F, covering appointments and terms of reference. Certain of the standing orders as affecting select committees of that House also extend to the Public Accounts Committee.

The members of the committee are to be chosen by the Legislative Assembly at the commencement of each session and the committee is to report to that House. I think it is self explanatory and there is no purpose in my adding further to these facts.

I think members would have been disappointed had Mr. Ron Thompson not broached town planning and married persons' problems, because he is well versed in those subjects.

Mr. MacKinnon addressed the House on apartheid and associated aspects of life in South Africa. He spoke in the light of some personal knowledge and on-the-spot experiences. While the honourable member propounded an outlook, Mr. Cloughton advanced a different approach to those problems.

In view of the speech which preceded mine I will not elaborate any further. I commend the later speakers to the motion. I have not had an opportunity to prepare notes in answer to their queries, but in all cases their speeches will be noted and submitted to the appropriate Ministers. As I receive replies from the Ministers I will contact the members concerned by letter.

I thought the speech made by Mr. Willmott last night was an excellent exposition of the timber potential of this State, and I can assure him that I will submit his views to the appropriate authority. His suggestion concerning the arrangement of an interest between Western Australia and Japan will also be submitted to the Minister for Industrial Development.

I support the motion.

Report on provision of supplementary irrigation supplies was Tabled.

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

Presentation to Governor

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [4.24 p.m.]: I move—

That the Address 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.

FIREARMS AND GUNS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan (Minister for Police), and read a first time.

House adjourned at 4.28 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 5th August, 1971

The SPEAKER (Mr. Toms) took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and read prayers.

BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Clean Air Act Amendment Bill.
2. Anatomy Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Davies (Minister for Health), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 4th August, on the following motion by Mr. A. R. Tonkin:—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to:—

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

MR. HARMAN (Maylands) [11.04 a.m.]: Mr. Speaker, firstly I would like to congratulate you on your elevation to the office of Speaker of this House. I also congratulate the Chairman of Committees on his election. To the new members of this Assembly I offer my congratulations. I hope they find that over the next three years, they will have a rewarding and satisfying life in the Parliament. It has been of great benefit to me over the past few years to know that in some small way I have been able to assist my electors and this has given me a great deal of satisfaction. It is a challenge to be a member of Parliament but I am sure that this challenge can and will be met by the new members.

Mr. Speaker, during the course of this debate there have been several references to the role of local government. It is on this subject that I wish to dwell for a few moments this morning.

Members will recall that this year, 1971, we are celebrating the centenary of local government. History shows that in 1871 the Municipal Corporations Act and the Road Districts Act were approved by the Legislative Council of that day.

These Acts gave the local people for the first time the opportunity to involve themselves in a limited field of activity concerning their own particular areas. The original draft gave these local councils the authority to construct roads, bridges, and jetties, as well as to engage in some other minor activities.

Since 1871 we have seen the growth of some 144 local authorities. As we move around the State we see ample evidence of development by these local authorities, engendered no doubt by the zeal and the civic pride of the thousands of persons who have acted on local authorities. I commend all the people associated with local government over the past 100 years for their work and their devotion to such government.

In recent years the role of local government has been subjected to very close scrutiny. We have had a number of inquiries, Royal Commissions, and reports from people who have very analytically examined the functions and the role of local government.

Members will recall that in 1947 a committee was established to report on the amalgamation of the two Acts, the Municipal Corporations Act and the Road Districts Act. This was first seriously suggested in 1926 by the metropolitan Local Government Association. In 1948 a Bill was introduced into this Parliament but it lapsed following a certain amount of criticism and it became the subject of an inquiry by a Royal Commission.

In 1953 a Bill was redrafted for Parliament but it lapsed, again because of criticism. In 1954, 1955, and 1956, further Bills were presented to the Parliament but they, too, met with the same fate. The year 1957 brought more success because in that year the Local Government Bill almost got through both Houses of this Parliament. It was referred to a conference of managers because of dispute over certain clauses but unfortunately the conference of managers could not agree and the Bill was dropped.

Finally, in 1960, the Local Government Act, as we know it today, was passed by this Parliament. If one cares to read through the debates of that time it will be evident that a great number of speeches and a great number of clauses were subjected to close scrutiny and examination. Since 1961, when the Act was proclaimed, there have been 19 amending Bills passed by Parliament. There have been a number of other Bills which were not successful.