

during the five months it has in fact been in office. Mr. President, I support the the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. T. Leeson.

PARLIAMENTARY PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Personnel

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): I have received a letter which I propose to read to the House. It is as follows:—

Dear Mr. President,

I would be grateful if you would kindly consider informing the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council that a Public Accounts Committee, constituted under the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, has been appointed.

The membership of the Committee is as follows:—

Mr. A. W. Bickerton, M.L.A.
(Chairman).

Mr. W. A. Manning, M.L.A.
(Deputy Chairman).

Mr. J. J. Harman, M.L.A.

Mr. S. E. Lapham, M.L.A.

Hon. D. H. O'Neill, M.L.A.

It is the Committee's present intention to meet each week at 2.15 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Select Committee Room.

Yours sincerely,

A. W. BICKERTON,
Chairman,

Public Accounts Committee.

House adjourned at 4.50 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 22nd July, 1971

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

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Council Personnel

Message from the Council received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees elected by that House.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 21st July, 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. COOK (Albany) [11.02 a.m.]: I would like to join with other members in this Chamber who have offered their congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on achieving your high office. The many years of experience which you have had in the field of local Government will provide you with an excellent background and will enable you to carry out your duties in a dignified and responsible manner.

I would also like to congratulate the Premier on his elevation—shall we say—to the highest position in the Western Australian Parliament. It must have been a very proud day for him, indeed. In 1933, three new members entered the State Parliament, and all three of them achieved the high office of Premier of this State. I refer to Mr. Frank Wise, Mr. A.R.G. Hawke, and the third of the musketeers is our present Premier (The Hon. J. T. Tonkin). As I have already said, it would have been a very proud day in his life.

To those members who have been elevated to the positions of Chairman of Committees, Deputy Chairmen of Committees, Whips of the respective parties, and members of Standing Committees, I also offer my congratulations. I believe they will all fulfil their responsibilities in a very conscientious manner and I wish them well.

I offer congratulations to the new members of this House. I am a comparatively new member myself, and I can assure the other new members—as I was assured myself—that there will be times when they will feel frustrated. However, they finally find, as I have, that their occupation can be very rewarding. I wish the new members on this side of the House a long and satisfactory career in politics. To the new members on the other side of the House, I wish them a satisfactory career in politics.

The main subject I wish to deal with this morning is the economic situation in Albany. All members are well aware of the serious situation which exists in Albany at the present time, and this situation is caused mainly by two important factors. Firstly, of course, we are feeling the effects of the rural recession. Albany has been mainly a centre for supplying the needs of a large rural section of the State. With the rural recession Albany has suffered a downturn in its economy.

The second major problem which has affected Albany is that of shipping. This problem arose mainly from a decision of the O.S.R.A. to rail wool from Albany to Fremantle for shipment in containers to the United Kingdom and Continental

ports. That decision led to a long fight by the residents of Albany in an effort to retain shipments from the Port of Albany. I believe that for the first time we have achieved a breakthrough. A shipping company has agreed to make available, on a trial basis, three ships during the first part of the 1971-72 wool selling season. Unless we can provide an inducement to the order of 5,000 bales of wool for shipment, we do not stand much chance of being able to retain shipments from Albany.

A further problem is the practice of taking interstate cargoes past the Port of Albany for discharge at Fremantle and subsequent railing back to Albany. This practice has led to a tremendous increase in freights on goods used in Albany, and has added to our problems. Although the problems of Albany have been developing over a number of years they have come to a head within the past few months.

The age of technology has finally caught up with the Albany Woollen Mills and approximately 130 people have been retrenched since last October. At this stage I will refer to the normal barometer of growth in an area to show what has happened. Last year a serious housing shortage existed in Albany, but this year houses are fairly readily available to anyone requiring them. I have already mentioned the woollen mills. The Albany Woollen Mills have always been referred to as the backbone of the industrial economy of Albany, but 130 employees have had to be laid off. The retrenchment of those people, at this time, has brought the problem of unemployment to a head.

The waterside workers, 12 months ago, were working 25.2 hours per week, but now they are down to 22.6 hours per week. This is in spite on the fact that 12 months ago the membership of the W.W.F. was 100 men but today it is only 76. So there has been a lessening of the work force, and a lessening of the number of hours worked.

Perhaps the most important barometer in respect of what has happened in Albany is the employment situation. In January, 1966, there was a total of 70 people unemployed in the lower great southern, but in January, 1971, 436 people were unemployed. In February, 1971, the figure was 458 and at the end of March, 428.

If we look at the years between 1966 and 1971 we find that there has been a steadily increasing rate of unemployment. Of course, the figures apply only to those who are registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service. Many people for various reasons, such as pride and the like, do not register. Also, many people are registered who are seeking alternative employment. They could be working part-time or simply seeking to improve their position in life.

With unemployment a social problem develops. This is happening with increasing frequency in Albany and it is of great concern to me. When the breadwinner of a family cannot obtain employment he is forced to go elsewhere and, in the main, people have been going to the north. This has left the wife with the full responsibility of managing the home, and many of the women in Albany have found this a difficult task indeed.

Another problem is added to this. When the breadwinner obtains work he may find that wages are not as high as he expected or that the cost of living in the north is much greater than expected. The result is that the amount of money sent back to the family is possibly no more, and in some cases less, than it would have been had he been able to obtain work in the area.

Further, if, at the end of six months or so, the breadwinner wants to return home he comes back to the town only to find he is unable to obtain employment and he is again forced to leave the area. The result of all these factors has caused an extremely pessimistic feeling to be evident in the town. People are talking recession all the time. They seem almost to have lost faith in the future of the town.

Members can appreciate the hardships with which they are confronted. It was not so many years ago that I was in quite serious financial difficulties myself and I certainly know the problems which they face. When a town talks of depression all the time it makes our task, as a Government, much more difficult. If we are to encourage industry in the area in the hope of improving the economy of the town and providing employment, we need a town which will take a positive attitude and will not sell itself short. It is extremely difficult to take a person to an area and say, "This is a desirable place in which to invest your money" if the people are saying, "The town has had the bomb; it is bankrupt." Under such circumstances, will anyone be encouraged to invest money? Of course not. Inevitably this makes our task harder.

I believe it is important to try to make known some long-term plan to assist the area to give a lift to the confidence of the people in the town. We must restore their faith in the future of Albany. The position in the town is a little like that of a man who owns a house and land. If the house burns down, this, in itself, is tragic for the family and it could be regarded as a disaster, but the land still exists, so there is still a firm foundation on which to rebuild, develop, and expand. That is the situation in Albany. Although the position in the town at the moment is quite serious I believe that the basic potential of the area for development still remains and that Albany is still a good place in which to invest. These are factors which have to be remembered.

Three major areas of development could be undertaken in the region. The first is in the field of industrial development. Much to the credit of the present Government—and to the discredit of the previous Government—it instituted an industrial survey of Albany within a few months of becoming Government. When Labor became the Government, we found that the knowledge of Albany and its industries which was available to the Government was practically nil.

Mr. COURT: That is not correct, you know. This is not the first survey made of Albany and the great southern.

Mr. COOK: I was referring to the information which is available to the Government.

Mr. COURT: That is a lot of nonsense.

Mr. GRAHAM: It is the first survey of this type.

Mr. COURT: I wondered how that statement could be made.

Mr. COOK: A list was compiled from the Telephone Directory and the Universal Business Directory and was sent to be vetted by local officers in Albany. That is how much knowledge was known of the area. This was emphasised by the survey which was undertaken. The survey was designed to ascertain exactly what industries existed in Albany, their size, and possibilities for expansion. The purpose was also to ascertain what industries were not in Albany and why they were not there, and to find out the labour potential of Albany which, at the present time of course, is pretty good! The survey also sought to ascertain the availability of sites and buildings, what sort of problems were being encountered in the town, whether technical or other assistance was required, and the future plans for development and expansion. The object was to have available reliable data so that advice could be given to manufacturing firms. Reliable data on which to give advice to manufacturing firms was simply not available previously.

Some 90 industries in Albany were interviewed, and the details of their structure, equipment, markets, raw materials, and future plans were recorded. Many of the problems were identified and advice was given. Further, information which was given by firms in Albany is still being investigated. This is one positive move which the present Government has taken already to assist the town.

It is my belief that there is good potential to expand present industry. If we can develop industry which is already located in the area and perhaps help it to diversify into some other field, we will be creating employment and expanding industry. Of course, there is still a certain amount of potential to develop new industries and encourage them to come into the town.

The second area for development concerns the field of tourism. I believe that much can be done to upgrade facilities available to tourists. One possible suggestion is that the Tourist Development Authority may be able to make finance available to private enterprise to enable it to provide facilities for tourists. Further, there is room for improvement in promotional activities. Again the Government could perhaps assist in this field. It may be able to assist regional committees such as the Great Southern tourist bureaus to promote the region. When I was in Queensland recently I was informed that the meter maids, a gold coast gimmick, could be going on a promotional tour around Australia. Perhaps we could come up with some similar gimmick and organise promotional tours not only around Australia but also overseas. This is one avenue which should be examined.

Mr. NALDER: Do you mean the Regional Development Council?

Mr. COOK: I am referring to the conference of Great Southern tourist bureaus which consists of representatives from various tourist bureaus from Mandurah to Esperance, and which promotes tourism on a regional basis.

The third field in which there are possibilities for development is that of education. A survey of educational needs in Western Australia indicated that a new primary teachers' college and secondary teachers' college would be required within the next few years. There is also the definite need for a third university in the years to come. I submit that Albany could be the place for which to prepare plans for this future development. We could decentralise educational facilities into the area.

A case was made out for a university a number of years ago. Many of the facts contained in that report apply equally to teachers' training colleges. The new technical school to be built in Albany will provide a much needed shot in the arm. By and large, I think this has been accepted as a matter of fact. The project is going ahead. I think we need some sort of long-term plan that can be announced to the people in order to restore their confidence and faith in the future of their town. To my mind, it is most important, and if we do not or cannot do this it will be so much harder to encourage industrial development in the area.

Another proposal has been submitted which I believe would be of considerable benefit to the town of Albany. This proposal is known as the Knox plan for a change in the transport pattern in the great southern region. The plan was originally conceived a number of years ago by the Orchid Valley pastoral improvement group, but I understand it fell through. Then the Albany wool shipping

co-ordinating group saw certain advantages in the development of the proposal, and it has now made a proposition to the Government through the Director-General of Transport.

Briefly, the plan incorporates a 20-mile corridor, 10 miles either side of the great southern railway line to a point 10 miles south of Wagin. It will require the farmers within this corridor to use the railway facilities. Farmers outside the corridor, and mainly to the west of the great southern railway line, will be given access to road transport to Albany. The immediate effect of the implementation of the plan would be, I understand, a saving of up to \$200,000 a year.

Mr. O'Connor: To the farmers?

Mr. COOK: Yes. This plan is much more important than just a road *versus* rail question. It is much more important than worrying about precedent, and I do not believe a precedent could be established in this case owing to the special circumstances.

Mr. Nalder: Have you studied the report?

Mr. COOK: Yes.

Mr. Nalder: Do you support it?

Mr. COOK: Yes.

Mr. O'Connor: Do you know what it will cost the Railways Department?

Mr. COOK: No.

Mr. Court: What does the member for Northam think about this?

Mr. COOK: I have not spoken to the member for Northam about it. I think he will be able to appreciate fully the problems and difficulties of Albany.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Albany will continue.

Mr. O'Connor: The Minister for Mines will not support you on this matter, surely.

Mr. COOK: Coming back to the point I was making, this plan has not been proposed by the farmers; it has been proposed primarily by the Albany wool shipping co-ordinating group, because of the need to provide inducements in order to obtain shipping for the Port of Albany.

Mr. Nalder: Are there not farmers on that committee?

Mr. COOK: There is a representative of the Pastoralists and Graziers Association and the Farmers' Union. We have to provide 5,000 bales of wool per shipment to Continental ports to ensure the continuation of wool shipments from the Port of Albany. It has been agreed that three ships will operate on a tentative basis for the first half of the wool-selling season. If we cannot provide this inducement, we will not be able to retain this shipping.

At the present time farmers, principally in the Kojonup area, are in a cleft stick. I think that in the main they want to support Albany, but one can scarcely blame them for not sending wool by rail to Albany when it is railed back to Fremantle for shipment. They say they might as well rail the wool to Fremantle for shipment in the first instance. The only way we can encourage farmers to send their wool to Albany is to provide an incentive, and I believe this Knox plan is the incentive. It will mean a tremendous saving in costs. There will still be a certain percentage of the wool going by rail to Fremantle, but the cost factors tend to favour Albany.

There is another matter causing great concern which I believe this plan would assist. Of recent times there has been considerable talk, particularly in the Eastern States, of the need to rationalise wool-selling centres, and—perhaps unfortunately—Albany has been mentioned. If we can encourage farmers in the area to use those wool sales to the utmost capacity—to the extent that the wool stores will have to expand continually—we will have a very strong case for the retention of Albany as a wool-selling centre. However, if only a comparatively small percentage of the wool that is produced in the Albany region goes to Albany for sale, it will be very difficult to convince the people in the East that Albany should be retained as a wool-selling centre. If we lose the wool sales, we will have an escalation of the unemployment problem. It is to Albany a very important industry.

I repeat what I said earlier, that this plan has not been put forward by farmers for their own benefit. It has been put forward by the Albany wool shipping co-ordinating group, principally for the benefit of Albany. The group has seen that the provision of an incentive to the farmers in the area would help to maintain Albany as a wool-selling centre and would help to maintain shipping in the port.

The farmers have become involved because the previous Minister for Transport said he needed to have the support of the people in the region. The present Minister for Transport has reiterated this stand, which I believe is a very wise move as far as the Government is concerned, because past experience has shown that if we try to close railway lines and interfere with railway operations in any way at all the people in the areas concerned raise the strongest possible protest. By going to the people and explaining the problems and difficulties that Albany is experiencing, the Government is placed in a much better position to make a decision which is in line with the wishes of the people and to gain their support of its proposals.

This proposal is now before the Government, and I know it will receive every consideration.

Another avenue of assistance to Albany would be the introduction of State ships on a southern route. I raised this matter in the House during the last session and, truthfully, I did not get very far with it. I hope the Government will have another look at this proposition. I realise that the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission was originally formed for the purpose of providing ships to serve northern ports. I suggest that the situation in southern ports and outports has changed so much that we could, perhaps, consider expanding the field of operation to take in a southern route to, say, Melbourne and Sydney, serving the Port of Adelaide, the outports of Esperance, Albany, Busselton, and Bunbury, and the Port of Fremantle.

I believe there are adequate cargoes available at Albany, both for import and export, to justify service by the State ships. This would not only mean employment on the waterfront and the receipt of harbour dues for the Albany Port Authority, but also freight costs in the region would be considerably reduced, which would be of assistance to the people of Albany and the farmers in the area.

Arising out of representations by various organisations, the Government announced only recently that it would appoint a Cabinet subcommittee consisting of the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Works, and the Treasurer. This subcommittee is to examine ways and means to assist the Albany area. I believe this move is indicative of the Government's interest in the area and of its positive attempt to improve the situation.

The Treasurer is to visit Albany so that he may assess the situation at first hand and hear suggestions from the local people about ways in which the present difficulties may be overcome. Many suggestions, such as the proposed visits by State ships and the development of the education complex, will be submitted to him. I know he will report back to the Cabinet subcommittee, which will subsequently lay its findings before Cabinet. Then Cabinet will come to a decision on ways in which to assist the area.

I can say quite truthfully that the people of Albany appreciate the positive methods adopted by the Government in an effort to alleviate the situation. I think most people appreciate that the present difficulties—whilst extremely serious—do not spell the death knell of Albany. The area still has tremendous potential for industrial development and for tourism and the like.

Finally, I think the people of Albany are only now beginning to realise just how little was done by the previous Government in the southern parts of the State.

Mr. Court: Fair go.

Mr. COOK: The activities of the Ministers of the present Government and their continual trips to Albany indicate to the people that the Government is interested in them and that Albany will at last get a far better deal than it has in the past.

Mr. O'Connor: How much did we spend on the wharf?

MR. R. L. YOUNG (Wembley) [11.32 a.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of pleasure in adding to the congratulations of members who have spoken before me, my congratulations to you on your appointment as Speaker of this House, and also to the Chairman of Committees and the Deputy Chairmen of Committees on their appointments. I am sure that you and the Chairmen will bring to your high offices in this House the high degree of responsibility, distinction, and impartiality that has been the hallmark of your predecessors.

I would also like to thank the officers and staff of the Houses of Parliament for the help they have extended to me in the various aspects of the workings of Government—as, I am sure, they have extended to other members of the House. I congratulate all the new members of this twenty-seventh Parliament on their election. Like the member for Albany, I wish those on this side of the House long and fruitful careers, just as I wish short and fruitful careers to the new members on the other side of the House.

I want also to make reference to the previous Government, which occupied the Treasury benches from 1959 to 1971, and to thank it on behalf of the people of Western Australia for the benefit it gave to this State. I am sure that in the reflection of history the Government led by Sir David Brand will be recorded as having given this State a moment of greatness—one upon which it will be difficult if not impossible not to build a fine future.

I congratulate the Premier and the members of the Cabinet of the new Government on taking office at this time. I am sure they will carry out their duties and accept their responsibilities with the high degree of fairness and dedication of which they are capable. I wish to pay a tribute to Dr. Guy Henn, who served this State, the Parliament, and the people of Wembley with distinction for many years. I wish him and Mrs. Henn a pleasant and leisurely retirement. I am sure they deserve it.

I would also like to thank all those who helped me to take Dr. Henn's place in this Parliament, and to make special mention of the former member for Mirrabooka, Mr. Doug Cash, without whose early help and guidance I would not be here.

I would like to speak today on two subjects, the first of which is the vexed state of Commonwealth-State financial

relations, which has been the subject of many discussions for many years past; and I have no doubt it will occupy the thoughts of our Premier and our Treasurer for at least a few years to come. I am sure it will also occupy the minds of the States of the Commonwealth for many years, or until something is done to bring the States back to the type of federalism envisaged by our founding fathers.

We have been a federation for 70 years, and for 60 of those years a series of Commonwealth Governments of both political colours have, by a number of different manoeuvres—many times validated in the High Court of Australia—gradually eroded the financial powers of the States to such an extent that State Treasuries are now merely pay offices of the Commonwealth Government.

I recognise that the present Federal Government, under Prime Minister McMahon, is both anxious to give, and capable of giving, the lead to take us back to the federalism envisaged by our founders. I look forward to the action the Commonwealth Government is likely to take in years to come.

The problem began in 1910 when the Commonwealth Surplus Revenue Act removed the Braddon clause from the Constitution. That clause made it incumbent upon the Commonwealth Government to pay to the States the surplus of excise duties collected within the boundaries of the States. The Commonwealth overcame that Constitutional obligation by paying the moneys into trust accounts, and that action was validated by the High Court at the time.

The Hon. Brian Wilson, the Premier of Western Australia at the time, when introducing the State Estimates for the year 1910-11 made only fleeting reference to this important change in Commonwealth-State financial relationships. I am sure members of Parliament at the time were totally unaware of the fact that this matter was to be the first of many body blows to be dealt to the States in the years to come. At the time the Commonwealth replaced the payment of the excise surpluses with a system of *per capita* grants to the States, and these continued to be made until 1927 when the financial agreement was entered into by the States and the Commonwealth.

That agreement substituted fixed payments for *per capita* payments to the States and it set up the Loan Council, thereby depriving the States of their right to borrow on the open loan market. In effect, when the States entered into the agreement the Commonwealth had a pistol at their heads because it refused to continue *per capita* payments, and the States had no alternative but to accept the Commonwealth offer. I might add that the financial agreement was subsequently

ratified by referendum. In my opinion, the legislation should never have been passed in the Commonwealth Parliament, and I am sure that if the Senate had acted as a State's house it would have ensured the legislation did not get through.

Then, in 1942, under wartime conditions, the Chifley Government virtually removed from the States their income taxing powers by introducing Commonwealth income tax at a rate which was so high as to make it impossible for the States to collect income tax alongside it. Not only was the further collection of State income tax an impossibility, but, for good measure, the Commonwealth made it clear that if the States continued to collect income tax, any grants to which they would have been otherwise entitled under section 96 of the Constitution would be withheld. That section, of course, gives the Commonwealth the right to make such grants to the States, on such terms and conditions, as it thinks fit.

In theory, and at law, the States still retain the right to levy income tax. However, if they did the Commonwealth would not assist in the collection of tax for the States and would withdraw grants to the States under section 96. It was made patently clear to Sir Henry Bolte some years ago that if Victoria engaged in State income tax collection, not only would the Commonwealth withhold its co-operation in regard to State tax collections, but it would also ensure that any tax so collected would be deducted from grants made under section 96.

No expert, or for that matter no speaker, I have heard discuss this matter has ever denied that the Commonwealth has an autonomous right and an obligation to take complete control of the economy, of the country. However, of equal necessity, the States must have a fixed share of growth taxes to enable them to stand or fall by their own fiscal policies. Therefore, I believe the Commonwealth should pay a specific minimum percentage of all growth taxes to the States. In other words, the Commonwealth should commit itself to pay a percentage of customs and excise, sales tax, income tax, and company tax to the States on a *per capita* basis. Of course, special grants could still continue to be made for items not capable of calculation on a *per capita* basis.

This plan would leave the overall control of the economy in the hands of the Commonwealth, whilst still leaving the States with some financial muscles. The mere handing over of payroll tax to the States, as was done recently, is not the answer, because the nation's economy depends on the whole spectrum of growth tax; and the States, having the responsibility for the greater part of the nation's development, must have the flexibility afforded to them by a fixed share of those taxes.

Somehow the prevalent attitude of laying the blame at the feet of the Commonwealth for every economic shortcoming has to be overcome. I believe that all State Treasurers would want to stand on their own two feet in this matter and if this were done it would go a long way towards achieving that objective. However, while I recognise that the States have their own responsibilities for the financial aspects of government, I also believe that as the nation grows so must grow, in direct proportion, the moneys made available to the States to meet those responsibilities.

I now wish to discuss a matter that I consider to be of grave importance to this State and to the Commonwealth. It is the matter of South African sporting teams paying visits to this country. It is a problem that has affected not only State Governments but also the Commonwealth Government, and inside the spectrum of this argument lies, in my opinion, a problem which the people have not yet even started to consider. This is the problem of a small group of people who are trying to disrupt the Australian way of life, and their efforts are supposedly based on a moral principle.

I think we have to look at this problem under separate headings. The first question we have to ask is: What is the situation in South Africa? I do not think I have ever heard anyone justify apartheid on moral grounds, because I do not think it can be justified. There are those, of course, who say it can be justified on practical grounds and that the coloured man in South Africa leads perhaps a better life than any of his contemporaries in other African States. However, I think that to try to justify apartheid simply on those grounds, without granting to the coloureds in South Africa the opportunity to set up a framework of equality within the separate development system, is a most spurious argument; because, regardless of one's situation in a country at any time, and the fact that one may be outnumbered by six or seven to one, within the constitution of that country there has to be granted to every single person, whether he be black, coloured, or white, an opportunity to develop and eventually have the right to share equally in not only the nation's economy, but also its justice.

Having said that, and having made my point quite clear, I now want to ask whether the protests that are being made in Australia against South African sportsmen have any effect on South Africa's policy of apartheid. I think the simple answer to that is that on the 11th April, 1967, in a speech in the national Parliament of South Africa, Mr. Vorster made this point quite clear. The significance of his speech was his forthright declaration that apartheid would continue to be strictly

applied in South African sport, whatever the rest of the world thought about it. I will now quote what he said, as follows:—

I therefore want to make it quite clear that from South Africa's point of view no mixed sport between whites and non-whites will be practised locally, irrespective of the standard of proficiency of the participants . . .

Further on in his speech he had this to say—

On that score I want no misunderstanding whatsoever. I also want to say in advance that if, after I have said on these matters what I still want to say, anybody should see in this either the thin end of the wedge or a surrender of principles, or that it is a step in the direction of diverging from this basic principle, he would simply be mistaken. Because, in respect of this principle we are not prepared to compromise, we are not prepared to negotiate, and we are not prepared to make any concessions . . .

To make sure that there could be no suggestion of a change, on the 9th September, 1969, the Transvaal Congress of the Nationalist Party adopted a resolution supporting Mr. Vorster's policy on sport and specifically reaffirming the statement I have just quoted as being the official policy of that party.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether that sounds like the sort of statement that would be made by a man representing people who are prepared to change their minds on what they consider to be a basic moral principle. It does not sound like it to me. It sounds like some hard-headed gentleman who will not listen to reason outside his own country. However, if the protests made against the South African sportsmen had the effect of allowing some token—and that is all it would be—of integration in sport in South Africa, would that change the way of life of the black South African? I do not think it would.

It would not mean that he would no longer have to carry a pass. It would not mean that he would ever be likely to have an opportunity to vote alongside whites if he were living in a mixed electorate. It would not mean that he could live wherever he wanted to or travel anywhere in the company of whites. It would not mean that he would get any of the opportunities that are afforded the white man in South Africa.

It seems to me that had the South African Government been hypocritical enough to have included some coloured sportsmen in its touring teams there would not have been the trouble we are faced with now. So what do the protesters want to achieve? Do they want sporting palliatives from the South African Government?

I want to make it quite clear that among the protesters there are people who, being genuine and peaceful in their beliefs are

excluded from what I have to say, but there are those whom I will discuss later who simply want to achieve a complete breakdown in the Australian way of life, justice, and democracy, because those protesters know that the answer lies within the hearts of the white South African people and not within Australia. They know that no change will be made unless the white South African people are prepared to have a good long look at this problem and build into their constitution acceptance of the black man's rights in that country, otherwise they will be faced with the same sort of problem that every multi-racial country has been faced with in the past.

The third question I want to ask is: What effect do these protests have on the Australian way of life? The protesters are formed into two distinct groups. There are the trade unions on the one hand and the other groups on the other hand. Within both groups there are genuine protesters who have the right to protest against the South African sportsmen if they believe that, by so doing, they would be protesting against apartheid. Any unionist has the right to withdraw his labour if he believes that by doing so he will be making a protest against apartheid. He has that right as an Australian citizen.

Within the other groups, any person who peacefully protests against apartheid by telling the South African sportsmen what they think—although there will be no change in the policy of the South African Government in regard to the black man—has every right to make that protest. But some sections of both groups went much too far.

For a start, the trade union movement, headed by Mr. Hawke, told the Australian people the movement would place a black ban on anything connected with the South African sporting tours. In effect, what the trade union movement said was: "Don't worry about it. You don't have to make a decision as to whether you will watch the South African teams play sport, because we are making it for you." Any Australian citizen, especially within his own country, should have the opportunity to make up his own mind whether he wants to watch the South Africans playing sport or to make some sort of protest against them.

Then we had the situation that occurred within the Transport Workers' Union in Western Australia. Every union affiliated with the A.C.T.U. was told that it could, in accordance with its own conscience, take whatever action it considered necessary in respect of the tour of the South African sportsmen, and the Western Australian branch of the T.W.U. did act in accordance with its own conscience and not in accordance with the conscience of somebody else.

However, having done that it was found that the Federal body came to Western Australia to crush Terry Farrow, the President of the T.W.U. in Western Australia,

and he was virtually tossed out of his office. Why? It was because he acted in accordance with his own conscience. And what of the trade unions' decision to continue a black ban on hotels, aircraft, and other organisations that chose to continue servicing the touring team? By continuing the ban long after the sporting teams have left the scene the trade union movement virtually said to these organisations, "Look, you transported the South Africans or assisted them in some way, and therefore we are going to maintain a black ban on you for good." Is not this tantamount to setting oneself up as God? because virtually it means that the union is saying, "We were right then, we are right now, and we will remain right forever."

I do not think it is true that Bob Hawke was hit by a speedboat while he was trying to walk across the Sea of Galilee, but I am certain he sat there thinking of the possibilities. In effect, however, on this issue the trade union movement was simply brushed aside by the people of Australia. They were told that it did not matter what the trade union movement felt about it, the tour would go ahead; which, of course, it did, without any real trouble except that which emanated from the second half of the protest group.

But, Mr. Speaker, how does one brush aside a man who is fool enough to carry a Molotov cocktail into a sportsground; and can we brush aside a person silly enough to fire a marine flare onto a crowded football field? What do we do about the people who were arrested in Melbourne with half a dozen gelignite bombs before the Springboks' game?

Heaven knows what they were going to do with the bombs but we can bet they would say they were going to do it in the name of morality and justice. One of the great tragedies of the whole unfortunate business is that the policemen who were there were there not only to protect the people who went to witness the football match, but also to protect the demonstrators against the crowd which may have over-reacted to those demonstrators. The policemen who were there only to do their job have somehow become identified as some sort of racist animals.

One might well ask whether there was any consistency in the philosophy of the protesters. I believe there was none, because the day after the Springboks played at Perry Lakes Stadium the Indian hockey team played at the W.A.C.A. I do not suggest for one moment that anyone should have protested on this occasion. The fact is that nobody did protest even though we might say that a form of apartheid has been practised by Indians over the centuries, particularly as it relates to their caste system. It is a form of apartheid as between coloured men.

The only evil of apartheid the protesters can see is that between the white man and the black man. They do not recognise the form of apartheid that exists on a political level as between white men. There was no protest against the Moscow Dynamo football team which was made up mostly of secret service police. The only ones who protested in this case were the Jews and they were protesting because apartheid was being applied to them in the U.S.S.R.

So we find there is no consistency whatever in the philosophy of the protesters to whom I have referred, and there can be none; because the question is not South African; it is not sport, and it is not apartheid. It is a question of whether these grubby, idle oafs can gain control of the Australian way of life. I pray, Mr. Speaker, that they may never be able to do this and I hope the Government of this country will not allow it to happen.

I pray that before our way of life becomes accustomed to being ground in the dust under the grubby sandals of these protesters, those in our community who have become fellow travellers and who pay lip service will wake up to themselves and realise what an insidious practice this is.

DR. DADOUR (Subiaco) [11.56 a.m.]: I would first like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the high position of the Speaker of this House. I would remind you, Sir, that both you and I have the same predecessor so we both have a great deal to live up to.

Before I go any further I would like to thank my electors for having faith in me, and I can only hope that I am able to do them justice. My special thanks go, of course, to Hugh Guthrie, who helped me so very much. I would also like to mention the other people in my electorate who assisted in my election to this parliament.

I would now like to congratulate the new Premier and his Ministers and wish them good government for the sake of Western Australia. May I also be permitted to convey my best wishes to my fellow new members.

The selection of the subject on which I wish to speak today has caused me a great deal of concern. I have chosen to speak on rising hospital costs and in particular the rising costs that have occurred over the years at the Royal Perth Hospital.

I am prompted to do this because I am very worried as to where we are going in this matter. I feel we have reached a point where we can go no further without the system collapsing.

In the television session "Four Corners", which was shown approximately a couple of months ago an attempt was made to depict why hospital costs were rising. It

astonished me to find how far off the beam the participants in the programme were, particularly when they talked about the costs involved and the fact that these could be curbed by the use of cheaper intravenous sets and equipment.

These costs are merely peanuts and I would like to indicate what really does influence the cost of hospitalisation. In this connection I would point out that I spent 3½ years as a resident at the Royal Perth Hospital and during that time I enjoyed myself very much. I learned a great deal and I also developed an affection and an affinity for the Royal Perth Hospital. Accordingly it grieves me to say what I am about to say, particularly as I know there are a great number of wonderful people who have been associated with the Royal Perth Hospital and there are a great number of others who are also doing wonderful work at the moment.

By saying what I am about to say I do not wish in any way to detract from the honour which these people should be given. In 1953, however, the costing of a bed per day at the Royal Perth Hospital was \$7.71. I am told that today this figure is in excess of \$40. The outpatient attendant fees in 1953 were costed at an average of \$1.71 whereas today they are \$11 plus. This represents an increase of between 500 and 600 per cent. At the same time we find that the cost of living has risen by approximately 100 per cent. only between 1953 and the present day.

I also wish to stress that in 1953 there were 600 beds in the Royal Perth Hospital and approximately 90 beds at the Shenton Park Annex. Today there are still 600 beds at the Royal Perth Hospital and approximately 200 beds at the Shenton Park Annex. The number of outpatients treated in 1953 was 134,000 and last year this figure rose to 187,000. This is a substantial increase.

What does it really cost the Government in subsidies? In 1953-54 the State Government subsidy was \$1,300,000 while to the year ended the 30th June, 1971, the subsidy was approximately \$14,000,000. I think we can budget for a \$20,000,000 deficit this year.

This is a tremendous increase and it causes me a great deal of concern; because while I know that costs are going up and up I cannot find any real justification as to why this should happen.

While I was resident and registrar at the Royal Perth Hospital from 1953 to 1955 there were in all 27 residents looking after inpatients and outpatients. Apart from this there was the honorary medical staff.

Although we had a great deal to do, we also had quite a good time. It was always possible for us to play a game of solo, bridge, or table tennis.

Today there are 152 resident doctors and registrars at the Royal Perth Hospital. I keep asking myself why? When the Medical School began in 1957 it was necessary to find for the graduates positions as residents in hospitals where they could learn. The finals in medicine are merely designed to render a medical student safe; then he is given experience in a hospital before he practises among the public.

For that reason it was necessary to employ more residents in positions where they were not really needed, but this was done to enable them to finish their medical training. The irony of the situation is that of the 152 residents and registrars I have mentioned, 45 per cent. comprise non-Western Australians. I cannot find any justification for so many people from outside the State being in these positions, especially when so many residents and registrars are being subsidised. We should not end up with so many of them from other States and other countries.

In view of the fact that there are 152 residents and registrars at the Royal Perth Hospital, it will be realised that there is not a shortage of doctors, but only a shortage of working doctors. I could say the same for the teachers; we are not short of teachers, but short of working teachers.

I would like to point out to the House that it costs approximately \$30,000 to put a student through six years of medicine. After that he is employed for two or three years at a hospital in a situation where he learns more about medicine, and this costs approximately another \$10,000. This makes a total of \$40,000 for training a student.

I am told that 16 per cent. of our graduates go into general practice. For a grand total cost of approximately \$250,000 we get one general practitioner—the basic unit of our medical scheme. In my opinion the answer is this: Give the graduates two years of hospital experience, and then make available a very small number of positions to a few to enable them to obtain higher degrees in surgery or medicine, and sweep the rest out. If we did that, the position would be resolved. We would then have sufficient doctors going into general practice, and once they get into general practice most will remain, because a great deal of job satisfaction is obtained from general practice. To me, my general practice work is not work; it is just part of what I do every day, and part of my way of life. I believe that many of these doctors, after they have seen the level at which they are dealing with people, will be very happy to remain in general practice.

I wish to point out that 14½ years ago I myself went into general practice. I have been successful. I started on my own, and my job satisfaction has been total and complete. That is illustrated by the fact I have been elected to Parliament.

I regret having to hark back to the Royal Perth Hospital. It has quite a massive number of employees—in excess of 3,000—to look after 600 in-patients. This represents an employee to patient ratio of 5 to 1. That is one of the reasons why the cost of running the hospital has risen and why the subsidy is so high. I realise that it contains a number of specialised areas where patients can receive the best possible treatment; but all this costs a great deal of money.

The build-up in the numbers at the hospitals began in about 1955 when the Government of the day decided it would employ as many people as possible in Government and semi-Government positions. The build-up that started in those days has reached saturation point. In 1953 or 1954 there were 2,000 employees, but today for the same number of patients there are 3,000 employees.

In either 1955 or 1956 the then Premier (The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke) injured his finger on one occasion and decided to obtain treatment at the Royal Perth Hospital. His secretary rang the hospital to say he was going there for treatment. The matron eventually found casualty, and a little later the medical superintendent. The red carpet was laid out, and in came Mr. Hawke. He was duly treated and left. The officer in charge of fees, having a sense of humour, sent out a bill for 7s. 6d. by runner to Mr. Hawke and this was duly collected in Parliament House.

The personnel of the records section of the Royal Perth Hospital has built up from one full-time employee and one part-time employee to over 100. I cannot find any justification for this increase in number. At the hospital there are 1,100 on the nursing staff, there are approximately 200 doctors, and the rest of the employees come under the administration section.

Approximately two months ago a report appeared in the newspaper of an address given by a doctor from the Royal Perth Hospital to a Rotary luncheon, in which he said that the hospital was bursting at the seams and it would soon have to refuse admissions.

Then two weeks later the board of the Royal Perth Hospital decided to upgrade some of the beds so that private patient cases could be used for teaching. For this purpose two-bed wards with toilets attached are being provided. It is said that the hospital is bursting at the seams, but then the board upgrades the bed accommodation.

The cost of upgrading is estimated at \$1,000,000, and in the process the hospital will lose 90 of its 600 beds. I can see no reason why this proposal should have been implemented. I have been told that the main reason for this was to enable the students to be taught, by using private patients. In the past a similar scheme failed at the King Edward Hospital, and I feel

the present scheme will fail at the Royal Perth Hospital. Private patients are private patients, because they consider their privates private. They do not want a finger stuck in every available orifice. They wish to be private and to enjoy treatment as private patients.

Subsequently, about a week later, it was reported that the Royal Perth Hospital had decided to acquire a "C"-class hospital in Mt. Lawley for an undisclosed sum—of \$600,000. Extensive alterations are being undertaken, because the "C"-class hospital is not exactly what is required by the Royal Perth Hospital. I do not know how much these extensions will cost. There were to be 128 beds at that "C"-class hospital, but I believe the number has now been reduced to 80 beds. So, for the total cost of nearly \$2,000,000 there will be a reduction of 10 beds. That is excellent management!

We have permitted the Royal Perth Hospital to grow and grow. I realise the cost of establishing that institution has been very high, and we will never be able to obtain the actual cost. The casualty section has been altered four times since it was first built in about 1952. Too often do I hear this remark: What does it matter if it costs \$1,000,000 to save one life? When I ask myself this question, the only obvious answer I can come to is, "How many lives can I save for that \$1,000,000?" This is the practical way to look at it, the only way to look at the problem. We are faced therefore, with the dilemma that there is a shortage of sufficient beds.

Then there is the irresponsible action of upgrading beds for teaching purposes on private patients and sometimes it is impossible to teach on these people because they will not be taught on. Then a "C"-class hospital is bought and there will be duty free petrol to run backwards and forwards to that all day, thus adding to the costs.

With all these doctors we still, day after day, hear about patients waiting three to four hours in casualty. I know there must be delays in casualty because there are X-rays to be taken and then developed. After this the resident has another look at the patient and the X-ray and then he says, "Oh, well, I had better get a registrar." He then gets a registrar who says, "I do not know whether we can put the patient in or not." We end up with the poor patient waiting three or four hours. This to me is stupid. Casualty is surely a clearing station. The resident should make up his mind what is wrong with the patient and whether he should be admitted or not admitted. It does not matter if he cannot pinpoint the diagnosis; that does not have to be done in casualty. Casualty's purpose is just to deal with the patients and get them into the wards or out of the hospital as quickly as possible.

I do believe that a lot of trouble could be overcome if there was better liaison. The relatives in the waiting room at the side and the patient in the cubicle both wait for hours and hours. There is no communication. If somebody were to communicate with these people at regular intervals and explain to them why they are kept waiting, both the patient and the relatives would, I feel, accept this situation far more readily.

There is this point that, as I said, there is no scarcity of doctors.

The next point, and I always remember this, is that the first and foremost thing the patient wants when he is sick is tender loving care. That is the proper thing. Mr. Smith wants to be known as Mr. Smith; Mr. Jones as Mr. Jones. He does not want to be known as the bloke in that bed over there or the woman in that bed over there. The patients desire a little bit of the personal touch.

I can always remember one dear old fellow who had a stroke. I sent him to the Royal Perth Hospital where he was duly admitted. This man had suffered a right-sided stroke, which means that his right arm and right leg were paralysed, and also his speech centre was affected. His wife went to visit him and as he was lying in bed he kept pointing to his mouth. His wife thought he wanted to be fed so she fed him. There was no communication with the man, he could not speak; he could understand but he could not speak and he could not write because his right arm was paralysed. On the third day he kept pointing, so his wife thought she would have a look in his mouth and she saw he did not have his right teeth. The next thing was that 19 mouths in the ward were emptied and his teeth were found and duly put in his mouth. This sounds quite comical, but these things do happen and can happen at any time; but it is a tragedy when a person is not getting the tender loving care that is needed.

However highly scientific and technical treatment is, we must be aware that it is the little things that count, the things that mean so much. Without the personal touch, it is a dreadful state of affairs.

This has been going on for years. I did feel it was better not to say this in public, but I do feel it should be said now. It has been said before by somebody else; but in my experience some of my patients actually cry because I am going to send them to the Royal Perth Hospital. They have heard from their friends of the impersonal attitude there. This does not happen all the time; this is only in certain cases.

What service do I, as a general practitioner, give? I ring up a doctor at the hospital who is admitting, I tell him I have a patient suffering from such and such, and I say I would like the patient admitted. I give the name and address,

and the hospital sends an ambulance. In the interim I write a letter and give this to the patient or the patient's relatives. This letter goes to the hospital with him—a fairly short concise history of what has been wrong with the patient and what medication he has had. I venture to say it would be in respect of less than one in 20 of all the patients I send to the Royal Perth Hospital that I would get any communication back at all. It has been the position for years now where I have to look at the death notices in the paper to find out who has died. I have been guilty of asking Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Jones how her husband is—this is months later—only to be told: "Oh, he died the next day." There has been no communication to me from the hospital, either by phone or letter.

Also, when patients are discharged, how do I know what has been wrong with them? I have no communication. I look at their prescription book and work backwards in order to determine what has been wrong. In this sphere too, we are not getting the service. The medical superintendent at the hospital is not worrying about the daily running of his hospital, he is planning for the future. Surely the concern of the medical superintendent is primarily with the every-day running of his hospital.

In 1964-1965, business consultants were called in to the Royal Perth Hospital to see how they could improve the running, costing, etc., of this hospital. Two people came and tendered for it: Personnel Administration Pty. Ltd. and W. D. Scott & Co. Pty. Ltd. Personnel Administration Pty. Ltd. jumped up and down with glee; they did not want to get the job. W. D. Scott & Co. Pty. Ltd. came out with a report that was never published.

The report took 18 months and Scott & Co. said it had never suffered such anguish, or met with such frustration and such a lack of co-operation in all its life. The result was that the report was ripped up and thrown out.

The report stated, I am led to believe, and I am sure it is true, that the Royal Perth Hospital should be chopped up into three separate components. How that is ever going to be done I do not know, but at that time in 1964 the report stated that it should be chopped up.

Another argument that may be put forward is that the Royal Perth Hospital has a great number of patients who are pensioners. But 32 per cent. of the gross income of the Royal Perth Hospital, and that includes our subsidy, comes from fees. At the Fremantle Hospital, only 24 per cent. of the total comes in as fees. The combined amount of subsidies to run the Fremantle Hospital, the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and the King Edward Memorial Hospital, with a total of approximately 900 beds, is about five-eighths of

the costs of running the Royal Perth Hospital where there are 600 beds plus the 200 sub-acute beds at Shenton Park.

There is a new increase in costs scheduled at this very moment and that is with regard to the honorary system. This system is starting to change at the Royal Perth Hospital and other public hospitals. This could be put down to one factor. A doctor or specialist doctor becomes an honorary in a hospital for two reasons. The first and foremost is because he wishes to give his specialist treatment to the patients who cannot afford it.

Secondly, either by intent or not it is his only means of advertising. He looks after patients and if those patients are grateful they tell their friends and relatives about him. In this way the specialist is able to advertise. Another method of advertising is through his resident doctor. If the specialist treats his resident doctor well, that resident doctor will usually return his thanks by referring patients back to the specialist. However, that form of advertising has been lost because the majority of resident doctors do not now go into general practice; they become specialists in the same field as the honorary himself. Within two or three years the resident doctors become competitors with the specialist, and his income is reduced because of this fact.

The specialists are now coming to be known as visiting staff, because some of them are being paid on a sessional basis. They work two or three sessions a week, and they are paid a certain sum for those sessions. Previously their services were totally honorary, but this system is altering and it will not be very many years before the system is completely reversed. Because of this change costs have gone up, and will continue to do so.

Another factor is that university doctors have a right to operate a private practice in addition to being full-time university lecturers. They are able to earn up to \$1,600 a year. Any amount in excess of that is paid into a fund known as a travelling fund. When somebody goes to a congress his expenses are paid from the fund. It is a very good idea, and the fund depends on the honesty of the person concerned as to when he starts to earn more than \$1,600.

The right to a private practice has also been granted to other full-time medical staff by the Perth Hospital Board. It has been brought to my notice that those people receive a very good salary. It is much larger than ours, even with the increment, and besides that high salary they have the right to a private practice which, as far as I know, is not limited. There might be a limit on paper, but there is not a limit in practice.

It must be remembered that every person who is admitted to the Royal Perth Hospital, is immediately classified as an

intermediate patient, if he is in a medical fund. The radiological department employs a full-time radiologist, and a couple of assistants. The radiologist is paid a very good salary, and he has the right to a private practice. This means that for every X-ray that he reads he is able to bill the patient. However, the hospital bills the patient for the specialist, and because the specialist is using hospital equipment, and film, the specialist and the hospital have struck a medium and they each receive half of the fee charged.

In May, 1970, it was decided that patients in hospitals were to be charged a flat rate, and were not to be charged extra for investigations such as blood tests and X-rays. The only money which the hospital now receives for X-rays is the Commonwealth subsidy, which is less than half of what was previously received. However, the specialist has stood out for his share and he is still getting half of the original cost. So the hospital finds itself in the most embarrassing situation of not only having to pay a large salary, but also having to subsidise the cost of the private practice. This involves a fantastic sum. I cannot for the life of me see why we should be subsidising specialists who are receiving a full-time salary, and I wonder whether this is the action of responsible people.

I know that the university offsets a fair amount of the cost by passing it onto the hospital through the resident doctors attached to the university. Those doctors are paid by the hospital, and the hospital costs go up so much more.

There is also a problem with teaching. We see a little advertising, hear a few speeches, and then all of a sudden something is sprung onto us. We now hear that the teaching facilities are not sufficient. One particular person has been quite vocal about this matter for some time. I maintain that if a teacher in medicine or surgery has any calibre at all he does not need to have a different patient suffering from every different disease. It would be impossible to have all those people in a hospital at the one time. A teacher can teach so much on a particular heart condition, and he can talk about other heart conditions, that is, if he is a teacher of calibre.

A notice can be put up in the students' room each day listing persons who have been admitted, and their complaints. It is then up to the students to ferret out the patients and make their own observations. Surely the teacher does not have to lead them around all the time. I maintain that a teacher of calibre does not need a great deal of material on which to work. If he sees one case of hernia he does not need to see a dozen others. That is how I learnt, and that

is how I had to learn. Teaching requirements today are no different from what they were then.

There is movement afoot to have the complexes made bigger and bigger. I know there is an endeavour to have the Royal Perth Hospital enlarged to take 1,200 beds. The article which I read actually stated 12,000 beds, but that must be a misprint. If the hospital were large enough to contain 1,200 beds it would face a deficit of something like \$100,000,000. With 600 beds it will face a deficit of \$20,000,000, but the increase in size would involve Parkinson's law further, and the costs would increase.

I have been trying to say that although we are getting bigger complexes and more specialised treatment, the patient must not be considered as a necessary evil. He is a necessity, but not an evil. He has to be known by his name, and he has to be the No. 1 person in the hospital.

It is very important that a patient receives tender loving care. The nursing staff provides the tender loving care, and they give it willingly. However, there seems to be a breakdown beyond that level. On many occasions a patient does not know the name of his doctor. A patient can be in a hospital for two months and not know which doctor is looking after him. Often the wife has not had any communication with the doctor. Certainly this is her fault because facilities exist to enable people to talk to the doctor.

The happiest hospitals as I see them—and I have been over them fairly well—are hospitals such as King Edward, Sir Charles Gairdner, Princess Margaret, and Fremantle. The staff like working in them and all the staff know each other and mix well together. Consequently there is very little dissension in any of the ranks. This is because there is one matron who knows all her nursing staff. There is one medical superintendent who knows all his medical staff as well as what is happening in the wards. Further, there is one administrator who knows his staff. Consequently everybody in the complex knows each other and the result is an extremely happy hospital. Another result is that there is no deadwood. With everybody knowing each other it is not possible for a person to hide and not do a full day's work, as is just. There is very little chance of over-employment in such an establishment.

The ideal hospital from the point of view of the patients as well as the people who work there is a hospital which can accommodate between 300 and 400 patients. Yet, we are told that much larger complexes than this are needed for specialised treatment and other reasons. If it is not the answer, I believe it would be a workable solution at least to have hospitals of 300 to 400 beds placed at strategic points throughout the metropolitan area.

One could specialise and have all the equipment necessary to fully investigate neuro-surgical or neurological cases. Whilst it could concentrate on this aspect it could still attend to the ordinary, and perhaps humdrum by comparison, task of caring for people.

Another centre could concentrate on cardio-muscular surgery and ancillary treatment. Similarly, another centre could concentrate on renal surgery which needs the dialysis machines, etc. There could be free and total interchange between these centres. I am sure that happier complexes would result.

Under no circumstances would I permit anyone to be in charge of all these if he had any ideas of empire building. Unfortunately, we have such people in our midst. There is also the innocent empire builder, the enthusiast. I refer to a doctor who can see only his little area and builds it up and up. He does not know anything about costing and the expense becomes greater and greater. This type of person has no understanding of the cost factor himself and no-one seems to tell him that he is going over the fence and causing too much money to be spent. I believe we can learn a great deal from what has happened.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five more minutes.

Dr. DADOUR: I only intend to take one. As I was saying, we can learn a great deal from what has happened and from what has been allowed to occur in our midst. Large complexes should be avoided, if possible, for the simple reason that they seem to get out of hand. Undoubtedly once complexes go past a certain size they do get out of hand. This grieves me when I think that the Perth Medical Centre will become so large and will cost so much to run. I am not referring to the amount necessary to build the establishment but the amount necessary to run it. On that note I would like to finish.

MR. McIVER (Northam) [12.35 p.m.]: It gives me great pleasure to join with previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your appointment as Speaker of this House. It is no novelty to see you in the Speaker's chair as you have had a great deal of experience beforehand, and I am sure you will uphold the dignity of the office.

I also congratulate new members on both sides of the House who have entered Parliament. I cannot give them any advice as I have not been here long enough myself. I can only say in all sincerity that we have the finest Parliament House in Australia. Also, we have a very fine staff who are helpful on every occasion and members are free to approach them for assistance.

I congratulate the Premier and members of the Ministry. I also wish to thank former Ministers for the assistance they afforded me in the three years I have been a member of Parliament. I would also like to make reference to the member for Canning.

Mr. Bateman: Good on you!

Mr. McIVER: He created political history in this State by being the first member to retain the seat of Canning for two consecutive terms. I say to him, "Well done."

Mr. Bateman: Thank you.

Mr. McIVER: I am amazed at the views expressed by members of the Opposition. The twenty-seventh Parliament has been in session for three days. All that has come forward from the Opposition benches is that the Premier did not do this; the Premier did not do that; the Premier should have said this; and the Premier should have said that.

Mr. O'Connor: I agree with you.

Mr. McIVER: I will get around to the former Minister for Railways directly.

Mr. Rushton: What has the Government done in those three days?

Mr. McIVER: Our State is facing the greatest crisis in its history in many respects. I refer to the young people who are being slaughtered on the roads. Many young people will spend the rest of their lives in wheelchairs or lying on their backs in hospitals. There is a crisis in rural areas and all the people who reside in country towns are facing bankruptcy.

I shall exclude the honourable member who has just resumed his seat from my next comment. I must say that it was refreshing to hear him speak and I congratulate him on the manner in which he delivered his maiden address. All other speakers on the Opposition side, however, have not put forward anything which is at all constructive or something to think upon. I am also appalled at Country Party members. The Leader of the Country Party had the temerity to take the present Minister for Agriculture to task over what he is doing in rural areas. The present Minister has hardly had time to unzip his briefcase.

Opposition members may feel it is a laughing matter, but I can assure them that farmers in my electorate, as well as those in the electorates of the members for Avon and Mt. Marshall, are most appreciative of the work which has been done already by the Minister for Agriculture. They have expressed appreciation to me on many occasions because the Minister has gone into the areas and spoken with them. He has seen at first hand the major problems which people in country areas are experiencing. They have also expressed the view to me that it is the

first time they have seen a Minister for Agriculture in their areas for many a long day.

Mr. Gayfer: When was the Minister for Agriculture in Avon? If he was there, why did he not have the courtesy to tell me?

Mr. McIVER: The Minister for Agriculture has been visiting certain areas at the invitation of farmers and the respective farmers' unions.

Mr. Jamieson: He has been to the focal centre of Northam, at any rate.

Mr. McIVER: He has travelled thousands of miles interstate as well as within the State in relation to this real problem and is most certainly applying himself with great enthusiasm to finding a solution to this major problem which is confronting Western Australia at the moment.

Mr. W. G. Young: Tell us something new that has been done.

Mr. McIVER: I am amazed to have these interjections at this time, in view of the fact that the former Administration was in office for 12 years and, in many respects, created the problems in the rural areas.

Mr. W. G. Young: Ten of those 12 years were the best years we had.

Mr. McIVER: Furthermore, the Country Party, as reported in *The West Australian*, had the temerity to ask when this Government intended to do something, when the Ministers had scarcely been sworn into Cabinet.

Mr. W. G. Young: We wanted something new.

Mr. McIVER: I have no hesitation in saying that the way in which the present Minister for Agriculture is applying himself to his task he will bring forward suggestions that will be of benefit to members of the Country Party and the people they are supposedly representing.

Some members of this House have criticised the Address-in-Reply as being a waste of effort and time. I do not agree. I think it is a golden opportunity for members of Parliament to bring to the notice of the Ministers of the day the various problems associated with their electorates, and to highlight the matters which are of greatest concern to the people who have elected them.

That brings me to the first problem that is facing the people in my electorate, and, no doubt, it is facing the people in many other country electorates; that is, the rural situation. The views I am about to express are not my views; they are the views of the farmers in the district. I have attended several meetings of the Farmers' Union and its zone councils, and I have listened intently to what they

have had to say. I have given them an assurance that I will place their views before this House.

Since the introduction of wheat quotas, the Shire of Cunderdin has lost 140,000 bushels of wheat, which is equal to \$140,000. The shire cannot afford to lose any more. Cunderdin and its surrounding area is one of the major wheat-producing areas of this State. In fact, the silos at Cunderdin are among the largest in the State. As regards the wheat quotas in the 1972-73 allocation, the farmers in that area are of the opinion that the top cut should be abolished.

Mr. Nalder: I presume the figure you mentioned relates to the maximum production in the best year.

Mr. McIVER: That is so.

Mr. W. G. Young: Or is the loss of 140,000 bushels brought about by top cuts?

Mr. McIVER: That is not for me to say. I repeat that I am not a farmer, and the views I express are the views of the farmers in the area.

Mr. Gayfer: How did they lose 140,000 bushels? It must have been through the introduction of the top cut.

Mr. McIVER: Or the introduction of the wheat quota system.

Mr. W. G. Young: With the introduction of the wheat quota system everybody lost wheat.

Mr. McIVER: The farmers in the area asked me to convey their concern to the Minister because they cannot afford to lose any more.

Mr. Gayfer: In other words, you do not approve of the top cut. That is fair enough.

Mr. McIVER: It is their wish that the top cut should be abolished.

Mr. Gayfer: Tell that down south!

Mr. McIVER: The Minister for Agriculture has received from Mr. David Hill, of York, a proposal for the immediate implementation of a marketing authority. *Sitting suspended from 12.45 to 2.15 p.m.*

Mr. McIVER: Prior to the luncheon suspension I was commenting on the rural problems being experienced in the Cunderdin Shire, generally. I went on to say that at the moment proposals forwarded by Mr. David Hill, of York, in regard to a meat marketing authority are before the Minister for Agriculture. I have attended various meetings in the area and I know the people are favourably inclined towards this concept, so I would like the Minister to give favourable consideration to the proposals which are before him in relation to this matter.

I am genuinely concerned about the chaff growers in the Northam electorate. They find themselves in a situation in which if they cannot find alternative farming methods they will soon be bankrupt. During the last month I have accompanied many growers on visits to their respective bank managers in an endeavour to obtain finance for them to carry on their establishments. However, we in this House all know that banking is banking and if a person has security he may be lucky enough to obtain a loan; but a person with no security, in the main, usually comes away empty-handed. Of course, that has been the case with regard to the chaff producers of my electorate.

We find the position is being aggravated by wheatgrowers in the area who are diversifying their activities and entering into this industry. Those farmers are starting to grow chaff, but the chaff producer, because he cannot meet the formula laid down by the Wheat Quota Committee, cannot obtain a wheat quota to enable him to develop his establishment into a viable unit. Everybody is jumping on the bandwagon and growing chaff and the industry is being seriously threatened.

Last year the bulk of the chaff supplied by those wheatgrowers who have diversified into the industry was absolute rubbish. In many cases it was full of noxious weeds such as double gees and the dreaded caltrop which, as members are aware, does not comply with the Noxious Weeds Act. All consignments of this nature should have a certificate accompanying them.

Mr. W. G. Young: What is the number of permanent growers of hay for chaff?

Mr. McIVER: I would say between 14 and 20, and I refer specifically to the Northam electorate. I was thinking seriously of seeking the permission of Caucus to introduce legislation in regard to this problem.

Mr. McPharlin: Were the growers who had weeds in their chaff reported to the Department of Agriculture?

Mr. McIVER: In all honesty, I cannot say whether or not the matter was reported; however, I can vouch for the authenticity of the statement I made in that connection. I repeat, the chaff growers are not very happy about the position at the present time.

Mr. O'Connor: Has the ramp been erected at Northam yet?

Mr. McIVER: Well, the ramp has been approved and now that we have an excellent Government in office I am sure it will be constructed before long.

Mr. T. D. Evans: It should have been constructed last year.

Mr. McIVER: I think members are aware of the seriousness of the situation and, of course, it has a great effect on the economy

of the area. Fortunately, at the moment Northam is an economically stable town owing to the influx of people from surrounding areas such as Victoria Plains, Beverley, York, Meckering, and Cunderdin, who come to Northam to shop because of the available facilities. Up till now that fact has largely offset the rural downturn. Of course, the situation will deteriorate and already there are signs in the wind that the business fraternity is going to strike trouble.

Mr. Gayfer: Why will the position deteriorate?

Mr. McIVER: I thought I made that quite plain.

Mr. Gayfer: I thought you made it plain that the present Government will fix everything up. So why will the position deteriorate?

Mr. McIVER: I say again to the member for Avon that he should have a little patience and wait a while because I am sure it will do just that.

Mr. Gayfer: That is right, and therefore it will not deteriorate at all.

Mr. McIVER: The Minister is fully aware of the situation because on a recent visit to Northam he was kind enough to meet a deputation from the chaff growers in this area. I know that when controls are introduced they are immediately opposed, but these people have to be protected, and my remarks apply not only to the chaff growers but also to the barley growers who have diversified their activities by entering this field and who have produced good quality barley.

Sir David Brand: In regard to barley, this does not happen only in Northam.

Mr. McIVER: I am speaking specifically of Northam because in the Grass Valley-Southern Brook district has been established one of the largest chaff-producing areas in Western Australia, and I do not have to emphasise the good quality chaff that has been exported overseas from there. Therefore, members can understand that those chaff growers are concerned about there being no control, because everyone is anxious to jump on the bandwagon for the purpose of growing chaff as well as meeting the requirements of their wheat quotas.

This brings me to another point relating to the rural industry. I know that members of the Country Party have, for a long time, been pressing for wool to be transported by road instead of by rail. At a recent meeting of farmers which I attended I asked them straight out whether they wanted their wool carted by rail or by road and the reply I received in every instance was that they were quite definite that they wanted their wool carted by rail. If it is carted by rail there is the added facility, of course, of the standard gauge railway which serves my electorate.

The broader gauge is of greater convenience to the farmers because the larger wagons allow them to manipulate their load more easily.

Mr. McPharlin: That would apply only to the Northam area.

Mr. McIVER: The interjection just made by the member for Mt. Marshall is quite interesting and at this stage I have no hesitation in saying that farmers have become increasingly selfish and are out to make a quick dollar for themselves, but unless they pull together as a team their selfishness could be their undoing.

Mr. Nalder: Did you tell them that at Cunderdin?

Mr. McIVER: I certainly did. The Leader of the Country Party can read an extract of my speech in *The Northam Advertiser* if he cares to check that paper on the file. I emphasised at the meeting that unless the farmers worked as a team they would perish. If the Country Party persists with its attitude that wool must be carted by road instead of rail to assist the farmers this will only hasten their destruction.

In replying to the interjection made by the member for Mt. Marshall I have here an excerpt from a motion that was carried unanimously by the Farmers' Union when this question was raised by the son of a former Minister of the Crown, and I do not want to embarrass the ex-Minister by mentioning his name. At the meeting he openly stated that he was using road transport illegally to cart wool for the sake of saving \$2 or \$3. If farmers are to adopt that attitude, I would like to impress upon them that they could find themselves in a very awkward situation.

Mr. W. G. Young: The point was that it was a saving of \$2 or \$3 a bale.

Mr. McIVER: If that is so, I do not see how a farmer can do it on the present freight rates.

Mr. Gayfer: What does the member for Albany think of that?

Mr. McIVER: We will speak of the member for Albany in a moment. The motion was to the effect that growers should be allowed to carry wool by road and it was unanimously defeated. Yet here we have in this House representatives of the Country Party pushing for the use of road transport to cart wool.

Mr. McPharlin: Where was that meeting held?

Mr. McIVER: It was a meeting of the Farmers' Union held recently.

Mr. McPharlin: Where?

Mr. McIVER: In Perth. It was a meeting of the wool section of the Farmers' Union.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: Is this the new attitude to be adopted by the Country Party?

Mr. McIVER: In 1960, with a view to assisting the farmers, wool freights were stabilised.

Mr. Gayfer: In 1952 the workers received a prosperity loading.

Mr. McIVER: I am not interested in 1952; I am only interested in what is happening now. The farmers want to return to the use of road transport for the cartage of wool. From May last year to July of this year the railways received \$2,000,000 in revenue. I emphasise again to members of the Country Party that if they cut into this with the use of road transport the rail freights will certainly be increased on the transport of coarse grain and superphosphate. That must occur if Country Party members persist in requesting that wool be carted by road.

In addition, we must keep in mind that if we allow private road transport hauliers to handle our wool we will not have a subsidised freight rate. The farmers will pay through the nose for the cartage of their wool. This will have a terrific impact on the rural economy. These are the questions the members of the Country Party should keep in mind when they continue to ask the Minister to have wool carted by road.

Mr. Gayfer: Are you going to replace those freight subsidies when you abolish the road maintenance tax?

Mr. McIVER: What a question to ask me? How can I answer that? If the Country Party wants to look at this matter in a jocular vein then I suggest its attitude is one of the causes of the present plight of the rural community. It does not seem to have looked at this situation in its true perspective.

Mr. Gayfer: I am not treating it as a joke; I am talking from my heart.

Mr. McIVER: There are other subjects on which I wish to speak.

Mr. W. G. Young: What objection do you have to farmers being allowed to cart their wool on their own trucks?

Mr. McIVER: There is no difference between the farmers carting on their own trucks and using private transport. The effect is the same on the railways.

Mr. W. G. Young: You think it is all right for the farmers to have their trucks standing in the sheds for 11 months of the year, with nothing to do.

Mr. May: You now have empty containers standing on your farms.

The SPEAKER: Order! This has developed into a dialogue. I suggest that the honourable member be allowed to continue.

Mr. McIVER: Why is it that the majority of the farmers in Western Australia still want to cart their wool by rail, in preference to using road transport?

Sir David Brand: Is this argument based on the present freight charges by the railways or the inevitable increase in freight rates?

Mr. McIVER: If we permit wool to be carted by road transport then in the ultimate there will be an increase in the rate, because of the reduced revenue from freight on wool. We should take into account the revenue of \$2,000,000 annually from wool, although in the last 12 months the production of wool has decreased.

I make these comments on behalf of the rural section of my electorate in the hope that they will be given every consideration and that the views I have expressed will be examined closely. I am sure the present Minister for Agriculture will give them every consideration, and I have assured the farmers in my area that he will do that.

I now want to deal with the Knox report and with the statements made by the member for Albany this morning. I fully appreciate the concern of the member for Albany and of the people of the district he represents, for the future development of this region. I say this in all sincerity: I do not believe the Knox report will work. I do not think the proposals are feasible. They will have far too great a repercussion, firstly, along the lines I have outlined, and then in the automatic closure of the Katanning-Boypup Brook railway line. Should that eventuate the State would suffer a further loss of revenue amounting to \$260,000. We all know that the State needs every dollar it can lay its hands on. I leave my remarks at that. What happens is not for me to decide.

Prior to the present Government coming into office the Nielson report was released. This document outlines the future transport needs of the State, and it states that if the proposals are implemented the present transport problems will be solved.

In this address I have already made reference to the shocking slaughter of the young people on our roads. I have listened with interest to addresses, and I have read reports of various bodies which are specialists in their respective fields concerning the heavy road toll in this State. I am of the firm opinion that the road toll will not be reduced until a more modern form of public transport is introduced.

In essence the Nielson report proposes the discontinuance of the existing suburban rail services, and the substitution of buses. I invite members of this House to stand in front of Parliament House any working day between 4.30 and 6.00 p.m. If they do they will see the congestion of the traffic flow. If one were to go down to the central

railway station one would see the great volume of people boarding the suburban trains every day.

I appreciate that Dr. Nielson is a man of great integrity, but I cannot understand his committee coming forward with the proposal to discontinue the suburban rail services.

Let us look at what has happened in other major cities of Australia, especially in Sydney and Melbourne where traffic congestion is extreme. The eastern suburbs of Sydney have proved to be a problem for a long time. The Government of New South Wales has embarked on a plan to extend the underground railway system to relieve the traffic congestion, so that the eastern suburbs can be served by modern rail transport. I suggest that is also the answer in this State.

I draw attention to the report of the Director-General of Transport and the reference to the number of people who were transported by the suburban rail services. No figures were given of the numbers during the peak periods; the figures covered all periods, including those when traffic was slack. I ask: When major events, such as the grand final of the national game and the Royal Show, take place, how are most of the people transported—by bus or by rail? The answer is obvious.

I go back to the position in the Eastern States. In Sydney millions of dollars are being spent to extend the suburban rail services, and the same concept is being introduced in Melbourne, which is implementing a plan to spend \$80,000,000 on its first underground railway. There are no ifs or buts; and the Governments of those two States do not say that they cannot resume this or that land. Everything has gone by the board, and they are free to act. In Sydney even the Kings Cross district has suffered, and the Pink Pussycat—the night life of Sydney—was one of the first to go.

When people visit Sydney there are two places, besides the harbour bridge, which they wish to see—the Pink Pussycat and the St. George's League Club. What a difference has been made to the area by demolishing the old tenement houses to make way for modern rail transport, which in the long term will be of great benefit to that State. Such a type of rail service would, no doubt, be of great benefit to Melbourne also, and would relieve the traffic congestion in that city.

I would like to emphasise the value of the suburban rail services in Western Australia. There is at Midland Junction a rapid transit service which is operating very well, with feeder buses converging into Midland where the passengers board fast diesel trains to Perth.

I am sure that we do not have to look outside of Australia for brains to design an underground railway system for the

City of Perth. I am fully aware of the siting of the central railway station and of the problems involved in getting people from the central railway station to offices in St. George's Terrace and further afield. I know it presents a problem but I am sure that it is one that can be resolved with good planning and foresight.

The death toll on the roads in the metropolitan area must be given top priority in this Chamber. Somehow we must reduce it.

Members may not agree with the views that I am expressing, but I have stated them in all sincerity. The situation I have described is occurring in all major cities in Australia and I think it should occur in Western Australia. Further, if we look at the world scene we see that every major country is developing railway systems. Let us look at Germany. Plans are before the West German Government at the present time for a railway system which will be operational in 1980. For example, on the Hamburg-Munich express if a person wishes to divert to Stuttgart at a specific point on the route he will walk through a corridor train parallel with the main express, sit down, and be on his way to Stuttgart at 110 miles per hour. There will be no stopping and no changing of trains. This proposal has been approved and, as I say, will be implemented in 1980.

What are our thoughts? I am sure that the amount of money spent on preparing such a comprehensive report as the Nielson report on transport could be put to better use in the purchase of modern diesel electric railcars to move people in this State and to keep them, and their motorcars, out of the city. The most important objective ever present in our minds should be that of reducing the road toll.

I trust the Government will give very strong consideration to these views when it looks at the Nielson report and considers what must be done in relation to the congestion of traffic in Western Australia.

I shall conclude by referring to what I said at the commencement of my address. Western Australia faces many problems indeed connected with housing, education, and health, as well as a crisis in the rural areas.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five more minutes.

Mr. McIVER: I sincerely hope that members of the House will apply themselves with far greater tenacity and determination and give the Ministers of the day the opportunity to settle down. I know we can never divorce ourselves from the political arena, but I trust we are not here to have a slanging match but that, instead, we will work together on these extremely important problems and, by so

doing, make Western Australia not only a better place for us to live in but also for those who follow us.

MR. LEWIS (Moore) [2.45 p.m.]: I should like to commence by supporting previous speakers who have offered congratulations to you, Sir, on your elevation to the exalted rank of presiding officer over this august Chamber. I have no doubt you will make an honest effort to acquit yourself in conformity with the traditions established by your predecessors in office.

I would like also to congratulate new members on both sides of the House on obtaining the confidence of members of their electorates. I trust their stay in this Parliament will be a credit to them and to their electorates, and of some significant benefit to the State.

I now wish to refer to some remarks made the other evening by the member for Mirrabooka. Altogether he made a pretty fair speech, in my opinion, but he had one or two words to say on education. I am not surprised at this because I understand the member for Mirrabooka is an ex-teacher.

Mr. Jamieson: It is not usual to refer to topics in members' maiden speeches.

Mr. A. R. Tonkin: I have no objection.

Mr. Court: Since when? It is not possible to interject, but after that it is open season.

Mr. LEWIS: I am not surprised the member for Mirrabooka spoke on education, because he is new out of the school-room. As he is a new member sitting on the Government side, I daresay he is basking in the new enthusiasm of a party which has emerged from a record long dark night of sitting in Opposition. That is fair enough.

Among his remarks he made the very forthright statement that there is a crisis in education. I know that the Premier, who is also the Minister for Education, has had very wide experience in Opposition and as a Minister of the Government. Indeed, he was Deputy Leader under the Hawke Labor Government and was Minister for Education for two separate periods. Because of this experience, coupled with the fact that he is the present Minister for Education and would have had the opportunity over the last few months to confer with the head of the department, the Director-General of Education, I was curious to know whether he shared the views of the member for Mirrabooka to the effect that there is a crisis in education. I therefore asked a civil question and I thought I asked it in a courteous manner. Perhaps I can refer to the question which was—

Does the Minister agree there is a crisis in education in this State?

I left it at that and I am sorry that the Premier, who is also the Minister for Education, was rather testy in the reply. He could not resist flavouring his reply with a big dose of party politics. He said—

There has been a crisis in education in this State for a number of years, as was shown by the survey of needs, which the previous Minister for Education—

By this he meant myself. To continue—
—refused to make public.

The information now having been conveyed to the public, the present Government is doing its best to remove the difficulties and allow the State to emerge from the crisis.

I am sorry the Premier was a little over-sensitive.

Mr. Davies: The member for Moore was over-sensitive to the reply.

Mr. LEWIS: The Premier, incidentally, did not specify in his reply the areas of education in which there is a crisis. I now refer back to the member for Mirrabooka. I shall not read out what he said, but it was to the effect that he is proud to belong to a Government that has made two important decisions on education and that one of them was the release to the people of the Australian education survey. He mentioned this as one achievement and said that the other was that teachers were allowed to criticise the Government. These two matters were held up as achievements.

Mr. Graham: More particularly to criticise the ex-Government.

Mr. LEWIS: The honourable member specifically said that these were two achievements since Labor had been in office. I remind him, the Premier, and anyone else who has any doubt on the matter, that the nation-wide survey of needs—the summary—was released to the public long before the present Government came into office. Not only was it released to the public but it received publicity throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia. I am referring to the summary of needs which stated the amount of money that would be required if the objectives aimed at by the various departments of education and the Australian Education Council were to be achieved by 1974; that is, through a five-year period from 1970 to 1974 inclusive.

It also sets out in summary to show the amount of money that it is expected will be available by the efforts of the States, coupled with the degree of assistance that is now being given by the Commonwealth, plus a progressive increase of 10 per cent. per year. As a result of this latter sum of money, it was found that there will be a deficiency in five years' time of some \$1,443,700,000. Now that is not a crisis. Far from being a crisis, this has existed for many years and this is the objective, the lifting of the sights to something that

the whole of the Australian Education Council felt was desirable to be achieved in five years' time from now. It is an improvement, a marked improvement in many areas of education, and this was the amount of money.

The States' availability of funds that they are already spending, plus their normal 10 per cent.—when I say normal 10 per cent., this was the percentage that was more or less approved by the various State Treasurers—could be a reasonable expectation.

There was no guarantee this could be maintained, but past experience had shown that this was the normal increase available to the departments. Indeed, Western Australia had a 14.4 per cent. increase last year. But with a 10 per cent. increase and a similar 10 per cent. increase in the Commonwealth contributions, the States—and I am talking now about an Australia-wide case—together would have been able to find just on 82 per cent. of the cost of the goals that we are aiming for in five years' time; and it was the other 18 per cent., the short fall that is represented by this \$1,443,700,000.

This survey was, by agreement with the Australian Education Council, an Australia-wide survey and the Commonwealth threw in also the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, so we would have an overall picture of the educational needs in Australia if we were going to improve them to the standard of the goals which were considered desirable. That was the case. It was not surplus at all.

It was released—there was some little delay; it was not released immediately, because it had not been filed and printed but it was released as soon as practicable after our meeting when it was agreed to release it. So the member for Mirrabooka was quite wrong when he said the present Government released this Australia-wide survey. It did not release it at all, it was released by the previous Government.

The State case is a different kettle of fish altogether. The Australia-wide survey was made up from the cases of the respective States and the information was fed through to the Federal Secretariat of the Australian Education Council. The information was collated and then it was built into a case which was presented to the Commonwealth; an Australia-wide case.

This was by design, because we wanted to go to the Commonwealth as a united body asking for this extra assistance to be granted for education throughout Australia, and it was agreed with the Australian Education Council that, so far as the individual States' cases were concerned—this time with Western Australia—we would not release them because we did not want the Commonwealth to deal with each State separately. We wanted the Commonwealth to consider the cases as a

whole; as a united case put forward, and it was agreed with the Australian Education Council that we would not release them. We wanted the Commonwealth to consider the whole.

It was only after there was a change of Government in one State that the Minister said there that he was going to release the case and after he made the announcement that he was going to release his State's case, I approached my colleagues, the other Ministers, and said, "If a State's case is going to be released in one State, is there any point now in not releasing the cases of each individual State?" The majority of my ministerial colleagues in the other States, the Ministers for Education, said despite the fact it was going to be released in one State, they thought the individual cases should not be released until the next Education Council meeting; but we did not have another Education Council meeting to decide amongst ourselves when they should be released. That is the individual State's case, which is quite a different matter from the position in the Commonwealth.

The State's case would be a very dry document to most people. It consists of a great deal of detail. A very good case was made by the officers of the Education Department who conducted it; they went into a lot of detail; they considered many areas of education, but I do not think it would have been of a great deal of public interest. Nevertheless it has been released.

What satisfaction was obtained by its release I do not know, but I can tell the members of this Chamber as far as the State's case is concerned it deals with the future, as the Commonwealth case did. It deals with reducing class sizes, with training more teachers, with more in-service for teachers, with improving the quality of teachers, with more assistance in classrooms, with more text books, increases in the boarding allowances, and all these sorts of things to upgrade education.

This is not to say there was a crisis in the past. Let us look at a man who was getting 8 lb. of wool a year from his sheep ten years ago. He has now got it up to 10 lb. but he hopes to get 12 lb. in 10 years' time. No-one could say he has been in a crisis for the last 10 years. This is the position with education.

It would be interesting to know, as far as the State's case is concerned, the summary of costs. This is right in the tail end of the book. I am not going to read all of the case, but the cost as far as Western Australia is concerned, shows that in the parameter items, that is the teaching and all the usual things that go into the classroom, in 1970 \$69,982,000 was expected to be the cost and this case was made out. Members will appreciate that it included the year 1969. For the current financial year, there is the figure of

\$69,982,000, and the amount for the non-parameter items, \$12,094,000, making a total of \$82,076,000; and it is interesting to note that the Budget passed by the coalition Government, the last Government, provided for no less than that sum of money to be provided for education.

I repeat that this State has been increasing its allocation for education by more than the 10 per cent. over the last few years. Now, I appreciate that no Treasurer could guarantee that this can be continued for 10 years, because of the unknown factors: droughts, and other catastrophies that have occurred in the State.

However, over many years this State has more than made up the 10 per cent. increase. It has kept on improving education despite the references about classrooms, and the shortage of teachers in some areas of education. Despite those things we have been able continually and progressively to reduce class sizes. No-one can deny that, because it is a matter of figures that can be proved. Pupil-teacher ratios—which are closely allied to class sizes—have been continually falling and will continue to fall. We will continue to make progress, and I think we will continue without Commonwealth assistance as far as recurrent expenditure is concerned, provided the Government can continue to make a progressive increase of at least 10 per cent. over the previous year.

I will admit it is a different story where loan funds are concerned. It is more difficult to obtain loan funds, and we cannot improve one area of education markedly without having a flow-on effect. In other words, class sizes cannot be reduced without increasing the number of teachers. The number of teachers cannot be increased without the provision of more training colleges and more instructors. We cannot encourage people to keep their youngsters at school to continue into upper secondary education unless we offer them some incentive. If that is not done we will not get sufficient trainee teachers into the colleges to help expand the supply of teachers. Therefore, the flow-on effect applies all the way through.

In his election policy speech, the then Premier said he would increase boarding-away-from-home allowances by \$50 as from the beginning of this year—a commitment had already been made in the last Budget when it was proposed to increase the allowance by \$30 in the north-west area and by \$20 elsewhere. The present Leader of the Opposition added \$50 to that amount, so that the allowance would be \$70 as from the beginning of this year.

The present Premier made a promise that he would increase that amount and I am not sure of the figure he gave, but

the total amount was \$300,000. In reply to a question I asked the other day the Premier estimated the cost to be \$145,000, which lent colour to the fact that he must have anticipated an increase in the boarding allowance of \$100.

That would have been most welcome, and no doubt many people were sucked in by that promise. If "sucked in" is not the correct expression to use, perhaps I could be more genteel and say that the people were grossly deceived. Many people thought it was a good thing because, with the present economic crisis in the country-side, they cannot afford to board their children away from home. However, what was done about it? Unfortunately, in the end they received nothing. They received the \$20 we gave them, but they received no increase on that.

I would make a plea to the Premier to have another look at the boarding-away-from-home allowance because in many parts of this State—I would even say, in most parts—it is not possible for parents to give their youngsters access to the appropriate education. The youngsters cannot go to a high school—a senior high school preferably—and return home at night. However, that is a facility that practically all metropolitan students have.

Admittedly in some parts of the country such as Narrogin, Northam, and Katanning, students do have this facility; but many places are far removed from such facilities and the students have no option. Obviously, it would be ideal if we could pay all the costs of sending a student to a senior high school, but that is not a financially economic proposition. But as we cannot do that, there is a moral responsibility on the part of the Government to subsidise the cost of sending students to high school.

I maintain, and I said this as Minister, that if the Government cannot provide education within bus distance of the students' homes, then it has a moral obligation to take the students, at Government expense, to where they can be educated. True, the parents, wherever they may be, should be responsible for the cost of keeping their children at home.

All metropolitan parents must keep their children and it is only fair that wherever children may live their parents should have to meet the cost of keeping them. However, I maintain that anything over and above that expense is the responsibility of the Government.

I had discussions with the Director-General of Education and I put my views to him. He had to admit that the principle was sound. I asked him to get his staff to work to produce a figure. They came to me and told me that it was not

possible to work out a precise figure showing the difference between the cost of keeping a child at home and the cost of keeping him elsewhere, because the costs vary in different parts of the State and even between different parents in the same area.

I asked them to get as near to the figure as they could so that we could increase the boarding allowance to a figure that would bridge the gap and they came up with an increase of \$50. They told me the increase would more than bridge the gap in one or two places, but that it would not completely bridge the gap in most cases. They said they would have a further look at it with a view to completely bridging the gap later. I then decided to increase the allowance by \$50, and members know the rest.

Unfortunately, the people fell for a bigger offer of \$100; but, I repeat, they fell on their faces. I would make a plea to the Minister for Education in that regard.

The Minister has talked about textbooks being made available free of charge to school children. That is a very good idea, but the amount involved is so large that once again he has to cut back on his promise. The Western Australian Survey of needs revealed that the cost of textbooks for primary-school children was as follows:—

Grade	Cost per year
	\$
1	2.77
2	3.84
3	4.13
4	4.73
5	4.98
6	4.89
7	5.30

Those figures relate to 1969, and there has probably been an increase since then. The cost of providing free textbooks in 1970—and, of course, this is not a new idea—was estimated to be \$540,210.

I turn now to the cost of secondary school textbooks. The figures are as follows:—

	Cost per Year
	\$
First year	20
Second year	21
Third year	20
Fourth year	53
Fifth year	29

The greatest increase occurs in the fourth year and, as members will appreciate, the cost of books in the fifth year is lower because many of the textbooks used in fourth year are also used in the fifth year. The total cost of providing free textbooks to secondary-school children in 1970 was estimated to be \$1,214,165.

There are to be extensions over the years which will continue to 1974. They run into a substantial sum of money. We had a look at this matter, but we were

advised that we would not be able to find the necessary funds, so we did not make any promises about textbooks.

The Premier, however, did make certain promises about textbooks. I will admit he certainly referred to pupils and as a previous Minister for Education, I appreciate that he was talking about primary school children. I think it is generally known that children are pupils when they attend primary school and become students as soon as they reach the secondary school.

I make the plea to the Minister for Education that if his Government cannot find money for textbooks all round—and I appreciate the reasons if it cannot, because we had a look at this—I would then urge that he give priority to the provision of some substantial help for the fourth-year students. It need not necessarily be free textbooks but some help should be given to this class of students, because they are the ones we want to encourage.

During the last couple of days I have been told, in reply to questions I have asked, that the retention rate in the fourth year over the third year is 43 per cent. This is increasing, despite statements that have been made that education is facing a crisis.

It is necessary to increase this figure further if we want to encourage children to continue to upper secondary education. When there are other youngsters in the family the cost of textbooks is particularly great for parents to contemplate, and if the Government proposes to give any priority at all to the matter I would suggest that it look at the question of the fourth-year student, because this is where the pinch is felt. If something can be done in this direction it will help a great deal.

I want now to make brief reference to free textbooks. It is possible that I am a bit old-fashioned but I feel that the good things in life, those that we value, are the things which are obtained by some sacrifice. If free textbooks are supplied I do not think they would be valued quite as much as if some small contribution were to be made by the parents. I would like to see some form of subsidy implemented, but I do think that we should make parents conscious of the fact that they must dip their hands in their pockets. If we did this we would encourage both the parents and the students to take greater care of textbooks than they do today.

I pass that suggestion on in all good faith, because I am anxious to co-operate in the interests of education generally with a view to improving the situation over the years.

Mr. Brady: Does the honourable member think that the Commonwealth Department of Education and Science could do more to help?

Mr. LEWIS: I certainly do, and I was a party to the case that was put to the Commonwealth. The education system is a very comprehensive one. There are many avenues and aspects connected with it. As I have said, I was a party to supporting other Ministers in this matter.

I hope that before long the Commonwealth Government will announce a more significant increase in the assistance it is giving to the States. This case only deals with five years; it will not stop at the end of five years, however, because we must go on to provide more and better schools.

There is one aspect of education which is not dealt with at any great length in the survey. I refer to the boarding-away allowances. In the case of Western Australia there is a rather disappointing reference. In every other aspect an analysis has been made of the effect that this, that, or the other is likely to have when making an assessment of what the cost is likely to be over the next five years. Very little has been said, however, about the boarding-away allowances and I am a little disappointed about that.

The cost of boarding-away allowances is, however, mentioned and we find that in 1966-67 the cost was \$389,000; that in 1968-69 it was \$438,000, and in 1970 it was estimated to be \$711,000, while in 1971 the estimate is \$799,000. That is all that is said about the matter. I do think, however, that this is a most important aspect.

If we are to improve our supply of trainee teachers we must encourage these youngsters to go into the upper secondary school from which the trainee teachers are drawn. In the past we have tried to improve our supply of trainee teachers, but we have only been getting part of the 43 per cent. mentioned, because some of these people go into commerce and industry while others enter the professions. I would assert that 43 per cent. is not enough; we should be getting more trainee teachers than that.

We have had to cast the net wide and recruit married women; we have had to go overseas and bring teachers from there. This, of course, has helped to some extent. The net, however, has been cast a little too often, because every time it has been cast fewer teachers seem to have responded. It must be appreciated that we are not the only State that is doing this. As I have said, it is necessary for us to encourage more students to enter the upper secondary education standard and qualify for the teachers' college.

In this connection we could do more to encourage the parents by boarding-away allowances and the provision of textbooks. It is not much use, however, to increase the boarding-away allowance and to encourage the children to undertake upper secondary education if we cannot find the hostel accommodation in which to put them.

As members know, the hostels are fairly full at the moment, particularly the country hostels. This is partly due to the economic recession as a result of which people have found it necessary to remove their children from high schools in Perth and take them back to the country, which has meant that the hostel accommodation has become strained.

I would like to make a plea to the Premier, and I know that what I am about to suggest will not be easy to implement because it will involve capital funds of which the State is always short. However, if the Government can find ways and means to assist the hostel authority—which is a body limited in its borrowing powers, which powers if exceeded will mean the State's being penalised—by the provision of demountable classrooms, it would ease the situation because many parents are finding difficulty in obtaining accommodation for school children where they have access to upper secondary education.

Now that the Premier has returned to the Chamber I would repeat the plea that if he cannot find money to honour his promise concerning the provision of textbooks, I would suggest that he re-examine the benefits that would accrue in this connection to parents of fourth-year students in the country and in the secondary schools generally.

This is where the pinch is felt and this is where the cost is the greatest. If this can be done it will go a long way towards relieving the teacher shortage which, undoubtedly, will become worse unless these extra measures are taken. If this is not done it will not be much use building classrooms, particularly if we do not have the student teachers to go into them.

The SPEAKER: I would ask that people in the public gallery do not display banners and placards in the Chamber. Thank you.

Mr. LEWIS: I did intend to read from the surveys at some length, but I am sure the little green book is available to all members. It has been published, but I am not sure whether a copy was given to each member when it was released last year. If they have not received copies I am certain copies could be made available through the Education Department.

I cannot now speak for the Education Department, as I could do last year, but I have no doubt that the Minister would consider very favourably making a copy of the report available to members. The report is illuminating. It is not the Western Australian point of view, but the Australia-wide point of view. The information has been compiled in conjunction with the other States.

I will conclude with those few remarks. There will be further opportunities for me to speak on the other matters which concern my electorate.

Further consideration of the Address-in-Reply was postponed until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr. J. T. Tonkin (Premier).

(Continued on page 184.)

QUESTIONS (60): ON NOTICE

1. YACHT CLUB AND BOAT HARBOUR

Rockingham Site

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Has a decision been made for the siting of the future cruising yacht club and small boat harbour at Rockingham?
- (2) If "Yes" what are the details?
- (3) If "No" when is the decision expected?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Discussions on the suitability of the proposed site are continuing between my department, the Lands Department and the Local Authority. It is not possible at this stage to estimate when a decision will be reached.

2. KELMSCOTT P. & C. ASSOCIATION

School Ground Development

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

When will matching money be available to the Kelmscott Parents and Citizens' Association to enable the association to carry out its part in school ground development associated with Orlando Street bridge safety conditions required by the Minister for Works?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

This work will be considered when details of the Education Department's budget are known.

3. WESTFIELD PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ground Works

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

When is it expected finance will be available for urgent priority basic ground works at Westfield Park primary school, Kelmscott?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

This work will be given high priority when funds become available.

4. WATER SUPPLIES

Railway Dams

Mr. BROWN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

As under the previous administration it was a broad policy to utilise released railway dams to supplement water supplies of the area, will he advise the number of dams—

- (a) taken over by his department now and those proposed in the future;
- (b) utilised to supplement water supplies of those areas; and
- (c) utilised by local authorities for public utility?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (a) 69 and 19.
- (b) 62.
- (c) 3.

5. EGGS

Quotas

Mr. MOILER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What was the method or system used by the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board when deciding the allocation of quotas for poultry farmers under the proposed controlled egg production scheme?
- (2) Would he table a list showing the names and addresses of all poultry farmers allocated an egg quota and their respective quotas?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Egg producers are being granted a license for the maximum number of hens revealed in Commonwealth Egg Marketing Authority of Australia returns received for the fortnights ended the 3rd April, 1969 and the 2nd April, 1970, and all returns between these dates.
- (2) The Western Australian Egg Marketing Board cannot supply a list of egg producers and their hen quotas.

6. *This question was postponed.*

7. STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY

Kalgoorlie-Perth: New Cars, and Timetable

Mr. McIVER, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) When will the new rail cars which are to operate on standard gauge between Kalgoorlie and Perth commence?
- (2) Has a timetable been established for the running of this train?
- (3) If so, would he table a copy?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (1) A firm date for introduction of the rail-car service has not yet been determined but present planning envisages late October this year.

- (2) and (3) A number of alternative timetables are currently under examination and early decision is expected.

It is likely that the inaugural service will be on a six months trial basis.

8. STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Retrenchment of Employees at Northam

Mr. McIVER, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is it intended to retrench State Electricity Commission employees at Northam?
- (2) If so, will he give reasons why the retrenchments are necessary, and on what date they will take effect?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) See answer to (1).

9. GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY

Clackline-Northam: Realignment

Mr. McIVER, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Will the Great Eastern Highway be realigned from Clackline to Northam in the 1971-72 financial year?
- (2) If so, when will construction of this new road commence?
- (3) Will the realignment of the Great Eastern Highway pass through the centre of Northam, or will it bypass the town?
- (4) Will the construction work be carried out by the Main Roads Department, or will it be done by private contractor?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Funds have been provided in the 1971/72 programme of works for re-alignment of a 2.5 mile section of Great Eastern Highway eastwards of Clackline.
- (2) Construction is planned to commence later this year.
- (3) Present planning concerning this long range proposal is for the re-alignment to be through the centre of the town and on the river side of the existing route.
- (4) No decision has been made.

10. GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY

Bullsbrook: Realignment

Mr. MOILER, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it proposed to realign the Great Northern Highway through Bullsbrook?
- (2) If so, would he indicate the proposed new alignment?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Investigations into re-alignment of the road have been carried out at the request of a Commonwealth Government Department, and there has been discussion on the proposal from time to time, but no firm request for construction of the deviation has been made.
- (2) A tentative alignment has been suggested, but no firm plan has been accepted.

11. HOUSING LOANS

Interest Rates

Mr. O'NEIL, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the State or this Parliament any authority to control interest rates charged for home purchase finance by either the Commonwealth Bank or private banks?
- (2) Has the Government any authority to control the interest rates charged for home purchase finance by the Rural and Industries Bank?
- (3) If (2) is "Yes" will the Government direct the Rural and Industries Bank to vary its charges so as to effect a saving of \$5 per week in respect of all those people who are financing their homes through the Rural and Industries Bank?
- (4) If (2) is "No" does he intend to legislate in order to give the Government the appropriate authority?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No. The Rural and Industries Bank's housing loan rates have always compared more than favourably with those of other lenders and the commissioners can be relied upon to maintain this state of affairs.

12. HOUSING LOANS

Rural and Industries Bank: Number

Mr. O'NEIL, to the Premier:

How many individual home purchasers are currently being assisted with finance made available by the Rural and Industries Bank?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

In the interest of the State's own bank, it is not proposed to make this specific information available to the bank's competitors.

13. HOUSING LOANS

Rural and Industries Bank: Interest Rate

Mr. O'NEIL, to the Premier:

- (1) In his policy speech did he say: "When building societies raise interest rates on loans and increase instalments on existing loans real hardship results."?
- (2) Does he agree that the same would be true in respect of housing loans advanced by banks or any other lender of housing finance?
- (3) What is the interest rate being charged by the Rural and Industries Bank on—
 - (a) a \$10,000 loan over 25 years; and
 - (b) a \$12,000 loan over 25 years?
- (4) Does the Rural and Industries Bank vary the interest rate on existing loans from time to time and if so, why?
- (5) If the answer to (1) is "Yes" and if he has not changed his opinion, does he propose to take action to ensure that the interest rate on housing loans advanced by the Rural and Industries Bank is not varied during the period of loan repayment?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes, with the additional words "which is very widespread".
- (2) Yes.
- (3) (a) \$10,000 over 25 years—7%
(b) \$12,000 over 25 years—7½%
- (4) Yes—to conform to the general pattern of interest rates.
- (5) No. The commissioners can be relied upon to strike the lowest appropriate rate in line with ruling economic conditions and in pursuance of this policy have in the past reduced rates on existing housing loans.

14. BROOME REGIONAL PRISON

Transfers from North-West Lockups

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) For the year ended the 30th June, 1971, how many prisoners were transferred to Broome regional prison from—
 - (a) Wyndham lockup;
 - (b) Kununurra lockup;
 - (c) Hall's Creek lockup;

- (d) Fitzroy Crossing lockup;
- (e) Derby lockup?

- (2) Including all expenses for escorts, what was the cost of the transfers from each of the centres referred to in (1)?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) (a) 12.
- (b) 14.
- (c) 19.
- (d) 5.
- (e) 74.
- (2) This will take a considerable amount of research but efforts will be made to supply the member with the information at a later date.

15.

PRISONS

Inmates and Staff

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) For the year ended the 30th June, 1971, what was the average number of prisoners at each of the following institutions—
 - (a) Albany regional prison;
 - (b) Broome regional prison;
 - (c) Bunbury regional prison;
 - (d) Geraldton regional prison;
 - (e) Kalgoorlie regional prison?
- (2) What number of staff are employed at each of the establishments referred to in (1), and in what capacity are they employed?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) (a) 61.53
- (b) 60.21
- (c) 16.9 (From 23/3/71)
- (d) 109.56
- (e) 37.52
- (2) (a) 26. 1 Superintendent
- 17 Prison Officers
- 3 Instruction Officers
- 5 Industrial Officers
- (b) 13. 1 Superintendent
- 9 Prison Officers
- 3 Matrons
- (c) 37. 1 Superintendent
- 34 Prison Officers
- 2 Industrial Officers
- (d) 25. 1 Superintendent
- 1 Clerk
- 18 Prison Officers
- 3 Industrial Officers
- 2 Matrons
- (e) 12. 1 Superintendent
- 9 Prison Officers
- 2 Matrons

16. BROOME REGIONAL PRISON

Health Conditions: Report

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister for Health:

Will he table a copy of the Kimberley regional health inspector's May, 1971, report on conditions at the Broome regional prison?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

Yes. Tabled herewith.

I might mention that the file reveals that the Comptroller of Prisons has been trying to get some improvements made to the Broome Gaol for the past two years, apparently without success. In fairness to him I will point out that it has not been possible to transfer prisoners from the Broome Gaol to the Fremantle Gaol because the Fremantle Gaol is overcrowded.

The report was tabled.

17.

PRISON

Establishment at Wyndham

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Prisons Department to establish a prison at Wyndham?
- (2) (a) If "Yes" when is it anticipated that the move will be effected;
- (b) initially, what number of staff would be employed?
- (3) If (1) is "No" will he advise if the proposal has been considered and, if so, why it was rejected?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) to (3) The possibility of the transfer of the Wyndham police gaol to the Prisons Department has been under discussion with the Police Department for some months.
- At this time these discussions hinge around the provision of staff quarters for prison personnel.

18. YUNDURUP CANALS SCHEME

Development

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Premier:

- (1) In view of the wide interest in the Yundurup Canals project, is he able to give details of the present stage of development?
- (2) Is he aware of any restrictions which prevent the continuing development of the project?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Development to date has been confined to land owned by the developer.
- (2) An offer has been made to the developer of a dredging lease and a channel lease, but to date the offer has not been accepted.

19.

FISHING*Netting of Undersized Fish at Robb Jetty*

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) Has his attention been drawn to the wholesale illegal netting of undersized fish in the Robb Jetty area?
- (2) Would he have this situation investigated?
- (3) As professional fishermen would suffer severe penalties for such offences, do similar penalties apply to amateurs?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.

20.

NATIVES*Correct Terminology*

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) As the original inhabitants of Australia are referred to as natives or Aborigines, does the Minister's department consider there is a difference and, if so, what is it?
- (2) Which name should one use?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (1) In general usage there is little difference but in a strictly legal sense in Western Australia a "native" is as defined in the Native Welfare Act, 1963, whereas an "Aboriginal" is generally regarded as a person having any degree of Aboriginal blood who identifies as such.
- (2) The term "Aboriginal" is coming into general usage throughout Australia.

21.

NATIVES*Pinjarra: Social Centre*

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Is he aware of the desire of natives in the Murray district to have an aboriginal social centre in Pinjarra?
- (2) To what extent can the Government assist them in this endeavour?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department is sympathetic and is endeavouring to assist in the acquisition of suitable land.

22.

NATIVES*Housing: Murray District*

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Has his department a programme for native housing for 1971-72, and can he give details?
- (2) What provision is being made for native housing in the Murray district?
- (3) As the native reserve in Pinjarra has, under the town's planning scheme, been declared a residential area, what plans has the Government for those natives now living on the reserve?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (1) Finance for 1971-72 has not yet been allocated and hence no firm programme can be promulgated at the present time.
- (2) See reply to (1).
- (3) The reserve will remain until it is possible to re-house the occupants in conventional homes.

23.

NATIVES*Population: Inland Centres*

Mr. GRAYDEN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

What is the approximate aborigine population in each of the following areas—

- (a) Laverton;
- (b) Leonora;
- (c) Wiluna;
- (d) Warburton Ranges?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (a) 220.
- (b) 612.
- (c) 320.
- (d) 400.

24.

NATIVES*Venereal Disease: Inland Centres*

Mr. GRAYDEN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) As far as the Public Health Department is aware, what is the incidence of venereal disease among aborigines in the following areas—
 - (a) Laverton;
 - (b) Leonora;
 - (c) Wiluna;
 - (d) Warburton Ranges?
- (2) What action is being taken to eliminate the disease?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) Notifications of venereal disease do not include information on the racial origin of patients. For this reason the precise incidence of V.D. among Aborigines in the areas listed cannot be provided. Nevertheless inquiries from the flying doctor covering the area do not suggest a major problem. So far as the Warburton Range Mission is concerned no patients with V.D. have been brought to the attention of the doctor over the last 18 months (despite regular visits to the Mission).
- (2) The diagnosis and treatment of venereal (or any other) disease is a routine commitment undertaken by general medical practitioners. The treatment of indigent patients in the country is subsidised on an individual "fee-for-service" basis. When sources of infection are notified to the Commissioner for Health appropriate action is taken to ensure that these are dealt with.

25. AIR POLLUTION

Monitoring

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How frequently is the atmosphere monitored for evidence of aerial pollution?
- (2) In which localities does the testing take place?
- (3) For which pollutant gases does the monitoring take place?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) From two hours once a month up to 24 hours per day seven days per week, depending on the type of pollution.
- (2) Fourteen in the metropolitan area, and six in country areas.
- (3) Sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and hydrogen sulphide.

26. MIDLAND ABATTOIR

Capital Expenditure and Board Membership

Mr. MOILER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Would he provide the total amount of capital expenditure on buildings, plant and equipment at Midland abattoirs over the past ten years, July, 1961-June, 1971?
- (2) Would he provide the names of the members of the Midland Abattoir Board and the bodies each represents?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

			\$
(1)	1961-62	....	215,244
	1962-63	....	239,952
	1963-64	....	309,860
	1964-65	....	185,668
	1965-66	....	236,002
	1966-67	....	577,911
	1967-68	....	632,037
	1968-69	....	835,120
	1969-70	....	1,415,954
	1970-71	....	2,870,235
			<hr/>
			\$7,517,893

- (2) Mr. E. H. Wheatley, Chairman—public accountant.
Mr. W. Pope, representing retail trade.
Mr. R. C. T. Davies, representing the producers.

27.

TOWN PLANNING

Mundaring Shire Scheme

Mr. MOILER, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) At what date did the Town Planning Department receive the latest town planning scheme covering the Mundaring Shire?
- (2) When is it anticipated that the plan will be returned to the Council for public viewing?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) On the 28th May, 1971.
- (2) About the end of September.

28.

STATE FINANCE

Salary and Wage Increases

Mr. R. L. YOUNG, to the Treasurer:

- (1) By how much did the State's total expenditure on wages and salaries exceed the budget figure for the year ended the 30th June, 1971?
- (2) Was the excess expenditure on wages and salaries brought about by wage and salary increases granted before the 3rd February, 1971 and, if so, to what extent?
- (3) Was the increase in wages and salaries made public before the 3rd February, 1971, on which date the present Government's policy speech for the election held on the 20th February, 1971, was released for publication?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) The total cost to the budget of wage and salary increases awarded during 1970-71 was \$24,263,000, which exceeded the budget provision by \$14,240,000.

- (2) and (3) The cost of award increases announced before the 3rd February, 1971, was \$17,401,000. A further \$6,862,000 of award increases were announced after that date.

29. **BERNARD KENNETH GOULDHAM**

Compensation

Mr. R. L. YOUNG, to the Attorney General:

In view of his statement that the matter of compensation to Bernard Kenneth Gouldham is currently under consideration, can he say—

- (a) when the matter came under official consideration by him as Attorney General;
- (b) when is it expected a decision will be made on the matter?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (a) After my appointment the papers were obtained for consideration.
- (b) The matter is still under consideration.

30. **FORESTS**

Working Plan

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Is the Conservator of Forests required to prepare a working plan under section 31 of the Forests Act?
- (2) If "Yes" how often is he required to prepare a plan?
- (3) Will he advise when the last plan was prepared, and if the provisions of the Act have not been complied with will he advise the reasons?
- (4) What action, if any, has been taken to ensure that the small mill operators will continue to have timber made available to them from Crown land?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) From time to time and for a maximum period of 10 years.
- (3) 1970. This plan has not yet been submitted to the Governor in Council for approval due to the rapid changes in the timber industry over the past twelve months, requiring some modification of the plan. It is anticipated that the amendments will be completed and the plan submitted for approval by the end of this year.
- (4) The needs of all sections of the industry, including small sawmill operators, are being considered in

relation to the silvicultural requirements of the forest area and the need to regulate the total cut for maximum long term productivity.

31. **KWINANA POWER STATION**

Production and Capacity

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What is the capacity of the units producing electricity at the Kwinana power station?
- (2) When were the units brought into load?
- (3) Are the units capable of being worked at maximum capacity?
- (4) If "No" will he outline the reasons?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) 120,000 k.w.
- (2) The 15th September, 1970.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) See answer to (3).

32. **POWER STATIONS**

Fuel Oil Prices

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What was the date fuel oil was first used at the South Fremantle, East Perth, and Kwinana power stations?
- (2) What was the price per ton for the fuel oil when it was first used, and the dates of any fluctuation in price since?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Fuel oil has always been used for boiler lighting-up purposes at all power stations.

The first boiler at South Fremantle was converted to use fuel oil only in December, 1960.

East Perth—coal stocks were exhausted on the 1st March, 1969.

Kwinana, the 15th September, 1970.

- (2) Prior to December, 1966, standard Government prices were paid and dates of fluctuations are not available. The price at South Fremantle on the 7th December, 1966, under the current contract was \$13.83.

Fluctuations up or down were effective from:—

1st January, 1967.

1st May, 1967.

1st November, 1967.

1st January, 1968.

1st May, 1968.

1st October, 1968.
1st November, 1968.
1st May, 1969.
1st July, 1969.
1st June, 1970, and each month thereafter.

33. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Laporte Titanium Dioxide Industry: Effluent

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What progress has been made on the studies of improved and more permanent methods of handling Laporte titanium dioxide industry effluent at Bunbury?
- (2) When is it anticipated the studies will be completed?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) State Government departments have examined several alternative methods of effluent disposal, but in every case there have been serious disadvantages or prohibitive costs.

Present attention is being directed to a neutralisation treatment and for this purpose nine consultants have been invited to advise on a suitable process.

Replies have been received from seven firms and these replies are being analysed.

- (2) It is anticipated that six months from time of engagement will be required for the consultant's report.

34. IRON ORE

Temporary Reserves: Tenure

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) With reference to Question 22 on the 20th July, 1971, and as some new members are not familiar with the temporary reserve conditions imposed, will he reconsider his answer to part 2 of this question and without detailing the conditions for each temporary reserve separately, table the conditions applicable to original, extension, renewal and/or replacement temporary reserves by groups?
- (2) If he is not prepared to table such information, will he advise how members can obtain it?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) and (2) Tabled herewith are original conditions of rights of occupancy which were applied by the previous Government in respect of temporary reserves for iron ore.

It will be seen that the conditions applied vary, and had effect from different dates, which will be advised later.

To provide the information required in respect of extension, renewal, and/or replacement temporary reserves by groups would require detailed research but should the Deputy Leader of the Opposition require such information in respect of particular reserves, the necessary work involved will be undertaken.

The papers were tabled.

35. ABATTOIRS

Kwinana-Mundijong Site

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Does the Government propose to keep the site south of the Kwinana/Mundijong railway for abattoir and associated purposes?
- (2) On what conditions will the land be available to a prospective abattoir developer who can submit a firm proposal?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Conditions would be subject to negotiation and would depend on the nature of the prospective developer's proposal.

36. TAXIS

Plates: Additional Issue

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it intended to issue any additional taxi plates during this financial year?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) how many;
 - (b) to whom will they be issued;
 - (c) what charge will be made per plate, and over what period will payments be extended?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Not yet determined.
- (b) To full-time taxi-car drivers and/or radio base operators who meet the requirements of the Taxi-car Regulations.
- (c) (i) \$6,500.
- (ii) Seven years free of interest.

37. **IRON ORE***Temporary Reserves: Hancock and Wright*

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) With reference to Question 23, parts 2(a) and 2(b), on Tuesday, the 20th July, 1971, how does he reconcile his answer that "the areas were not given preferred treatment" when he says they were dealt with first because of negotiations between interested parties in respect of these particular areas, and, in addition, he has advised the House in answer to my question without notice that it will be several weeks before the result of negotiations for the other areas will be available? Does this not further indicate preferment?
- (2) In the interests of fairness to all concerned, will he reconsider his decision and answer in respect of part 4 of Question 23 so that all parties will have reasonably comparable opportunities to negotiate development and sale of product conditions?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) The answer given to parts 2(a) and 2(b) of Question No. 23 of the 20th July, 1971, is quite correct in as much that the areas were not given preferred treatment.

As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is well aware, negotiations between interested parties had proceeded to a point where settlement of this particular issue required immediate attention and for this reason the areas were dealt with first.

- (2) There is no need to reconsider the answer given to Part 4 of Question No. 23 of the 20th July, 1971, as all parties will have reasonably comparable opportunities to negotiate development and sale of product conditions.

The fact that the areas referred to in my answer of Question No. 23, parts 2(a) and 2(b), were dealt with first does not affect this situation.

38. **DARRYL BEAMISH***Report of Parole Board*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Did the parole board make a report to him regarding Darryl Beamish prior to his release?
- (2) Did the parole board's report support the release?
- (3) Will he table a copy of the parole board's report?

Mr. MAY replied:

This question should have been directed to the Hon. Attorney General. However, the answer is—

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

39.

ROADS*Available Funds*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Are sufficient funds currently available for the 1971-72 roads programme?
- (2) If not, will he advise where he anticipates the balance will come from?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Having regard for the demand for improved roads throughout the whole State, it is unlikely that there will ever be sufficient funds to carry out desirable road works.
- (2) Answered by (1).

40. **TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
EMPLOYEES***Number*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Will he advise the number of people employed by the Transport Department on—

- (a) the 1st March, 1971;
- (b) the 1st July, 1971?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (a) 128.
- (b) 120.

41. **TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
EMPLOYEES***Abolition of Road Maintenance Tax*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of the unrest among some employees of the Transport Department regarding their employment future as a result of the Government's guarantee to abolish road maintenance tax?
- (2) As a number of employees will no longer be required by the Transport Department, will he guarantee that those displaced will be placed in positions at least equivalent to their present position with equivalent opportunities for the future?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) The matter of providing alternative employment for employees who may be rendered surplus by

the abolition of Road Maintenance Tax has been drawn to my attention.

- (2) Endeavours will be made to place any surplus officers in other positions without loss of classification or seniority.

42. TAXIS

Plates: Increased Cost

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has he decided to increase the cost of taxi plate new issues by 25 per cent.?
- (2) Will he give reasons for the increase?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) and (2) Cabinet decided to increase the premium on taxi-car plates by 25 per cent., having regard to the current value of a taxi-car license when transferred.

43. CRIMES

Acquittals: Proof of Innocence

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Attorney General:

What avenues are available or will the Government make available to allow a citizen acquitted of a crime to prove his or her innocence?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

No avenues are available nor intended at this time.

44. RAILWAYS

Employees at Collie

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Does he intend to take action to retain or increase the present number of railway employees at Collie?
- (2) If so, will he advise the extent of increase?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (1) With the introduction of diesel power to the south west district, the number of employees required at Collie will be reduced. Efforts are being made to have as many as possible of those who wish to remain, placed in alternative employment in Collie.
- (2) Answered by (1).

45. NAVAL BASE

Establishment at Albany

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Premier:

In view of the unemployment in Albany which, as report in

The West Australian of the 21st

July, 1971, is being investigated by a Cabinet subcommittee—

- (a) does he agree with the R.S.L. resolution, carried by its 55th annual state congress; and
- (b) will he ask the Commonwealth Government to communicate with the United States Government in view of establishing a naval base in Albany?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

If and when a request is made to the State Government by the R.S.L., it will be given very careful and sympathetic consideration.

46.

SEWERAGE

Eastern Districts

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the current planning for extension of sewerage mains, etc., in the eastern districts north of Bassendean to Swan View area?
- (2) What is the current planning for extension of sewerage mains in the Redcliffe, South Guildford, Hazelmere area?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) The extension of sewerage for the eastern districts north of Bassendean to the Swan View area is dependent upon the programme of construction of the northern main sewer which is at present in course of being laid. The construction programme will depend on availability of loan funds. It is hoped, however, that the main branch to serve the areas mentioned will be completed to Midland by 1975.

In the meantime some limited amplification of the Midland sewerage system is possible. As funds become available the board's system will be extended by a new main sewer to Bushby Street. Extensions beyond Bushby Street are expected to be undertaken after suitable agreements have been reached between the local authority and developers.

- (2) During the current financial year the board will construct a major sewerage pumping station in Wheeler Street, Belmont, to discharge into the Belmont main sewer. This station will be big enough to serve the areas out to Redcliffe, South Guildford, and Hazelmere. Gravity sewer extensions will be needed to serve the pumping station and detailed plans for these are not yet available. Programming will be dependent upon the loan funds available.

Several developers have conducted feasibility studies for new developments in this general area. The board's planning is being kept flexible enough to accommodate reasonable development proposals.

47. **TOWN PLANNING**

Hazelmere: Rezoning

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Has any request been received for rezoning of land in the Hazelmere area?
- (2) What protection can the local residents take to prevent the area being zoned industrial in lieu of residential?
- (3) Is there opportunity for zoned local residents to lodge protests against change of zoning?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) As a first step, residents can make representations to the local council which would be responsible for initiating any rezoning proposal. Should the council propose a change in zoning, residents would have a formal right of objection.

48. **EDUCATION**

Commonwealth Funds, and Additional Teachers' Training College

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has any consideration been given to siting a teachers' training college in the eastern district of the metropolitan area?
- (2) If not, will early consideration be given to establishing such a college to enable a minimum of travel by trained teachers to the western suburbs and as an inducement for children from eastern districts high schools, colleges, etc., to follow a calling in the teaching profession?
- (3) Have all Commonwealth funds for education purposes been allotted or spent for the current year?
- (4) On what projects are the moneys being spent?
- (5) What Commonwealth funds have been promised for the current year on education?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) Sites throughout the metropolitan area have been considered. However, no decision has yet been made regarding the location of the next teachers' college.

- (3) All Commonwealth funds are in the process of being allotted.
- (4) Balga and Albany technical schools, Churchlands Teachers' College, science blocks, and libraries in secondary schools.
- (5) Churchlands Teachers' College \$3 million (for complete building). Buildings for technical education \$2.8 million for 1971-1974 triennium.
Secondary science blocks \$467,510 per annum for four year period 1/7/1971 to 30/6/1975.
Secondary libraries \$1.5 million for 1969-1974 triennium.

49. **ROTTNEST ISLAND**

Lands Department Expenditure on Projects

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister for Lands:

What amount has been spent from the Lands Department vote on projects on or associated with Rottnest Island during each of the last ten years?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

The only amounts expended from the Lands Department vote during the last 10 years on projects on or associated with Rottnest Island relate to minor survey and drafting matters, which are not separately dissected.

50. **FREE SCHOOL BOOKS**

Compensation for Existing Stocks

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When the scheme to provide free school books is implemented, will those business houses still holding stocks of these books be recompensed for same?
- (2) If "Yes" in what way and upon what basis?
- (3) If "No" what are the reasons?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) to (3) The Western Australian Booksellers' Association has been requested to send lists of accumulated stock to the Education Department. The amount of compensation will be determined when all lists have been received.

51. **TORNAFIELD MEDIC SEED**

Price

Mr. W. G. YOUNG, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What percentage of the 1969 Tornafield Medic seed marketed by the Grain Pool of Western Australia was sold at a price of 55 cents?

- (2) What percentage has subsequently been sold at 20 cents?
- (3) If any seed remains to be sold, at what price is this being quoted?
- (4) If all seed has been sold, when will this pool be finalised?
- (5) Is it the policy of the Grain Pool to average the returns from voluntary pools of all small seeds to arrive at the return to the grower?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Thirty-six per cent.
- (2) Twenty-eight per cent. at 20 cents and less.
- (3) None remains to be sold.
- (4) and (5) Present financial policy has not allowed Tornafield medic pool to be finalised while other small seed pool accounts are in debit. However, this situation is being investigated.

52.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Steel Industry, and Iron Ore Leases

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has he seen the report of his Hotel Okura, Toyko, press conference in the Japanese *Daily Commerce*, 9th July, 1971 issue?
- (2) If so, is it substantially correct?
- (3) What is the proposed use of the Eastern States coal to be back loaded from the Eastern States to Western Australia?
- (4) What role will Collie coal play in the steel proposals under consideration?
- (5) What is the significance of his reference to royalties when he is quoted as saying, "In any event, we cannot impose higher royalties", when the Government has indicated that it intends to seek higher royalties?
- (6) Is it correct that "Hanwright Minerals Ltd. will get mining leases extended to one year starting the 1st July in respect of iron ore deposits of McCarrey's Monster, Rhodes Ridge and Angella Ridge"?
- (7) If so, how does this reconcile with the Government's earlier announcement in Perth that Angella areas are not part of Hanwright's new temporary reserves which would date from the 1st July, 1971?
- (8) Is the reference to "Mining lease" intended to be "temporary reserve"?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is incorrect in certain respects, no doubt owing to translation difficulties.
- (3) Eastern States coal would be used for production of coke for the future steel industry.
- (4) The role Collie coal will play in the steel proposals will depend largely on any technical breakthrough companies interested in using this raw material are able to achieve as, in the light of existing technology, Collie coal cannot be economically used for the production of steel.
- (5) When I stated that we cannot impose higher royalties, I referred to the position in regard to royalties payable under existing ratified agreements.
- (6) "Angella Ridge"—and there is no such thing—was included by the reporter in error. He was informed that Hancock and Wright would be granted rights of occupancy over the iron ore deposits known as McCamey's Monster, Rhodes Ridge and Western Ridge.
- (7) See answer to (6).
- (8) It was intended to be "rights of occupancy."

53.

MIDLAND ABATTOIR

Disposal of Effluent

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the third lagoon of the Midland abattoir effluent disposal system located outside the gazetted noxious trade area?
- (2) If "Yes" what steps will be taken to rectify this?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A firm of consultant engineers which specialises in effluent disposal is expected to submit a report to the Midland Abattoir Board this week.

54.

EDUCATION

Kalamunda Primary School

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What does he regard as the maximum number of children that should be enrolled at a primary school?
- (2) How many children are enrolled at the Kalamunda primary school and does this exceed the number of children that he considers desirable?

- (3) If so, by how many, and what action does he contemplate taking to rectify the situation?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) From the viewpoint of maximum educational and administrative efficiency educationists set the optimum primary school population at approximately 720 pupils according to the pattern of school organisation.
- (2) 850 on 22nd July, 1971. Yes.
- (3) A new six-roomed school will open at Gooseberry Hill in 1972.

55. EDUCATION

Lesmurdie School Site

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it anticipated that a new primary school will be built on a site in Falls Road, Lesmurdie?
- (2) If so, when?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Planning officers of the Education Department are keeping a close watch on all developments in the area. A definite date of construction has not been determined.

56. PREMIER

Correspondence: Use of Official Letterhead

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Premier:

- (1) Did he authorise a letter, depicting the State crest and headed "Premier's Department, Perth, Western Australia" which began: "Dear Elector" and closed with the signature of "John T. Tonkin, Premier of Western Australia", which was attached to an Australian Labor Party membership booklet and Australian Labor Party pledge which as a prerequisite for membership of the Labor Party reads, in part, "I accept without reservation to be bound by the Constitution, Rules, Platform and Policies of the A.L.P. and will take no action to repudiate them"?
- (2) Having regard to the dignity of the office of Premier, would it not have been more correct to address such a letter from Trades Hall, rather than the Premier's office?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) No letter of the kind referred to depicting the State Crest and headed Premier's Department, Perth, Western Australia, was authorised by me as assumed by the honourable member.

57. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Employees: Offices and Experimental Farms

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many officers were attached to each of the Department of Agriculture offices at the beginning of the years 1970 and 1971?
- (2) How many officers and staff were attached to each of the experimental farms run by the Department of Agriculture at the beginning of the years 1970 and 1971?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) The figures are being prepared and will be forwarded to the member.

58. LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

Enrolments

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

How many students were enrolled for the Leaving certificate examinations in each subject for 1968, 1969 and 1970 respectively?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

The answer to the honourable member's question is as follows:—

The University of Western Australia
Public Examinations Board

Numbers presenting for leaving level subjects in the years 1968-1970.

Subject	1968	1969	1970
Accountancy	381	333	335
Agricultural Science	36	40	36
Art	824	735	809
Biology	2,141	2,222	2,194
Chemistry (old syllabus)	1,717	249	54
Chem. Study	264	1,815	2,289
Economics	2,409	2,006	2,203
English	5,282	5,688	6,443
English Literature		1,441	1,878
French	797	780	818
Geography	2,642	2,381	2,628
Geology	68	57	70
German	315	275	288
Greek	1	2	1
Hebrew	2	3	1
History	2,348	1,995	2,101
Home Economics	228	149	166
Italian	224	161	167
Latin	123	101	83
Mathematics I	1,554	2,070	2,421
Mathematics A	2,611	1,233	500
Mathematics II		1,030	1,283
Mathematics B	2,167	971	416
Mathematics III		1,065	1,713
Music A	5	29	37
Music B	316	286	Not Available
Physics	2,328	2,284	2,459
Physiology and Hygiene	697	567	474
Spanish	1	5	6
Speech and Drama	202	221	Not Available
Stenography	417	454	483
Technical Drawing	709	697	745

(These figures are based on number of candidates presenting for examinations and not on the number of candidates enrolled.)

Numbers presenting for matriculation level subjects years 1969 and 1970.

Subject	1969	1970
Biology	862	1,240
Chemistry (old syllabus)	112	38
Chem. Study	1,155	1,561
Economics	805	1,123
English Literature	785	1,029
French	430	498
Geography	908	1,329
Geology	10	33
German	152	167
Greek	1	
History	814	1,120
Italian	66	103
Latin	54	62
Mathematics I	785	1,261
Mathematics A	696	329
Mathematics II	767	1,408
Mathematics B	571	235
Mathematics III	668	1,305
Music A	17	24
Music B	102	Not Available
Physics	1,200	1,500

Numbers presenting for special foreign language subjects approved by the Professorial Board for basic matriculation grouping purposes at leaving level in years 1968-1970.

Subject	1968	1969	1970
Chinese	31	17	42
Malay	75	63	71
Dutch	7	4	10
Russian	1	1	...

59. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Tour of Singapore and Malaysia

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

What was the reason for the cancellation of the projected educational tour of Singapore and Malaysia which was to have been undertaken in May of this year by fourth year high school students?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

The sailing dates of the ship on which the students were to travel did not coincide with the school vacation.

60. FARMERS

Financial Assistance, and Disposal of Properties

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Does the Government propose to institute a form of payment from the State Treasury to the farmer to bring his net income to a set minimum?
- (2) Does the Government propose to establish a land authority with power to buy farms, amalgamate, redivide, and sell?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Emergency relief by way of carry on loans of up to \$2,000, is being made available to help farmers in grave financial difficulties. 299 loans have been approved totalling \$563,097.

- (2) A special land authority with such powers is not proposed. The Rural Reconstruction Authority which has recently become operative, will consider proposals from farmers which include purchase of additional farm land.

Sitting suspended from 3.53 to 4.10 p.m.

QUESTIONS (5): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. PREMIER

Signature on Correspondence

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Premier:

With reference to my question 56 on today's notice paper, am I to assume from the answer given by the Premier that he has not seen the letter to which I referred and of which I have a copy?

If you will permit me, Mr. Speaker, I will hand this letter to the Clerk to give the Premier an opportunity to view it. He will see that it bears a facsimile of his signature on this matter and this letter has been circulated throughout many electorates, particularly in the metropolitan area.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

I repeat that I did not give any authorisation at all for that letter.

Mr. Court: It is not your signature?

2.

PREMIER

Signature on Correspondence

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Premier:

If this is not a facsimile of the Premier's signature, I ask whether he will take the necessary steps to have the matter investigated?

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: You bet I will.

Mr. WILLIAMS: This is necessary in view of the consequences likely to accrue to anyone who has used the Premier's signature and also because it is headed "Premier's Department," and particularly as it is signed "John T. Tonkin, Premier of Western Australia."

Mr. J. T. TONKIN:

The honourable member can be assured that I will make the necessary inquiries to ascertain how a letter in this form came to be circulated without my authority.

3. **FEDERAL MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Attack: True Facts

Mr. COURT, to the Premier:

In view of the unfair attack made on the Federal Minister for National Development (Hon. Reg. Swartz) by the Minister for Industrial Development and Decentralisation—and which attack was made without seeking to verify the facts from the Commonwealth Minister even though the Minister for Industrial Development and Decentralisation saw Mr. Swartz in Tokyo—will he, in the interests of good relations between Commonwealth and State as well as the reputation of Western Australia abroad, seek an early opportunity to get the true facts from Mr. Swartz as one has to assume from the comments of the Minister for Industrial Development and Decentralisation that he is not prepared to take what would normally be regarded as the fair and reasonable line to at least give his fellow countryman a chance to explain the facts of the situation complained of, especially with the problems of language that can occur when information is from an international source?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

In reply to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, it seems obvious that he has been in consultation with Mr. Swartz who must, therefore, be fully aware of what was said.

If Mr. Swartz sees fit to write to me by way of explanation of his view of the matter, I shall be pleased to read what he writes.

4. **TRANSPORT REPORT**

Release

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Deputy Premier:

In view of his comments in the House on Wednesday, the 21st July, 1971, will he:

- (1) Advise when the PERTS report was submitted to the Government?
- (2) When did the Government release the report to the public?
- (3) For what period of time was release of the report held pending the return of Dr. Neilsen to enable the public to be fully advised or informed?
- (4) Would he agree the Christmas period would slightly delay the release?

(5) Would he agree it would have been necessary for me to peruse the report and submit it to Cabinet?

(6) In view of these points, does the Deputy Premier still agree that the PERTS report was held on my table for months?

(7) Will he guarantee that he will not hold any report any longer than the PERTS report was held prior to release to the public?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

(1) Submitted to the honourable member as chairman of steering committee on the 14th December, 1970.

(2) The 29th January, 1971.

(3) Approximately six weeks.

(4) This is likely.

(5) Yes.

(6) I am aware that the report was submitted to the honourable member on the 14th December, 1970, and that on the 3rd March, 1971—nearly three months later, when the new Government took office—no action had been taken.

(7) Reports will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible. Not all reports are suitable for release to the public.

Mr. O'CONNOR: Could I ask the Deputy Premier what his attitude would have been had the Government taken action on this report so close to an election?

Mr. GRAHAM: As the honourable member knows, or should know, it is not usual for Ministers to reply to suppositious questions.

Mr. O'Connor: There is no apology for saying that the report was held up for months?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Court: The Deputy Premier apologises for nothing.

Mr. Graham: If an apology is warranted, yes.

The SPEAKER: Order!

5.

DROUGHT RELIEF

Pastoral Areas

Mr. COYNE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

In view of the fact that Government assistance for drought stricken pastoral areas is an urgent necessity, what action does the Government intend to take to enable pastoralists to remain in

the industry long enough to take advantage of the Federal Government supported wool price?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

Some form of assistance to the pastoral areas is being considered urgently by the drought relief committee.

PAMPHLETS

Distribution in House

THE SPEAKER [4.19 p.m.]: Before calling the Orders of the Day, my notice has been drawn to the fact that a number of pamphlets were placed on a table outside the Chamber.

I trust that if members have been responsible for the pamphlets they will refrain from bringing such pamphlets, or any other advertising matter, into the House. Otherwise, we will have a considerable library of pamphlets around the House.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [4.20 p.m.]: I, too, intend to go through the process of congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, and others, but I will try to be as brief as possible. There has been such a number of changes since we last met in this House, if one endeavoured to congratulate everyone concerned on his new position I am afraid one would probably run out of time.

Firstly, congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the Chairman of Committees. I do not intend to put my congratulations in any particular order of seniority. I believe that you, Mr. Speaker, will carry out your job very well, as will the member for Gascoyne as Chairman of Committees. It is in the interests of this Parliament that you, Mr. Speaker, and the Chairman of Committees occupy your present positions. During the time I have been in this House I have noted that you have both looked after your electorates, not in a vicious manner but in the interests of a fair go. I think it is worthy that the affairs of this House should be in the hands of two such people, because your outlook has been unbiased and your only interests have been in the welfare of your electorates and the people of the State.

I offer special congratulations to the Premier for the years he has been involved in politics. He must have had dreams of one day becoming Premier. This position has eluded him in the past, but he has proved himself equal to the task and finally has become Premier. I have had disagreements with him, from time to time,

and no doubt those disagreements will continue. I hope so because such disagreements add that little bit of spice to life.

The appointments of the Premier, and the Deputy Premier were, of course, very much to be expected. Both are extremely senior members in the Labor Party and they have dedicated themselves to the interests of Western Australia. I also offer my congratulations to the rest of the Cabinet. We have some new Ministers who have not been with us for so very long. I think the member for Mt. Lawley referred to this fact in lighter vein when he said that, perhaps, others should have been appointed Ministers.

Mr. O'Connor: I was serious.

MR. BICKERTON: I think we should take into consideration the method of electing a Labor Cabinet. I do not think there is a more democratic method of holding an election. Everyone is a candidate even though he has been elected only recently. Everyone in the incoming Government has a vote to decide who will be the Ministers. One cannot think of a more democratic way of electing a Cabinet. The members of the present Opposition are, of course, restricted.

With the present system which operates in the Labor Party someone has to miss out. Surely there is not a better way of selecting a Ministry?

Mr. O'Connor: But the result was not good, was it?

MR. BICKERTON: I thought the result was excellent.

Mr. Court: The member for Pilbara is being very magnanimous; I give him full marks for what he has said.

MR. BICKERTON: It could be asked if those who missed out were disappointed, and the answer would be, "Yes" from anybody who sincerely believed he had ability or any ambition. I should imagine that attitude would apply to everyone on this side of the House who is not a Minister. However, there are only so many vacancies and the method of selection is so fair and so just and so democratic that anyone who objected to missing out could only do it from the point of view of having had his ego damaged.

Our Premier and our Deputy Premier were logical choices. We have men with experience in politics. The Minister for Works and the Minister for Health have been here for many years and have taken active parts on committees of the House.

Mr. O'Connor: The Ministry has four school teachers.

MR. BICKERTON: I will deal with that matter in a moment.

Mr. O'Neill: They are all right; I refer to the school teachers.

Mr. BICKERTON: The Treasurer is a senior member of this House and he is a very able and capable Minister. The Minister for Mines did have one session out of Parliament, but he has had considerable experience in the north-west. I do not say that he has had a great deal of experience in mining, but I will deal with that aspect at a later stage.

The Attorney-General sometimes gets a little ponderous: when he reads out the answer to a question he could hand in! However, I am 100 per cent. behind his election because he is a capable fellow and can do the job.

We have a younger person in the member for Cockburn, who is now the Minister for Housing. He, also, has shown his ability in this House. The Minister for Lands is a member with whom I shared an office during his first term and he impressed me greatly with his dedication to his work, and the way he looked after his electorate. I have heard some remarks across the Chamber to the effect of: What would a school teacher know about farming? I would remind the Country Party members that from their ranks came a farmer whom they made Minister for Education.

I do not think that is a bad sort of a swap. When all is said and done, does a farmer necessarily make a good Minister for Agriculture? He may consider he knows all about farming, but sometimes that is a disadvantage. As I see it, the job of a Minister is one of administration, requiring someone who has the ability to administer a division or a department. If a man has that ability, I do not think it matters very much what his occupation is.

I have a theory that the last person I would like to see as Minister for Railways would be an engine driver; so that would put the member for Northam out. I do not know that I would be very keen about a doctor being a Minister for Health. That puts me in an awkward position as far as the Attorney-General is concerned, but, without intending any offence to him, I would rather have a Minister for Justice than an Attorney-General. I do not mean to be detrimental or derogatory towards my colleague, but I do think people who have been in these occupations all their lives do not make sufficient use of their advisers.

I believe that up to date the Minister for Lands has shown that he will be extremely conscientious in his job. I remind all farmers that they would sometimes be considerably better off if they kept farmers out of the portfolios of Lands and Agriculture. However, that is only my own theory.

Mr. McPharlin: Have you ever been farming?

Mr. BICKERTON: I think I milked cows at about the same time as the member for Mt. Marshall, but I do not see that it

makes any difference. My farming experience finished as soon as possible because it was not the best of occupations in my youth. I found that the accommodation, the couple of bags one was supposed to sleep on and the ten bob a week and tucker were not up to my standard of living, so I gave away milking cows. However, I always gave credit to those who continued to do so because they certainly worked very long hours and I do not think they got much money out of it at the time. Most of my family were farming people, so I have an appreciation of farming.

I certainly was not as successful as the member for Mt. Marshall because neither then nor now could I afford to give away any increase in my salary by way of donations. I congratulate him upon reaching that financial state.

Mr. McPharlin: He has not reached it yet.

Mr. BICKERTON: There is an old saying that charity begins at home, and perhaps the member for Mt. Marshall might look around the Chamber before he starts to hand out.

Mr. Court: The Claremont Football Club could do with a bit.

Mr. BICKERTON: We will introduce the honourable member to that club.

After 12 years of sitting in Opposition, it is a great pleasure to have a turn in Government. When I first came into Parliament I was on the Government side for a very short time. Many of my friends have reminded me that it was not long after I was elected that the Labor Party went into Opposition, but I am sure that was quite by accident and not by design.

I think new members will find that parliamentary life can be extremely frustrating. I do not think it is in the best interests of the State to have one particular party in power for an extended period. In my opinion, this change of Government has done a great deal of good to Western Australia. I say that in all sincerity. I think Governments can be in office for too long. They get the impression that they know everything, and Ministers, particularly, take on an arrogance which is rather hard to handle.

Mr. O'Connor: So we have noticed.

Mr. BICKERTON: The longer Ministers are in office, the more arrogant they can become, and one hears criticism not only from the Opposition side but also from those who support the Government. I do not expect the Opposition to agree that the change has done a great deal for Western Australia, but I think the Ministry we now have will prove that a new broom is not always out of place. I have noticed a few improvements already.

I do not think I would be doing my duty if I did not also congratulate the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and the Leader

of the Country Party on succeeding to the positions they hold at the present time. I assure them that while they hold their seats in Parliament I will do everything I can to ensure that they occupy the same positions as they occupy at the present time. I can do no more than that.

Perhaps it would not be unfair to say that the disappointment they have experienced would have been experienced by all people in public life to a greater or smaller degree. When people have spent a great many years putting into operation a policy in which they believe, it must be a great disappointment suddenly to find themselves as practically nothing. I know of no occupation other than politics in which one can go from the top to the bottom in such a short space of time. This is the way democracy works, and there is nothing one can do about it, but it must be disappointing for many people who have had considerable power one day to find themselves very much devoid of it the next day.

In passing, I would like to discuss a matter concerning the Public Accounts Committee which was referred to by both the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I thought I would take this opportunity, as the chairman of that committee, to inform members of the value of the committee as far as they are concerned.

For many years we have striven to have standing committees established on public works, subordinate legislation, and public accounts. The Public Accounts Committee is the first one to be set up, and I pay a tribute to the member for Narrogin for the work he has done in bringing this about.

I would like to remind members that this committee has been set up for their benefit, and not for the benefit of the Government. The purpose of a standing committee is to serve Parliament, and we hope that in so doing it will be of benefit to the State. The members of the committee hope it will be a non-party committee. If it does not succeed in being a non-party committee, we might as well be without it.

The House Committee, on which I have served for many years, has always operated in the interests of members of Parliament and in the interests of Parliament House, generally. It is to the credit of the committee that it has operated in that way. There is no reason why the Public Accounts Committee should not operate in the same manner. If it does not operate in that manner, those who oppose standing committees will have won their point.

In our view, this committee must work. Surely we can have committees to investigate certain Government activities. If it can be pointed out to members who come into this House in 10 or 20 years' time that in 1971 a committee was formed and it did not work, Governments will be given an excuse not to form standing committees.

Governments do not like standing committees, and I do not blame them. I do not suppose Ministers like standing committees. But a standing committee is not set up in the interests of the Government; it is set up to give a service to Parliament and to report to Parliament.

Governments quite frequently set up committees for the purpose of reporting to the Government, and if the Government does not like what the committee says one does not hear any more about it. To my way of thinking, a standing committee is the only way in which a back-bench member of this House can obtain information which the Government does not want to give him.

When discussing the Public Accounts Committee during the debate on the Supply Bill, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition described the responsibility that rests on the members of the committee. I agree with the remarks he made. If Parliament gives the committee the power to see papers which are considered to be confidential, the committee must treat the papers as such, but at least it has access to those documents and can report to Parliament when it believes the Government that happens to be in power is not doing the right thing.

Before I leave Parliament I would like more standing committees to be set up, particularly a standing committee on subordinate legislation. These days, departments can put out regulations, rules, and by-laws which are rarely perused. Some of them might be *ultra vires* the parent Act. A standing committee on subordinate legislation would be responsible for seeing that such things did not take place. I have sufficient faith in the present Government to believe that these additional standing committees will be established at some time in the future.

The Public Accounts Committee has had only an inaugural meeting, and for the benefit of new members I will read from the motion that was adopted by this House—

- (a) To make such examination as the Committee deems necessary of the accounts showing the appropriation of sums from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the General Loan Fund granted by Parliament to meet public expenditure.

- (b) To report to the House upon any items in the accounts referred to in paragraph (a) or any circumstances connected with them to which the Committee thinks the attention of the House should be directed.
- (c) To inquire into and report to the House upon any question in connection with the said accounts which is referred to the committee by resolution of the House.

Then it goes on to state the various Standing Orders under which any member by motion passed by the House, refers a matter to the Public Accounts Committee.

I hope members will appreciate that this is the first time we have ever had a Public Accounts Committee in this Parliament, during the life of the Parliament, and that it is there for their benefit. Any matter that a member wishes to have looked at can be referred to the committee by resolution of the House. Even if it were only a small matter I am sure the secretary would at all times be co-operative so far as members are concerned and would do everything possible to acquaint them of the method of going about having such small matters placed before the committee.

To finalise on this point, I repeat that if this committee does not operate successfully—and it can do this only by being non-party—our chances of ever having other standing committees in the future will be remote indeed.

Another point I wish to touch on this afternoon is that relating to iron ore in the north. As everyone knows, since the change of Government this question has been something of a hot potato. Many people have appeared on television in relation to it, and on the television screen some of them look all right while others do not look too good to me. However, that is beside the point. I and the State generally, and particularly at the present time, rely very much on the mineral wealth that we are extracting.

Unfortunately, at the present time our rural industry is going through a rather difficult stage. Those engaged in it certainly have my sympathy, but it is rather strange that in a State the size of Western Australia when one particular industry is not doing so well we seem to be fortunate enough to find another which can go some of the way, at any rate, towards helping to balance the economy overall. Gold did it very early in our history, and when gold had petered out nickel came along and rescued the Kalgoorlie area.

I do not think anyone would deny that had it not been for the nickel activity in the Kalgoorlie area at the present time that town would be in a serious situation. Certainly very few people would be living there had it not been for nickel.

Mr. T. D. Evans: What about the member?

Mr. BICKERTON: The member may not have been necessary—probably he would not have been necessary had it not been for nickel, at least so far as Kalgoorlie is concerned. However, I feel sure we would have found a place for the member somewhere else, because he is an extremely capable individual.

The iron ore discoveries in the north were the salvation of the north-west. Prior to the discovery of iron ore the people in the north-west were facing a situation similar to that which those engaged in the rural industry in the south are facing today. Those in the pastoral industry were not making a dollar, to put it crudely, and the position would have gone from bad to worse. We could not predict it then, but knowing what we know now of the difficulties with the price of wool compared with what it was some 10 or 15 years ago, I would say that had it not been for iron ore those people in the north-west would have been living on a starvation basis—that is, unless a few tourists had come along to rescue the situation; and the question of tourists is also in the hands of a very capable Minister.

I do not know that it would have been possible for anyone to look to the future with confidence, so far as the north-west was concerned, had it not been for the discovery of iron ore. Iron ore pulled us out of trouble, and I congratulate the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the part he played in connection with the matter.

We did not always see eye to eye on certain points. I thought he could have made a much better deal than he did, but he did not agree with me. However, the fundamental point is that iron ore brought something to an area that had practically nothing. It is all very well for people to talk now about our giving something away, or that we should have done this, that or the other thing; but it is something that had to be discussed with the people who were trying to make a living in the area. It was iron ore that gave those people a lift and we must remember, too, that it was not a pleasant area in which to live.

In making that statement I do not want it to be thought that I am being critical, but it certainly was not the easiest of areas in which to live, and it was extremely hard for womenfolk. There was nothing in the north-west for them. If their desire in life was to do a little window shopping, or have a hairdo, this was not possible. It took a man all his time to find a barber, and it was not unusual for one to have to go and pull him out of the pub to cut one's hair. On occasions one could not be sure whether it was hair he was cutting! That is true.

The discovery of iron ore lifted the north-west from what one might call a frontier area to a place where people now understand a better standard of living, better methods of transport, and so on. So as a State we were lucky that we happened to have the minerals at a time when the Commonwealth allowed us to export them. I am pleased that that happened, and I hope it continues for a long time to come.

Now that these projects are established we can take a second look at them and perhaps we can make a few more dollars for ourselves—a few more dollars than might have been possible in the initial stages. The main thing is to get them established, of course, and fortunately for us the companies that are operating in the north-west are reputable companies. They have their industrial problems—people argue with them and about them from time to time—but not one company has failed to carry out its obligations, and almost all of them, to my way of thinking, are interested in the progress of the area.

There is one company—the Robe River Company—which, at the present time, is in the construction stage, and it has gone through some very trying times. I think most people have wanted the company to succeed, but there are others who are inclined to criticise it or refer to the fact that perhaps the company did not have the leases it should have had, and that it would not be successful. This company is a good one, in my view; I like the way it goes about its business. Those in charge of the company are experienced in iron ore production and the pelletising of iron ore, and it is in the interests of this State that the company be permitted to proceed and, indeed, assisted to proceed. We just cannot afford to have this company fall by the wayside. If we do our reputation will become a laughable one among those who deal in the iron ore business.

I want to congratulate the Minister for Mines and the Minister for Industrial Development on the way they have gone about taking over the offices they have in the Ministry, and upon the co-operation they have given to those people who are endeavouring to establish industries. I would not say that all companies would be happy with the decisions that those two Ministers arrive at—I suppose it would be impossible to satisfy everybody—but if companies are not reasonably happy they certainly would be most unfair if they laid the blame for it at the door of the Minister for Mines or the Minister for Industrial Development, because they have really tried and have worked extremely hard in the time they have been in office to give these people the impression that they are needed and that they will be assisted at any time if it is in the interests of the State.

I am grateful for that attitude which has been adopted by the Ministers, because all of the major activities in regard to iron ore have taken place in my electorate. I appreciate how much my electorate has benefited as a result, and, in addition, I know how the whole of this State at this present stage of its economy has also greatly benefited from this activity. Therefore, the more we can assist these people to assist us the more we are doing for the benefit of the whole of Western Australia.

I think, too, that the two Ministers concerned have handled quite well those people who, perhaps, have become a little greedy individually when seeking something from the other fellow. However, it is not always easy for the managing director of a public company to fight fire with fire when he is dealing with someone who is the owner of a company. It is much easier for a person who is a law unto himself to change his mind overnight, especially if he does not have to answer to a board of directors or satisfy shareholders in an ethical way.

Men who manage companies such as the ones to which I have referred, and who operate in the area concerned to the stage of construction and production, naturally have a tremendous responsibility to the companies employing them and also to the Government with which their companies have negotiated contracts. I can only hope, and I am sure that it will be fulfilled, that the two Ministers to whom I have referred will continue to carry out their negotiations along the lines they have already followed. If they do, I do not anticipate that we will have any problems whatsoever.

When the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was speaking I did make a short note. I think the Premier was absent from the Chamber at the time on business, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was referring to the frequent appearance of the Premier on TV channels. I cannot remember his exact words, but they amazed me a little, because I can recall, after the change of Government in 1959, and for almost 12 years following, the number of times I saw the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on TV. I have no objection to looking at him, but I thought it was strange that he should make this remark about the Premier and it is possible that during the debate on the Estimates or at some other time when he has an opportunity to speak he may let us know why he objected to the frequent appearance of the Premier on TV.

Mr. Court: I did not object. I said that some of our supporters thought he was being exposed too much on TV, but later they were very disappointed when his appearances became less frequent after appearing three times in one day on one TV news bulletin.

Mr. BICKERTON: I thought the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was objecting to his continued appearance.

Mr. Court: I was applauding it and I was hoping they would continue to over-expose him.

Mr. BICKERTON: I saw the Premier quite a bit on television and I thought he did a particularly good job both prior to the election and after it. Our political way of life is such these days that the television stations will not leave us alone; they want us to appear at every possible opportunity. As I have said, I think the Premier did an excellent job and he came over very well indeed.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. BICKERTON: When I say someone is doing a good job it can be taken for granted that this is a fact; that he is doing a good job!

Mr. Court: You have been so magnanimous to your colleagues that you deserve a seat on the front bench.

Mr. BICKERTON: They have me lined up. I am more or less resting, at the moment, with a view to making a late run for the leadership!

I will now refer back quickly again to the Public Accounts Committee and remind members that it is there for their service. We hope we will be able to do a job for them in that connection and we trust we can assist the Government while we are carrying out this job.

I was very heartened by the remarks the Treasurer made to me when I asked him how he felt in connection with this matter. He said he was very happy that the committee had been appointed and he would be only too pleased to assist in any way he could in the early part of its operation. I thank him officially for that.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, may I congratulate you again on your elevation to the high office of Speaker of this House.

MR. McPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall) [5.03 p.m.]: In contributing to this debate I also wish to join with those who have extended to you, Mr. Speaker, their congratulations. I also congratulate other members who have taken official positions and those new members who have joined the ranks of the members of this House.

When the present Premier was making his Address-in-Reply speech in 1968 I distinctly recall a comment which he directed to the new members at that time. This has stayed in my mind and it is a comment on which I would like the Premier to elaborate at some future time. The Premier said, and I quote from *Hansard* of the 31st July, 1968, page 95—

I extend to all new members, whether they are on my side of the House or on the Government side, a

welcome to Parliament. No doubt they have all come here with the intention of turning the place upside down. We have all done that in our time but we soon come back to our field, as will those new members before they are very much older.

Parliament is termed the highest court in the land, and in courts one expects to get both law and justice. Well, in this highest court one cannot depend on getting either. I might tell the new members—from one who knows—that the ones who have come here with some special purpose will learn before they are very much older that they cannot depend upon getting justice and law in the Parliament.

I have never quite understood what the present Premier tried to convey by those remarks; I was not sure whether at that time he was aiming criticism at the Government in power at the time and, accordingly I would be grateful if at some future time he would elaborate a little more on his remarks.

During his speech, which is always full of interest, the member for Pilbara did not take his eyes off me for any period of time. I was not quite sure whether he was expecting a handout or whether he was looking at the seat that he had occupied for such a long time.

Mr. Bickerton: I was looking at the next Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. McPHARLIN: In his remarks the honourable member said that a Government could stay in power for too long. I think all of us learnt—at least I did—during the election campaign conducted recently that the Opposition at that time was prepared to go to any lengths to obtain the reins of government. I daresay there was some justification for the members of the Opposition going to such lengths seeing that they had been in opposition for 12 years. There is little doubt, however, that they did all they could to endeavour to upset the Government of the day and obtain the power they desired.

I would like now to refer to the actions which they aimed directly at the Country Party and their engaging of a group which we came to know as "U.F.G.A." with whom they are alleged to have had a pact.

Mr. Jamieson: That would have done a lot of good, wouldn't it?

Mr. McPHARLIN: Let me quote from *The West Australian* of the 30th April, in which there is an article headed "Tonkin accused of breaching pact." It states—

The political wing of the United Farmers and Graziers' Association of W.A. yesterday accused the Premier, Mr. Tonkin, of not honouring a gentlemen's agreement made before the State election in February.

Further down one of the candidates who stood for election made the following comment:—

If we had known when we gave the A.L.P. our preferences what would happen we would have thought very hard about it.

Mr. Jamieson: They should have told the people to vote for the A.L.P. if they gave preferences, because the statistics do not show that.

Mr. McPHARLIN: On the 3rd May the members of the United Farmers and Graziers' Association disputed the claim by the present Premier that there was no bargain between U.F.G.A. and the A.L.P. They said that a delegation had made the agreement with Mr. Tonkin and that—

When we asked for a written agreement, Mr. Tonkin said that this would be dangerous but we could go broke on his word.

On the 29th January a delegation asked Mr. Tonkin whether the A.L.P. would change its mind about the agreement and he said, "Definitely not." In *The West Australian* of the 4th May the present Premier again denied there had been a pact. He denied they had asked for a written agreement and that he said it would be dangerous, but that they could go broke on his word.

The member for Belmont—the present Minister for Works—could not restrain himself, so he had to come in on the argument and, in the same report of the 4th May, 1971, it is reported—

The U.F.G.A. seems to be living in another world Mr. Jamieson said.

The A.L.P. got no appreciable benefit from their preference. As a matter of fact they did us some harm with their gyrating around.

I endorse his remarks that this group was gyrating around. The fact remains, however, that there was a pact between the group in question and the present Premier. It is significant I think that no standing Labor member was opposed by any one of these candidates. Their opposition was aimed directly at Government members. In spite of the pact for the exchange of preferences, the Government scraped in by the skin of its teeth.

Mr. Jamieson: There was no pact.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I refer to the Government getting in by the skin of its teeth because when the present Deputy Premier was addressing a Labor Women's dinner he said—and this was reported in the Press of the 15th June—"We are not there by divine right, but by the skin of our teeth." I think the Deputy Premier should be commended because he at least is one member of the Government who has his feet on the ground.

Of course, when we consider the promises made by the present Government before it took office, then those teeth must be false, and there is no skin on false teeth. So the Government is in by less than that.

Mr. Jamieson: We did not have to sewer the surf.

Mr. Graham: That was before his time.

Mr. Jamieson: He would not understand that remark.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I would now like to go on to the matter of rural reconstruction. This is not a new problem in the farming industry; farmers faced this problem during the depression years and since then other difficulties have always faced the farming communities and primary industries. I have here a report made by a company known as the British Farm Equipment Co., stationed in Melbourne. Almost 20 years ago this firm carried out a study as a result of the situation facing primary industries at that time. The survey was made in 1952 and the company came up with certain recommendations. One of them was—

Australian primary production, on average, must be increased by more than a third by 1960.

So in those times the emphasis was to increase primary production, and two reasons were given in support of that recommendation. One was that our exports of primary products, particularly wool and wheat, should pay for the bulk of our imports of consumer goods and for raw materials essential to our secondary industries.

The other reason given was that Australia, with its tremendous potential for the production of food, should feed the starving peoples of the world. More than half the world's population is close to starvation. The report states that Australia, as one of the great food-producing nations, has a moral duty to export all the food it can to India and Asia. The report then refers to Australia's overseas trade position as follows:—

Australian exports are declining at a time when Australia's demand for imports is growing rapidly.

Mr. Fletcher: What are you quoting from?

Mr. McPHARLIN: This is a report prepared by the British Farm Equipment Co. It is a most detailed survey of the position which existed at the time. The company also examined the wool industry and gave reasons why it considered primary production was declining. The report then refers to the situation should a drought hit this country or any particular State. Considerable comment is included about the position which would apply were there to be a drought in any particular area.

The report also comments on the methods which could be employed to encourage production, and states where areas of production should be expanded. It is a most interesting document and one which is well worth reading because it contains findings in regard to the decline, and recommendations as to what was required to increase production. I make the point about increasing production because the problems associated with the industry now are not new, and they were emphasised almost 20 years ago.

The farmers responded magnificently to that request; so much so that when there was a change of Government in 1959 the new coalition Government continued to emphasise that production had to be increased. That Government encouraged the farmers to go ahead and increase production because that was what was wanted throughout the world and in Australia. I think it is now history that the farmers responded with a great deal of efficiency and responsibility and produced all that was required of them.

The farmers responded so well that many areas of land were thrown open for selection. That was a popular demand which was endorsed by most people in the State. Some criticism was made that so much land should not have been thrown open for selection during that period.

On this point I would like to refer to a question asked last year by the then Leader of the Opposition. It has been said on numerous occasions that 1,000,000 acres of land a year was thrown open for selection during the 10-year period. The present Premier asked the following question of the then Minister for Lands:—

- (1) What was the total acreage of Crown land made available for selection for farming settlement in Western Australia in each of the years 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, and 1969?
- (2) Will he lay upon the Table of the House a plan of the State showing in different colours the areas made available for settlement in each of the years above-mentioned?

The Minister replied—

- (1) The total acreage of Crown land released for selection in each of the years referred to was—
 1965—487,821 acres.
 1966—1,316,496 acres.
 1967—962,464 acres.
 1968—383,391 acres.
 1969—34,075 acres.

He also tabled the plan. In the last five years the land thrown open for selection certainly did not reach the figure that was frequently spoken of by various people. In all but one of the last five years the figure

was far below the 1,000,000 acres that was mentioned by so many people. I think it reflects great credit on the Government of the day that when it saw there was, perhaps, a fear of over-production, it greatly reduced the acreage released in 1968 and even less in 1969 to roughly one-third of a million acres. I think the action taken by that Government was most responsible and it showed the Government was conscious of the developing situation.

In 1969 wool prices were falling and wheat quotas had to be applied due to over-production; and I think this again reflects the efficiency of the farmers. I believe the farmers are being penalised because of their efficiency; because in some cases they have over-produced.

In 1969 wheat quotas had to be applied and at the same time drought hit the State and the farmers found themselves with very serious problems. It became quite evident that there was a need for assistance to be given to the farming community. Nobody can accuse the previous Government of not understanding the position and not taking action to remedy the plight of the farming community, because when the drought hit immediate action was taken to provide concessions in regard to freight, a water boring programme was implemented, and assistance was provided wherever it was needed.

The assistance may not have been provided as speedily as required in some cases, but in most cases it was made available as quickly as possible. Criticism was levelled at the Government because a first mortgage was required in order to obtain drought relief finance.

Mr. H. D. Evans: The then Minister for Agriculture asked the then Leader of the Opposition, "What drought!"

Mr. McPHARLIN: That is a fallacious statement.

Mr. Graham: It is recorded in *Hansard*.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Let me tell the Ministers opposite that at that time I attended a meeting in Bencubbin. Something like 300 farmers attended the meeting and the presidents of the shires did not want their areas to be declared drought areas because they did not want the stigma that goes with that title. That is the point Ministers opposite seem to overlook. To say that my leader did not know there was a drought is ridiculous.

Mr. Jamieson: Whether or not they wanted it is not important. What was the physical feature?

Mr. McPHARLIN: The situation was developing, but it had not developed fully at that time. They did not want a stigma to be attached to their shires. For the Minister to say that my leader did not know at the time that a drought existed is fatuous. At that time the Government,

the Premier, and the leader of the Country Party made representations to the Commonwealth Government for assistance on a long-term basis; and this was the nucleus of the rural reconstruction scheme which is operating at the present time.

I would like to read two paragraphs of a letter which was sent by the Premier to the Prime Minister seeking assistance. In it the Premier said—

Farmers have been caught by an unexpected chain of events due to wheat growing restrictions, a marked fall in prices for wool and livestock and the effects of the 1969 drought. Our analyses show that with financial assistance and given time, the majority could readjust and go on making an important contribution to the nation's wealth and progress.

Land development in Western Australia has proceeded without serious setback for the past 20 years and has made a major contribution to the National and State economies. Not since the marginal areas were reconstructed in the late 1930's has Western Australia made any demands on the Commonwealth to finance its large land development programme.

The letter covers several pages and contains many statistics. It is dated the 8th July, 1970.

Accusations have been made that the previous Government did not take action in an endeavour to assist the industry, but these are fallacious. The previous Government put into motion the rural reconstruction plan, and added to that there was the question of implementing some form of orderly marketing of wool, which was a necessary step to be taken at the time. I know the Government at that time did everything possible to fall into line and to persuade the Federal Government to establish what we now know as the Wool Commission. It began operating in November last year. For the first time in the history of Australia a wool marketing system was adopted, and an Act dealing with this appears on the Statute Book of the Federal Parliament.

Perhaps it is not all that has been asked for or all that is required, but at least it is operating to the benefit of the wool growers. Certain aspects of the system are not perfect, but no scheme is ever perfect when it is first implemented. At least it should be given a trial, and in due course the rough edges could be knocked off. It was not only to the credit of the previous Government that it approached the Federal Government, but it was also to the credit of the Federal Government that it adopted the scheme and placed the legislation on the Statute Book.

Referring to the rural reconstruction scheme, on the opening day of Parliament His Excellency the Governor said in his Speech—

The Authority has been allocated \$14.63 million of the \$100 million worth of repayable loans provided by the Commonwealth for rural reconstruction in all States. Operations are grossly restricted because funds available are only a fraction of what is conservatively considered necessary.

Some criticism has been made of the amount of money which the Federal Government saw fit to advance, but as I understand the position additional money will be made available if necessary. To this end I am indebted to a member of the Country Party in the Federal Parliament for giving me some information by drawing my attention to the particular section of a Bill which was introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament. The following appears in that section:—

Should a State certify that, without taking into account its administrative costs, it has incurred losses under the Scheme from circumstances beyond its control arising after the date of this agreement and disadvantageous compared with past experience and normal expectation as to factors that affect farmers' incomes . . . the Commonwealth agrees to review the position with the State with a view to adjusting amounts payable to the Commonwealth by the State under this agreement to the extent of such losses.

The endeavour was made to include that provision in the legislation, because any authority administering a fund of this nature would find difficulty in foreseeing the movement in prices and costs.

I would like to make some comment on the visit of the Minister for Agriculture to Koorda. I was not in the Chamber at the time, but I understand the member for Northam made some comment about the visit of the Minister for Agriculture to country areas. The Minister visited Koorda where a meeting with about 300 farmers was held. It was quite a useful meeting, and the Minister was accorded the respect due to a Minister of the Crown. The meeting was well organised and various subjects were raised, such as wheat quotas. The Minister replied to the comments, and also answered questions. I understand the member for Northam said that the people were satisfied. I assure the Minister that many of the farmers there were not satisfied. Perhaps he knows that anyway.

Mr. H. D. Evans: I am aware of that.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I wanted to make sure.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Are the farmers in the Roe district dissatisfied?

Mr. McPHARLIN: I think there is some dissatisfaction there also. Just after the last election when there was a change of Government, Country Party members representing various parts of the State were being hammered over the telephone and deluged with letters. They were looking for some form of financial assistance to be rendered as quickly as possible. Every day phone calls and letters were received asking why the financial assistance was not available.

A Press report dated the 9th was issued by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Country Party criticising the Government over the delay in administering the reconstruction scheme, and in the payment of the money. I think that criticism was fair, because an assurance had been given by the Minister for Primary Industry earlier that all that was required to release the money held in the Rural Trustee Fund was a letter of intent.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Released under the conditions of the Act. You would not like that very much.

Mr. McPHARLIN: A letter of intent was all that was required.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Would you have accepted the conditions under which that money could be used?

Mr. McPHARLIN: The Government is releasing the money now.

Mr. H. D. Evans: The money is not coming from that source at all, but is made available under a special arrangement between the Rural and Industries Bank and the Treasurer. It has nothing to do with the source of funds you are referring to. You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr. McPHARLIN: That money could have been made available much quicker. That was why we criticised the Government, in order to hasten action. I have spoken to one of the commissioners of that bank about this matter, and I suggest that the money could have been made available earlier.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Would it not have been better if it had been done before the election?

Mr. McPHARLIN: My leader assured me that the Government had every intention of doing this as quickly as possible.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Why didn't your Government do it?

Mr. McPHARLIN: I took umbrage at what the Minister for Agriculture was reported to have said in *The West Australian* of the 9th April: that the Country Party perpetuate political "humbug."

Mr. H. D. Evans: I repeat it.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Well, I think the Minister ought to have a look at the meaning of the word "humbug". If he does not have a dictionary with him I will quote the definition for his information. "Humbug" means something done to deceive, fraud, or hoax; something dishonest, or a dishonest person. If that title is applicable to anybody, it is applicable to the Labor Party side of the House during the election campaign.

Mr. Jamieson: Not all those words, surely.

Mr. McPHARLIN: The word "humbug" also means trickery, and to support that contention I would like now to make some reference to the matter of education, and the promises which were made by the present Premier. The Premier was on the platform at one or two meetings I attended, and one particular meeting was held on the 20th June, 1970. At that meeting there was a large gathering of women and during the afternoon questions were asked on many matters. Of course, there were half a dozen questions asked on the subject of education.

I was asked what the Government had done or was prepared to do with regard to education, and I endeavoured to answer the question. The present Premier (The Hon. J. T. Tonkin) was asked to comment and he said—

I cannot speak for the Government, but I will speak for the Opposition—I think that the standard of education in country districts must definitely be upgraded and that the living-away-from-home allowance be made more realistic. I am prepared to see that that's done.

The present Premier received a very strong round of applause. His claim was repeated in his policy speech; and again, prior to the election, at a meeting held in Wyalkatchem similar promises were made. Many people believed that the living-away-from-home allowance would be paid. My colleague, the member for Moore, has referred to this matter. He has appealed to the Minister for Education to give more thought to this matter and to do something about it. People have spoken to me and expressed their disgust because the promises have not been kept.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: Was any date mentioned with regard to the commencement?

Mr. McPHARLIN: That is beside the point.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: It is not beside the point.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Of course it is. Those people knew that the previous Government had promised higher living-away-from-home allowances, and they would have been paid.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: When would they have been paid?

Mr. McPHARLIN: At the beginning of the school year, 1971.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: Does the member for Mt. Marshall remember the Government promising to build two bridges over the Swan River within two years?

Mr. McPHARLIN: That is a ridiculous statement.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. McPHARLIN: People sent their children away to school thinking that the extra money would be paid.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: That was a promise too.

Mr. McPHARLIN: The Minister indicated yesterday, in answer to a question I asked, that the allowance would be paid in 1972, but the people I am referring to will not believe that statement. That is the situation. People are commenting that the Premier has broken a promise, and that he will do it again.

I will now refer to the upgrading of the Mukinbudin School. On the 5th March I wrote a letter to the Premier concerning an adjustment to a school scholarship. The Minister made the adjustment and the scholarship was returned to the child. For that action the people concerned are very grateful, and I also express my appreciation. However, in a letter to me on the 24th March the Premier said that it had definitely been established that the Mukinbudin School would be upgraded in 1972 to junior high school status.

The upgrading was the result of a survey carried out when I accompanied three officers from the Education Department to the area to find out the needs regarding education. The north-eastern section of my area has no junior high school at all, and this fact was submitted to the Education Department. One recommendation submitted was that the Mukinbudin School should be given the green light to become a junior high school. When the Minister replied to the submission I naturally referred his comments to the parents and citizens' association and the shire council. I said how pleased I was and I knew how pleased those organisations would be to get that information.

The shire council wrote back to me asking if I could get more information so that the shire could envisage what would be necessary in the way of housing and so on for the staff. On the 9th June I received a letter from the Minister for Education stating that it was considered advisable to defer upgrading the school for another year. When I passed on the information that the school would be upgraded the parents were elated, but one

can imagine the reaction of those people when I had to inform them that the upgrading would be deferred for another year.

First of all there was the non-payment of the living-away-from-home allowance, and then the upgrading of the school was deferred. I can assure the Minister that the people concerned are not very happy about the situation. Perhaps the Minister will be able to give us the reasons in more detail. However, that is the sort of thing being done, and the people are not very happy at all.

There are a number of other matters I would like to mention, but there will be other opportunities to do so during the session. No doubt some members are anxious to get away, so I will conclude on that note.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Fletcher.

House adjourned at 5.40 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 27th July, 1971

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

QUESTIONS (6): ON NOTICE

1. EDUCATION

Meekatharra State School

The Hon. G. W. BERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Have tenders been called for additions to the Meekatharra State School?
- (2) If not, when is it anticipated they will be?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) About the middle of August.

2. PEACH CANNING INDUSTRY

Establishment

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

Will he confer with the Minister for Agriculture in regard to an article published in the "*Manjimup-Warren Times*" on the 26th August, 1970, in which he is quoted as having expressed certain opinions on the peach canning industry, and please obtain his present views in regard to implementing suggestions made by him on—

- (a) special loans or grants to growers with deferment of interest for a period of four or five years; and