

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

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

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

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

Point of Order

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

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

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

That thoroughly covers the position.

Debate on Motion Resumed

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

Presentation to the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator

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

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

Question put and passed.

BILLS (4)—INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Dividing Fences Bill.

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

2. Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill.

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

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

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

4. Coal Miners' Welfare Act Amendment Bill.

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

House adjourned at 5.9 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 24th August, 1961

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

VICTORIA PARK BY-ELECTION*Liberal Party Pamphlet: Personal Explanations*

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [2.16 p.m.]: I wish to make a personal explanation in regard to both a newspaper report which appeared this morning and a matter which occurred in this House last night. I made reference, at one stage, to a pamphlet sponsored by the Liberal Party which is being used in the Victoria Park by-election; and, by interjection, the member for South Perth said: "You must have got that direct from the printer. That is a pamphlet which is going out in a couple of days."

From the newspaper report, which said the pamphlet would not go out until the next day or two, it could be inferred that some underhand work had taken place on the part of either the proprietors of the Challenge Print in Stirling Street, Perth, or its employees; and I would like to have it recorded that this pamphlet was obtained from a letter-box in Victoria Park, and the contents of the pamphlet were telephoned to me about 10 minutes before I spoke in the House last night.

It would appear that the member for South Perth was wrong in asserting what he did; and, of course, some over-zealous person, who evidently had not had instructions to put out that pamphlet at that early stage, had thrown his timing out. I would not like the statement made, by

the member for South Perth to reflect on either the Challenge Print or its employees.

Mr. Grayden: You made the statement that you had the pamphlet.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [2.19 p.m.]: I wish to make a personal explanation arising out of the remarks made by the member for Beeloo, who stated that the statement I made reflected upon him—

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I think the member for Beeloo said it reflected upon the employees and the proprietors of the Challenge Print.

Mr. GRAYDEN: He inferred that the pamphlet was obtained by some devious means and that it was a reflection on the Challenge Print. But when the member for Beeloo was on his feet last night, he made the clear statement that he had the pamphlet.

Mr. Jamieson: I did not say that at all.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I interjected and said he must have got it that way. I asked him to read it; and, finally, he admitted he had not got the pamphlet. But he had made the clear statement. I would like to say that his remarks in respect of the pamphlet were quite untrue. The pamphlet was simply refuting—

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I do not think the member for South Perth can proceed on that subject.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**WATER SUPPLY AT KOONGAMIA**
Inadequacy

1. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

In view of difficulty experienced at Koongamia in summer months, due to inadequate water supply and the fact that extra housing has been built in the area, what arrangements are being made to ensure sufficient water for domestic and sewerage purposes?

Mr. WILD replied:

Whilst pressures in parts of Koongamia are not high, the general supply to the area is considered reasonable.

SEWAGE TREATMENT*Position in Midland Area*

2. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

(1) Are any plans being prepared for extra sewage treatment works or pumping stations north of Midland?

(2) Have the existing sewerage mains and pumping facilities reached their maximum intake in the Midland area?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The facilities provided are adequate to meet the requirements of the areas at present sewerred and being sewerred this year, when fully built up.

SWAN RIVER

Dredging of Upper Reaches

3. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Swan River Conservation Committee to dredge the Swan River in the upper reaches during the current year?
- (2) What type of dredge is to be used?

Reclamation of Low-lying Areas

- (3) Has the committee any plan for reclaiming the low-lying areas adjoining the river?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) and (3) The Swan River Conservation Board has no funds available for dredging or reclamation works in the Swan River, but is in favour of such works being carried out. A survey has been made and the position is now being evaluated.
- (2) Not known.

GASCOYNE RIVER PILOT WATER SCHEME

Position of Planters With Private Wells

4. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Should a planter who has adequate water supplies on his freehold property be bound by the pilot water scheme on the Gascoyne River and prohibited from pumping from his own bores or wells?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes," under what Act can this be enforced?
- (3) Will he quote the relevant section or sections of the Act?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) As explained in my answer to question No. 6 on the 22nd August, a planter will not be bound in the pilot scheme unless continued draw on his own wells is likely to have an adverse effect on the quality of the water in the area adjacent to his wells.
- (2) and (3) If it is necessary to bind the planter, it will be done under the provisions of section 27 of the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act, 1914-1951.

5 and 6. *These questions were postponed.*

FLY-PROOF SCREENS

Government Subsidy to Parents and Citizens' Associations

7. Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the purchase by parents and citizens' associations of fly-proof doors and window screens for schools, subsidised by the Government in certain areas?
- (2) Is so, what are those areas?
- (3) What is the extent of the subsidy?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) A subsidy is not payable to parents and citizens' associations for fly-proof doors and window screens for schools, but it is hoped to provide fly wiring for certain schools in areas badly infested with flies.
- (2) and (3) Answered by No. (1).

MOORA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Draining and Filling of Grounds

8. Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has approval been given for the draining and filling of the grounds of the Moora Junior High School?
- (2) If so, when will this work be carried out?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The draining and filling of the grounds of the Moora Junior High School is a work which has been approved in principle by the Education Department.
- (2) The work will be carried out when finance becomes available from the loan allocation. The final allocation of loan funds available for school works in 1961-62 has not yet been made.

Quarters for Head Teachers

9. Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Education:

Is it proposed to erect new quarters for the head teacher of Moora Junior High School this year?

Mr. WATTS replied:

The allocation of loan funds has not as yet been finalised, hence it is not possible at this stage to give a definite answer.

10. and 11. *These questions were postponed.*

SEWERAGE CONNECTIONS*Financing in Metropolitan Area*

12. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Does his department still finance sewerage connections to houses for people in the metropolitan area who desire financial assistance?
- (2) If so, what are the terms covering such assistance?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Loan funds have not been available for advances to householders for sewerage connections since the year 1955-56.
- (2) See answer to No. (1).

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD*Payments to Radio Stations for Race Commentaries*

13. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What is the total amount of contribution made by the Totalisator Agency Board to the 31st July, 1961, towards helping to meet the cost of race commentaries through radio stations?
- (2) How much of that amount was paid to—
 - (a) 6PM and associated stations;
 - (b) 6PR and associated stations;
 - (c) 6KY and associated stations;
 - (d) 6IX and associated stations;
 - (e) any other station?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) £1,643 13s.
- (2) (a) 6PM £180.
(b) 6PR Nil.
(c) 6KY £450.
(d) 6IX £1,013 13s.
(e) Nil.

GOOMALLING SCHOOL*Cooling Unit for Drinking Water*

1. Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it the intention to install a cooling unit for drinking water at the Goomalling School?
- (2) If so, when?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) and (2) This matter is receiving consideration, and the honourable member will be advised as early as possible.

CLOVERDALE INFANTS' SCHOOL*Additional Classrooms*

15. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many additional classrooms are to be provided at the Cloverdale Infants' School?
- (2) When is it anticipated the work will commence?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) Two.
- (2) It is anticipated that tenders will be called in six or seven weeks and the work will be completed in time for the opening of school in 1962.

16. This question was postponed.

POLICE STATION GAOLS*Admissions and Departmental Cost*

17. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What were the daily admissions to police station gaols for the years 1958, 1959, 1960, and 1961 for a period not exceeding fourteen days—
 - (a) females;
 - (b) males?
- (2) What department bears the cost when prisoners are held for a period up to fourteen days in police station gaols?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) There are approximately 110 police lock-up gaols in the state, and the information desired could only be obtained by a circular request to all of them, which would take some time. If the honourable member so desires this could be obtained; but if he wishes to nominate some specific station, the information could be obtained more rapidly.
- (2) Costs of unsentenced prisoners are borne by the Police Department, and of sentenced prisoners by the Prisons Department.

PRISONERS*Numbers for 1958-1961*

18. Mr. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What was the daily average number of persons confined to imprisonment for the years 1958, 1959, 1960, and 1961, other than in police station gaols?
- (2) How many females were admitted and how many males for 1958, 1959, 1960, and 1961 other than police station gaols?
- (3) What number of persons confined—male and female—were aborigines?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Year ended the 30th June—
1958—554.81.
1959—549.18.
1960—560.79.
1961—575.20.
- (2) Year ended the 30th June—
1958—3,822 commitments of
2,232 individual males, 315
commitments of 245 indi-
vidual females.
1959—3,737 commitments of
2,267 individual males, 455
commitments of 351 indi-
vidual females.
1960—3,867 commitments of
2,264 individual males, 411
commitments of 306 indi-
vidual females.
1961—4,332 commitments of
2,465 individual males, 465
commitments of 307 indi-
vidual females.
- (3) Number of aborigines committed
—Year ended the 30th June—
1958—511 males, 157 females.
1959—522 males, 271 females.
1960—543 males, 220 females.
1961—527 males, 224 females.

MT. MANY PEAKS COAST ROAD

Formation, Sealing, and Bituminisation

9. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) When is it expected that the coast road—Mt. Many Peaks—Green Range section—will be formed, sealed and bituminised?
- (2) When will the section between Green Range and Pallinup be formed, sealed and bituminised?
- (3) Will the new bridge at Marra crossing be completed this year?
- (4) Is it expected to have the section between Marra crossing and Ravensthorpe completed this year?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) and (2) Completion of this road to the sealed stage must be programmed over a period of years. Date of completion will depend on availability of funds.

(3) No.

(4) No.

20. *This question was postponed.*

ALVAN HOUSE AND McDONALD HOUSE

Handing Over to Church of England

21. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Was a decision made to hand over to the Church of England both Alvan House and McDonald House, complete with furnishings, etc., free of charge?

(2) Were inquiries made as to the need for, and capacity to use, these premises by the church authorities?

(3) If so, with what result?

Availability of Alvan House to Katakutu Committee

(4) Has a decision now been reached to make Alvan House available to the Katakutu committee?

(5) If so, on what basis?

(6) Why was not this committee previously offered the premises, particularly having regard for its work for aboriginal and part-aboriginal young men, its lack of space and the financial burden (particularly rent) in its present premises?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) It was considered by the South West Native Mission that it would have the capacity to use two homes. One was to be for apprentices and the other for girls; but it has now been found that a sufficient number of girls is not available immediately.

(4) Yes.

(5) It will be handed over free of charge, but other details of the transfer are being given consideration.

(6) It was accepted that the South West Native Mission would have need for both homes. After Katakutu became an incorporated body and had shown the value of its work, I was prepared to assist in providing better accommodation. Two propositions were examined but when it was found that the South-West Native Mission could not use Alvan House at present, I offered it to Katakutu. I might add that I have promised the South-West Native Mission that as soon as it has the girls I am prepared to assist it by a second home to carry out its share of the work.

Mr. Graham: Katakutu will remain

Mr. PERKINS: Yes.

22. *This question was postponed.*

POWER HOUSE NEAR MUJA OPEN CUT

Commencement of Building Operations

23. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Electricity:

(1) When is it anticipated that building operations will commence on the new power house adjacent to the Muja open cut?

(2) Is it possible to hasten a commencement of the work in order that those people who may become

unemployed after the 18th October, 1961, can be engaged on the proposed new power house?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) This will not be known until tenders are let.
- (2) This will be discussed with the successful tenderer.

24. *This question was postponed.*

HELENA STREET, MIDLAND JUNCTION

Traffic Flow and Warning Signals

25. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Are any plans being prepared to improve the traffic flow in Midland Junction in the vicinity of Helena Street (particularly at week-ends and evenings, when railway employees cease employment)?
- (2) Is any consideration being given to installing flashing lights or similar warning signals at the Helena Street or other pedestrian crossings?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) The Main Roads Department has no proposals in connection with the traffic flow in the vicinity of Helena Street. The area is being kept under observation; and, in the meantime, police control at peak hours meets the situation.
- (2) No. Experience has shown that the zigzag line markings at the approach to pedestrian crosswalks are more effective than the flashing lights.

26. *This question was postponed.*

COLLIE COAL AND FUEL OIL

Use in Power Houses

27. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is every possible action being taken to reduce the consumption of fuel oil at the various power houses in this State?
- (2) If this is being done, what has been the rate of increase in the consumption of Collie coal for each month since the operations of the new tenders for coal?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Collie coal consumed—

	Tons.
January, 1961	7,383
February	17,006
March	20,338
April	20,688
May	36,273
June	37,145
July	38,544

28. *This question was postponed.*

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ACT

Tabling of Full Court Judgment on Proclamation Issue

29. Mr. WATTS: Earlier in the week I promised the House that I would lay on the Table of the House the judgment of the Full Court of Western Australia in connection with the action, Tonkin & Others and Brand & Others. I now lay upon the Table of the House the judgment of the Full Court, the reasons for the judgment, and the order.

The papers were tabled.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HAWKER SIDDELEY GROUP AGREEMENT

Disappearance of Photostat Copy

1. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Speaker:

- (1) Is he aware that between Thursday afternoon last and Friday morning last, certain papers which were put by the member for Kalgoorlie in the place in which I sit in this Chamber, being photostat copies of the agreement between the Government and the Hawker Siddeley Group, somehow vanished; and that, notwithstanding efforts by members of the staff to locate them, they have not yet been located? I would point out that these papers are exceedingly valuable to me because of certain notations which they contain.
- (2) Would he be good enough to request members to search through their papers with the thought that perhaps inadvertently these papers might have become confused with their own?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): replied:

- (1) Yes; I was aware of the fact that the papers had disappeared. I had been told so, though I did not check on it or anything like that. I merely accepted the fact as being true. I have taken some steps to try to get additional copies made by the Government Printer, and I am informed that three such copies will be up this afternoon, and a further 10 will be available tomorrow. I think perhaps they could be distributed equally between the two sides of the Chamber, or something of that nature.

- (2) I can only make a request to members to see if these papers have inadvertently become confused with their own, but I cannot do more than leave it to the sense of decency of members; though I am sure that will be sufficient.

POLICE STATION GAOLS

Admissions and Departmental Cost

2. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Police:

In answer to question No. 17 on the notice paper the Minister said that he would obtain the information for me if I thought it absolutely necessary. I think this information is desirable for the records and statistics, and I ask the Minister if he will procure the information which I seek.

Mr. PERKINS replied:

As I indicated, it will take some time to obtain all this information, because it covers the whole State.

Mr. Tonkin: When you get it you will not give it to him.

Mr. PERKINS: There is nothing to hide in this matter; it is public property. If the member for Albany has a particular interest in a definite centre we could obtain that information fairly quickly. It will, however, cost something to do this; but if the honourable member presses his request it will be done. Members should realise that obtaining answers like this takes considerable time, and someone in the Government service must be detailed to secure the information.

BETTING LAWS

Attitude of Licensed Bookmakers' Association to Enforcement

3. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Was he correctly reported in this morning's issue of *The West Australian* as having told the president of the licensed bookmakers' association, when a deputation from that body waited on him yesterday, that it had been reported to him by the police that there was a lack of co-operation on the part of the association with the Police Force, regarding which the Minister expressed concern?

(2) If the answer is in the affirmative will the Minister inform the House as to the nature of the police complaint which has caused him such concern?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) and (2) Generally speaking I think the report was correct. To give the details requested by the member for Boulder would, of course, mean detailing the continuing discussions which I have had with members of the Police Force on this particular matter. As a matter of fact, in the interests and efficiency of the force much of this information cannot be made public. I do not desire to retract anything I said, and I take full responsibility for the statement. I am sure all members in this House know what is going on in the community at present.

Mr. May: I do not know.

Mr. Graham: What is it?

Mr. PERKINS: It is a general lack of co-operation by people who are members of the association. I appreciate that their interest have perhaps been affected by the legislation which has been passed but this legislation has been accepted by Parliament, and now there is considerable difficulty in enforcing the law.

4. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Police:

As the statement made by the Minister concerning the lack of co-operation of the premise bookmakers' association is a matter of public concern; and as I would indicate that a serious situation exists relative to those people; and as we know that citizens are supposed to co-operate with the police in seeing the law is not broken, will the Minister not indicate specifically, for the benefit of members, the nature of the complaints received?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

I am not prepared to be more specific at this stage.

Mr. Hawke: You have not been specific at all.

Mr. PERKINS: I will leave it at that.

Mr. Hawke: I should think you would.

5. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

Following the question just asked by the member for Boulder, where the representatives of the bookmakers' association saw the Minister yesterday did they make a request for information to him?

given to them to enlighten them as to the nature of the complaints of the police; and if they did, what was his answer?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

To the best of my recollection no such request was made.

Mr. Tonkin: My information is that it was.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from the 23rd August, on the following motion by Mr. Craig:—

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

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

MR. HALL (Albany) [2.40 p.m.]: In making my contribution to the Address-in-Reply I would first like to pay a tribute to the late Mr. Hugh Andrew for the work he did in his electorate of Victoria Park. I would also like to express my condolences to his good wife.

Further, I wish to pay a tribute to the retiring member for Eyre, particularly for the good work he did while he was Minister for Health in the Hawke Labor Government. I feel that Albany owes a lot to Mr. Nulsen for commencing the Albany Regional Hospital.

With a population of nearly 12,500 in a growing district, it is obvious that Albany will be called upon to serve the surrounding areas with modern hospitalisation. The presence of that utility in Albany must materially assist decentralisation, particularly in the medical field.

There has been much controversy in the past as to the style of hospital that should be built; and the troubled state of the world today makes us realise that the planning of that hospital is the best that it could have been, having regard to atomic warfare. In a single-storeyed hospital with a maximum of, say, 250 beds the greatest personal touch with patients is achieved; costs are reduced; and administration and frustration are reduced to a minimum.

We find that in many of the bigger cities of the world, and also in Queensland, hospitals are being built beneath the surface of the ground in an endeavour to cope with the possibility of gamma radiation and all the other horrible features associated with atomic warfare. We are well aware of what a catastrophe it could be to patients if they were placed in multi-storey buildings. This is supported from what we are able to read in the newspapers, where even people in good health have been trapped in multi-storeyed buildings, and many have been burned to death.

The hospital at Albany, which was planned by the former Minister for Health and his department, will be a great advance on what we have known. Again, I offer him my congratulations on his retirement, and I sincerely hope his successor will be of the same Labor faith and will be able to carry out his duties in the same able manner as Mr. Nulsen did, when he was Minister for Health. At this stage I have no derogatory statements to make regarding the present Minister for Health.

I would also like to pay a tribute to the retiring member for Avon Valley. When I first came into this Parliament I found that it was very easy to get off on the wrong foot; and although the member for Avon Valley was on the opposite side of the fence, he would give me a little nudge. I appreciate the guidance which he gave me, and I hope it will see me through my political career, whatever its length.

I believe that at one stage he was reputed to have saved a Labor Government from defeat; and the only mistake I think he made was that he did not sit on our side of the fence. I think he often gets itchy feet; and some of his remarks are not particularly "Liberal" in their tenor. I pay a tribute to the three gentlemen I have mentioned because of the way they conducted themselves, and for the service given by them to the State.

Yesterday, I addressed a question to the Chief Secretary in regard to television telecasts to country areas. I did that because primary industry is really the backbone of the economy of this State; and indirectly that industry greatly subsidises the Eastern States through the export of primary production. The people in country areas have no entertainment whatsoever. They have to make long trips to a townsite, or to what they call a provincial town. They have to do that over many miles of roads that are not bituminised. These people are also separated from their children, because the children have to leave Albany in order to acquire their education.

This State is not greatly industrialised, but from its primary production it is heavily subsidising the bigger cities in the metropolitan area. This applies equally to the other States because of what this State is able to earn by way of export income. We are subsidising the unemployment of the Eastern States. Perhaps when this State is more industrialised the position will be better. Imports from the other States are flooding into Western Australia, and we are pouring money into the Eastern States to keep industries over there in operation. That situation has been brought about to a large degree by the credit squeeze imposed by the Menzies Government, and also because that Government refrained from imposing selective import restrictions at the right time.

Returning to the subject of telecasts in the country, I would point out that yesterday I asked the following question of the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Can he advise when it is anticipated that television telecasts will be made available to country areas?
- (2) How many States are transmitting television programmes to country areas, outside the range of city telecasts?
- (3) What are the names of such States, and when did they commence transmitting television programmes to country areas?

The Chief Secretary replied as follows:—

- (1) to (3) This matter comes within Commonwealth jurisdiction. However, I have contacted the local member of the Australian Broadcasting Control Board and have been advised that the honourable member can obtain the information by writing to the chairman of the board at 497 Collins Street, Melbourne.

I do not think it is the responsibility of the member for Albany to arrange for country television telecasts in this State. From the information that has been given me I shall certainly take the opportunity to make some inquiries. Nevertheless, I feel that Country Party members who sit behind the Government bench should do all they can to see that country areas of this State receive their due recognition and are given television telecasts.

People in the country should have been the first to receive this sort of programme, as people in the city are provided with many forms of entertainment. Therefore, I hope members of the Country Party will take some action in this regard, and not just leave it to the member for Albany, as I would not be strong enough on my own to make a successful request to the Commonwealth Government for recognition for the country areas in this State.

The following appeared in *The West Australian* of the 4th July last under the heading, "New Stage in Country TV"—

Contracts worth £1,184,000 had been let for national television transmitters in provisional and country areas. Postmaster-General Davidson said today.

They will be in Victoria, N.S.W., Queensland, and Tasmania.

Amalgamated Wireless will supply this equipment, a big proportion of it being made in Japan. It is significant that the States which are to receive country TV transmitters are Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania; and I say, without any shadow of doubt, that the Government has failed in its duty to press Western Australian's claim to the maximum. I will not elaborate any further, but bring the matter to the notice of the House in the hope that the Chief Secretary will bring it before the Government and that consideration will be given to country people receiving the just rewards to which they are entitled.

I turn now to housing for the aged. We find that single pensioners in this State today—I am not aware of conditions in other States—are in a very sad plight. As a result of the introduction of the new Local Government Act, we find that demolition is taking place in the larger towns—in the town of Albany, at least. I should say it is also applicable in other parts of the State, because we now have uniformity in the application of the Act. As a result of this demolition we find that old people have been robbed of housing, or coverage, or whatever term we may use. That would also apply to pensioner married couples; but they at least have some outlet, in that they may make application to the State Housing Commission and await their turn for housing.

But in country areas single pensioners, and even single widows, have no opportunity whatsoever to apply for some form of housing. I think this problem should be looked at very closely. We find that in the metropolitan area widows have the privilege of single accommodation. That may be all very well for those who are enjoying that privilege, but I think we should look a little bit further afield in the hope that the Chief Secretary will make some recommendation on the lines suggested by the Minister for Housing. If the Act has to be amended, then let it be amended.

We see flats being converted, these days, out of old places. I know of one case in Albany where at least 12 persons were housed in certain premises, and those premises were turned into a boarding-house. There were virtually 12 pensioners thrown

on to the streets in a matter of a few weeks. By certain means we managed to get out of that difficulty. But that state of affairs cannot continue with our growing population. Albany, Kalgoorlie, and Geraldton will all have bigger populations, and they will have to receive the same consideration as the metropolitan area with regard to single aged persons. The question of double units for married pensioners should also be looked at.

There is a possibility of an easement of the problem by the conversion of the Albany District Hospital into an aged centre, if the Minister for Health agrees to it. After delving into the activities of the Kalgoorlie aged centre it is easy to see what an advantage it is to the area and those it serves.

An aged centre is not, actually, an aged home, as the Minister is probably aware from the advice of his officers. An aged centre permits the adult children of the aged, to leave their parents there for a short period while they are on holidays; and when sickness strikes a family, elderly people can be catered for at such a centre for a temporary period. The centre would supply meals and recreational facilities, and would be a meeting place for old people on occasions. Single pensioners could be catered for at these aged centres until the cottage scheme, or the Silver Chain scheme, was able to take up a certain amount of the slack.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Did you not recommend that the old hospital at Albany should be used for a school hostel?

Mr. HALL: No; I did not make such a recommendation. There has been an inquiry in connection with turning it into a school hostel. When I questioned the Minister the other day I referred to the residency, which was designed—or so we thought—to cater for aged people as an aged centre. However, as the railway line runs parallel with the property, it was decided to waive the claim in favour of a school hostel. There has now been a move made behind the scenes by the Education Department to take over the Albany Hospital as a school hostel on completion of the Albany Regional Hospital.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I think you recommended it.

Mr. HALL: I do not think so. I have always been an advocate for an aged centre. Correspondence would be on the file to that effect. I have never wavered from that opinion. I have discussed it with the Minister's secretary, Mr. Devereux, but no finality has been reached.

I emphasise that an aged centre would provide an outlet at times for some of our aged persons. It would certainly cater

for them. I think we should have a look at the facts and figures in the questions and answers given on this matter. On Tuesday, the 22nd August, 1961, the following question was asked:—

- (1) Will there be an increase in rent to people occupying State Housing Commission homes and pensioners' cottages as a result of increased social services and repatriation payments announced in the Federal Budget?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes," what will be the increase to the following occupants of State Housing Commission homes and pensioners' cottages—
 - (a) age pensioners—single and married;
 - (b) invalid pensioners—single and married;
 - (c) civilian widows—widows with children of school age;
 - (d) war widows—war widows with children of school age;
 - (e) married persons in receipt of unemployment benefit;
 - (f) married persons in receipt of sickness benefit;
 - (g) married persons receiving tuberculosis allowance;
 - (h) single persons in receipt of tuberculosis allowance?

The answer is rather lengthy, but I think the Minister will be tolerant enough to allow me to read it. It is as follows:—

- (1) Rents on all houses built under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement Act are assessed in accordance with the agreement, and an increase in family income (which includes pensions) does affect the rental assessment. (Family income does not include child endowment.)
- (2) The following increases will occur when the foreshadowed benefits in Social Service payments by the Commonwealth Government become effective—

		Per Week	
		s.	d.
(a) Aged pensioners—			
Single	....	1	6
Married	....	2	6
(b) Invalid pensioners—			
Single	....	1	6
Married	....	2	6

(c) Civilian widows—

If in receipt of child welfare assistance for one child	1 0
If more than one child from	1 6

(d) War widows—

With one child (this varies if widow is in receipt of other allowances)	1 6
With two or more children from	2 0

(e) Married persons in receipt of unemployment benefit—

With no children	4 0
With one child	4 6
With two or more children	4 6

(f) Married person in receipt of sickness benefit—As for (e).

(g) Tuberculosis allowance—

Married with no children	2 6
Married with one child	4 0
Married, with two or more children, from	4 0
Single persons	1 6

Note: The Act provides for the housing of families, and the reference to single persons is only applicable in the case of death of one of the parties. The commission allows the surviving partner to remain in the house, and the rent is then determined according to income, as provided for in the Act.

I would ask the Chief Secretary to let the Minister for Housing know how all these people feel when they get something and it is taken away from them. That state of affairs does not apply only under this Government; it has happened under previous Governments. But I do think the basis of assessment should be altered in fairness to the pensioners, particularly when one looks at the present economic position. The few shillings they are getting from the Commonwealth Government will purchase practically nil, because the purchasing power of the pound is practically nil; and we find we are making the assessment on the same basis as applied when we were getting

better value for our pound, and when the pensioners were able to supplement their income by £7 10s. per week per married couple.

Today they have no chance of seeking extra employment, because unemployment is so prevalent. The married person of 60 to 65 years of age has no more chance of competing with a person of 45, 50, or 55 years of age than has a person of 55 years of age of competing with the young fellow of 25 for the jobs that are on offer; and there is only a meagre list of jobs offering.

At present the pensioners have no means at their disposal of supplementing their incomes to meet the increased charges, and I really believe it is time the basis of assessment for pensioners was reviewed. I am not quite aware of the actual facts or figures, but I believe there is a basis on which they work, and I believe it should be taken into consideration and that the whole matter should be put under review.

Another subject I would like to touch upon—one which I have briefly skimmed around—is the unemployment in the Albany district. We know there is unemployment in every part of Australia, and particularly so in the centralised areas, because of the migration from the country areas into the city; and it cannot be disputed that that takes place. Therefore, whenever there is a recession, most of the unemployment occurs in the centralised areas. When we find unemployment creeping out into the decentralised districts, it proves conclusively and significantly that unemployment is prevalent; because 12 or 18 months ago it would not have affected such areas; and we are suffering from migration from the city because the people are being forced into the country in order to get work.

I wish now to quote from the *Albany Advertiser* of Tuesday, the 15th August, 1961. The article is headed "Increase in District's Unemployed," and it states—

A total of 112 people—mainly semi-skilled and unskilled workers—were unemployed in Albany district at the end of July.

The figure is likely to increase as work on the new Regional Hospital nears completion.

About 70 local workers would be affected.

That figure does not include the extra workers who would be forced out of employment and who would migrate back to the metropolitan area. The actual total that will be affected on the completion of the regional hospital is 139; and

the following figures will show the number of tradesmen who will be affected, and where they come from:—

	Albany	Perth	Total
Bricklayers	2	1	3
Carpenters	19	10	29
Carpenters' apprentices	1	—	1
Painters	14	16	30
Plasterers	—	6	6
Plumbers	6	15	21
Storemen	1	—	1
Terrazzo hands	—	2	2
Truck drivers	—	1	1
Drainers	2	—	2
Labourers	21	—	21
Sanders	—	1	1
Electricians	1	4	5
Grano workers	—	1	1
Stonemasons	—	1	2
Tilers	—	3	3
Subforemen	1	4	5
Foremen	—	1	1
Works clerks	1	—	1
Clerical assistants	1	1	2
Storekeepers	—	1	1
Total	71	68	139

Further on in the report contained in *The Albany Advertiser* we find this—

Nearly 40 of the unemployed males were aged between 21 and 40. Ten were under 21 years of age. Nineteen of the 35 females unemployed were aged under 21.

A little later the article deals with the remarks of the headmaster of the Albany High School as follows:—

Albany High School Principal J. Macaulay estimates that only a small percentage of the school's 77 Leaving examination candidates will be seeking employment at Albany.

The reason is quite obvious; quite a lot of these students come from areas adjacent to Albany—perhaps as far away as Narrogin. The article continues—

However, more than half the 160 third-year students will be seeking work in the town.

Mr. Macaulay said in addition, there would be 30 girl students who would graduate from the fourth-year commercial class who also would want work at Albany.

Many of the boys leaving school this year hoped for apprenticeships, he added.

I would say: What a hope! What chance would there be of employment in those circumstances?

Another point I wish to cover concerns the effect of import restrictions on the textile industry in the Commonwealth of Australia, and particularly on the Albany textile trade which had not seen a recession in 26 years; but it has in the last six months. The mill at Albany, and the subsidiary industry at Fremantle had virtually closed until a few weeks ago when, by ingenuity, they were able to create little bits of work here and there and manage to keep going on a restricted basis.

Imports and exports, we know, have to reach some sort of balance. Overseas borrowing, also, gives us greater spending power in the internal structure of the Commonwealth, and particularly the States where the loan money is advanced. But if the money borrowed from overseas is spent on trinkets, and is used so that further imports can be brought into Australia, we see a virtual collapse of our industries within the internal structure of the Commonwealth; and if this State becomes industrially strong, we will see the same thing here, and our primary production will be the only means of building up the country's economy, because the chance of exporting industrial products is limited.

But if the loan moneys were used for hospitals, roads, schools, and other essential works, including the establishment of industry—even to the point of subsidisation—so that we would not have to be at the mercy of outside industrial powers, we would be much better off.

It has been said before that importations into this country from less privileged countries affect our employment position. If we had control, and if import restrictions had been imposed at the right period, there is no doubt that our textile trade today would not be in the condition in which it is.

In *The Sunday Times* of the 14th May last we find under the heading "Copland calls for Import Curb" the following report from Sydney:—

Reintroduction of import controls was the "most simple and direct method" of balancing the Australian economy.

Economist Sir Douglas Copland said this before leaving for Geneva.

He said Australia had successfully developed for seven years with import restrictions, but the present Government policy was retarding further growth.

Big crack

A nation could not be built on a credit squeeze such as Australia was experiencing today, he said.

The borrowing of £78 million from the International Monetary Fund was an indication of a big crack in the Australian economy.

There is no need to argue about the professor's views, because I believe they have been completely substantiated.

The next point I wish to raise concerns some questions I asked the Chief Secretary on the number of admissions to gaols, which questions I also directed to the Minister for Police. The reason for my asking for these figures is that I consider that if those Ministers study the statistics relating to the admission of offenders to gaols they will find that they have increased alarmingly, particularly in relation to males. This trend is also most evident in other States of Australia, and I say to both the Chief Secretary and the Minister for Police that I did not ask those questions without giving the matter some very close study.

In South Australia statistics have been compiled showing the number of admissions to police station gaols, and also the number of admissions to prisons and gaols other than police station gaols. From those figures the authorities in that State were able to analyse the situation with a view to determining why the number of adult males, adult females, and juvenile admissions have increased so greatly over recent months. In addition to compiling those statistics, they have also taken steps to prepare plans for the construction of new and modern prisons, and I believe the Chief Secretary has been responsible for sending an officer to the Eastern States to make some research into this matter. We will await with interest the information which he will bring back to this State, as a result of his visit.

I have discussed the matter with Mr. Lewis, and he has informed me that the department is just biding time to see the result of the investigation by this officer whilst he is in the Eastern States. I sincerely hope the Chief Secretary will follow some of the principles that have been adopted by prison authorities in South Australia in relation to the gaols in that State, because I believe there are many new methods and other improvements which we could follow to our advantage. When one views the modern approach that is taken towards prisoners today, one realises that the solution to the problem is based on proper rehabilitation of prisoners. That is, the most important aspect is what happens to a prisoner after he is discharged from prison, and what effect social rehabilitation treatment is going to have on him.

If the Chief Secretary does decide to follow the modern principles adopted by South Australia, I do not think we will have need to quibble about the results in

future. At Cadell, in South Australia, they have established a training centre, and the official opening of that centre on Tuesday, the 31st May, 1960, was recorded in a printed brochure. The foreword to that brochure reads as follows:—

It has been said that the test of a prison system is what happens when the prisoner is released.

Modern methods of prison treatment seek the social rehabilitation of the offender, endeavouring to prepare him to take his place once more as a normal member of society and helping him feel that he is still part of the community.

The Cadell Training Centre is the modern approach to one of the problems of rehabilitation. Here conditions more closely resemble those of normal life than is possible under traditional prison systems.

The aim is to waken in the trainee the will to lead a good and useful life on release by the development of character, self control and a sense of personal responsibility.

I am not going to delve into the actual details of that training centre, because I am fully aware that the Chief Secretary's Department is cognisant of what is being done there, and if it adopts methods along much the same lines I think it will bear fruit in this State.

What I am asking the Chief Secretary to do is to put in train immediately the preparation of plans and specifications with the object of the Public Works Department labour force being utilised to the greatest advantage on prison rehabilitation work and the construction of new gaols, along the lines I have indicated; after the completion of the Albany Regional Hospital, especially in view of the fact that I am aware his department is thinking along those lines with a view to extricating Albany from the mess it is in so far as its gaols are concerned.

At Albany, shipping has increased, the population has risen to 12,500, and the district generally is expanding considerably. Yet, in the Albany Prison, which is an antiquated and obsolete building, the conditions that exist are akin to those of the Belsen horror camp. If one conjures up a mental picture of that prison, one visualises an exercise yard about 20 feet square; two or three cells which have peepholes fitted with bars through which one could not even poke a matchbox; and the spectacle of both male and female native prisoners, prisoners who have offended against the Traffic Act, prisoners being held on manslaughter charges—and even those who are held in custody pending their transfer to Perth on a charge

of murder—being held there. Apart from these prisoners there are also many juveniles who are committed to the prison, all within an ambit of 30-odd feet. It is the most disgusting arrangement I have ever seen in my life.

I know the Chief Secretary is acquainted with the conditions of that gaol, as is also the Minister for Police; and I am sure they will agree that this all points to the need for the demolition of that building and the erection of a modern prison, with all the facilities necessary for the handling of all those prisoners in the Albany district, including the whole area up as far as Narrogin.

What is needed is a modern prison, together with quarters for the wardens and their families, so that they can be adequately and properly accommodated. That would put in hand the works necessary to relieve the problem of unemployment in Albany at least, which we do not want anyhow, and which has been accentuated by the credit squeeze. There is no doubt that the cause of the increase in admissions into our gaols can be laid at the feet of the credit squeeze and the policy of the Commonwealth Government. Necessity knows no law; and I challenge anyone in this Chamber today to deny that if he were out of work and had a wife and family to feed, and his neighbour had some fowls, it would not be long before he was over the fence to have one of them. As I have said, necessity knows no law, and this fact has been borne out generation after generation.

I therefore ask the Minister to view the situation closely and take steps to implement the plans for the construction of a new gaol in Albany. This would take up the slack of those unemployed. In particular, I have in mind the employment of those 70-odd men who will be out of work on the completion of the Albany Regional Hospital. Most of them reside in Albany, and their children are educated there; and, in fact, I understand many of them were born in Albany.

Nothing can break the confidence of a person more than being out of work even for only a short period. The commencement of this work is essential for the benefit of the whole of the community. It is work of a public nature that can be put into operation practically immediately if the Chief Secretary is really desirous of getting on with the job.

A further factor which aggravates the situation is that there has been an increase in the number of officers in the Albany Police Force, due to a reduction in their working hours; and in the limited accommodation available to them they are practically falling over themselves. There is not even one room set aside where they can interview anyone in private. There is

no privacy whatsoever for the constables or the sergeants, the inspector being the only officer who has a room to himself. Therefore the construction of a new police station and quarters could be commenced immediately the work on the gaol is completed, because I believe that the same site is to be used for the police station, as indicated by the Chief Secretary.

If these necessary public works were put in train it would definitely relieve the unemployment situation in Albany and would assist to stimulate the progress of the town and improve the relationship between the children and their parents at that centre. I therefore appeal to the Chief Secretary to give this matter his serious consideration. As has been mentioned by a member representing the West Province in another place, the conditions in our gaols require immediate attention, and this fact is also borne out by reports on gaols from other larger cities in the Commonwealth.

Another subject I wish to deal with is that of farm safety. I raised this matter by way of questions directed to the Minister for Police. My first question was—

- (1) How many persons were killed on farms in Western Australia by way of accidents—all types—for the years 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, and 1960?
- (2) How many accidents were reported for the years 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, and 1960 which were not fatal?
- (3) What amount of money was paid in the form of compensation with regard to—
 - (a) fatal accidents;
 - (b) not fatal;
 for the years 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, and 1960?

The answer was as follows:—

- (1) to (3) These figures are not available from departments under my control.

I was not satisfied, so I rang the office of the Attorney-General on the following morning to obtain some information through the registration of deaths. The secretary could not get in touch with the Attorney-General, and he undertook to see what he could gather. I felt that I could not get the information unless I was able to look at the statistics dealing with the registration of deaths.

I rang Mr. Little to try to unearth this information. After several hours he rang back and said that he could not supply any of the information I sought. He said that he would have to have more power than

he possessed in order to compile the figures that I required. That proves to me very conclusively how lax we have been in respect of figures relating to accidents on farms. Today such accidents are increasing in number, yet there is little power for the statistician to compile the figures I want.

As time passes, farms are becoming more mechanised, and more electrification and modern machinery are being used; yet we are not able to compile figures of accidents on farms. We are not able to warn the farmer, his family, or his employees about the dangers of interfering with high-power tension wires which may pass through farming properties; about the danger from fallen power lines caused by storms; or about the danger of interfering with electricity supplies with screwdrivers. These are some of the dangers they are not aware of. The education of the farming community in this State in this regard is a must today.

I hope to give some figures relating to the position in England where the agricultural areas and the amount of agricultural machinery used are much smaller compared with this State; nor can the electrification on farms in England be compared with the electrification taking place in this State. All these things have to be considered. We have heard of people on farms being injured in accidents by being caught in machines, by being run over by vehicles, and by being drowned in the dams. Today we are spreading out in the field of agriculture, and the number of accidents is therefore increasing.

It is time that we compiled figures of accidents on farms. We could help by appointing an inspector to advise people working on farms as to the dangers of modern machinery, electrification, etc. I do not want to put this cost on to the primary producers. The cost should be borne by the State. Information of these dangers should be given to farmers, so that we could bring about prevention rather than cure.

I now quote a few figures which I have extracted from an English review. In England there was a decrease reported in the number of people killed on farms. In Wales and England the figures were 123 in 1959, and 109 in 1960. This was considered to be very encouraging. But although a reduction of 14 in number was welcomed, and was a notable contribution to farm safety, it did not seem to justify complacency. A year in which 109 people lost their lives through accidents on farms provides a challenge which must be met and conquered. That will apply more so in Western Australia when we are able to see the true position; that is, when the statistics are compiled.

The English report next dealt with the safety of children and stated that a really saddening feature was the steep rise in the last two years in the number of children who were killed on farms in England and Wales. In 1958, there were seven deaths of young children, and that figure rose in 1959 to 19. In 1960, hopes of fewer deaths were dashed when the number increased yet again to a total of 22, of which only two related to children over 10 years old. Six children whose ages ranged from one to four years were drowned; two boys of seven and eight years of age respectively were burnt to death when bales caught fire in a barn; and 11 children were run over and killed by tractors, trailers, and lorries. These are just some of the ways in which tragedy strikes and ends the lives of children.

The report next deals with the old people. It states that old people also need to be on their guard. Those who work on the land seldom retire completely. They often keep an odd field in which to run a few sheep or bullocks, and in spite of their age cannot resist the temptation to lend a hand on the nearest farm in the busy periods, such as hay time, shearing time and harvest time. The danger lies in the fact that few of us are willing to admit that we are not as nimble on our feet as we used to be, and that our reactions have slowed down with the passing years. In 1959, the total fatalities included nine men over 65 years of age; in 1960, that figure rose to 14 men, plus one woman.

Reading reports of these accidents it becomes quite clear that when one reaches the 70's and 80's one is not safe riding on bales of hay. Many farmers lived to an old age in the past, despite the hard work; that happened because they were able to avoid the quick pace of modern life and modern machinery.

The result of awareness of this modern trend in farming in England was an overall reduction from 75 to 59 deaths caused by machinery and implements of various kinds. This shows that observance of regulations and a greater awareness of dangers are having the desired effect. But the continuing danger in Western Australia as a result of electrification, mechanisation, and high-tension mains running through farming properties proves conclusively that we have to consider very carefully the question of farm safety.

Mr. Lewis: Why pick out farms? Why not pick out industrial establishments?

Mr. HALL: Industrial establishments are governed by factory inspections, safe-working regulations, and all the rest. These factors do not apply to farms. I am bringing these matters forward so that people working on farms may be instructed on the safe use of machinery and plant.

If we were to examine the newspaper reports about accidents on farms we would find that one person was killed by a power auger, one was killed by a milking machine, and another was caught up in a compressor. I have singled out farms because they are becoming more highly mechanised and electrification is becoming more popular. Today the farming people are using new methods of farming which did not exist in the past; by so doing they are facing new hazards. The faster the pace at which we go the quicker do we pass away.

Another point I want to touch on concerns the wool sales at Albany. These sales were advocated in the past, and last year we experienced the magnificent spectacle of topping the sale price in the State. If we were to go through the history of wool sales in this State we would find how they have increased in volume. A small brochure offered by the woolbrokers gives us some history of wool sales. It states—

It is nearly four years since Albany Woolstores Pty. Ltd. began operating as the agent for the four Woolbrokers in Western Australia and the sales were held in Albany.

It seems worthwhile to review the progress made in that time and to make some comments about the future of Albany as a wool selling centre.

As the volume of wool grown behind Albany built up in the pre-war years, there was an increasing pressure from growers to provide selling facilities there; particularly as it was known that Albany could be relatively easily served by overseas ships.

Brokers, of course, had in mind the abortive attempts to sell Albany wool immediately after the war and felt that any fresh plan would have to have the backing of all concerned in the industry if it were to succeed.

We gained that support; and now, following a recent approach to the Albany Woolstores Pty. Ltd. those in charge there have included a fifth sale on their schedule for next year. The first sale will be held on the 3rd and 4th October, 1961; sale two on the 14th and 15th November, 1961; sale three on the 20th December, 1961; sale four on the 13th and 14th February, 1962; and sale five on the 1st and 2nd May, 1962.

The establishment of this additional sale in 1962 will mean a complete continuity of employment because buyers, sellers, and producers will deal at that centre. The necessity for the fifth sale has been brought about by the early autumn shearing. This year Fremantle had the privilege of handling the early autumn wool from the Great Southern area. If we get the support of

our farming community, I have no doubt that Albany's fifth wool sale will be established for evermore as a permanency.

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

Mr. HALL: Associated with the wool sales are the complementary industries such as the scouring works and the fellmongering works which could be established at Albany without any difficulty. At the moment our wool is exported outside the ambit of Australia. However, there is no reason at all that the wool should not be scoured inside Australia, and inside this State, and then exported. I have made representations from time to time to the Jandakot scourers and I have mentioned the matter to our Minister for Industrial Development.

Mr. Bickerton: You would be wasting your time.

Mr. HALL: However, I am sorry to say that no action has been taken. I would submit this matter to the members of the Country Party because I suggest that at the moment they are being taken for a ride since they do not receive their full reward. My opinion is that they should form a co-operative scouring and fellmongering works that could operate in conjunction with the Albany wool sales. If we cannot persuade private enterprise to leave the centralised areas we will have to approach the matter from another angle. For instance, the Albany Woollen Mills were started by people in the town who took out shares of £1. For many years the industry battled; and, thanks to the Hawke Government, it resisted a move for its centralisation. It has been of the greatest benefit to the whole community, and to Albany in particular.

Mr. Bovell: That is not in accordance with fact.

Mr. HALL: It is in accordance with fact. I was working there for 30 years, so I should know.

Mr. Bovell: I also have some knowledge of the situation.

Mr. HALL: There was a move to centralise the industry, and prior to that we had assistance from the Hawke Government to the tune of £30,000 at 5½ per cent. The Government waived the first mortgage to enable the industry to establish itself firmly.

Mr. Tonkin: The Minister's interjection was a stab in the dark.

Mr. Bovell: It is not a shot in the dark.

Mr. HALL: I make this suggestion to the farmers who sit behind the Government bench, because the suggestion is a very

worthy one. If private enterprise will not establish itself outside the metropolitan area, we will have to take action ourselves; and a co-operative scouring works would be the answer, with the shareholders being the beneficiaries of their own efforts.

The other point I would like to touch on in the few brief moments I have left is the development of Albany's third berth. Over 1,000,000 tons has passed through that port this year.

Mr. Roberts: What was the gross tonnage of cargo handled?

Mr. Rowberry: He did not know that himself until you asked the question the other day.

Mr. HALL: In 1961 we handled 1,146,428 tons. It will be realised that with the completion of the grain silos which make it a three-grain terminal port, a necessity has arisen for a third berth and a fore-shore road to serve it. The member for Bunbury has been taking oats from Albany for many years, and now these will be lost to him. Something like 50,000-odd tons have been going from Albany through Bunbury. The third berth is essential, especially when we consider the development which is taking place in the hinterland. When we study the facts and figures which were supplied to us the other day, we gain a fair impression of the growing population of cattle and sheep. The cattle population is growing even faster than that of the sheep.

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

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [3.38 p.m.]: Over the past few days the walls of this Chamber have been vibrating to the sounds of Moola Bulla, and I would like to take this opportunity to do my best to put the record somewhat straight in connection with many of the accusations made by the member for South Perth regarding the conduct of that sale by the previous Government.

The member for South Perth, for reasons best known to himself, has raised this matter after a period of some five or six years. I am of the opinion that it was raised possibly for the purpose of drawing a red herring across the discussions taking place on the State Building Supplies sale, and also perhaps for some political advantage which may have been gained with regard to the by-election at Victoria Park.

Whatever his reasons may have been, I have looked through both speeches he has made on this matter, and I have listened to him; and I would say that his melodramatic utterances, so far as I can see, have very little foundation. He has referred to reports which the Government

received at the time and which should have been against its making the sale; but I can assure this Chamber that I have looked through all those files and through the *Hansards* of the time the sale took place; and I believe—and the files prove it—that without a doubt the Government of the time acted in perfectly good faith in the best interests of the taxpayers and on the recommendations of those people who were available to it to advise it what should be done with Moola Bulla.

To get this thing in proper perspective we have to go back to the sale of this station at the particular time and what actually took place in regard to it in this Chamber. *Hansard* at that time shows that the only objections raised—if we can call them objections—by the Opposition of that time were five questions in this House in regard to the sale. One of those was a request to lay upon the Table of the House the very papers that are on the Table at the moment. Possibly some additions have been made because of what has occurred since then; but from what I can see, the Opposition of that time raised no objections whatever to the sale.

The member for South Perth, who I understand has been here since about 1956, has at no time made any reference, as far as I can gather from the search I have made through *Hansard*, regarding the actual sale of Moola Bulla. Whether or not his remarks on the Warburton Range native investigation contained any reference to the sale, I do not know; but a search of *Hansard* proves that at no time during the five or six years that have elapsed since the sale has he seen fit to bring before this House any complaints either about the sale of Moola Bulla or the subsequent operation of the station by the successful tenderer.

Mr. Grayden: I did not know the facts until the other day.

Mr. BICKERTON: And I can assure the honourable member for South Perth that he did not know the facts the other day, either, as I will shortly prove to him; because I have a copy of both his speeches, and members will be surprised at how much the two of them differ. The first speech made by the honourable member was something that he picked up from where I do not know, but he made a lot of wild guesses and made up the rest with a lot of wild gestures and, as I said previously, melodramatic utterances. In actual fact when he did quote a definite figure that figure was nowhere near the one shown on the files, as is illustrated by his second speech, which he made after he had looked at the files.

I believe that the purpose of the honourable member's first speech was to make these announcements, and he hoped the matter would not go any further; because

knowing all these terrible things, as he said he did, he did not even go to the trouble to ask to have the files tabled. That had to be done by the member for Mt. Lawley; and it was only when that request was granted by the Minister for Lands that the member for South Perth went through the files and found out just how wrong he really was in his original utterances regarding the sale of Moola Bulla.

Mr. Grayden: The situation was far worse than I thought it was when I first spoke.

Mr. BICKERTON: The situation had no connection with the honourable member's original speech. However, we will come to the speech of the honourable member very soon; at this stage I would like to keep the records straight and show what took place when this sale was made by the previous Government. The first reference to the matter is to be found in *Hansard* No. 1 of 1955 at page 8 when a question was asked by the then Leader of the Opposition, Sir Ross McLarty, of the Minister for Native Welfare: It was a question without notice, and it read—

Will he lay upon the Table of the House all papers in connection with the sale of the Moola Bulla cattle station?

The Minister replied:

I have no objection to laying on the Table all papers that are under the jurisdiction of the Native Welfare Department, but the actual sale of Moola Bulla was effected by the Lands Department. So far as the Native Welfare Department is concerned, I shall be only too happy to lay the relevant papers on the Table.

Then Sir Ross McLarty asked another question without notice of the Minister for Lands which read as follows:—

Will he lay on the Table of the House all papers in connection with the sale of the Moola Bulla cattle station?

The Minister replied—

Yes, next week.

Those papers were duly laid upon the Table of this House. The next question on this matter is to be found on page 67 of the same *Hansard*, on the 10th August, and it was asked by Mr. Ross Hutchinson. The question reads as follows:—

Will the overlanding of 3,600 bullocks from Moola Bulla station to Moree, New South Wales, constitute a breach of contract or a breach of

faith with contracts made by the previous management of the station or with any contract made with the Government by the present management?

The Premier replied—

Under the contract, the purchaser of Moola Bulla is required to retain on the property 15,000 head of cattle.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.6 p.m.

Mr. BICKERTON: I was dealing with the questions asked regarding Moola Bulla Station just before the sale of the property. I quote a question which was asked on the 10th August, 1955. It will be found on page 67 of *Hansard* for that year. I again repeat that the question was asked of the then Premier by the present Chief Secretary. It reads as follows:—

Will the overlanding of the 3,600 bullocks from Moola Bulla Station to Moree, New South Wales, constitute a breach of contract or a breach of faith with contracts made by the previous management of the station or with any contract made with the Government by the present management?

The Premier of the time replied:

Under the contract the purchaser of Moola Bulla is required to retain on the property 15,000 head of cattle. As far as can be ascertained, the overlanding of 3,600 bullocks does not constitute a breach of the contract.

Prior to the sale, 700 bullocks were delivered to Wyndham, and tentative arrangements made for the delivery of 850 on the 23rd August and 500 on the 28th August by the purchaser.

The matter never arose again until the 13th September, 1955, when another question was asked, again by the present Chief Secretary. The question was—

- (1) How many tenders were received for the purchase of Moola Bulla station?
- (2) What was the amount tendered by the owner, Mr. Goldman?
- (3) Was this the highest tender?
- (4) If not—
 - (a) What other tenders were higher?
 - (b) What were the amounts tendered?

The Premier of the day replied:

- (1) Moola Bulla was advertised in two sections. One tender only was received for No. 1 section, 7 tenders for No. 2 section, and 3 for the whole station.

(2) Mrs. M. W. Goldman tendered £92,500 for Section 1. Mr. A. Goldman tendered £7,500 for Section 2.

(3) Yes, for the separate sections.

(4) (a) One, for the whole station. However, the tenderer was unable to lodge the required cash deposit, and this tender was therefore inadmissible.

(b) No. 1 section—

(i) The accepted tender, £92,500.

No. 2 section—

(i) £7,500.

(ii) £5,000.

(iii) £5,000.

(iv) £2,150.

(v) £2,000.

(vi) £1,000.

(vii) £500.

The whole station, i.e., both Nos. 1 and 2 sections—

(i) £120,000—inadmissible as no cash deposit lodged.

(ii) £20,000, plus £5,000 per annum for 20 years.

(iii) £64,000.

This matter next arose in the House in connection with natives; and as the member for South Perth was dealing with natives, I shall read the question in connection with this. It was asked by the present Chief Secretary and is as follows together with the reply:—

(1) Did he read the Press statement in *The West Australian* of the 30th August, headed "Natives at Fitzroy Live in Squalor"?

(2) Is it a fact that already several native children have died from a virus influenza, brought on by the shocking conditions since their arrival at Fitzroy Crossing from Moola Bulla station?

(3) Is it a fact that the owner of Moola Bulla did not want the natives to leave his station, but desired them to stay, as reported by Mr. Gill, the teacher?

(4) Why were the natives moved to Fitzroy Crossing?

(5) Has the department transferred any of the natives back to Moola Bulla; and if so, how many?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) No. Of the five children who recently died at Fitzroy Crossing, two were brought in from Go Go, two from

Christmas Creek, and one from Bohemia Downs. Not one of the ex-Moola Bulla children has died at Fitzroy Crossing.

(3) No. The new owner demanded that all the natives be removed from the property. Mr. Gill was not present when these demands were made and is not in a position to comment.

(4) The natives were removed to Fitzroy Crossing at their own request.

(5) No. The department does not transfer natives unless requested to do so by the natives. None of the natives have requested the department to return them to Moola Bulla.

The final question in connection with this matter was the following one asked by the present Minister for Industrial Development—

(1) Before tenders for the purchase of Moola Bulla were accepted, concurrently therewith or subsequent thereto, was any approach made to the Government or the department, for the natives at Moola Bulla to be taken care of by a church mission or other such body?

(2) If so, what was the nature, and what was the decision in respect of such offer?

The Minister replied:

The Presbyterian Board of Missions made an approach to take over Moola Bulla native station as a mission some years ago, but this was rejected in favour of assisting them to establish Wotjulum mission at Yampi Sound.

Subsequent to the acceptance of tenders the Australian Board of Missions approached the successful tenderer regarding the establishment of a mission at Moola Bulla and the Commissioner of Native Welfare was invited to take part in the preliminary discussion. He declined on the ground that he would be unable to commit the Government and that the board would be better advised to complete its negotiations with the tenderer and then submit a definite proposal to the department for consideration by the Government.

No such proposal or formal application to establish a mission at Moola Bulla has been received by the department.

I apologise to members for possibly boring them with five questions asked at that time on this matter. The reason for doing

so was to show what took place at the actual time as a result of the sale of this station. A search of *Hansard* will prove that those were the only inquiries made by the then Opposition. If, as the member for South Perth would have us believe, the sale was such a terrible thing, and the conditions of it were so bad, one would have thought that the then Opposition, which is now the present Government, being a responsible body—as one would hope it was—would have raised this matter at the time, had it not been satisfied with the information contained in the papers which were laid on the Table of this House.

The member for South Perth, in his first outburst on this matter, after some five years of silence, had this to say on page 205 of *Hansard* No. 2 of the current session—

All the tenderers, reputable people, were prepared to pay cash for it, but they were ignored; and the Labor Government sold it to Mr. Goldman, I understand, on a deposit of £5,000. I understand that, instead of putting up the cash for £5,000 he used his house in Como, which was worth about £5,000, as a deposit and he purchased a property which is worth £500,000.

From the files, and from the member for South Perth's own words in his second speech, he knows that now to be absolutely incorrect.

Mr. Grayden: All I said was, "I understand."

Mr. BICKERTON: I do not care how the member puts it; but as I said before, the member for South Perth obviously dug up some information from amongst the cobwebs—second-hand at that—and did not bother to verify it. Then he centred the whole of his speech on that fact. Members in this Chamber will recall that at that time when the member for South Perth spoke he said, to use his words, "the property was practically given away on a mere deposit of £5,000 which was not in cash, but a mortgage on a house." Further, in his speech, he went on to say—

Yet the then Labor Government sold it to Mr. Goldman for £100,000, and the only item which was put forward as a deposit was Mr. Goldman's house in Como.

Members will see how he keeps harping on this matter to belittle that transaction.

Mr. Grayden: After having made it quite clear that I only "understood."

Mr. Rowberry: The member's understanding is a minus quantity.

Mr. BICKERTON: All I can say is that now the member for South Perth understands differently, as will be shown in his

second speech; and only two or three days lapsed between the two of them. One would have thought that he would have the decency, rather than go off on another tangent altogether, to say, "I made a mistake regarding the terms of the sale; they are so-and-so according to the files." However, he did not see fit to do that. He even went on to say—

Yet the people who are making these extravagant statements—

I think he was referring to the Opposition—

Mr. Grayden: Read the lot!

Mr. BICKERTON: It is not going to take me as long as it took the honourable member. To continue—

Yet the people who are making these extravagant statements—I think the member for East Perth even referred to the Government as being arch conspirators and made reference to scandals and all that sort of thing—are those who sold a State asset, valued at £1,000,000, for £100,000 . . .

Further down, the honourable member went on to say—

Further, when the purchaser could not find the £5,000 cash as a deposit, they accepted his house instead.

We know that to be absolutely incorrect. If what I have read out from the honourable member's speech is proved by the files to be wrong, it is reasonable to assume that little reliance can be placed on anything in that honourable member's speech, particularly his first one.

Mr. Hawke: In any speech he makes.

Mr. BICKERTON: He went on to say—

These people who are now making these extravagant statements were not negotiating with a reputable man when they entered into the negotiations. They brushed aside the offers of cash and accepted instead the terms I have described.

The files distinctly show, as I will point out later, that no offer of cash was made by any of the tenderers; so offers of this kind were certainly not brushed aside. The records show the offer of a certain deposit and certain terms. So no-one was brushed off as far as an offer of cash was concerned.

Mr. Grayden: There were others not shown on the file. For instance, Bell Bros.

Mr. BICKERTON: Now the member for South Perth is going off on to something different. When I commenced dealing

with Moola Bulla I said I would do so in relation to what appears on these files. If the member for South Perth knows of something that is not on the files I should think his first action would be, if he is honest about it, to get up in this House and ask the Ministers concerned if they would table the papers not on the file. And if any such papers exist, he should agree with the Opposition and allow a Royal Commission to see where they went to.

Mr. Grayden: You know perfectly well that Bell Bros. made a cash offer.

Mr. BICKERTON: I do not know that Bell Bros. made a cash offer. All I know about Moola Bulla is what is on these files; and I am taking what is on them as being correct. If that is not the position, the member for South Perth should do something about it. To throw his own words back in his teeth, the honourable member said the other night that the reason why he could not support a Royal Commission was that it was not necessary because everything was on the file. He said, "What is the use of a Royal Commission because what I am talking about is all on the files?" He cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Rowberry: He is on the spit now.

Mr. BICKERTON: So much for the first speech of the member for South Perth. His second speech, of which I have a proof here, is very little different from his first except that he has corrected all the wild statements about deposits. However, he has been equally sweeping in his accusations that something went on that was not quite correct in connection with this sale; and he was careful not to actually refer to whether it appeared in the files.

He referred to a report of the pastoral inspector at the time and mentioned that according to that report many undesirable things—or words to that effect—actually took place. A little later on I will deal with the report of the pastoral inspector at the time of the sale. Apparently the member for South Perth flipped over the page and left that report out, but mentioned another one later on. I will deal with the report of the pastoral inspector before the sale took place.

Mr. Grayden: There is more than one; it is the second one.

Mr. Hawke: I bet the member for South Perth took the report that suited him and left the others out.

Mr. BICKERTON: The honourable member's second speech also mentioned something to the effect that the highest tender was not accepted. We know that to be incorrect, because the highest admissible tender was accepted.

Mr. Grayden: The highest tender was not accepted. There were two higher tenders.

Mr. BICKERTON: I come back to the recommendations made in connection with the sale before the Government decided to actually sell Moola Bulla. The file contains much detailed information, and shows why the Native Welfare Department, at the time, considered it could not, in its opinion, make a proposition of the show and would therefore rather quit it. It is not for me to say whether the information at my disposal is right or wrong: I am only going by what is on the file. The negotiations made culminated in a report from the Commissioner of Native Welfare to the Minister; and the commissioner's letter reads as follows:—

I find the task and problems of maintaining this huge cattle station is beyond the normal capacity of this department. For years, the department has attempted to carry on its welfare work in conjunction with the management of the station as a revenue-producing adjunct, but I am convinced now that it is not only a financial liability, which will be vastly increased if the water project is put under way, but that the institutional work of the settlement is being seriously curtailed by the cattle station activities.

For instance, the manager-superintendent (Mr. McBeath) spends by far the greater part of his time out on the run and elsewhere tending cattle, and during his absence the inmates are not subjected to any really responsible or effective supervision. As a consequence, there is much about Moola Bulla that causes me grave concern. Recently the settlement was visited by the Superintendent of Education (Mr. Thornbury) who came here specially to convey to me his grave concern with the current state of affairs at the station. There is no point in my going into closer detail in this respect.

Some time ago I discussed this problem with the Senior Assistant and the Treasurer (Mr. Byfield) and the Public Service Commissioner (Mr. Taylor) and both agreed that it would be in the best interests of the department and the natives if the institution was separated from the station. Yesterday I rang Mr. Byfield who again agreed on this point.

I would strongly recommend your approval for the transfer of the institution from its present site to one near the new Halls Creek townsite. The Moola Bulla boundary adjoins the townsite and, if you approve of my recommendation, a fair portion of the existing station property could be retained for institutional purposes.

Details affecting the transfer could be worked out and submitted when the Government's decision on the matter is known.

(Sgd.) S. G. MIDDLETON,
Commissioner of Native Affairs.

That was the result of the investigations made by the Native Welfare Department and the recommendations which it made to the Minister at the time for the disposal of that station. There is another report from Mr. Johnson, the pastoral inspector, to the Surveyor-General concerning the same matter. This report covers about 12 pages in very close type. I do not intend to weary the House by reading the whole of it. The centre of the report deals mostly with suggestions regarding certain boundaries, the branding of cattle, the selling of cattle, and so on. The most important part of this document appears at the beginning and at the end: in other words, his first suggestions and his summing up. Mr. Johnson's report is contrary to the one read by the member for South Perth.

Mr. Grayden: That was written before the sale. Read the one after the sale.

Mr. BICKERTON: I am going to in a moment. Mr. Johnson's report commences as follows:—

I wish to advise that I have just completed a very long and thorough inspection of the total area of Moola Bulla Native Station, and all the improvements thereon, and although I must confess to at first being in favour of removing the indigent natives to an establishment at, or near, Hall's Creek, before allotting certain areas of land to whoever may happen to be the successful applicants, and then disposing of all stock and improvements at auction, I am afraid that I cannot see now how this can effectively be carried out, neither can I see just how the land could be allotted in blocks, and all cattle pasturing on those areas be sold to the person to whom the country might be granted.

After reading the following suggestions and comments which I shall endeavour to bring forth in this report, I think that you must agree that there is only one way in which the effective disposal of Moola Bulla can be carried out.

First I would like to state that the disposal of this Government station should be carried out in the quickest possible manner; this I consider to be urgent, otherwise there is every likelihood of a smash unless there should be an early wet season, which could possibly save the situation.

Mr. McBeath, the manager-superintendent of this station, has resigned from the public service owing to a fall-out with—

—another person; I do not think it is necessary for me to mention his name—

—the Native Affairs officer for the district, who has asked Mr. J. Bennett, the stock overseer, to take over the management of this property.

He goes on with a few scathing remarks regarding Mr. Bennett, and it will not hurt if that is left out. The report continues—

Also, the wells on which the cattle are watering are already beginning to give out, as are the waterholes which in most cases are already dry.

Generally the feed for miles around the main waters is non-existent, and where there is good feed, water is not available.

I do not wish to appear an alarmist, but I am frankly of the opinion that many cattle will be lost this year unless there should happen to be an early wet, and as I feel sure that Mr. Bennett is not the man to deal with the situation, I can only recommend that the Government get out of Moola Bulla as quickly as possible and let someone else have the worry of providing waters where there is feed for the stock. Therefore, I recommend that the following plan be adopted.

He went on to recommend the cutting up of this area. The final part of his report had this to say:—

Frankly I do think that the Government would do well to accept whatever the highest figure offered for the stock, and the homestead block on a walk-in, walk-out basis, and even if the price for the cattle be brought as low as £5 per head, overall, for a total of 14,000 head the amount gained will be £70,000, which is not too bad when you take into consideration the price gained for Rosewood was only £90,000, and this for a fully improved property with a total of 27,000 head of cattle, I think, and it must also be remembered that Rosewood was sold at the peak of the boom years.

Finally I would suggest that the cattle not be sold at a price per head overall without the land also being disposed of in conjunction with same, otherwise the immediate earning capacity of the blocks will not any longer exist, and applicants will not feel disposed towards paying a fair price for the value of improvements which are worth very little without the livestock. Also I would mention that there will be a certain number

of applicants from this area alone who will be endeavouring to dummy for the big pastoral companies, and it would be as well to be on the look-out for these individuals.

In closing I might mention that Moola Bulla is considered to be one of the best properties in the Kimberleys, and is certainly the best in the East Kimberley. It is also one of the best the writer has seen in W.A., and I feel sure there will be many applicants for the land, however I do think that the applicants to whom this land is allocated will require a substantial surplus of finance for improvement work otherwise all will be wasted, and the land will revert into areas such as some of the unimproved holdings that I have previously mentioned.

And it is signed "R. F. Johnson, Pastoral Inspector."

The point I wish to make here is that from the early investigations into this matter the Native Welfare Department, on the one hand, recommended to the Government that the station be sold; and here we have the pastoral officer's report which says the Government would be doing well if it received a top figure of £70,000 for that property; and the report goes on to instance the case of Rosewood being sold for £90,000. I do not wish to compare the values of both stations, because I do not know enough about either of them. I am merely endeavouring to point out the reasons leading up to the calling of tenders for Moola Bulla Station.

A committee was set up by the then Government to look into the matter and advise the Government whether the station should be retained or whether it should be sold, in view of the reports from the Native Welfare Department and the pastoral inspector. The committee set up to investigate this matter consisted of Mr. A. H. Telfer, Under-Secretary for Mines; Mr. H. W. Byfield, from the Treasury; Mr. G. K. Baron Hay, Director of Agriculture; and Mr. S. G. Middleton, Commissioner of Native Welfare; and Mr. W. V. Fyfe was the other member.

It can be seen, that up to that stage the then Government could not have acted in a better manner. It received these reports, which said the station must be disposed of. The Government then appointed a committee to look into the matter, and its recommendations were along the same lines. The Government then called tenders, and an advertisement appeared in papers throughout Australia. I think that is an important point at this stage; namely, that tenders were called. Anyone who criticises the sale now, or did so before, had ample opportunity to tender for this station which proved, in the long run, to

be so profitable—according to the words of the member for South Perth—to so many people.

Tenders were called, and I would now like to read a precis of action undertaken for the information of the Land Board as a result of the tenders. It is signed by Mr. E. R. Denny, Acting Assistant Under-Secretary for Lands. It says—

Precis of action taken for the information of the members of the Land Board.

1. Tenders were called for the sale of the station in two parts, viz.—

(a) Section 1 of 708,833 acres, including all fixed and movable improvements thereon and the whole of the "Moola Bulla" stock.

(b) Section 2 of 415,000 acres including the fixed improvements thereon.

The successful tenderer of Section 2 has until the 30th September, 1956, the right to purchase up to 2,000 head of breeders from the successful tenderer of Section 1. The successful tenderer of Section 1 has the right to muster "Moola Bulla" stock on the area Section 2 until the 30th September, 1956.

2. Tenders have closed. Four tenders have been received for the whole property, viz., Sections 1 and 2—Here are the four tenders—

	£
(1) Jesse Lugg, and Ruth Lillian Lugg, both of Wellard	120,000
(2) M. Goldman and A. Goldman, both of 28 Hazel Street, Como	100,000
(3) C. B. Pratt; L. B. Pratt; S. Allen and F. Jolley of Ormond Hall, 20B New South Head Road, Vacluse, Sydney	20,000
(Plus £5,000 per annum for 20 years after expiration of the first year)	
(4) P. G. Hampshire and Sons, c/o National Bank of Australasia Ltd., Perth	64,125
(This tender was inadmissible as no deposit accompanied it)	

Mr. Grayden: That is £120,000.

Mr. BICKERTON: I am quite aware of that. I am not over-bright, but I was able to work that out when I went through the file.

I will now go on with the information that was put before the Land Board. It reads—

3. Although Mr. Lugg and the Pratt Syndicate have not mentioned it, Messrs. Goldman have stated that they would not be interested in the purchase of either part only.

4. Mr. Lugg is depending upon the proceeds of land resumed at Wellard for the Kwinana project, to provide the deposit of £12,000. From inquiries I have made it seems very doubtful whether the amount anticipated by Mr. Lugg will be available from that source. He has not yet submitted his claim to the Public Works Department.

The precis goes on to list the tenders for the second section. I will not go into this in detail, but they range from £5,000 down to £500. To continue—

6. No tender has been received for No. 1 section only—that carrying most of improvements and all of the stock.

7. Cabinet has now agreed that the Station may be disposed of to the same interests. The two partners will have to select a separate selection.

That came about by reason of the fact that the Land Act lays it down that 1,000,000 acres only can be held by one person. Before this went to the Land Board it was necessary to ascertain whether the Government would agree to these two people combining their acreage; and the Government apparently had no objection. Mr. Denny goes on—

9. It is now necessary to arrange an early meeting of the Land Board to decide which of the tenderers are to be invited to appear before the board.

That is an important point, because it is the Land Board which, at all times, is dealing with this matter—except to confer with the Government of the day on technical matters, and later to have it confirmed by the Minister for Lands. The precis continues—

10. If any tender is accepted for Section 2 only, we will not be able to dispose of Section 1.

That is to indicate they preferred an overall tender. It continues—

11. If it is decided by the Land Board to dispose of the Station to the same interests in two separate sections, the tender of Messrs. M. and A. Goldman appears to be the only one worth considering. A copy of the tender is attached hereto.

And finally—

12. Mr. Goldman is anxious to have an early decision as, if he is to take over by the 1st July, he must commence arrangements without delay. He also wishes to leave for Sydney early next week to ascertain if he can arrange an early settlement of the

moneys owing on "Hughenden" Station, as he would use this money to pay up part or whole of the balance of purchase money.

From that, it will be seen that the case put before the Land Board was to the effect that it should be the one to choose the successful tenderer; and after the meeting of the Land Board—just to tidy the matter up—there was a letter from the Land Board addressed to Mr. Goldman as follows:—

With reference to your application for the lands comprised in Moola Bulla Station, I have to inform you that the Land Board, after considering the applications, allotted the land to you, subject to the approval of the Hon. Minister for Lands subject to the condition that the leases will be issued subject to completion of the necessary Bills of Sale and Mortgages, to the satisfaction of the Hon. Minister, and also subject to the following conditions:—

(a) That the applicants will pay for the cost of moving any cattle from Moola Bulla Station to Wyndham should they be moved before the date of delivery of the Station.

(b) That the applicants will arrange for the survey of the boundaries of the proposed leases and for the payment thereof.

[*The Acting Speaker (Mr. Crommelin) took the Chair.*]

So the Land Board considered the tenders and decided to select the two put in by the two Goldmans. Up to date we can see that recommendations were made by the Department of Native Welfare, and the pastoral department for the sale of Moola Bulla Station, and tenders were called and certain tenders were accepted by the Land Board.

Now I want to deal with the many complaints made by the member for South Perth in connection with the way that Mr. Goldman apparently ran his property. There are two very distinct matters here: One is whether or not the sale was open and above board, and in the interests of the taxpayer; and the other is what happened after the sale. On the first point we say that without any doubt Cabinet at the time acted in what it considered to be the best interests of the taxpayer, and on the advice given to it.

But, of course, after the sale took place it appears, from reading the reports, that Goldman did run this station in, to say the least, rather a funny way. Be that as it may, he saw fit, after selling a certain number of cattle off the station, to come to an arrangement with one, Stein, to sell for

a certain sum of money. But he retained the leases of the property until he was later given permission to transfer them.

About that time another report was made by pastoral inspector Johnson; and, of course, it is easy to be wise after the event. Mr. Johnson went on to the station; and his report, to say the least of it, indicates very little good as far as Mr. Goldman is concerned. Again, as the report is a lengthy one, I have no intention of reading it; but it would appear that in the opinion of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Goldman ran the station to suit himself and not for the benefit of the State.

Mr. Grayden: He also says he sold £368,000 worth of stock and buildings.

Mr. BICKERTON: Yes; he did. But the point I am making now is this: What could be done about it? The sale was open and above board. What action could the Government have taken because of Mr. Johnson's report—if, indeed, it was correct?

First of all, let me refer to a departmental minute put up to the Minister for Lands about the same time as the report was made by Mr. Johnson—about the period that Mr. Goldman applied for an extension of time in which to pay the instalments. Up until that stage, Goldman had done one thing: apparently he had kept up to date with the conditions of his tender and had met his instalments on time. This is the minute addressed to the Minister—

I refer you to letter at page 168 from A. Goldman, wherein he requests an extension of time until the 2nd January, 1960, to meet the next principal instalment which will be due on the 1st July, 1959, towards the purchase of "Moola Bulla" Station.

2. As stated by the Accountant on previous page, the purchase price of "Moola Bulla" Station was £100,000, of which £57,865 14s. 6d. has been paid by Goldman, leaving the principal outstanding £42,134 5s. 6d.

3. The next instalment due on the 1st July next, including interest, amounts to £19,327 12s. 4d.

4. In addition to the security of the property itself, this department further secured itself by way of a transfer to the Minister for Lands of a mortgage held by Goldman over "Hughenden" Station, which is a property in Queensland valued at approximately £50,000.

5. Payments due under the "Hughenden" mortgage are being received as set out by the Accountant in his minute hereunder, and the instalments

of principal and interest on "Moola Bulla" have been met to date by Goldman.

6. "Moola Bulla" has been sold under a Contract of Sale by Goldman to K. Stein and, apparently, under the contract Goldman is to receive approximately £17,000 on the 1st January, 1960, which amount Goldman is depending on to meet the next instalment of purchase money due by him to this department. I have no doubt that even if the department does not agree to the extension of time in which to meet the next payment, Goldman will raise the required amount in some manner, as he has advised me verbally that he will make every effort to avoid a default.

7. The Accountant is of the opinion that the extension could be granted and, as the department is fully secured I think we should not harass Goldman unduly, and recommend your approval to the extension sought.

8. The only default made by Goldman is in the matter of fencing and, in this regard, I would refer you to the minute at pages 166 and 167 hereunder by the Surveyor General whose recommendation in paragraph 9 of his minute will be followed up when a decision has been reached regarding Goldman's application for the extension of time in which to meet the next instalment of purchase money.

That was the only breach of the contract after the sale took place—if we can call a request for an extension of time a breach.

The Minister's remarks were—

Extension as recommended is approved.

One of the principal points made by the member for South Perth was that the generous terms on which Goldman obtained this property were such that they made the transaction a scandal. One, therefore, might well say that he should not have received any extensions. However, I am of the opinion that the extensions were in order in accordance with the conditions under which they were given.

The reply of the Minister regarding whether or not Goldman should be held to his contract in connection with the fencing—the only other breach—is as follows:—

Subject to pre-payment to the department of all moneys due on the "Moola Bulla" leases, I approve—

(a) The waiver of the fencing condition attached to Goldman's agreement.

- (b) The transfer of the respective leases providing the transferees are eligible to acquire the areas.

It will not be necessary to obtain from Mr. Thom an agreement that he will spend on the property any specific amount for fencing and/or watering points, but upon transfer of the leases care must be taken to ensure that the improvement and stocking conditions are being complied with, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 102 and 103 of the Land Act.

The **ACTING SPEAKER** (Mr. Crommelin): The honourable member has five more minutes.

Mr. **BICKERTON**: Thank you, Sir. The point I am making is that Goldman stuck to his contract. A report was made by Johnson at this stage saying that Goldman's actions on the station were shocking; and a request was made to the Minister that he be given certain extensions of time for payment, and a certain waiver of fencing conditions. The Minister agreed; and personally I must say that I agree with the Minister. But the Minister who signed his name to the minute was Stewart Bovell. So, in the main, all these matters that have been raised by the member for South Perth are, indeed, fairly accurate.

Mr. Grayden: Nonsense!

Mr. **BICKERTON**: What the member for South Perth forgot to do was to look at the dates on the papers. The majority of these matters were discovered after the change of Government. There is another report here by Mr. Johnson—if the honourable member wants to keep quoting Mr. Johnson—in which he suggests ways and means by which the contract could be cancelled in view of the behaviour of Mr. Goldman. Mr. Johnson suggested four ways by which the property could be taken from the man. But, of course, nothing was done; indeed he received an extension of six months in regard to his payments, and the fencing condition was waived altogether.

Mr. Hawke: No wonder the Government does not want a Royal Commission.

Mr. **BICKERTON**: In fairness to the present Minister, I point out that he acted on the recommendations of the Under-Secretary, and I think they were fair recommendations. I think what the Minister did was the proper thing to do.

Mr. Bovell: I agreed to the transfer because Mr. Thom was a much better man, in my opinion, to conduct the station than the other man.

Mr. **BICKERTON**: I have no doubt about that. I am not saying that I disagree with the Minister on the matter of

the transfer. The Minister acted on the recommendation of his under-secretary; and although the member for South Perth says that a Minister should not put anything on to an adviser but should carry the blame himself, the point I make is that the greatest amount of information of a departmental nature given in the speech of the member for South Perth was taken from a report by pastoral inspector Johnson, submitted during the life of the present Government, which saw fit to grant certain conditions to Mr. Goldman. Again, I think the Minister did the right thing.

Mr. Bovell: To facilitate the transfer to Thom.

Mr. **BICKERTON**: If Mr. Goldman was such a wicked chap and should have been punished because of the terrible things the member for South Perth said he did, the present Government had the opportunity to deal with him under the contract. But the Government saw fit to allow him to transfer the property and get out of it altogether; and I agree with the Minister that the fellow who has the property now is probably the better bloke. I do not know whether he is; but let us hope he is not as bad as the other one.

Whether the member for South Perth opposes any type of Royal Commission because its findings might cut both ways, I do not know; but the files prove, without doubt, that the sale was made in all good faith by the then Government on the recommendations of men whom I have never heard the member for South Perth criticise. There were five men on the investigation committee, and they recommended the sale. The Land Board called tenders and recommended the man who was accepted. The board interviewed this man and made out the agreement which was accepted by the Minister; and all the rest of it came up after the change of Government; so that if the present Government had wanted to do anything about it, it could have done so then.

Mr. **KELLY** (Merredin-Yilgarn) [4.59 p.m.]: I desire to address myself to a number of matters, the majority of which have occurred during the past 12 months. Not all of these matters were referred to in His Excellency's Speech at the opening of Parliament. I think, perhaps, the Government might have found it convenient to make little, if any, comment on a number of them. I am quite certain the Government is deserving of censure because many actions it should have taken have not been taken and, in many ways, it has been tardy in facing up to its responsibility. It has also been slow to take remedial action in a number of instances.

I think it can be said quite truthfully, that it is only after pressure has been applied in a specific case that the government has taken any action at all. I say

that because we have become accustomed to the familiar pattern followed by the Government whereby it makes a very rapid announcement on anything that it considers will bring it kudos. Therefore, in regard to those actions that should have been taken by the Government in the first place, as it is its duty to do—although sometimes the Government has overstepped its duty—the Government has been spurred on, on some occasions, to take action as a result of pressure from the Press.

I sometimes wonder whether the Government's inactivity in some spheres is due to the fact that, almost entirely, it relies on the advice tendered to it by committees. No matter what problem arises, the Government immediately seeks the advice of a committee and does not face up to its responsibility in any way for the purpose of sifting out the facts and obtaining a satisfactory solution to the problem. Rather, it looks to some other body—and sometimes quite an independent body—

Mr. Nalder: That is very democratic, you know.

Mr. KELLY: —to make a decision for the Government, and the Government then uses its prerogative as to whether it accepts that advice. The principal factor is that often it so happens that the appointment of a committee does relieve the tension on the Government from a Press point of view on a specific problem in hand; and, because of that, the Government is able to procrastinate to some degree; and then, finally, when the heat is turned off and the Press is no longer interested in the Government's action, we find that a move has been made and a decision reached.

The opinion has been formed—and it is not only my opinion but that of many others in this State—that this Government will go down in history as being one of the most committee-minded Governments that has ever been in office in Western Australia. I would not be the slightest bit surprised to find, one of these days, that it had appointed a grand committee to investigate the activities of all the other committees that have been appointed.

I think we should look at some of the facets of primary production and primary industry generally because, in many instances, the situation is far from reassuring; and, in fact, there is every reason for there being quite a deal of anxiety. That concern and anxiety is widespread among the producers of this State and covers many aspects of primary production. At the present time, of course, the Government is extremely fortunate because of the favourable season this State is enjoying. As a result, the Government is able to enjoy, to some extent, a fair amount of freedom from criticism that it is due to receive.

We all realise that when conditions are good, producers become less conscious of the problems which are ever-present in their industry, whether it be the problem of under-production or over-production, or any other matter which requires their attention. To some extent, of course, a good season nullifies the need for a great deal of worry. I feel that there is an absence of security among many of our primary producers, and also among those who are engaged in the secondary industries, except that the difficulties encountered in secondary industries stem from another source.

I repeat, however, that there is definitely an absence of security among those engaged in primary industries. I do not mean to say that the majority of producers have not done reasonably well over a period of years, because that is the case. However, there is anxiety in the mind of almost every producer in every branch of primary industry at the present time. For instance, if any member cares to examine carefully the sale of properties over the past few years he will find that during that period more rural properties have changed hands than at any other time, with the exception of the depression period. There are a number of reasons for this trend, and I am not going to say that the Government is totally responsible for that circumstance, because such is not the case. Nevertheless, many primary producers, whether they are producing cereals, stock, or wool, or are producing fruit, and so on, have certain misgivings about the future of their industry.

As a result of that, they are not very contented; and because most country properties in general in this State have appreciated in value in the past ten years, the owners have decided to sell at that appreciated value, realising that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. The sale of such properties is a profitable business for those engaged in them because of the relief they gain from certain taxation. I know of several primary producers in an area not very far from Perth who are actually developing their properties on taxation rebates they are getting from other legitimate businesses they are carrying on. That seems to be the general pattern.

The point that I am making is that many of these people who are selling their properties are leaving them because of the anxiety that is in their minds in regard to the future, and those comments apply to every section of primary industry, including wheat, meat, or wool. I have made a study of the headlines that have appeared in the Press over the past 12 months or so and I think a study of them would convince members—if they have not

viewed them from that aspect—that there is a great deal for us to be concerned about in regard to many of these industries.

Take wool, for instance. Whilst the price of wool has appreciated a little during recent times, the market is still far from stable. Farmers have been called upon to pay a great deal more—practically double—in the way of contributions that are necessary to promote the sale of wool. A large section of the wool producers in Western Australia, right up to the eleventh hour, opposed very strongly the contribution of this extra levy on them because they were not happy about the promotion given to the sale of wool. They considered that the campaign was not being conducted on a sound basis. They realised that a great deal of the capital which had been expended on the wool promotion campaign had not brought about the desired results.

Mr. Lewis: Do you think the increase in the levy for wool is a good thing?

Mr. KELLY: At the right time I will deal specifically with the set-up in relation to wool. I am dealing with wool and do not intend to become embroiled in any other discussion. All is not well with wool at the present time.

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

Over the past 13 years the wheat-growers in this country have been given security under the wheat stabilisation plan. Many people say that 15s. 10d. a bushel is far higher than we should be paying for wheat. When we consider the cost of producing a loaf of bread, such a claim might be made. The whole point is that costs have risen very sharply in the last few years, and the cost of producing a bushel of wheat has also increased. I am not concerned with whether or not the price is right, but with the principle involved. The principle is a guarantee to wheat-growers—100,000,000 bushels a year at a given price. That was the form of stability introduced into the industry.

The same principle could be applied in the case of wool; and if those in high places agreed, it would be possible to adopt some similar scheme. That has been possible in the case of wheat, and the scheme has proved to be very successful.

We are getting towards the stage of the third five-year plan. I was a member of the Commonwealth agricultural committee when the previous five-year plan was submitted. It required more than two meetings of that agricultural committee to reach a decision, because of the tardiness of the Commonwealth

Government in making up its mind that a further five-year plan would be granted to the wheat industry.

In recent times farming bodies and unions in various parts of the State have been making inquiries through their local branches about the future of wheat production. They are dissatisfied because no information from the Federal point of view has been given. I have told those who have spoken to me about this question that they should get in touch with the State Government, to persuade it to throw its weight behind the scheme. Its weight is necessary if we are to get an extension of the scheme for another five years, in order to give stability to the wheat industry.

Although the price is reasonable at present, there is no security of tenure in wheatgrowing—not until an announcement is made by the Commonwealth to extend the scheme. The Government of this State should be pressing forward with the attitude it has adopted, and its desire for the present agreement to be re-negotiated.

Turning to the production of timber, I do not intend to develop any set ideas; but when we look at the recent headlines in the newspapers we become aware of strife in the industry. On the 23rd March last we found timber men pleading for aid. Those people do not plead unless there is good reason. On the 21st April the headlines stated that timber men had lost their plea for a tariff. They had asked for the industry to be placed on a better basis. I did not see the State Government entering into any negotiations to help them.

On the 27th April another headline stated there was pressure on the Government to aid timber men; again, on the 5th May another headline stated that the Government refusal disturbed the timber men. Here is another industry which has not received any aid from the Government—a Government which calls itself a representative of the primary producers.

Before I turn to the tobacco-growing industry I want to deal with the conditions in the dairying industry. At present there is a lull in the anxiety of dairy-men because they are expecting to receive something as a result of the report and recommendations of the Government committee inquiring into the industry. Members of the Commonwealth Government have visited this State and made certain statements. We all know there is an examination into the industry taking place. If I were a betting man I would be prepared to wager that little, if anything, will result from the deliberations of that Commonwealth committee.

It will be left again to this State to extend, in all probability, the circumstances instituted by the Labor Government in an effort to place the dairying industry on a better footing than it has experienced over a number of years.

Those of us who live in goldmining areas realise that the goldmining industry is struggling. I do not see anything spectacular in the action of the State Government to aid the goldmining industry; and the Commonwealth Government has done little in the matter. A great deal of pressure had to be put on the Commonwealth Government to induce it to include in the Budget an election bait in order to counter the claim that the Government had done nothing at all. The Commonwealth Government did see fit to extend a small amount of assistance to small gold producers, and that is the only assistance which has been given.

What about prospecting schemes and their encouragement? That is one way to keep the industry on its feet, particularly where the asset discovered is a wasting asset. Unless there is a very large and well experienced team of prospectors in the field, new discoveries are not likely to be made; nor will new areas be brought into production. This industry has received scant attention from the present Government, except by way of extension of assistance to some mines, such as the Sons of Gwalia, which were extensively assisted during the regime of the Hawke Government.

We find that the apple growers of this State are in distress, although apples over a period of years have been quite dear. We find that the growers are not getting enough, and they are asking for the appointment of a board. They want some protection, and they want security for their future.

We find that the future for lamb exports has received quite a tingle in recent times. The producers must be in good heart, because the very first shipment of lamb brought less than was anticipated, and the Government provided a subsidy on the export of lamb. How long will that subsidy last? That is a question which this State will have to consider, because here we have a number of producers solely engaged in the rearing of lambs for the overseas market. No doubt in the past the price realised gave the producer reasonable compensation for the capital outlay and for the labour involved in the rearing of prime lambs; but prices have fallen.

We can also examine the position of the meat market. Here again a fine picture cannot be painted. There are inherent difficulties in the industry and they are increasing. The overseas market is

becoming more selective; therefore, the producers are getting anxious and concerned as to the outlook in the future.

It is not long ago since the Press was full of reference to, and we on this side of the House were receiving quite a lot of criticism in regard to war service land settlement. Even now war service land settlement is not on a very firm footing; but more about that presently.

I now come to something which is of vital concern to the whole primary-producing industry. I speak of the rural water scheme. I think two applications have been made for an extension of this scheme in the State. However, apparently the Government considers that the Commonwealth must be treated with kid gloves and must not be offended because of other things that this Government has in mind. Therefore, a determined application—one that has some body and substance behind it, and one that covers areas of low rainfall and where a comprehensive scheme is deserved—has not been made. The applications that have been made up to the present time have received scant attention. Nothing seems to have been put forward that would appeal to the Commonwealth, or that would approach the type of agreement that was entered into on a previous occasion.

I now wish to speak of another matter concerning the agricultural industry. I refer to copper for agricultural purposes. At this stage let me say that the whole of the people concerned, particularly those who were denied supplies on this occasion, are very disappointed that the Minister and the Government have not achieved anything in regard to the copper shortage. I say that the growers of Western Australia have had a raw deal. I say this because it is well known to the officer of the Department of Agriculture and the Minister that copper is an important adjunct to this industry. And yet we find that very little has been achieved over a period of time.

Mr. Nalder: If the honourable member had been representing his people we would have heard something about it a long time. He was remarkably quiet.

Mr. KELLY: The Minister cannot say that as an excuse, as he is sitting in the box seat and I am not. Had I been sitting in the box seat there is an avenue I could have exploited very thoroughly.

Mr. Nalder: You should have taken action immediately.

Mr. KELLY: I told the Minister in March there was a shortage of super.

Mr. Nalder: Not a shortage of super.

Mr. KELLY: I am speaking of copper. The question of super has not entered my discussion. I am speaking of copperise

super, and the Minister knows that full well; and he knows that the possibility of a shortage was brought to his attention in March.

Mr. Nalder: Immediate action was taken.

Mr. KELLY: Nothing at all was done.

Mr. Lewis: What did you do about it?

Mr. KELLY: It was the Minister's prerogative to do something.

Mr. Nalder: Don't you think you fell down in your duty?

Mr. KELLY: No, because very little copper-impregnated super is used in my area. I am speaking collectively for all the users of this copper-impregnated super. Apparently the Minister does not have the same concern.

Mr. Nalder: You should have done something.

Mr. KELLY: I will develop my story, and the Minister will realise what I have done. The shortage was well known within the industry; and, as I said before, well known to the Minister. Earlier in this session I asked some questions of the Minister for Agriculture, and the replies I received were gems, showing the Minister's total disregard. I first asked the Minister at what date he became aware that a severe shortage existed of copper-impregnated superphosphate. He replied, "Early April." However, there was a statement in the Press which made it evident that the Minister knew in March. But he tells me it was April, in his reply to my simply-worded question.

On his own admission he knew in early April, yet it took until the second week in May before he made any move at all. The Minister and his colleagues would have jumped into the Press if they had anything worth while to publish. The Press statement, to which I previously referred, was published before the Minister realised how serious the position was. My second question was:

- (2) Did he realise that by neglecting to rectify the shortage immediately it became apparent, and by adopting the attitude that farmers unable to obtain requirements for use on copper deficient lands should make the best of growing alternative crops, he handed primary producers a distinct disservice?

Those were his own words. I know he made that statement, because I read it in the Press. I also read where his statement was condemned and criticised by

people in the industry. The Minister's reply to my question in part was as follows:—

It is not the prerogative of the Government either to arrange or supply any fertiliser. As soon as the shortage became known, action was taken to encourage suppliers to import any alternative copper fertilisers available.

That shows a total disregard for the people who required superphosphate with a copper content, as the Minister knows full well that the cost would be around £200 or £300 per ton more for the imported article. That was the advice the Minister gave to the disappointed people, many of whom are living on a shoe-string because, in many cases, they are endeavouring to successfully develop light land and bring it into early production. The second part of the answer was as follows:—

Advice given to farmers to avoid growing crops which would fail if copper fertilisers were not available cannot be considered a disservice.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker: What is a farmer to do if he has made his plans and the country on which he has settled is only suitable for the growing of certain cereals or certain pastures? What is he to grow? If that land is deficient in copper, zinc, or any other mineral, it is obvious what he has to put into the soil. It is useless for the Minister to tell those people to grow alternative crops. I think he fell down badly in his job by not taking action long before he did.

On the 5th July the Premier, who was in the north-west at the time, made an announcement that a committee would be appointed. I am wrong there—the committee was appointed; and it comprised very good personnel. There is no doubt in my mind that the deliberations of that committee will be as wide as the Government will permit. However, if the Government has restricted the channels through which this committee can explore, then the results will be of little use, despite the fact that the calibre of the men who comprise the committee is quite good.

As I said earlier, it took the Minister three months to take any action in this matter. Whether it was his recommendation to the Premier which is responsible for a committee being appointed I do not know. Last week I asked the Premier the following question:—

As the effectual use of copper impregnated superphosphate is increasing at a fast rate, does he not consider that the introduction of an incentive subsidy on the production of low-grade copper ores would greatly

increase available supplies of oxide copper and thus ensure adequate supplies of copper superphosphate to primary producers?

I think I may have made a mistake in framing that question by using the words "low-grade copper ores." The Premier used that point to pounce on when making his reply, which was virtually valueless. He does not give the industry any help at all and it definitely needs some incentive.

Mr. Nalder: He answered the question you asked. He could not read into a question something that was not there.

Mr. KELLY: The present Government has become quite adept at avoiding answering most of the questions it is asked. Unless we obtain a copy of Webster's Dictionary to make sure of the wording we want to use, we do not get any answers from the present Government. That applies to practically everything. I think it is regarding as suspect every question asked of it. It thinks there is a nigger in the woodpile. Most of the questions are designed with the intention of obtaining information; and surely the people of the State are entitled to any information they desire. One of the ways they have of gaining this information is through their local members.

Mr. Tonkin: Have you ever tried asking the Minister for Police a question?

Mr. KELLY: I have heard some of his evasive replies. It has not been my lot to ask him a question yet.

Mr. Tonkin: Don't waste your time.

Mr. KELLY: The Premier finally said that an increase in the proportion of low-grade ores was not desirable. Why is it not desirable? In a question I asked the Minister earlier this year I intimated that 50 per cent. of the copper-impregnated superphosphate requirements could not be supplied; and the Minister corrected me and said that 70 per cent. of the requirements had been met. Of course the Minister was basing his reply on last year's figures and not on the current requirements at all.

Mr. Nalder: It was on the current orders.

Mr. KELLY: The Minister knows as well as I do that a number of the farmers do not put in a firm order. They make inquiries as to the availability of the super; and if they find that there is plenty, they do not bother to place an order. If they discover there is a shortage, a lot will then place an order immediately. If a farmer goes to a counter of any of the superphosphate firms and asks for 5, 10, or 15 tons of copper-impregnated super the clerk endeavours to discourage him—in fact he has been instructed to do so—because he knows very well that there is a short supply. Of course most of them who find

that is so, say, "Oh well, we had better have the plain super"; and a lot have thrown down the drain the advantage they would have received if they had been able to obtain the copper-impregnated super. Not only have they lost the nutrition that would have been supplied by the better super, but they have lost 12 months of production; and that is a very serious loss to this State.

I suggested to the Premier that payment of an incentive subsidy was one way of overcoming the shortage, which I claim was nearer 50 per cent. than 30 per cent. and I claim that because many of the orders would never have been recorded. I know that one firm did not have any at all early in the season. Another was reasonably well stocked for its old customers but not for any new ones.

Mr. Nalder: One firm fulfilled the total orders it had.

Mr. KELLY: It did; but it was not happy about taking orders for 20 tons if it could persuade the customer that 10 would do.

Mr. Nalder: It fulfilled every order.

Mr. KELLY: I know what it did because I had quite a lot to do with that particular company, and I know that it was not encouraging any farmer to take more than was absolutely necessary for him to scrape through. No doubt that particular firm was in a better position than other firms. However, it is no good for customers who have dealt with a particular company for years, to go cap in hand to another company for assistance when their own firm does not have the super.

Mr. Bovell: If one company could maintain its orders the others should have been able to do so also.

Mr. KELLY: They should have been in that position; but I think we should ask the Minister—

Mr. Nalder: He is trying to blame the Government.

Mr. KELLY: If the Minister for Agriculture had been sincere in his outlook knowing full well that the supplies of copper-impregnated superphosphate would in all probability be insufficient for the coming year—

Mr. Nalder: Prompt action has been taken.

Mr. KELLY: The statements we have heard in recent times do not prove that to be correct. The Minister has taken action all right; but it is only an alternative, and that is to supply copper-impregnated super in which has been used imported copper rather than our own. That is the point I am harping on. We should not use one ounce of imported copper when we have so much of our

own waiting to be utilised. A concerted effort should be made by the Government to ensure that not only do we have enough for the current season but also enough for a year or two ahead.

Mr. Hawke: Hear, hear!

Mr. KELLY: If we are going to have difficulties such as the mines closing and roads becoming impassable, we should have a stock in hand. Copper areas should be very vigorously examined because this is a very dire need, not only on account of the current situation which has developed, but also because of the future copper-impregnated super requirements. This same position could easily arise again if we do not have a stockpile ready. The Minister has said that remedial action has been taken. That is merely a miserable alternative—the line of least resistance to get him out of the difficulty for the present.

Mr. Nalder: Submit something constructive, and we may listen.

Mr. KELLY: There are many places where copper can be found; but because of a lack of market in earlier times very little has been done with it. I could name places I personally know, such as Bange-mall where gold production had to be stopped because, for one reason, the copper content interfered with the extraction, and the percentage of gold recovered was not good enough; and, for another reason, too many hands were dipping into it before the owners had a say. I think the second one was a rather important reason; but nevertheless the copper is there, and this place is only 200 miles east of Carnarvon. However, we cannot rely on the small prospectors to go to places like that if they have no guarantee that the Government is going to do anything about the copper when they get it.

There is Marda, where there is a report that certain workings have returned very good results from a copper point of view. If my memory serves me rightly—I have not checked this in recent times—I understand that 14 per cent. was the amount of copper removed from that place.

A little further to the north are the Die Hardy ranges, where, again, a number of copper deposits were found during the search for gold. During the period when gold was being sought, copper was found; but there was no use for the copper at that time in the agricultural industry. The whole of the copper deposits being worked then were confined to Raventhsthorpe, where a plant had been operating on a very big scale and the extractions were reasonably good. The amount of copper recovered was able to be sold overseas.

The picture today is quite different. Requirements are now higher for the State. It is not satisfactory to take the line of

least desistance and to buy copper from the Eastern States. The difference between the amount paid for the importation of copper from the Eastern States and copper produced locally could be spent in assisting those who would be prepared to go out and look for deposits.

Mr. Nalder: I think you should know that all copper deposits are not suitable for superphosphate.

Mr. KELLY: I know that. But what must we do in order to find out the extent of our copper deposits in these areas? The Minister should get down to a continuity of supply from the people he represents as Minister for Agriculture. But he has done nothing about that up to the present time. All he has done is to say, "Get on to alternative crops; do not grow crops that require copper, because we are short. We are going to have a heavy demand for copper next year, and we are going to make certain that you get some super. We are going to buy some from the Eastern States." But was that the right action? No; of course it is not! In fact, it was inaction.

This matter of copper superphosphate is a serious one for this State. The only alternative the Minister has put forward at the present moment is the importation of crystallised-impregnated superphosphate at £514 per ton, to ensure that we have enough stocks for next year. The added cost alone to very many producers is quite considerable. Some are using up to 150 to 200 tons of this copper-impregnated superphosphate.

Mr. Nalder: What is it going to amount to?

Mr. KELLY: It will amount to roughly 42s. 5d. per ton—that is, £2 2s. 5d., to my reckoning—and if one is buying 200 tons, there is £400 extra going in super. Would it not be better for the Government to use its endeavours to obtain copper ore locally? We are getting copper from Marble Bar. We are not getting much from Ravenssthorpe, and there is a field there of copper deposits which could be very useful. This copper has been put on the ground in its direct form for years, and with most successful results. The Weir brothers are supplying farmers within a radius of 40 to 50 miles with as much copper as they can produce. Why does not the Government supply those people? There are copper fields in other parts of the State which should be exploited if we are to get the position on the right basis.

It is wrong that farmers should pay a terrific price for superphosphate, without the Government putting in all the additives. Where additives are necessary the extra cost is the last straw that is breaking the camel's back. There are many members in this House who are not connected with

the agricultural industry and would be totally unaware of the prices charged for superphosphate.

Mr. Nalder: It is cheaper now than it has been for many years.

Mr. KELLY: That has nothing to do with it. That is no excuse. I know it has gone down from roughly £15 a ton for plain super in bag form to the price it is now; namely, £10 8s. 6d. bulk. Sold in bags it costs £10 18s. But that does not assist the man who is struggling to develop the land. Almost every day we hear the Minister for Lands boasting of the acres of land he is dishing out each year—these large areas of country that are being opened up. But it is of no assistance to farmers—those in the struggling stage—who are hampered because they cannot get sufficient super. When they have to use, as they are now using, a good deal of lower-grade copper superphosphate, it is almost impossible for them to make the progress they should make.

Anything in the way of a reduction is a help, but it does not go very far along the road if the farmer has £50-worth of expense and only £20 to meet that expense.

Mr. Hawke: It is all right for those wealthy Country Party farmers on the other side of the House.

Mr. KELLY: Farmers are having to restrict their operations, and that is a very serious matter in this State at the present time.

I said I would mention the amounts charged for superphosphate at present. They are: Superphosphate, straight bulk, £10 8s. 6d.; super-copper and zinc, £18 2s. per ton; super and copper ore, £16 19s. 6d.; and, finally, super and copper sulphate, £20 3s. per ton. I quote those figures to show the great disparity between ordinary super and the impregnated copper superphosphate; and for the Minister to say that on top of these figures—this is based on local production—it is no further hardship to add another 42s. 5d.—

Mr. Nalder: I did not say anything of the sort. You are dreaming. Wake up!

Mr. KELLY: The Minister said that in reply to a question I asked him.

Mr. Nalder: I did not say anything of the sort.

Mr. KELLY: Yes you did. I have it here. The Minister is not facing up to the position. He knows very well that if we were able to get the required quantity of copper-impregnated superphosphate we would be able to develop many more acres effectively. It is not simply a matter of

putting superphosphate into the ground; it is the amount of copper superphosphate which has to be used in this type of country if we are to get results.

Mr. Hawke: Quite right!

Mr. KELLY: The Minister said that in the coming season—and this is the part he denied a moment ago—arrangements had been made for manufacturers to supplement their copper ore supplies with imported crystallised impregnated copper sulphate to meet demands—

Mr. Nalder: If it is necessary.

Mr. KELLY: —at £514 per ton. But the Minister takes no remedial action to improve the supplies that already exist.

Mr. Nalder: That is not so. You want to wake up.

Mr. KELLY: I am perfectly awake. I am as much awake as the Minister; and I have my finger on the pulse of the situation more than the Minister, because he is doing nothing about it. I feel that the survey that the Minister has made up to the present time is not satisfactory, and the sooner he increases the stocks and gets a proper determination of the position the better it will be; because it is useless for him to sit back in his chair and say that he has done something about it.

I think this attitude of leaving producers in the lap of the gods—and that is what it really means—where costs are concerned, is a completely wrong approach. The Minister may have sufficient for next year, but that is not good enough. He cannot bank on a sufficiency for next year, because he is not banking on a sure supply for this year, and he has not taken into account the added amount that will be required to bring more new land into production next year. Those are facts to which the Minister must give some serious thought if the position is to be overcome.

Another matter on which I think the Minister has done a very poor job—undoubtedly he will say that he has done a good job—was one dealt with very fully by the member for Warren: I refer to the tobacco-growing industry. There, I think, we have one of the most disturbing outlooks that any industry in this State has been faced with in recent years, even including the woolgrowers and the wheat-growers and other primary producers who have been really up against it at various times. The tobacco-growing industry is a relatively small one and everything possible should be done to help it. At present growers are faced with low prices and a high percentage of unsold leaf.

Mr. Nalder: If you have the answer to it we would be pleased to hear it; and I am sure the member for Warren would, too.

Mr. KELLY: This industry is facing many difficulties at present and the Minister will have to do a lot more than he has done up to date. The growers are powerless to do anything about it themselves; they are definitely powerless to do anything. The majority of them have been living a hand-to-mouth existence and receiving very little over and above their immediate requirements in the way of remuneration for the leaf they have grown. Previously they have not had much surplus leaf, but today they are in a worse position than they have ever been; they are faced with the alternative of getting off because the market is no good.

As I go along I will analyse what the market really means and what has transpired up to date. Neither the State Government nor the Commonwealth Government appears to have achieved anything so far, and no relief has been given to the growers other than a certain amount of sympathy. Where that gets a tobacco grower with a hungry family and certain commitments, when he is wanting cash, I do not know. There has been no attempt by either Government to solve the problem which exists today. Certainly there has been an increase in the amount of tobacco produced in Australia.

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

Mr. Nalder: The grass is growing; it's all right.

Mr. KELLY: The Minister is not putting anything into the mouths of the people engaged in the tobacco industry. They are the ones who are in difficulties, and will continue to be in difficulties the way things are going, because they cannot eat grass, and apparently they cannot eat tobacco either.

In May of this year the Interstate Tobacco Growers' Association had a conference in Brisbane; and, at the time, it was recognised that a crisis was developing. As a matter of fact, it had developed; and the crisis, as far as they were concerned, was that in most cases their prices had slumped to an average of about 117d. per lb.

They asked the Commonwealth Government to do something about it; but what did that Government do? It decided to go to several of the big manufacturers, and it said, "Look, you boys, you have been using a certain percentage of Australian tobacco leaf; granted. It is dearer than

the overseas product you are able to bring in, and we are going to give you this crop on more or less the same basis as you have had it in the past, so far as the percentage of local leaf is concerned; but in future you will have to step up the percentage of Australian leaf."

The Commonwealth set a deadline and set the percentage at 45 per cent. I think. That was the position the Government was prepared to accept, and that was all it did about giving the growers some relief. The case was presented at the time through the Tobacco Growers' Council, and its members made the recommendation that something be done about the percentage of tobacco leaf that was to be used. On the 8th July the Commonwealth Government told the manufacturers that it would not tolerate usable leaf remaining unsold. That was a definite statement and one I think that met with the approbation of most people, because they recognised that the only salvation of this industry was the sale of the leaf on a reasonably satisfactory basis.

But notwithstanding that statement from the Government, and even before the application of the higher percentage, for trumped-up reasons — and I repeat "trumped-up reasons" because something apparently developed in the minds of the manufacturers — the position changed to one which did not bear a great deal of resemblance to the actual supply and demand. The point is that it is much easier to buy Virginian leaf at about half the price of the Australian leaf, and use a bigger quantity of the overseas product. The manufacturers are not concerned about the Australian growers; they do not care two hoots whether the industry is a successful one or not; whether it is just struggling along, or whether it can be extended and improved by increasing the percentage of Australian leaf used in manufacturing.

The review committee that the Government appointed—I think we had an example of it entering into the Western Australian discussions in recent times—could do no more than say, apparently on Government instructions, that it would go to the States where markets were being held. It went to South Australia and finally came here. But all it could do was to make recommendations; and where does that get the producer? Where does it get the man who is sitting in Manjimup or in Queensland? He has no assurance that his crop will even be sold.

As I said earlier, 80 per cent. of the crop there was sold at about 117d. per lb.; but what about the Western Australian growers? What have they got? The Western Australian crop, I admit, is only a small percentage of the total amount produced in Australia, but the position at

present is that the local growers have a tremendous amount of unsold leaf, probably in the vicinity of about 50 per cent. of the entire crop, and for the leaf sold I doubt whether the average would have been over 60d. per lb.

The position is that these producers are on the bread-and-butter line; they have a product which they cannot sell. And what has the Minister done about it? Has he given them any assurance that he will help them? Has he done anything about putting them in an easier frame of mind? Has he given them any definite undertaking that he will help them? No; of course not! The Minister is still sitting back waiting for the report of the committee of review. That committee has been given the job of reviewing the position and reporting to the Commonwealth Government on what the circumstances will be after the sale; but they already knew it would be a flop.

Mr. Watts: Why are you asking questions when you are answering them yourself?

Mr. KELLY: The Minister and the Government are still dithering about. What has the Minister done?

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

Mr. ROWBERRY: Mr. Speaker, in view of the gravity of the position in which the tobacco growers in this State find themselves—

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Is this a point of order?

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am moving that the honourable member's time be extended.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member cannot make a speech on it.

Extension of Time

Mr. ROWBERRY: I move—

That the honourable member's time be extended.

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

Ayes—16.

Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Brady	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Curran	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Graham	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Hall	Mr. Toms
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Norton

(Teller.)

Noes—20.

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

(Teller.)

Pairs.

Ayes.

Mr. W. Hegney
Mr. Moir
Mr. Evans
Mr. J. Hegney
Mr. Jamieson

Noes.

Mr. Brand
Mr. Court
Mr. Burt
Mr. Mann
Mr. Craig

Majority against—4.

Motion thus negatived.

Debate Resumed

MR. LEWIS (Moore) [6.3 p.m.]: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

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

Ayes—20.

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

(Teller.)

Noes—17.

Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Brady	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Curran	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Graham	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Hall	Mr. Toms
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Kelly	Mr. May
Mr. Norton	

(Teller.)

Pairs.

Ayes.

Mr. Brand
Mr. Court
Mr. Burt
Mr. Mann
Mr. Craig

Noes.

Mr. W. Hegney
Mr. Moir
Mr. Evans
Mr. J. Hegney
Mr. Jamieson

Majority for—3.

Motion thus passed.

House adjourned at 6.6 p.m.