

Mr. O'Connell and put the matter to him; and he asked me to ring Mr. McBirnie, who said I could anticipate a reply from the Minister. I asked him when I could anticipate the reply; whether I would get it after the election.

I was told by Mr. McBirnie that he had rung the State Engineering Works. We spoke there at very short notice, because we received permission to do so only at the last moment. On the Tuesday after the election I received the Minister's authority for our candidate to speak at the State Engineering Works. That struck me as being a bit low.

Mr. Graham: It is typical.

Mr. Oldfield: That's nothing new.

Mr. FLETCHER: Perhaps it is not, but it is something new to me. I conducted the campaign on behalf of Mr. Dolan according to what I believed were principles of fair play. But I do not consider the Government's action fair play. As I say, I am usually polite to all members in this House, and I try to conduct matters in a business-like manner, and with politeness—although on occasions perhaps I do tend to get a bit heated in this House—and I do not want that sort of thing to happen to me again.

Mr. Graham: Just one look at them upsets me.

Mr. FLETCHER: I do not want a repetition of that sort of thing from members on that side of the House, because when we occupy the Government benches it may result in our treating members opposite in an equally cavalier fashion.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Deputy Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 10.49 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 7th August, 1963

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

DIANELLA-MORLEY DISTRICT

Distress to Residents through Flooding

1. The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) Is the Minister aware of the distress in the Dianella-Morley district caused through flooding in that area?

*Kensington Street-Peters Place:
Deep Drainage*

(2) Will he inform the House how soon deep drainage will be commenced in the Kensington Street-Peters Place area where the situation is now acute?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Commencement of any deep drainage work in this area depends on availability of loan funds.

BORE AT ARROWSMITH

Test Results

2. The Hon. A. R. JONES asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) Was the bore put down by the Mines Department drill six miles west of Arrino at Arrowsmith a successful one?
 - (2) If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes"—
 - (a) what was the test for solids and salinity;
 - (b) what was the test gallonage per hour or day; and
 - (c) (i) was the bore sealed off by cement being poured into it; and
 - (ii) if so, what is the purpose of this action?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The Mines Department bore situated 6½ miles west of Arrino was successful.
- (2) (a) Several aquifers were encountered and analyses showed a variation from 550-810 parts per million of total soluble solids.
- (b) Several aquifers were tested at rates varying from 6,000-15,000 gallons per hour. Due to technical difficulties the total output on the hole was not tested but it is considered to be in excess of 40,000 gallons per hour.
- (c) (i) The bore was sealed by use of gravel and cement plugs.
- (ii) This bore was planned as an exploratory one only, and in consequence was of no use to the Public Works Department as a production bore.

As it was a flowing or artesian bore, it was necessary to backfill and cement plug the hole to stop the flow and to prevent contamination of the aquifers.

This bore is one of several exploratory bores to ascertain the possibility of aquifers being suitable to supply the domestic wants of Morawa and adjacent towns. Upon completion of our exploratory work, the Public Works Department will be able to plan necessary production wells.

UNDERSIZED CRAYFISH

Number of Prosecutions, and Penalties Imposed

3. The Hon. R. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) How many fishermen and other persons have been prosecuted for having undersized crayfish in their possession for the years—

1957;
1958;
1959;
1960;
1961;
1962; and
1963?
 - (2) What were the fines and penalties imposed on these people for the above years?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) and (2)—

Year	No. of Prosecutions	Fines £
1957-58	110	490
1958-59	105	455
1959-60	144	831
1960-61	115	974
1961-62	228	*4,471
1962-63	116	*2,658

* Fines and additional penalties.

HOUSING AT ESPERANCE

War Service, and State Rental and Purchase Homes

4. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Housing:
 - (1) How many of the following types of houses were erected at Esperance during the year ended the 30th June, 1963:—
 - (a) War service homes; and
 - (b) State rental and purchase homes?
 - (2) How many of the above types is it proposed to erect at Esperance during the current financial year?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) Two war service homes;
 - (b) Three commission rental and purchase homes, and three for other schemes.
- Comprehensive replanning of Esperance restricted availability of building sites.
- (2) (a) War service homes depend on applications received.
 - (b) 50 houses.

FREMANTLE SCHOOLS*Fremantle Boys' and Princess May Girls' High Schools: Disposal*

5. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Does the Government intend to dispose of the Fremantle properties known as "Fremantle Boys' School" and "Princess May Girls' High School"?

(2) If disposal is contemplated—

(a) Will action be delayed until the Minister for Education is satisfied that overcrowding will not result at John Curtin High School through the removal of children from Princess May Girls' High School; and

(b) By what means will the sale of these properties be effected?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) No decision has yet been reached.

(2) (a) No action will be taken to dispose of the properties in question until the Education Department no longer requires them for its own purposes.

(b) The usual procedure. The Public Works Department ascertains if any other Government department has a use for the buildings and, if not, invites tenders.

RAILWAYS DEPARTMENT*Haulage of Wheat, Oats, and Barley*

6. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

What tonnage of—

(a) wheat;

(b) oats; and

(c) barley

was hauled by the Railways Department for the following seasons:—

1960-61;

1961-1962; and

1962-1963

from Salmon Gums and sidings to Esperance?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Year	Tonnage Hauled	
	Wheat	Oats and Barley
1960-61	13 tons	3 tons
1961-62	3,210 tons	1,201 tons
1962-63	15,765 tons	5,613 tons.

M.T.T. BUS SERVICE*Rockingham Road Route Change*

7. The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY asked the Minister for Mines:

Now that portion of Rockingham Road has been closed to through traffic, as a result of a railway crossing to the Alcoa Refinery, what will be the new route of the M.T.T. bus service and how will this affect the residents of the closed portion of Rockingham Road in the Naval Base area, all of whom are living west of the new road?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The present route is now continued from Rockingham Road on to the new road to Macedonia Street which rejoins Rockingham Road at the Naval Base Post Office. All residents are within reasonable distance of the service and quite a number have benefited by the move.

MACEDONIA STREET RESERVE*Declaration as "A"-class*

8. The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY asked the Minister for Local Government:

With reference to the classification of the Macedonia Street Reserve in the Naval Base district, which consists of a portion of beach front adjacent to the Progress Hall established with grass and modern toilets, and is used very extensively by local residents, including those from Medina, and while it is appreciated that large proportions of the beaches in the industrial areas are already lost to the people's use, it must also be appreciated that the reservation of some reasonable area of the beaches must be retained for the citizens of the area and, as the existing reserve is classified as "B", will the Government give urgent consideration to declaring it an "A"-class reserve in order to retain it for all time?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

It is assumed that the question refers to Reserve 24570 which is immediately north of a prolongation westward of Macedonia Street.

This reserve is vested in the Shire of Kwinana for the purpose of recreation and parking. It has not been classified as of "B" class. If a written request to create Reserve 24570 as of "A" class is submitted by the local authority to

the Under-Secretary for Lands, the matter will receive consideration.

KALGOORLIE ABATTOIRS

Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs Slaughtered

9. The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN asked the Minister for Mines:

What was the number of—

- (a) cattle;
- (b) sheep; and
- (c) pigs

slaughtered at the Kalgoorlie Abattoirs for each of the years ended the 30th June, 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1963?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
Year ended the 30th June, 1960	3,261	56,560	2,745
Year ended the 30th June, 1961	2,219	53,819	2,577
Year ended the 30th June, 1962	1,870	42,966	2,958
Year ended the 30th June, 1963	1,939	35,409	3,280

SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE NORTH-WEST

Financial Assistance for Parents

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

Will the Minister explain the reasons of the Government for discriminating in granting financial assistance to parents whose children attend local schools in the north-west, and inform the House why a grant of £50 per child is given to selected highly and moderately paid Government employees but denied to other parents whose children attend local schools, regardless of whether they earn high, moderate or low incomes, or if they are unemployed?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The child allowance was granted to public officers attached to departments concerned in the provision of essential services and the development of the north-west—most of which departments do not rely on direct recruitment for positions in that area, but fill vacancies by postings and temporary transfers.

It was considered the payment of the allowance would assist in staffing key positions and would encourage officers to seek such postings. This same need to foster recruitment does not prevail with all categories of Government employment in the north-west.

WOOL

Production in Salmon Gums-Esperance Area

11. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

What was the wool production in the Salmon Gums-Esperance area in—

- (a) weight; and
- (b) value

for the following seasons:—

1960-1961;
1961-1962; and
1962-1963?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The weight of wool production in the Dundas and Esperance Shires was as follows:—

	1960-61 lb.	1961-62 lb.	1962-63 lb.
Dundas	852,617	894,416	783,916
Esperance	1,393,697	2,017,069	2,507,767
Total	2,276,314	2,911,485	3,291,683

Values are not recorded by districts and are therefore not available.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

PASTORAL LEASES

Availability of Committee's Report

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

Will he ask the Minister for Lands to make available to all members of this House and, if need be, all members of Parliament, copies of the report of the committee inquiring into pastoral leases which was tabled in the House yesterday?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Neither my colleague nor myself, as individuals, represents the Minister for Lands or, for that matter, any other Minister in the Legislative Assembly. We try to share the responsibility equally. However, I will convey Mr. Strickland's question to the Minister for Lands and obtain an answer for him.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Election

On motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), resolved:

That in accordance with Standing Order No. 31A, The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon, The Hon. A. R. Jones, and

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery, be elected to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees during the present session.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Appointment

On motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), sessional committees were appointed as follows:—

Standing Orders.—The Hon. H. K. Watson, The Hon. J. M. Thomson, and The Hon. J. Dolan.

Library.—The Hon. J. G. Hislop, and The Hon. R. F. Hutchison.

House.—The Hon. J. Murray, The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson, The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery, and The Hon. R. Thompson.

Printing.—The Hon. G. Bennetts and The Hon. J. M. Thomson.

SUPPLY BILL, £25,000,000

Standing Orders Suspension

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.53 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended so as to enable a Supply Bill to be taken on receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly, and to have precedence each day before the Address-in-Reply, and to be passed through all stages at any one sitting.

I feel that the House is entitled to a brief explanation of the necessity for moving this motion, although I readily recognise that apart from the new members the House is cognisant of the need for it. However, in addressing myself to you, Sir, I point out that it is customary at the commencement of almost every session to move for the suspension of Standing Orders so that consideration may be given to passing a Supply Bill through all its stages at the one sitting. That is a custom which has been carried out by every Government as far back as history can record. I therefore hope the House will agree to the motion.

Question put and passed.

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.57 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

It is customary and necessary for the Government to introduce into the House during the early stages of the session, a

Bill seeking a supply of funds to maintain the functions of State. Pending the preparation of the Annual Estimates and their submission to Parliament, this Bill seeks supply to the extent of £25,000,000. Similar amounts were sought and granted during the first session of the 24th Parliament and early in the third session of the 23rd Parliament.

It has been estimated that the sum now sought will be sufficient to finance the State's activities until September. Further supply will be sought as required. The amount of £25,000,000 is sought under the following headings:—

	£
Consolidated Fund	18,000,000
General Loan Fund	5,000,000
Advance to Treasurer	2,000,000
	<hr/> £25,000,000

As previously indicated, the Estimates for 1963-64 have not yet been completed in detail. Their preparation is, however, in course and, upon their completion, they will be introduced into Parliament and become available to members.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North—Leader of the Opposition) [4.59 p.m.]: In moving the motion for the suspension of Standing Orders the Minister stated it is an age-old custom for such a motion to be put at the beginning of each session in similar circumstances. I may aver, too, that it is age-old and parliamentary practice for members to ventilate any grievances they may have, or speak on any matter relating to the Estimates, on the Address-in-Reply debate and the debate on the Supply Bill. They have entirely available to them such a course of procedure.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I do not want you to excite them too much.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: In *Hansard* of not many years ago headings were needed when a Supply Bill was brought forward. The debates were headed, "Grievances before Supply." While I do not wish to ventilate many grievances, I desire to make some observations, particularly relevant to financial matters.

During the past financial year the States have enjoyed, perhaps because of the amount reflected in Commonwealth Budgets, a considerable buoyancy in the moneys available to them, and in the amounts, under all headings, which they have obtained from Commonwealth sources. As is well known to us, the Commonwealth Government was so wide of the mark in its estimate of revenue and expenditure that it would seem it could have been even more considerate to all the States in many particulars, and especially in connection with reimbursement of funds collected within the States for specific purposes.

For a long time I have resented the attitude of the Commonwealth Government when making payments to States, in adopting the role that it is giving to the States something in the way of largesse, or something to which the States are not entitled. We find that practice and that line of thinking taking place invariably when the States have their representatives assembled at Canberra to put forward their case. When the position becomes awkward for the Commonwealth Government with all the States acting in unison, it adroitly gets away by allotting a certain sum and splitting it between the States, knowing full well that such a course of action must provoke argument, and hoping that it will cause the representatives of the States to be at considerable variance.

I suggest that in very many respects the amounts available from Commonwealth sources to the States are out of all proportion to the needs of the States, as against the needs of the Commonwealth; and, indeed, the retention of moneys by the Commonwealth collected in the States from various sources is unrealistic and cock-eyed in many respects. The Commonwealth is increasingly making available moneys to States for specific purposes for expenditure by the States, but far too frequently it makes such moneys available grudgingly; so much so that the body of Premiers, Deputy Premiers, or Acting Premiers, putting forward the case for their States, have not merely to be forceful when advocating their claims, but also to be very definitely State-righters, as against the activities and actions of the Commonwealth.

I think we, too, would be in unison on the quick change which many Federal members of Parliament make in their thinking towards their own States immediately they become Federal members. Some, but not all, seem to have the ready facility to accept the Commonwealth point of view against the point of view of the very State they represent. This change, unfortunately, comes very quickly to some. They would rather advocate that many millions of pounds to be spent on a grandiose scheme to build a lake at Canberra, than on requirements in their own districts, and would support the attitude of the Commonwealth against that of the State, in many instances.

I noticed that after the last Loan Council meeting there was considerable disagreement—this line of thought is not new—on the basis of allocating loan moneys borrowed by the Commonwealth for use within the States. A representative from our own State made a positive statement as to how unsatisfactory was the application of the formula, which was worked out in a post-war sense, for the distribution of loan moneys, irrespective of the quantum of application or the splitting up of it between the States. It is truly a fact that

the formula would apply if the States could not agree, and it would certainly act adversely in the case of Western Australia.

It is very interesting to look at the comparison of figures representing total amounts collected by the States in different forms of taxation, and the amounts collected by the Commonwealth for its own purpose and for the purposes of the States. Under section 96 of the Constitution, which is the section under which the Commonwealth Grants Commission operates, we find a widely fluctuating figure from year to year being reimbursed or paid to the States.

The Grants Commission, which in very many cases has been considerate, and more than considerate in some respects to cases and considerations put up by the States, is varying its formula in the examination of the accounts of the States, as between the claimant and the standard States. This variation must be embarrassing to State Governments, because, in my view, they are at this time being subjected far too much to the whims of a changing formula, as against the needs—which are known to them—applicable to their States.

It is in a fashion determining State Government policy in particulars where, I feel, there should be freedom of action within the State Governments themselves. If one takes the trouble to read the report of the Grants Commission year after year one will see how these variations affect different channels of public finance. For the 1962-63 year we received from the Commonwealth £6,210,000 as a reimbursement or a payment under section 96 of the Constitution. That amount has varied considerably from year to year, and indeed in some years it was a sum far in excess of the amount in 1962-63.

If we look at the collections within the States from taxation sources imposed by the Commonwealth, we find that the variation has been, in the last 10 years, from a figure of £532,915,000 to £807,266,000 in the last year. So we see that the Commonwealth buoyancy in taxation revenue from all sources in the last quoted year, as shown in the 29th report of the commission, was £807,266,000.

The amounts reimbursed to the States under the tax reimbursement proposals left the Commonwealth with a margin of £388,000,000 from that source 10 years ago; and in the last completed financial year the Commonwealth retained £538,000,000 from income tax and entertainment tax after complete reimbursement had been made to the States.

I suggest, therefore, there is a great necessity for reviewing the Commonwealth-State finances in that one particular, because of the declining percentage of reimbursement to the States as the years go by. I repeat the amount of £807,000,000, approximately, was collected in the States

from income tax sources, and £538,000,000 of that collection was retained by the Commonwealth Government.

In addition, from within the States the collection of taxes, such as the iniquitous sales tax, has grown considerably. In the last completed year the sales tax collected was £173,000,000, the payroll tax £61,000,000, and customs and excise £359,000,000. All of these taxes, in increasing sums from year to year, are given to the Commonwealth from collections within the States; these collections affect the economies of the States, and no reimbursement of any material kind is given back to the revenues of the States.

So, in my view, it becomes a matter for the wider allocation of loan moneys, to which I referred initially. It is a matter of very great importance that every taxable person within a State, who makes such a substantial contribution to the Commonwealth revenue, is not enjoying through State revenue the benefits of such taxation.

All of us who are acquainted with the history of uniform taxation know that it was intended as something to be temporarily taken away from the States; and it was not a Liberal Government which decided it should not be handed back to the States. Be that as it may, I am drawing attention to the fact that the drift is very serious in the sense of the revenues going back disproportionately to the States after having been collected within their borders.

If we examine the situation in regard to the excise on petrol, which formerly was known as the petrol tax and now appears in the Commonwealth accounts under the heading of excise, we will find that the tax was originally instituted by the States for their own purposes. It was objected to and was taken over by the Commonwealth. It was a tax on the individual motorist and petrol user in the States, although now reimbursement under a new formula—the Federal Aid Roads Agreement—is made. In my view it is still being retained far too substantially by the Commonwealth. In the last completed financial year the tax collected on petrol in all Australian States from motorists was £66,000,000.

The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson: Does that amount include the tax on diesel fuel?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: It includes diesel but not aviation fuel. Amounts received by us from that sum of £66,000,000 totalled £8,800,000; and in all some £50,000,000 was returned to the States from the £66,000,000 paid by motorists at the petrol pumps in excise duty.

Although one can analyse many avenues of Commonwealth tax collections—irrespective of probate duty and other taxes which many members in this Chamber do not applaud—in my view far too much of the revenues provided by all the

States is being retained in the Commonwealth revenue; and I think serious consideration should be given this matter by all State Premiers and their advisers to see if there can be in any particular a break-through in the Commonwealth conscience in regard to the disproportionate amounts which are at present coming back to the States.

Without ventilating any local matter particularly as a grievance, I would suggest to the Minister in charge of this House that it again become a practice for the monthly balances, or statements of accounts, of the Government to be published. I do not know whether the reason for the discontinuance of this practice is the pressure of space in the Press; because neither Government financial matters nor parliamentary proceedings have over-much space in the newspapers these days, they being crowded out by the other things which the Press adjudge as being of greater interest to the public. Whether that is the reason or not, I think if we could see the monthly balances and figures it would not be merely of great interest but of great importance to those who are following trends in the conduct of Government business in this State.

I have read with great interest the 17th annual report and financial statement of the Rural and Industries Bank. This report was tabled when Parliament assembled and it is a very interesting document indeed. It shows that during the past year the assets of that bank increased by £4.4 million to a total of £37,000,000, for the year under review. After paying interest of £316,000 to the Government and setting aside £82,000 for depreciation, a very nice profit of £90,000 is shown. In addition to that, the savings bank section accounts increased by £3,000,000, and a very substantial part of the savings bank money as deposited by the thousands of depositors is being invested in the housing, and local authority and semi-government activities to a very wide extent.

When one thinks of the meagre liquid account resources which were in existence when this bank started, the figure being £178,000—the cash available to the commissioners to enable this bank to start—and the residue of their assets being mortgages on agricultural and a few pastoral properties to the extent of some millions—many of them very questionable assets, I think—one must realise that in the 17 years a remarkable contribution has been made to the State's economy by this institution.

I would like to suggest one or two matters which I think the Government should study to help itself and to help this institution, which is of the people of Western Australia. More Government business could be put in the way of this institution.

One finds accounts of different departments and entities within Crown instrumentalities banking with private banks and with the Commonwealth Bank. I fully realise that in the case of departments which may over-spend when compared with the revenue available to them, there has to be a marshalling of accounts and a pooling of resources of many departments; but I suggest there are many ways in which the Government should bank within itself by using its own institution rather than bank with the Commonwealth Bank.

North-west members—and I have heard Mr. Strickland voice this view on more than one occasion—have been extremely disappointed in the inability of the Rural and Industries Bank to open branches and to assist industry in north-west Australia. The reason is—and I assume it is a very valid reason—that very few branches of banks could be opened and operated at a profit; and unless there is a branch within a district it is not wise for a bank to open accounts representing overdrafts because of the inability to review and supervise. However, one could point out that an instrumentality such as the Wyndham Meat Works—which does not bank with the State—has a very big annual amount in and out of another bank. Not only would it be to the State's advantage but it would mean a branch of the R. & I. Bank being opened in that district if such accounts belonged to it. That applies to many other districts.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: There is no R. & I. Bank north of Geraldton.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That is so. I am suggesting that it is worth a lot of consideration, and that a profitable branch could be opened by using the workings and the cash involved in several departments and in the one I have instanced as a commencement—the Wyndham Meat Works. Look at the opportunity it would give—if the Ord River scheme is to be the success forecast—to establish a State bank with all its resources available to those people within that district.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: The railways bank with the Commonwealth Bank, too.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: There are many departments which do, and I am simply suggesting that this institution deserves all of the patronage the State Government can give it.

I have mentioned Wyndham as a district. There is a place in the Wyndham district known as Kununurra. There are one or two angles of the farm settlement scheme in operation in that centre which I think should quickly be looked at by the Government. Those of us who know that district well—those of us who belong to the North Province, and the member for Kimberley—are hoping there will be in the long term the prospect of a great

economy and sound expansion in new industries. However, the pastoral industry is the one that has pioneered that area and I would like to see a closer affinity with the welfare of the pastoral industry, as distinct from a new agricultural industry, and I would like to see it given consideration at every point where this development is and where it will be as it proceeds.

It is all very well for us to glamorise things that have not yet been proven, but it is important for us to study closely the industries on which the district's welfare is based and which have enabled it to be populated even as sparsely as it is at present. It is a very sad fact that the weight of cattle this season being killed at the Wyndham Meat Works is 30 lb. per head down on last year; and in not a bad season, either. I think all my colleagues in the North Province will agree that the north as a whole has not enjoyed a better season in our lifetime. Yet, for reasons—and on another debate at another time I will outline some of the reasons—with from 30,000 to 35,000 head at Wyndham this year, and with the season well advanced, the weights are down 30 lb. per beast.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do the ages have anything to do with it?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: A lot of things have something to do with it. The inconsiderate lessee's actions have a lot to do with it; but what I am suggesting—and I do not want to be drawn away from the fact—is that with the projected spending of £20,000,000 to £30,000,000 on the major scheme at the Ord, there should be serious contemplation made as to how the pastoral industry, or part of it, can be benefited by such a development.

In so far as the settlers on the farms are concerned, I believe the State is very lucky in the selection of the personnel. As I have already advocated—and I tried to convince the Government on more than one occasion during the last year or two—it is unfortunate that the individual has been asked to risk his own capital to such an extent in this venture.

As I endeavoured to show to the Government, it would have been a much fairer proposition—rather than for a man to mortgage all his assets, accumulated over a lifetime, to raise enough money to enter this venture, requiring as it does between £20,000 and £30,000 on 600 acres—for a certain sum to have been paid by the Crown into the agency section of the Rural and Industries Bank to ensure that those people who are still part of the great experiment, who are still part of the initial spending of the whole scheme, should not be prejudiced; nor should all of the money which they and their forbears have gathered together at this point.

That is truly the situation, and I suggest to the Government two practical methods which, in spite of the consolidated sums spent there and in spite of the assistance given to the settlers, would give them some relief at this point. I suggest that they should not be charged for water during the period of proving the economy of the project because they—the personnel on the five farms—are the instruments being used to prove the scheme. Despite this fact, they are paying for their water.

I maintain that another real and practical way to relieve their stress of the moment in regard to finance would be for the Crown to pay the interest on the money they have borrowed to assist in making this venture a success. That would set no precedent, because it has been done for many people and many industries. It has been done for millionaires companies. Therefore I suggest that a practical way to alleviate the worries of these fine people, who will prove or disprove whether the major dam will be a success, would be to pay the interest on the money they have been forced to borrow to assist the Crown in proving the scheme. I support the Bill.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (West) [5.30 p.m.]: Before I start my grudge session, I would like to welcome Mr. Dellar and Mr. Dolan, as members, to the Chamber. I have known Mr. Dolan for many years and I consider he is going to be an asset to this Chamber, to Western Australia, and to his province in particular.

First of all I would like to deal with a matter that comes within State finances, and that is teacher accommodation. Over the last 20 years there has been a serious decline in teacher accommodation in comparison with the number of schools that have been constructed and with the number of teachers who are being sent to country centres.

I have had personal experience in viewing the conditions under which many teachers have to live. For some time now the Teachers' Union, through the *Teachers' Journal*, has been endeavouring to get better accommodation for school teachers. If one likes to take the trouble to read the May edition of the *Teachers' Journal*, one will find that over a long period this union has been asking the Minister for some concrete decision on policy in constructing teacher accommodation. However, up to date it has met with little or no success whatsoever.

We note from the Press that the Teachers' Union will be holding its conference very shortly, and it is interesting to note that there are 14 items on the agenda dealing with housing—or lack of housing—for teachers in country districts. The districts listed on the agenda cover

North Midland, North Murray, Metropolitan, North Regional, Katanning Regional, Narrogin, Geraldton, North-West and Mt. Marshall.

I have also had complaints from parents of student teachers, and I think these complaints should be taken notice of by the department. Most teachers complete their training at the age of 19 or 20 years and they realise that they have to serve a term in the country. Most of them are anxious to get that term completed, and they apply for a posting. They are posted to such-and-such a school and advised that accommodation can be arranged by contacting such-and-such a person in the town.

I will quote the experience of one of these young teachers who went to Bruce Rock. The week before he was to commence duty he went to Bruce Rock, accompanied by his parents, to have a look at the accommodation which was available. For the sum of £6 10s. per week he was offered portion of a washhouse—not a laundry—but portion of a washhouse on a back verandah with no privacy for changing. The £6 10s. covered his meals and his laundry. One can imagine what his parents thought of his conditions after leaving a comfortable home; and I have had other cases reported to me.

In one country district a lad has purchased a caravan in which he is living because no suitable accommodation can be found at a reasonable price. Another case a little closer to home, as far as I am concerned, is that of a person who is stationed at Carnamah. He received the customary letter advising him that he could apply to such-and-such an office at Carnamah and he would be provided with accommodation. The accommodation turned out to be virtually an empty house. Two other chaps were to live there; another school teacher and the manager of a firm in Carnamah. They scraped together a little furniture and they are now batching in this house. Later the firm in question—Elder Smith—amalgamated with Goldsbrough Mort and as a consequence there are now seven people living in that house under those conditions.

The teachers have advertised throughout the district without success in an attempt to get alternative accommodation. When they inquired at the hotel they were told that permanent boarders were not welcome but they could stay there at a cost of £19 15s. a week. That would be a little more than they were actually earning as school teachers.

I believe that it is impossible for a teacher to live in the north-west on the salary provided. Even taking into consideration that the Education Department pays a subsidy of more than £6 a week it does not cover the costs involved by the teachers preparing themselves to

take up their posts. The Education Department does not supply very much, and the teacher's personal expenses are heavy. I think Mr. Dolan, with his many years of experience, could bear that out. Therefore, I sincerely hope that the Government will give some clear indication of its intentions to the teachers who have to go to the country areas.

Even in the more populated areas such as Merredin, accommodation is difficult to find. I can remember that not so many months ago there were letters in the Press from the residents of Merredin complaining about the continual turnover of teachers in the Merredin area. On inquiry it was found that lack of suitable housing and the cost of the housing that was available was responsible for the turnover.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They all live in the hotels up there.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: That is so. Those teachers are dedicated to their job and receive very little remuneration after paying for hotel accommodation. We hear of the pioneering classes in Western Australia, past and present. I consider that the members of the teaching profession—they have not a full professional standing at the present time but I would term them professional—are the only modern pioneers in Western Australia, because of the conditions under which they live and because of the task they have to perform. In some rural schools they are the teacher, the cleaner, and the nightman; there is no task they are not called upon to do.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Get up to date.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Those are the conditions in many rural schools where there is only one teacher.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How many schools have only one teacher?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I could quote Lancelin Island.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! Will the honourable member address the Chair?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You could count on one hand the number of country schools with only one teacher. Can you name them?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I do not know the country very well. I am too busy in the city. Lancelin would be one, and there is another one out on the Trans-line.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: No. 5 pumping station is another.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes. And there are several out from Geraldton. I can get the Minister the exact number if he would like to know.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What about the septic systems that have been installed?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Many of them have no septic system. It is not so many years since South Coogee was without a septic system.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: I think we are all well aware of the septic tanks that have gone in during the last four or five years.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes. The local authorities are putting them in.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you know the basis on which they are installed.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes, and I admire the basis; do not make any mistake about that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I suppose this situation has only prevailed in the last 4 or 5 years.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No. I am not taking that line at all. I think the Minister is trying to take a political advantage, but I am not going to buy into it.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! The Minister will have his opportunity to reply.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Getting back to the conditions under which country school teachers have to live, as I said previously, I think it is time some thought was given to this problem. These people are expected to go into the country areas and set an example to the residents and the students they teach.

I mentioned the South Coogee School, and this is a current issue. I think most members, and you, Sir, realise that since Monday 18 children have been kept home from school because of the lack of transport facilities. Today, I am told, the number has grown to 31; and, although all of the 31 children who have stayed home today do not attend the South Coogee school, some 19 or 20 of them do, while others attend the John Curtin High School and non-governmental schools. This afternoon I attended a meeting with reference to this matter and the indications are that by the end of the week there will be somewhere in the vicinity of 70 to 80 children who will not be attending school until such time as transport is provided for them.

I intend briefly to trace the history of this case. In August, 1961, I received my first communication from the parents and citizens' association requesting that something be done to provide a bus to transport children living in the area east of Rockingham Road, in South Coogee, to school. The distance they had to travel was up to four miles. The request was brought about by the fact that the Metropolitan Transport Trust had taken over the bus from the private operator. The private operator had supplied a service, but when the Metropolitan Transport Trust took over it denied the people in the area a similar service.

In August, 1961, I approached the Education Department and asked that some consideration be given to the provision of a school bus. At that time I was requested to return to the Education Department the lot numbers of the residences of the children involved, the distances they had to travel, and the route which the bus would be required to traverse. I supplied that information to the department. However, nothing eventuated. I was told that the provision of a bus in such a case was not possible because it did not come within the scope of the Act—only five children lived over the three miles limit. The Education Department advised me that it was a matter for the transport trust.

In the meantime I received a communication from the Cockburn Shire Council asking me to take the matter up on the council's behalf. I conferred with the then President of the South Coogee Parents and Citizens' Association who, incidentally, is also the vice-chairman of the Cockburn Shire Council. We made an appointment to meet the traffic manager of the M.T.T. in September, 1961. We met him one afternoon, and in my Address-in-Reply speech last year I reported to Parliament how rudely we were treated and the lack of interest that this officer had shown in supplying transport for children. He told us at the time that the trust was interested only in pay load and that it would not divert a bus; however, if the Education Department would supply the money, the trust would provide the vehicle.

After leaving there, Mr. Dunn and I went to the Education Department and interviewed the officer in charge of school transport—it was not Mr. Campbell but some other officer who had taken his place. He told us if we could get someone locally who would be interested in supplying a service to the area the department would consider a subsidy. After much inquiry, not only by me but also by the president and members of the parents and citizens' association, we found that it was virtually impossible to get anyone to take on the job. I had several telephone conversations with the Minister and officers of the Education Department from then until the 13th February and, as a result of these telephone conversations, on the 13th February, 1962, I wrote this letter to the Minister for Education (Mr. Lewis)—

Following our telephone discussion of even date, re school bus Jandakot-South Coogee district, please find attached a list of names of children, ages, place of residence and approximate distances they have to travel to the respective schools.

When the M.T.T. took over from the private bus operator in this area, the service of the bus has been denied the children who have to travel varying

distances both in heat and rain, with virtually no shelter, and in all cases, have to walk on the roadway.

Prior to Christmas, the Acting President of the Cockburn Shire Council and myself met officers of the M.T.T. who were not concerned with the transport of children in this area unless the Education Department was prepared to finance the hire of buses.

We then visited and interviewed an officer of the Education Department who was temporarily taking the place of Mr. Campbell. We advised him of the stand taken by the M.T.T. His view was that if it were possible to get a local resident to contract to the Education Department it would be given every consideration. However, after much inquiry, members of the P. and C., the local authority and myself were unable to find any person with a conveyance large enough to take this contract.

Another point which needs mention is that the subsidy payable by the Education Department would not warrant a private person contracting as the extra third party insurance that he would have to pay would render him in the position of doing this job at a loss.

I have been advised by the Jandakot P. and C. where 12 children need transport to a primary school and four to John Curtin High, that they were prepared to pay 1s. for the first child of each family and 6d. for each other child per day to primary school at Jandakot. Children attending the South Coogee School requiring transport number 34. The parents are prepared to pay 6d. per child per day.

I am personally disgusted at the actions of the M.T.T. for the discontinuance of their bus service, not only to children, but to the adults who also need transport to their places of employment. This district is developing rapidly, and it is difficult to buy land at present. Expansion is taking place, even without a bus service. Evidently people are not encouraged to settle in new areas and raise families by some of the persons in control of Government departments.

Therefore, Sir, I recommend that any consideration you can give to the provision of a school bus service will be greatly appreciated.

The Minister replied to that letter on the 7th March, 1962, as follows:—

I refer to your letter of the 13th February concerning the provision of a school bus to service the Jandakot area.

It appears that when you called at the department last September to discuss this matter you were advised that

should there be more than six children living beyond three miles of the school consideration would be given to instituting a subsidised service if some acceptable person were prepared to run it. However, you have indicated in your letter that it has not been possible to find any person prepared to accept this responsibility. In any case, since there are only five children involved at either school, the district does not qualify for a subsidised service and I regret that the regulations do not provide for any way whereby I might assist these people.

I forwarded the relevant correspondence to the parents and citizens' association. At a later stage I saw the Minister for Education, and also the Minister for Transport, and discussed the matter with each of them. The Minister for Education informed me that he would try to do something about it and to leave the matter with him for several months, in which time he hoped to find a solution. I conveyed that information to the parents and citizens' association who were most patient—they waited 12 months for something to happen.

The parents and citizens' association is quite perturbed at the lack of transport for the children in the district and, on the 19th March this year, I attended a meeting of the association where a deputation to the Minister for Education was requested, and on the 20th March of this year I wrote to the Minister for Education (Mr. Lewis) as follows:—

At the meeting of the South Coogee Parents and Citizens' Association held on the 18th March, 1963, I was requested to approach you with a view of your receiving a deputation from that body, in regards to the lack of school transport in the South Coogee area.

The P. and C. claim that an M.T.T. bus stops—

I would like members to note this part of the letter because it is on this point that the whole matter hinges. The letter continues—

—adjacent to the school every morning for a period of time, waiting for the high school children which it transports to Fremantle.

They submit that this bus could be utilised more efficiently if it were to traverse the route they have drawn up (as per attached plan) picking up both primary and secondary students. This could be achieved with little extra cost to the department.

As this area is expanding steadily the number of enrolments of the school will rise, provision of a bus should be given, as the number of school children at the junction of Russell Road and Hammond Road

now number nine. This is approximately four miles from the South Coogee school and is within the scope of the Act for transport facilities to be provided.

If you are agreeable to receive this deputation which would consist of six members of the P. & C. plus the political members of the district, they would be most pleased to wait on you at your convenience.

The Minister advised me he was prepared to meet a deputation on the 1st May, 1963, and seven ladies from the parents and citizens' association were on the deputation which I introduced. They put forward the soundest proposition that anyone could put forward to advance their case why a bus should be provided for the children in this area.

The bus mentioned in the letter which I read is one supplied by the M.T.T. It is stopped right opposite the South Coogee school for some time every morning. Time checks have been taken by the parents of children and they reveal that the bus stays outside the South Coogee school for periods ranging from 10 to 20 minutes and, at times, it has stood there for up to half an hour, but that is only on odd occasions. It is waiting for the high school children living in the eastern area. They have to walk to the bus to be transported to the high school, and the infants at the South Coogee school also walk along the same road.

It would have only entailed the bus continuing two miles further down the road and making three left hand turns, after which it would return to its starting point: which would have meant a circuit of approximately five miles. This could have been done while it was waiting the 20 minutes that I have already mentioned. It could have covered five miles in that time, and picked up 30 small children who were prepared to pay their fares, and, indeed, had offered to do so.

In this afternoon's Press the Metropolitan Transport Trust has said that it has received no complaints since last August. How that comes about I do not know; apart from the fact that the Minister for Education himself came down to this end of the House at 4 o'clock this afternoon and apologised for not having forwarded a letter he had drafted, and which was contained in a reply sent to me on the 23rd May following a deputation I introduced. The letter from the Minister for Education dated the 23rd May reads as follows:—

Dear Mr. Thompson,

You will recall introducing a deputation to me on the 1st May of several ladies from the South Coogee area, who made representations for an improved transport service to the South Coogee school. I agreed to

submit the request to the Hon. Minister for Transport in an endeavour to secure the favourable consideration of the Metropolitan Transport Trust.

In furtherance of this promise I passed to the Chief Administrative Officer of the Education Department the names and location numbers given to me by the deputation. That officer has now supplied me with a large reference map of the area, showing the route of the present subsidised service and that of the requested M.T.T. service.

It has been pointed out to me, however, that our departmental regulations governing school transport disallow the subsidising of any service for children who live within 3 miles of a service. If the M.T.T. service runs north in Pearce Road to its junction with Russell Road, then returning to Coogee school, it would mean that the service at present conducted by Mrs. Hammond would cease to be subsidised as those children would only be a mile and a half from the M.T.T. service.

Before I proceed to make representations to the Minister for Transport I suggest you make further enquiries from the parents concerned, as to press the deputation's proposals to fruition could mean that the children now transported by Mrs. Hammond could be deprived of their existing service and be left $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from transport.

I await your further advice.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: What is the date of that letter?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It is dated the 23rd May, 1963.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: When was it received?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The next day. On the 24th May I wrote a letter to the secretary of the parents and citizens' association, but before I posted it I read it to her over the phone and told her that I was sending her a copy of the Minister's letter, which I dispatched on the same day. I discussed the matter with her over the phone, and said I did not want an answer immediately; that I would like her to look at it and give me a reply later. I pointed out that she was one of the parents concerned, and that her children would be among those who would suffer if the subsidy were removed from the existing service.

The secretary of the parents and citizens' association then rang me and told me that although the parents did not want to lose the subsidy, it was still the desire of her association that the new route be brought into existence. On the same day I wrote to the Minister informing him of that decision—it would have

been approximately the 26th or 27th of May when I wrote to the Minister. We heard nothing more about it for the rest of May, the whole of June and the whole of July, in spite of the fact that I rang the department several times asking what had been done. All I was told was that the matter was being inquired into.

I spoke to both the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Education on several occasions. The Minister for Transport told me exactly what the officer of the Metropolitan Transport Trust had told me, namely, "It is not our baby, it is the baby of the Education Department." My inquiries of the Minister for Education have been a little more successful, inasmuch as he has promised that he will look into the matter. As I have already said, he came down here this afternoon and apologised, saying he had drafted a letter to be sent to the Metropolitan Transport Trust but unfortunately the file had been returned to the Education Department without any action having been taken by the department.

I daresay we must make allowances for mistakes that are made from time to time; but on the other hand members will appreciate that children are being kept home from school as a result of all this. This afternoon, Mr. Dolan, Mr. Lavery, and myself, together with Mr. MacDonald who is the inspector for education in the Fremantle area, attended a meeting of the parents held at Mrs. Massey's home in Pearce Road, South Coogee. There were 20 ladies present and one gentleman. Mr. MacDonald stressed the importance of children attending school, and made no threats whatever in regard to prosecutions; indeed he handled the situation quite well. Mr. Dolan and Mr. Lavery also addressed the parents, and I gave an outline of what had taken place from August, 1961, to date.

We left the meeting this afternoon before any decision was taken, but I received a phone call to say that the parents were unanimous in their decision not to send their children to school, even in spite of the threat of prosecution, until something is done, and until some co-operation can be achieved between the departments. I would say that the whole sorry affair is the result of a lack of co-operation and co-ordination between the departments.

I appreciate the fact that one of them is a board—perhaps a little bureaucratic at times—which refuses to transport children without notification from the Education Department that it will be engaged on, say, a weekly basis. Whether it is the Transport Trust or the Education Department that is involved it is still a liability on the public purse. I appreciate of course that the Transport Trust may have to control its interests a little more carefully at times. They both are, however, public utilities, and for the life of me I cannot see why a bus should be standing outside the school for up to 20 minutes

each morning, when it could quite easily traverse the route in question and pick up all the children concerned, whether they be high school children or children from non-Government schools. This would obviate people withholding their children from attending school, thus denying them the education which should be theirs by right.

Sitting suspended from 6.10 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Prior to the tea suspension I was making the point that a bus stood outside the school on the corner of Russell Road and Rockingham Road waiting to pick up high school students and students travelling to other schools. However, if the circuit suggested by the parents and citizens' association was adopted it would obviate the need for any waiting. The bus would pick up all the students and would be a paying proposition, because the children would be paying fares and would be travelling to the primary school.

It is an economic proposition, and I put the present position down to mismanagement. That is what I would call it—mismanagement between two departments. The Metropolitan Transport Trust and the Education Department know of the position, yet the two departments are not prepared to come together and grant a reasonable request. It is too silly for words. I stress this point: children are being kept home from school unnecessarily. This is not the fault of the parents. I admire the stand the parents are taking. I did not promote that stand, but I am firmly behind the parents, because after a period of nearly three years of battling to try to obtain something, they have met with refusal after refusal as these two Government departments cannot co-ordinate.

This dispute will go on; and the number of children involved will grow because more children are being kept away from school daily. This is no reflection on the parents; it is a reflection on our Government departments. This is something which could be fixed up tomorrow in five minutes, yet it has been going on since Monday. I think the first investigations were made today. Three days have passed and yet there is no solution. However, the parents are determined that their children will not go to school.

There is one other child, who is enrolled as a slow learner. This child needs specialised education and in order to get him on the bus his mother was making a daily journey of 10 miles. Each morning she had to go 2½ miles down to the junction of Russell Road and Rockingham Road and 2½ miles back; and each afternoon she had to repeat the journey. This has brought her to the stage where her health has broken down. Where is the sense in the situation when even an underprivileged child is being denied transport?

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: He has had only three weeks' education this year.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes; and his mother's health has broken down. I will conclude my contribution to the debate on the Supply Bill at this stage by voicing my disgust that people who try to build up a new area, who produce something for the country, and who are not a burden on the State Housing Commission or any other department are being denied a basic service to which they are entitled.

THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND (North) [7.35 p.m.]: In supporting this Bill for the appropriation of a mere £23,000,000 for various Government services, costs, and charges throughout the State—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is £25,000,000.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: —I wish to say that each year the amount is increased by some millions, which is a very good sign indeed. It is a sign there is quite a large amount of money available to the Government, and it is also a sign of the progress which must inevitably be taking place throughout Australia and particularly Western Australia. In the last decade people have discovered, to the advantage of Western Australia, that there are numbers of opportunities to be had, both for business activities and for capital investment.

Mr. President, I wish to centre my remarks mainly on a question which I asked and the answer I received today. I asked the Minister for Mines to explain why the Government made a £50 per annum child allowance to selected Government servants in the north-west whose children were attending local schools in that area, and why the allowance could not be extended to the parents of all other children attending schools there. The Government has created an anomaly by subsidising the parents of some children and not subsidising all children.

It seems to be a most peculiar circumstance, when officers on high salaries—in effect, those who can well afford to pay the most—should be subsidised while those who can ill-afford to pay anything at all are denied similar subsidies. Of course, quite a lot of dissension has been stirred up amongst parents in the north by virtue of the Government's action. It seems to be an act favouring a certain class of individual as against the under-privileged class of individual.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Surely it must have been a mistake.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: Mr. Jones suggests that it must have been a mistake. I do not know whether it was

a mistake or not, but the Government was asked to explain the reasons, and those given are as follows:—

The child allowance was granted to public officers attached to departments concerned in the provision of essential services and the development of the north-west.

It is most enlightening. It seems to me that the development of the north-west began since this Government took office. I would remind the House that the centenary of Roebourne will be celebrated this year and quite a number of Government Officers and Ministers will no doubt attend the celebration. Are they going to discover Roebourne 100 years after it was discovered?

That is the answer the Government gave. The allowance is to encourage the recruitment of people to positions in Government employment to develop the north-west. Never mind about the employees who were there and the descendants of those people who were there 100 years ago. Some of their descendants are still in the north and making their contribution to its development. However, they are not going to receive any aid.

These people will not receive £50 each year for each child up to the number of four children, which would be £200 if the four children were attending a local school—money received just because one has gone to the north-west and is employed by the Government. I do not for a moment begrudge the parents getting this £200 or £50 or whatever the amount may be; my objection is in regard to the discrimination. If the father and mother of one child are entitled to receive £50 per year because that child attends the Roebourne, Wyndham, or any other school in the north-west, surely to goodness the parents of a child next door—the father may be unemployed—should be entitled to the £50 also.

Unfortunately, those people who are unemployed are not contributing to the development of the north-west at the moment; but many of them have spent their lifetime developing the north-west—real development, not development under the circumstances of today. They have spent their lives developing the north-west by fencing sheep stations, sinking wells, erecting windmills, working on stations as stockmen, and living in out-camps on damper and salt meat. Those are the people who have developed the north—the station managers and teamsters with their camels and donkeys. Their children are still in the north.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: Children of the camels?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: There are very few of the camels' progeny there now. There are the people who carried their swags around together with a water-bag, and perhaps packed their belongings

on a pushbike. They had to push the bike alongside of them because it was loaded with their wherewithal. That was how they got from place to place throughout the north-west.

If they were not engaged in the pastoral industry they were engaged in erecting the rabbit-proof fence which ran across the country from one end to the other. They were also engaged in erecting the normal fences required on the properties; and hundreds of thousands of wells have been sunk; and in addition there was tin mining, gold mining, copper mining, asbestos mining and all the necessary labour attached to the mining industry.

However, people such as these are not entitled to get the £50 per year according to the policy of the Government. But any person that the Government selects, or any Government officer, gets £50 a year allowance because his child is going to school alongside the other child. If that is not a question of the Government's idea of class distinction, and if it is not an anomaly, I do not know what is. As I remarked, it has certainly created a lot of dissension among the parents in the north, particularly those who are employed by the Government. For some reason or other the Government draws a line of demarcation even between its own employees.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Wages and salaries.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Government says to the man on the higher salary—the man who has the most money in his pocket—"We will give you £50 more than the fellow who has less than you. He is not going to get that amount, and that is all there is about it." I do not know, but surely it is time this Government mended its ways and achieved something more in the way of equality in respect of its hand-outs. I would call this £50 a hand-out. The Government gives it to its selected employees who live in the north and who send their children to school in the north.

Amalgamated Wireless of Australia is at present recruiting staff to man its space tracking station at Carnarvon, the construction of which is now about three-quarters completed. That company is not offering any £50 per child that is attending school in order to recruit staff to go to the north. But that is the reason the Government gives: that it must offer that amount of money in order to recruit staff to go to the north. The amazing part is: what staff does it recruit? It is recruiting its own staff.

If we have an engineer, we want to send to work on the Ord River project, or something like that, instead of transferring him and telling him that his next job is at the Ord River because we have cut out of work around

Perth, we have to offer him another £50 for each child going to school so that he will go to the north. That is what this amounts to. I think that the Government, being a private enterprise Government, according to its policy, might have done all right if its own employees were prepared to go there, had it advertised for someone. Here is an advertisement which appeared in this week's issue of the *Northern Times*. The advertisement states—

Secretary

District Hospital Wyndham

Salary range £1,391-£1,441 per annum, plus special allowance £100 per annum, plus district allowance £182 per annum if married or £91 per annum if single, plus £50 for each resident school child in the family (maximum allowance £200), plus £60 per annum for possession of diploma in hospital administration, accountancy or equivalent.

Furnished house available at reasonable rental.

Hospital Salaried Officers' Award conditions apply.

Preference to person qualified in or studying accountancy or hospital administration.

Written applications with copies of testimonials close on Monday, August 12, with Under Secretary, Medical Department, 57 Murray Street, Perth.

That advertisement came from the Medical Department. I suggest—I am not begrudging anything this secretary is going to get—that if a man on the scale of wages and with the conditions enumerated in the advertisement is entitled in the Government's view to £50 per annum allowance for each child, so is every other person whose children attend school at Wyndham; because every person in the north-west is contributing to the development of the north-west in some way or other. So, for the Government to say that is the reason it is giving this discriminatory allowance is wrong; I feel it does not hold water. I feel the reason is valueless; and it must not be overlooked that each and every one of these selected persons also gets his house at a reduced rental, as this advertisement states.

This comes about because of the awards under which these people work. In accordance with the awards under which most of the professional officers and administrators are employed, these officers can be charged only so much per week rental; and we get the anomalous position of persons living in identical State rental homes, one alongside the other, but paying different rents. We have had the spectacle of a highly paid officer paying £3 10s. a week rental for one of these homes, and right alongside of him a guard or shunter on the train having to pay £6 odd a week.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Would you give me the names of those two people?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: There is no need for me to have to name them; the Minister knows them quite well.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I do not know them quite well at all.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Minister can study my speech; or his secretary or officers can, and they will be able—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I merely wanted to know the names of the people about whom you complain in order to make an investigation into their rents.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I do not want to name the people, because this is general. The Minister does not have the £50 allowance—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am not talking about that, but the rent factor—one man paying £3 and another £6.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The rent factor applied in Carnarvon prior to the department building its own homes; and it could apply now for all I know. A medical officer was in one house and a guard on the train was in another. The Minister can follow this up. The houses were alongside each other and were identical.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: And one man was paying £3 and the other £6.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: One man was paying £3 odd, but I could not say from memory what the other—the one on the lower income—was paying, but it was nearly twice as much. This sort of thing is happening everywhere; and the Minister will know that is so if he looks through the Housing Commission records; and we must not forget that the Minister is the biggest landlord in Western Australia. He controls more houses than anybody else in the State, and is a record holder in that respect.

All the Minister has to do is to ask his department to hunt back through the files and select not only Carnarvon, but towns such as Merredin and others, and he will find that away back in the 1950's the anomalous position that I have dealt with applied. There is no need for me to mention names; the Minister has all the records at his fingertips if he wishes to turn them up.

That is as much as I desire to say in respect of that particular anomaly which exists in the north-west. But when the Government says the bait or the inducement is necessary to recruit officers to develop the north-west, I am afraid that is rather hard to swallow; particularly as the north-west, as I mentioned before, has been going for more than a century in many places. But I also mention this matter because the Government inherited quite a nice little foundation for some very

large developmental works which have now been completed in the north-west—works such as the Wyndham Jetty and the Ord River Diversion Dam. All of these very big works were commenced, and most of the financial requirements obtained, before the present Government took office in 1959.

I feel the answer I have received in regard to this anomalous hand-out, which the Government prefers to call an inducement to recruitment, is not all that should be told. There is, perhaps, a lot more behind the granting of this allowance than the Government has cared to tell us. I hope that the Minister, when he replies to the debate, will give us some more information in connection with this matter, and will explain quite definitely why the Government believes that only parents on the higher range of salaries should be entitled to the £50 allowance, and those who are on moderate and low salaries, and people who are unemployed without any salary at all, should be denied it. I hope the Government will change its ways and will grant the allowance to all parents who are sending their children to school in the north-west.

THE HON. D. P. DELLAR (North-East) [7.57 p.m.]: I wish to speak for just a short while on the Bill. When it comes to finance, I take an interest. I would like for a little while to deal with the conditions of the roads in the north-eastern goldfields. Admittedly, we have had an exceptional year in regard to rain, particularly over the past few months. But some months ago I tried to travel through the north-eastern goldfields, and on reaching Wubin I found a line of traffic held up due to the rain, of course, but mainly due to the condition of the road. Fortunately, I had a small car and was allowed to push on to Payne's Find. I really wanted to go to Yalgoo but I was not allowed to do so. I reached Payne's Find, and again it was the same old story of traffic being held up. I was fortunate, inasmuch as the authorities—the officers of the local governing body—allowed me to continue because I had a light vehicle. It took me 6½ hours to do the next 96 miles.

The reason I am bringing this matter forward is that I would like to see a far larger amount of money allocated for the roads, in general, in the north-eastern goldfields.

Mr. Strickland spoke about the pioneers opening up the back country with donkey teams, camel teams, and horses and drays. Along with my father, when I was a little boy, I helped to open up the back country with donkey teams; and now, many years later, in this little sweet State of ours, which has progressed and developed, we still find that people living in the remote areas become stranded. Naturally, I am disgusted.

Out from Yalgoo it took days to reach a musterer and his wife. Coming down further on the eastern side, a similar position exists. Going in towards Meekatharra and Cue, admittedly one finds small strips of bitumen road. But why should they be only small strips? If it is considered to be worth the trouble to transport all the necessary Main Roads Department gear and equipment all that way, I fail to see why sufficient money is not allocated to build, say, 150 miles of road. Instead of that, these small strips are constructed and the equipment and gear are returned south. I hope the Minister and his department will see their way clear in this financial year to spend more money on opening up the north by constructing better bitumen roads.

The question I will now speak on more or less comes under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Government. Nevertheless, I will be pleased if the State Government could make representations to the Commonwealth Government for the extension of telephone lines in the outback. Only recently, in small places, such as from Riverina to Morley's Find, the lines have been taken away. A few miles further on there is Mt. Ida with a population of approximately 130 people and they are still not served with telephone lines.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: When was the line taken away?

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: It has not yet been taken away.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You said the line had been taken away.

The Hon. D. P. DELLAR: It was in the process of being taken away when I was there, and I made objections to the Federal member. In my opinion that line should be extended to Mt. Ida because the people—approximately 130—who are residing there have to rely for communication upon a pedal wireless set. All business south is transacted over the pedal wireless. That is not a new settlement. Copperfield and Mt. Ida were going 40 years ago when I was assisting my father with his donkey team. Those people are still without a telephone or telegraph line.

That is not an isolated instance. There are many more towns in the back country in a similar position, yet we talk of progress and development in this State.

In our north country there exists also the prospector. He is the man who pioneers and opens up our mining fields. Today we have very few prospectors actively engaged, the reason being that they are overburdened with high expenses for rail freights, explosives, and so on. Further, the vehicles they are required to use for their activities are taxed and surcharged. I appeal to the present Government to assist the prospector wherever

possible and to subsidise at least his cost of explosives—one of the main items of his equipment.

I am also appealing, through you, Mr. President, to the State Government to assist the mining industry in general. Again, those engaged in the industry are faced with the problem of high rail freights and other charges. Where would our State, or indeed Australia, be without our gold production? Admittedly, we have wool and wheat, but we still must have gold. If we desire to assist the people in the back country to open up new fields right now—and I know of plenty—all we need do is increase the price of gold. If this were done it would immediately bring about an increase in goldmining activities; and such assistance is desperately needed.

I now appeal to the Minister and his Government on behalf of local governing bodies for financial assistance for the repair and maintenance of roads. Once again, due to the heavy rainfall we have had this year, those bodies are up for considerable expense and will continue to be faced with considerable expense in the future right throughout the eastern goldfields. Travelling as I have through that country in the last couple of months I can assure members it would break the heart of anyone to see the way the country has been cut up. Large motor transport vehicles carrying 15 and 20 tons are travelling through those areas and breaking up the roads and, of course, the local governing bodies are faced with the repair and maintenance of them. They are obliged to keep them in reasonable repair so that they can be used with a certain degree of safety.

It is not going to be easy. It is going to be hard on the ratepayers and their local governing bodies. The small amount of money they have is going to be spent overnight. I feel pretty sure there will be requests from quite a few local governing bodies, if not all, for some further financial assistance within the next six months for the repair and maintenance of roads.

Summing up, we desperately need, right throughout the north-eastern goldfields and the back country in general, better all-weather bitumen roads. At present pastoralists are trying to haul their wool over roads which are not capable of carrying supplies in and out of the pastoral areas. Therefore, in the next twelve months at least, I hope to see more financial assistance being given to the local governing bodies, and more money spent in the north-eastern goldfields in general to open up and develop the country.

THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON (Suburban) [8.10 p.m.]: I am only going to speak for a short while. First of all, I wish to refer to certain questions I asked in the House in connection with the flooding of

the Morley Park area. As members will appreciate, this is a very distressing matter, because people who occupy some of these houses in Morley Park are unable to get in or out of them without having to wade through water and mud. I asked the Minister when the deep drainage was to go through that area, and he replied it depended on loan funds. I remember the Minister in this House being very vocal about drainage matters in the Morley Park area, part of which is called Dianella.

The Labor Government has finished the drainage of Brown's Lake and it was to go on with the scheme of draining the Morley Park area, but the Government changed and the scheme was dropped. If this drainage scheme depends on loan funds, and the Government is short of loan funds, then I suggest that the Minister, and Cabinet generally, should perhaps curtail some of their expenditure. This could then be directed to the draining of this area, which would help put the people there out of the misery they are living in at the moment.

The land in the area was allowed to be sold, and the people there bought it in good faith. Some of the house owners are migrants from England, and were unaware of the fact that if they purchased land where ti-trees grew they could expect flooding during the wet season. That is what is happening now. I suggest to the Minister that something be done urgently about this predicament in Morley Park.

There is also an area in Woodrow Avenue where the water has been pumped from beneath the road to the adjacent blocks, thus flooding out the people living in that vicinity. Why was it not possible for the Minister to have had a pump installed in Kensington Street, Morley Park, and some of the other areas which are being troubled, with a view to draining those areas by means of pumping?

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: You know, of course, that a pump has been operating there for two days.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I did not know that. I have not been to Kensington Street for two days, but I will certainly visit the area tomorrow.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: It is being pumped from Jackson's place.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The people in the Morley Park area have been in trouble since the wet weather started. It has been a real problem, and I hope the area will be properly drained now that I have brought the matter to the Minister's attention. It is merely a continuation of the Brown's Lake area, which Mr. Tonkin had drained when he was Minister. There is no reason at all why the present tragedy should be allowed to continue. It is an area represented by a Minister in this House, and he knows only too well the condition that would obtain if it were allowed to persist.

I also asked a question in this House as to the number of men in the Police Force in Western Australia at the present time. I did so because we have a position which will steadily become worse if something is not done about it. From my observations I would say that the Police Force in Western Australia is very much under strength. Only the other day I received a letter from the Town Clerk of the City of South Perth concerning the hooliganism in that area, which has been so prominently published in the newspapers. The particular paragraph to which I wish to refer is a resolution of the council and reads as follows:—

That . . .

- (a) Letters be forwarded to the Minister for Justice, Members of Parliament for the district, and the Local Government Association, drawing attention to the increasing presence of hooliganism, and urging assistance for a solution to the situation by devising ways and means of overcoming the problem.
- (b) Copies of above correspondence be forwarded to the Commissioner of Police, Minister for Justice and Minister for Child Welfare, and their co-operation requested.

The letter then sought my consideration and advice in the matter. I am most disturbed about the whole problem because I know there are many things that occur which are not reported in the Press. A most serious situation is developing in South Perth, and I am convinced that things have reached their present stage only because there are insufficient police to patrol the area and check the incidence of hooliganism.

I am also most concerned about what is taking place in the city during the night hours. A female relative of mine had the experience of being accosted the other night, and being forced to step into the gutter in Hay Street. There was no help readily available, and she was too afraid to do anything about it. That sort of thing should not be allowed to happen in the City of Perth, and accordingly I asked the Minister whether he would take steps to place additional policemen in the city block to help people who may be accosted during the night.

We all read recently in the newspapers that the Lord Mayor went to the assistance of a young woman who was being accosted by hooligans; and this sort of thing should not be allowed to occur. The Police Force is very much below the strength it should be, and I ask the Minister in this House to give this matter his immediate attention, and bring it to the attention of the Minister for Police, to see whether he cannot do something urgently, and thus prevent tragedies occurring in our midst.

The amount of money that is made available for education in this State causes me great concern. School fees are rising steeply, and we do not know yet whether or not there will be a further increase this year. I know numbers of children who would be in the wage-earning category, and who are denied the opportunity of going on with their education, because the University is overcrowded; there are apparently no vacancies for these young people because of the discrimination which prevents such children from enjoying a higher education.

This situation obtains throughout Australia, and it is necessary in these enlightened days that we take advantage of the educational facilities of this country, particularly if we wish to compete on an equal footing with other nations. In most other countries we find that education is given first priority; but in Australia, and particularly in Western Australia, education is very much the poor relation. I hope the Minister will take cognisance of what I have said.

I am very happy to hear that the area in Morley Park to which I have referred has been drained in the last two days. This will please the people in that area, and help ease their burden. The Minister should not, however, have allowed this to happen in the first place. He knows the situation that obtains in that area, and he knows that this sort of thing has happened before. The least this Government could have done was to continue with the scheme that was started by the Labor Government. These people have suffered very much, but they should not have suffered.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: The water is being pumped away.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The honourable member has not been here long enough to know that this matter has been debated in past years.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Why did your Government not do it?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Our Government did.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: It did not.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: There was a change of Government, and evidently the present Government did not proceed with the matter.

THE HON. G. BENNETTS (South-East) [8.21 p.m.]: I only want to deal with a couple of matters during the debate on this Bill. The first subject has already been touched on by Mrs. Hutchison, and it concerns the under-staffing of the Police Force. I am told by those in authority and by people in business that there is room for an additional 100 members in the Police Force, in view of what has taken place in this State in the last few

years. From what one reads in the newspapers it appears that vandalism is increasing rapidly.

I am not in favour of officers of the Child Welfare Department or the Police Force crucifying young offenders. I think that additional staff should be made available to enable officers to call on the parents of the young offenders, and that might be the best way out of a difficult situation. By doing what we are now doing, the young offenders are being forced into criminal acts. We must have additional men in the Police Force to prevent offences by juveniles.

I was in a tearoom in the city when this very matter was being discussed by some business people. They referred to one place where the youngsters congregated in numbers and made it their regular place of call. That meant the good clients of the shop in question discontinued their patronage, and the owner of the shop was left with the youngsters as customers. They did not spend very much and occupied the seats and tables for long periods. He has to go out of business and probably will be ruined. The youngsters have taken charge, and that was where the trouble arose.

I would like to know the number of rape cases that have taken place in the metropolitan area in the last five years. In my opinion with the closing of certain houses in the city these cases increase each year, because of the lack of a service to people who now molest girls and womenfolk in the streets. In fact, some of my relatives are frightened to go out into the streets at night, because, as Mrs. Hutchison said, some girls and womenfolk are accosted in the streets. I myself have seen men and boys trying to make contact with girls in the streets; it was not my affair and it had nothing to do with me. Referring to the recent case concerning the Lord Mayor, I do not know why he interfered. It was not his business, and he could have got himself into a lot of trouble by doing so. I think he might have done that to get a little limelight.

Perhaps in some parts of the metropolitan area vacant land could be set aside; I would like the Minister in this House to inquire from the Commissioner of Police whether it is desirable to set up licensed premises to enable certain people to carry out their "profession."

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Well! This in 1963!

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I know that in places where premises are not licensed cases of rape and molesting young girls do occur in greater numbers.

Mr. Stubbs made reference to maintenance of the Coolgardie-Esperance road. There is urgent necessity to do that on account of the heavy buses which use the

road. The Esperance district is becoming very popular and heavy traffic uses the road. The edges of the bitumen have broken away and the buses often have to travel over the edges, and this has caused great discomfort to passengers, and to motorists.

This road could be widened, as was done recently to the Kalgoorlie-Coolgardie road. The Minister should get in touch with the Commissioner of Main Roads and make an inspection to see whether something can be done to widen the road.

Another matter over which the Minister in this House has charge concerns housing in Kalgoorlie. He has caused an officer to be sent to Kalgoorlie to look into the position of State houses. A number of houses are being offered daily in the newspapers, but they are understandard, although the cost is very low. They require a great deal of repair before they are fit for occupation. Some goldmining areas have gone out of existence, such as Marvel Loch, Bullfinch, and Coolgardie. Many people who formerly worked in Coolgardie travel from there to Kalgoorlie each day to work in the mines. They do that because they cannot find suitable accommodation in Kalgoorlie, and they are prepared to wait until suitable houses are available. They will not buy the houses which are now being offered.

A further matter also concerns housing: it is the building of homes for natives in Merredin. This matter has been under discussion between the Minister for Native Welfare and the local governing body. In my opinion, the natives in that area have not yet reached the stage when they are suitable to occupy houses in the main residential areas. I am sure members in this House would like to see everything possible done to bring the natives up to our standard of living and education, but I do not think the time is ripe to house them in the main residential areas of the town.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Not in sub-standard homes; build them homes up to standard.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: We should build them standard homes if they are capable of looking after the homes, but until then they should be placed in areas specially set aside. I know of one area in Kalgoorlie where natives have rented a house. They have created a great problem to the neighbours. It is not the native occupants who are causing all the trouble, but their friends and relatives. Their carrying-on is awful.

We should not force natives to live in main residential areas until they have reached the required standard of living. I read a statement in the Press written by Mr. Charlie Davies, of Merredin. He used to be shire president at one time, and he is still a member of that council. I think this statement would be a good guide to

members and to the Minister as to what is required and what should take place at Merredin.

It is true that we now have to depend quite a lot on the natives who fill some of the jobs in local government. Many natives are so employed, and they are quite decent chaps. We also have them in the railway gangs.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: They are still not good enough to live in a house.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: No; because they have not progressed to a standard of living which would make them suitable to live in the main areas. They will have to go into a certain area first where they can be gradually brought up to our standard of living. That may be the best way to tackle the problem, because we cannot expect them to live in the main areas straight away. If we could educate them to the required standards it would help a lot.

There might be a good number of natives in the metropolitan area who are at the required standard, but that is not the position everywhere. Before any home is built for a native, he should be chosen by the local authority concerned. It should be for the local authority to decide whether or not he is satisfactory. It is not a decision for the Minister for Native Welfare but for the local governing body. I support the Bill.

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (West) [8.32 p.m.]: There are only two matters on which I wish to speak. Since this is a Supply Bill and provision is being made to apply £5,000,000 to the credit of the General Loan Fund, I wish to speak about a water supply matter within my district.

At the close of Parliament last year on the last Bill that was brought forward, I mentioned two cases where it would be necessary for the Minister for Works to make a special allowance of money for a specific street, because under town planning no more homes could be built in that street; and because of the situation of the gas works and the distance the lines would have to traverse, it was necessary for the department to give special consideration to the matter.

The Minister gave me an assurance that night that he would have the matter investigated, and I wish to thank him very much for letting me have a letter early in the new year to the effect that the matter was receiving consideration. I also wish to inform him that there is now water in that street; but the situation still causes me, as member for the district, some concern. It is also of concern to the people who need this particular system under which the department can allow so much money per chain for the provision of a water supply that is uneconomic.

In this particular street the 11 people involved had to raise £206 between them in order to obtain a water supply—and this they gladly did. There is a similar problem which now exists in Barrington Road, Spearwood, which runs off Rockingham Road to the east. The new railway line to the cement works traverses the centre of Barrington Road; and a big area of land has been taken up on Lot 20 by Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. That company has gone there because of the railway facilities which now exist, and the Water Supply Department has laid a 4 in. main to this property.

I made a visit to the area today at the request of some of the citizens, and found there are 15 to 17 properties already occupied; and there are 10 or 12 other properties which are owned by people who would go there to live in order to develop the area if they could get water. The trouble here is caused by the fact that two departments are concerned—the Water Supply Department and the Town Planning Department. The Town Planning Department says the people can have only 10-acre subdivisions, but in this particular area the subdivisions are down to five acres; and the Water Supply Department lays mains to a formula. Seventeen people are already occupying properties, and the distance to take the water is 1 mile and 3 chains, but the Water Supply Department says that this will be uneconomic.

The information I have from the department is that unless more homes are built in the area the water cannot be supplied. We are up against the same problem as was experienced in Newton Road last year. Because of the town planning set-up in regard to the acreages and frontages required, these people are not likely to get a water supply for some considerable time. Therefore, I would thank the Minister if he would do as he did last year and bring this matter before the departments concerned; because I think special consideration will have to be given in respect of this street.

I believe the people concerned are prepared to pay a small subsidy towards the provision of a water supply; and because the area is developing at a fast rate I think the Water Supply Department should be able to give consideration to the matter. As I pointed out before, during the last four or five years the underground water table has dropped somewhere about 11 ft. to 12 ft. and these people are finding wells to be uneconomical, as they are getting into water which has a greater salt content.

There is another question I wish to refer to, but I will leave it for the Address-in-Reply because it does not relate to loan funds.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [8.37 p.m.]: First of all I would like to take this opportunity

to thank those members who have contributed to this debate. Many of the questions that have been raised relate to problems in the individual provinces of members and, in a number of cases, they are outside the province of the portfolios I hold. In that regard I will employ my usual practice to obtain whatever information I can and pass it on to members at a later date; or perhaps I will take the opportunity to answer those questions if I have the information when I reply to the Address-in-Reply debate.

However, there are one or two matters on which I think it will be competent for me to make some remarks. Before I do that I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. Baxter on obtaining the majority of the votes of the members of this House, which resulted in his appointment as Chairman of Committees. Mr. Baxter is fortunate in having two deputy chairmen—Mr. Jones and Mr. MacKinnon—who have served in the position for some time, and I feel they will be of assistance to him when he calls upon them in the handling of the Bills that will be presented to this House.

The third member to be elected as Deputy Chairman of Committees is Mr. Lavery; and I take this opportunity of congratulating him and saying to him that he now has an added responsibility. I apologise to Mr. Dellar for interrupting when he was making his maiden speech. For a moment I forgot that fact, which was very remiss of me, and I again apologise.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You did that to me, too.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, I remember that; but as I suggested to the honourable member before, if he is prepared to put his chin out, somebody will take a poke at it. If I remember rightly, that is what he did. He became very provocative that night. I have found in this House that if you give it, you must expect to be able to take it.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I can take it, too!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, I know the honourable member can. Mr. Wise and I often find ourselves in agreement on various points at issue; and, of course, I cannot help but agree with at least some of the remarks he made tonight concerning the satisfactory buoyancy that has been reflected in the loan funds of this State over a period of years. If my memory serves me correctly, in one debate I related to him the second reading speech he made in another place when he was Premier of the State, and whilst I cannot remember the figures in which Mr. Wise, then Premier and Treasurer of the State, asked the concurrence of Parliament in connection with supply, it was some fantastically low figure.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: A very humble amount.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, it was something in the vicinity of £6,000,000. Those figures, of course, have grown over the years, and it is to be hoped and expected that they will continue to grow because with a buoyant state in the economy of a State such as ours, with all its problems, then the one thing we must expect if we are to continue to progress is ever-increasing loan funds to overcome the great problems with which we will be faced.

When one listens to the speeches of members complaining about the lack of different amenities, including school buses and water, and one member has too much and another has too little, then, of course, it is appreciated that these ills can only be set right by the availability of money. I never cease to wonder at the use of the expression, "Why don't they do something about it?" The word "they" invariably means "the Government" whether the statement is issued in this House or made by some unthinking person in the street. Wherever it is used it resolves itself down to the fact that it is the responsibility of the Government of the day.

No-one can deny the unsatisfactory state of affairs concerning the allocation of loan funds, and the financial assistance that Western Australia gets, but we cannot, as Mr. Wise knows, blame all this on the Commonwealth Government. The other States have to take their share of the blame; and the only way, as I have said before in this House, that this situation can be resolved and Western Australia can get a more equitable distribution of the funds is for the basis or formula upon which we work to be altered. However in order to do that, the concurrence of the other States has to be obtained. This includes the concurrence of New South Wales and Victoria, the two standard States, which give us, in one way and another, so much trouble in connection with our finances and which make us increase our taxes one way or another for fear the Grants Commission will penalise us for not doing so because we are below the standard States.

When we are in Government we are aware of these problems as is Mr. Wise; because he has had that experience as Premier and Treasurer and in various capacities in the Parliament of Western Australia. I share his view in this regard and I believe a bold attempt has to be made, and no doubt will be made, to try to persuade the Commonwealth to induce the States to agree to some change in the formula in order to bring about a better distribution of the funds.

I repeat that our demands on the money are ever-increasing, and as the economy is buoyant and our State continues to grow in population and our industries continue

to grow—whether primary, secondary or what you like—then our demands are going to increase, because with the enlargement of the population and the expansion of industries we need more roads, schools, policemen, and school teachers; in fact, more of everything to cope with the ever-increasing tide of progress. Therefore I find no difficulty in agreeing with the Leader of the Opposition on this point.

I want to say a word or two in connection with the speech made by Mr. Ron Thompson. I am not going to endeavour to deal with the problem upon which he spent a good deal of time. This problem at Coogee I think is most unfortunate. However, what I want to tell him is that the problem of housing school teachers is not the only problem the Government has. It also has the problem of housing everyone connected with the civil service. The school teachers are not the only problem. There are policemen, and those connected with the Department of Native Welfare, the Health Department, and practically every other department.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I appreciate that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am sure the honourable member does, but I am just emphasising the fact. I know the difficulties, because as Minister for Housing I cannot get private enterprise to invest in the country. I know what demands are made upon the Housing Commission to solve the housing problems of the country. I would like members to know that although at the moment I cannot indicate the names of the towns, nevertheless I have built houses in this State where no previous Government has ever built a house. For instance, at Hall's Creek I have built houses where no previous Government has; and this applies to a lot of other towns. Does the honourable member know that one of the greatest problems we have is to get people to pay the economic rent? They do not want to pay it.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Why don't you subsidise it?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We do in the north-west. I was going to refer to Mr. Strickland's remarks later on, but I will deal with them now. There are considerable subsidies made. They were made by the Government to which the honourable member belonged; and the present Government has made subsidies for people in the north-west living in State houses. That is why I was rather surprised to hear the honourable member say that in one house there lives a man paying £3 a week for rent while in another house another man is paying £6. I wanted to investigate the matter for the honourable member and asked him to give me the names of these people in order that I might sort out their problem. He was

reluctant to do so, but if he would change his mind and give me the names I will be very happy to investigate it.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: The details are at the Housing Commission.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is just not—

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: The year was 1950, and you did not have many houses in Carnarvon then. There were only four.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: From 1960 to 1961 the Government spent over half a million pounds on houses in the north.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I know there were people on verandahs.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: There may still be some on verandahs but it does not remove anything from the fact that that money is being spent. Colossal amounts have been and are being spent by all Governments.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I am not worried about how much money is spent. You want to get results.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We are getting results, and the honourable member knows we are. However, I merely offered, as I did with Mr. Lavery, and as I have done with every other member in this House. Mr. Lavery, I am glad to say, thanked me for some information I gave him. If any member at any time has any problems and he asks me for assistance, he will always get it. I will not always be able to give the answers that he perhaps desires but I will try.

That is the problem I wish to point out to Mr. Ron Thompson. This is not a problem which has to be dealt with merely so far as school teachers are concerned. I am very sorry for the young fellow of 19 years of age who has gone to a job at, I think, Bruce Rock. I am sorry he finds himself in that position. But surely the honourable member would not suggest that it is the function of a Government to provide living accommodation for a 19-year-old student; because if that is the sort of thing members expect the Government to do, then they must realise that loan funds must be buoyant; and, what is more, they will have to be a jolly sight more buoyant than they are now.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Be realistic.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am being realistic.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You know very well that the only reason they send single people to the country is that they cannot provide accommodation for married teachers.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have done a fair bit of travelling in the four years I have been a Minister and I have not seen any evidence whatsoever of

accommodation which the previous Government—or the Government before that—was able to build for 19 year-old school teachers. The problem with which I am now faced is one which the previous Government had when it was in office.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Granted.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: And the previous Government could not face up to it, as its responsibilities in other directions were far greater.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I was not attacking you; I was attacking the system.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am merely putting forward my point of view.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I was not attacking you as Housing Minister.

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

The Hon. R. Thompson: I did not mention your name.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not saying that the honourable member attacked me. I am merely putting the facts before the House and saying that the honourable member should realise there are problems involved, and we cannot solve them by building State houses for young people of 18 or 19 years of age.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It does not matter if they are 45 or 50 years of age, they still have to live somewhere.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I agree. Mr. Bennetts raised the question of housing in Kalgoorlie. The State Housing Commission has quite a number of blocks in that city. I think it has about 100. The member for the district, Mr. Evans, has spoken to me a number of times about the matter. I wrote him a letter today in which I told him something he already knew; namely, that I had sent an inspector to Kalgoorlie to look at the situation.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: And he has done a very good job.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The inspector told me, in his report, that of the people he investigated, seven persons out of the population of Kalgoorlie wanted State houses. He told me another interesting factor: that in Kalgoorlie they were paying rents from 30s. per week to £3 per week; and we are now going to investigate those seven persons to see whether they are prepared to pay economic rent. It is also proposed that they should be informed of the problems involved and that they should be told what will be the cost of building houses in Kalgoorlie. They will be asked what they think about the economics of the situation.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: What do you mean by economic rent?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: On a particular house?

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Generally.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is laid down in a formula in the 1945 Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement Act, which was entered into, if I remember rightly, by Mr. Wise on behalf of this State when he was Premier, and by the late John Curtin when he was Prime Minister of Australia. I am not sure on this point, but I think that was the situation. However, there is a formula laid down by which economic rent is calculated. That is the situation in Kalgoorlie, and I am anxious to do all I can to help Kalgoorlie or any other town in the State. I repeat that we have started to build houses in a large number of towns where previously there were no State houses at all.

The Government is investigating this problem, because it appreciates there is a problem. But it is not looking at it merely from the point of view of school teachers, but also from the point of view of other people who have to work in the community.

Mr. Dellar made his first contribution to the House this evening, in the course of which he spoke of some of the problems of the Murchison district. I am sure the honourable member, with his experience of that district, will agree with me when I say that this has been an abnormal year—a very abnormal year. These days I do not seem to have the opportunity to visit my province as much as I would like.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It is very desirable.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is very desirable, particularly when one knows that one is going to be blamed for everything that is likely to go wrong—and in the Suburban Province it will be, "Arthur Griffith has not done anything about it." I can almost hear the bells ringing.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You are getting head noises.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: However, I still know a great deal about my province. There are certain parts of the metropolitan area today where one will find "For Sale" notices sticking out of the water, but they are on ground which three or four months ago was high and dry. Those areas are under water because of the abnormal rains which we have had, and surely to goodness I am not to be blamed for that!

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is about the only thing this Government has not interfered with.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I can tell the honourable member about a few other things. It is a very unfortunate state of affairs that flooding has taken place in certain parts of the metropolitan area; and

it is perfectly true to say that the problems will be tackled when loan funds become available. I would say to Mrs. Hutchison that if there were to be a change of Government tomorrow, the problem would become the Labor Party's, and perhaps it would be I who would be asking, "Why isn't the Government doing something about it?" The same reason would be given; namely, that it is due to the unavailability of money to deal adequately with the problem, or with any other problem under its administration.

As soon as something can be done about this particular matter, it will be done. The same thing applies to the Murchison district. The Government is, as Mr. Dellar knows, pushing the black road further north as quickly as it can. Each year a little bit more gets done. But do not tell me that the Government is responsible for the rains. I can remember the Murchison when the road did not go as far as it does today.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That may be due to the natural sequence of events.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That may be so. The spending of money under certain conditions might involve a sequence of events. But the fact remains that it is being done.

I appreciate that the honourable member had difficulty in getting through, because I, too, had some difficulty. But when some of those creeks come down, whether or not we have a black road it is very difficult to get through—and the honourable member knows that as well as I do.

With respect to the assistance being given to prospectors, I am sure every prospectors' association in the Murchison district will give credit where it is due, and they will tell the honourable member that I have done as much as I possibly could. I have done a great deal to help them in more ways than one. I have given them increased moneys, and I have made compressor units available to them. I have helped them with individual advances on mines whenever departmental inspectors and engineers advised me that it was correct to do so, and after examinations had been undertaken, I am anxious to help prospectors whenever I possibly can, because I know they have done a great deal for this country. It is a good thing to go out to those districts, to meet the old prospectors, to talk to them, and to try to sort out some of their difficulties. I tell the honourable member that if I can help him with any problem I shall be only too pleased to do so.

Mrs. Hutchison mentioned the matter of hooliganism, and that subject was also touched upon by Mr. Bennetts. I, too, am disturbed by the behaviour of some of our young people; but when I pick up a newspaper and read about hooligans—and they are nothing but hooligans—I often wonder

what parents think their children are doing at night. Perhaps a little more parental control would be better than for us to blame the police.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I am not blaming the police; I am blaming the Government for letting the Police Force get into such a bad state.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have seen the type of dress worn by young people, and I often think to myself that I would not like my teenage daughter to be on the streets at night. In my opinion the responsibility for that sort of thing rests primarily in the home.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is quite true.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Adults might well say to their children, "Where were you last night? Why were you not at home watching television, or doing something useful with your life, instead of gallivanting about the streets assaulting policemen, and going about in packs like wolves?" I think Mrs. Hutchison should tell parents that the responsibility for their children starts in the home. There should be more parental control. The Police Force is a very admirable one in this community, and the members of the Police Force do everything they possibly can.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I agree with you there.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: But it is the—

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

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I understand from my colleague that the Police Force is right up to full strength.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I bet it is not.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not under any circumstances, going to bet with the honourable member; but the fact remains that the police do a very excellent job.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: But the Police Force—

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

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will try to make some contribution to the debate in reply to the honourable member's remarks; if she will only allow me to do so.

I am also very concerned with the same type of individual who persists in taking control of somebody else's motor vehicle. If I remember rightly, the previous Government decided to tighten up on this particular type of crime and we in this House passed a Bill to that effect. However, it does not seem to have made any difference. I get the files of youngsters who have lost their licenses for 10 or 12 years because they have continually taken control of somebody else's car. The car concerned

may be worth anything from £500 to £2,000; and this sort of thing is a great problem.

Again, in many cases, it gets back to more parental control and better supervision in the house. I realise that that is not always the case, because, for some extraordinary reason, some of these youngsters have come from good homes but they still persist in doing this sort of thing. I do not know what to do. It is certainly no penalty for a magistrate to take away a boy's license for 10 years. It does not help in his rehabilitation because he seems—

The Hon. A. R. Jones: He will go out and drive again, anyway.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is so. He will say, "I have lost my license for 10 years, so I might as well go the whole hog", and he assumes control of another car. It is a real problem and it is the sort of thing that stems from the type of behaviour that Mrs. Hutchison was mentioning a little while ago. This behaviour can stem only from the fact that so many of our youth, or the type of youth who are indulging in this behaviour, are not usefully employing themselves.

Perhaps we should try to find some better avenues in which they can be employed. I commend the church organisations, the Y.M.C.A., and youth movements of every kind that encourage youngsters to get together in groups to learn, to play sport, and to keep their minds occupied to advantage. But it is the other people who cause the trouble. As we all know, we do not make laws for the majority of people, but we make laws for those who have no regard for decent living and the rights of other people.

I thought I would make those one or two comments in defending the attitude of the Police in this matter. It really appals me to see these hooligans around the streets and to hear of their having attacked policemen. To my mind there is no worse crime than that of injuring a policeman when he is carrying out his duty. These chaps will only do it when they are in a pack; they are just cowards and they even show their cowardice by threatening a lady in South Perth who dares to raise her voice against them. It makes me dreadfully annoyed to think—

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is why the South Perth City Council wants you, Mrs. Hutchison, and I to go out to see what we can do about it.

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

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am sure that a great deal more could be done in the homes of these people to help overcome the problem. If the parents would say to their children, "You stay home

tonight", or "You go out for a certain time and be home at a certain time", and they made sure there was greater parental control of these youngsters, I am certain we would go a long way towards overcoming the problem.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: It is a world-wide problem, too.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If I have been unable to answer any specific cases I repeat that I will endeavour to get the information members are seeking and give it to them at a later date.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. N. E. Baxter) in the Chair; The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Sums available for purpose voted by the Legislative Assembly—

The Hon. A. R. JONES: I would like to take this opportunity of submitting a question to the Minister, because I did not like to do the wrong thing and interject a short while ago. While the Minister was making an explanation in regard to housing, school teachers, in the main, were under discussion, and there was some comment about their being prepared to pay an economic rental. Is it not a fact that a special committee has been set up by the Teachers' Union to go into the question and submit a proposal to the Government regarding the type of house they would be prepared to accept as a standard, and also what they considered a fair rental should be?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I cannot accurately say whether the Teachers' Union has a committee, but I believe the union was conferring with the department. The Minister for Education brought his particular problem to Cabinet, and at the time we said, "You have your problem with school teachers and every other Minister has problems with his particular employees." The Government is looking at the problem on an over-all basis and not only on behalf of school teachers.

There is one problem that I get as Minister for Housing. We give a policeman a house in Geraldton and he is there for a time and then either because of promotion or the necessity to transfer him elsewhere he goes to another country town. Consequently the house that is vacated by the policeman is available; but very often there is somebody else in the town who really has a higher priority for the house. So the problem starts right there. However, it goes further when the policeman who is transferred from Geraldton goes to the new country town. His name cannot

be put at the top of the priority list of applicants for houses; his name is put on the bottom of the list.

Mr. Jones spoke to me today about a housing problem in a particular shire. I am going to try to send an officer to Carnamah in the near future to see what can be done to assist in that town. I suppose the only answer to this problem is to have a pool of houses so that these various Government officers can be allotted a house when necessary.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Tonight we have heard that one of the problems is that the houses are in the pool.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is right. That seems to be the only way out of the difficulty. Nevertheless, we have some recommendations before us for our consideration, and I can assure the House that we are genuinely tackling this problem with a view to something being done.

Clause put and passed.

Preamble put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

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

House adjourned at 9.15 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 7th August, 1963

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