

Endeavours should be exerted to build up the department by making the remuneration of officers commensurate with the work, so that this loss of staff shall not continue. We should even offer sufficient remuneration to attract good men from other parts of the world, particularly to deal with soil conservation. We are fortunate indeed that soil erosion has not been so serious in this State as it has been in America, China and other countries where millions of tons of soil have been lost through this cause. I recall having read that 10 to 20 per cent. of the topsoil—that is, the fertile soil that produces the food we eat—has been washed into the sea. So I consider that if we spent £1,000,000 in setting up a department with the men and machinery necessary to conserve the topsoil in Western Australia, we would be justified.

I have been told that the honour that has been bestowed on me today is one I should not abuse, and that people like to have their afternoon tea. As it is now afternoon tea time I shall conclude my remarks, and have much pleasure in submitting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

**HON. H. K. WATSON (Metropolitan):** I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. E. H. Gray, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 3.53 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 27th July, 1950.

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### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. F. E. Islip).

### MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A Message from His Excellency's Commissioner requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber. Hon. members having accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and heard the Commission read, they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

### SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

His Honour Mr. Justice Wolff, having been commissioned by the Governor appeared in the Assembly Chamber to administer to members the oath of allegiance to His Majesty the King.

The Clerk produced election writs showing the return of 50 members.

All the members elected, with the exception of Mr. Needham, were present and took and subscribed the oath as required by statute and signed the roll.

The Commissioner then withdrew.

### ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

**THE PREMIER (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray):** The House being duly constituted I move—

That Mr. North do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

**HON. F. J. S. WISE** (Gascoyne): I second the motion and would like to make a few observations in speaking to it. I realise that you, Mr. Clerk, are now in a very difficult position and it is one very few members in Parliament have to face. At the moment no-one has any chance of interfering. I think the Clerk of the House should see that this position is not maintained and that he should not be placed in an awkward spot. I will not digress very long.

I only want to say, in supporting the election of Mr. North to the very highest position that this House can confer, that he has brought into the Speaker's Chair in the past all the tradition and trappings associated with that important office which have been absent from this Chamber for quite a while. His predecessor wore neither wig nor gown nor lace cuffs; and the Speaker prior to Mr. Sleeman wore the gown but did not cover his head with horsehair, for which I think there was a very good reason! Knowing his personal background it is not surprising that Mr. North should be steeped in matters traditional and I hope that other things may be added to the traditions which he maintained.

For example, on the opening day of the House of Commons the Speaker is brought to the House in a coach drawn by brewers' horses and without brakes. He is ushered into the Chamber not only in the regalia as worn here, but with a train and a train bearer.

The Minister for Lands: You do not want that here, do you?

**HON. F. J. S. WISE:** There is, therefore, an opportunity for these traditions—for which there is so much to be said—to be incorporated here. I would further say that since our Speaker-elect is so steeped in tradition, and does applaud the things we all do that the Mother of Parliaments has set down, he might go further and make sure that in his impartiality he relegates partisanship entirely to the background, and in fact ceases in every way to be partisan. It is over 80 years since the Speaker in the House of Commons voted in a partisan manner. I suggest, therefore, for his careful consideration that his impartiality be carried to the extent that he makes no vote in a partisan manner in this Chamber.

**MR. NORTH** (Claremont): I submit myself to the will of the House.

Mr. Marshall: The House has no will.

There being no other nomination,

The **SPEAKER-ELECT**, having been conducted to the Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion, said: I thank members for the honour they have done me and I shall now assume the Chair.

**THE PREMIER:** Mr. Speaker, I would just like to offer my congratulations on your re-appointment to your high and responsible office. I feel that during the three years in which you have occupied the position of Speaker you have given satisfaction to the House and members generally. Furthermore, as the Leader of the Opposition has already said, you have upheld the high traditions that have always been associated with the Speakership. It must be a great satisfaction to you to know, today, that after three years as Speaker you have again been the unanimous choice of the House. I hope that your term of office will be a happy one, and that the same goodwill may continue to exist amongst members towards you.

**HON. F. J. S. WISE** (Gascoyne): I should like to join with the Premier in extending congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker. We have had experience of you in the Chair during the last three years and I express the hope that during this Parliament there will be no action taken on either side of the House to cause you any great concern. I assure you that we shall respect your decisions, realising that in giving them, you in your high office will be actuated by the best motives and will interpret to the best of your ability the rulings that have been laid down by the Mother of Parliaments. May I quote for your personal information what is suggested by Strathearn Gordon in his work "Our Parliament" as the qualities necessary to a Speaker. They are—

... his voice great, his carriage majestical, his nature haughty, and his purse plentiful.

Upon the possession of all those virtues, I congratulate you and express the hope that you will enjoy your further occupancy of the Chair and will be blessed with good health.

**THE SPEAKER ELECT:** I wish to return thanks for the great honour members have bestowed upon me by electing me again to the Chair. The office of Speaker is not such a simple one as it appears to be from the floor of the House. For many years I occupied a seat on the floor and was just as critical of the Speaker as was any other member, but the occupant of this position finds it necessary to exercise quite a lot of tact and judgment in order that the business of the House may proceed smoothly. I hope we shall not have any all-night sittings during the course of this Parliament, entailing as they do such a long period in the Chair for the Speaker and, even when relieved by the Deputy Speaker, his being recalled every few minutes to give a ruling or declare a quorum present.

I feel that we are embarking upon this session confronted with some difficulties. There is an old saying that when a great

concert artist has been accorded quite a furore and has responded with an encore, the encore has never been so good as the original song. That hangs over us here. It hangs over me; I have had three years as Speaker; it hangs over the Government; it hangs over the Opposition; and it hangs over the Independents, too. Therefore all of us must try to do as well or even better in the future than has been done in the past.

One other matter to which I should like to refer is the disturbed condition of over-sea affairs, reminiscent as it is of the experience in 1938 and 1939, and I know I am echoing the views of all members when I say that I trust these problems will be speedily and peacefully solved. Again I thank you all and conclude by informing you that this is my Address-in-reply speech.

### PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER-ELECT.

THE PREMIER: I desire to announce that His Excellency the Governor will now be pleased to receive the Speaker-elect and such members as desire to accompany him.

*Sitting suspended from 12.54 to 2.55 p.m.*

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to report that I have submitted myself to His Excellency the Governor, and on behalf of the House laid claim to its undoubted rights and privileges, and prayed that the most favourable construction be placed upon its proceedings; and that His Excellency has been pleased to express his satisfaction at the choice of the Assembly in the following terms:—

The Hon. the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly—

It is with much pleasure that I learn that you have been elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly to the high and honourable office of Speaker of that House. I have every confidence that you will fill the office in a worthy and dignified manner. (Signed) James Mitchell, Governor.

### SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

### QUESTIONS.

#### STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

*As to Local Shipping of M.V. "Koolinda."*

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN (without notice) asked the Premier:

1, Is he aware that M.V. "Koolinda" is to be sent East again to be docked?

2, Seeing that only small alterations are necessary to the Fremantle slipway to allow M.V. "Koolinda" to be docked in this State, will he see that the necessary alterations to the slipway are made, and the "Koolinda" docked here, thereby saving much valuable time and many thousands of pounds to the State?

The PREMIER replied:

I shall make the necessary inquiries in regard to the "Koolinda" going East, and will notify the hon. member of what is proposed.

### PARTY FUNDS.

*As to Contribution.*

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN (without notice) asked the Attorney General:

Will he inform the House what sum he received from the plaster manufacturers towards the L.C.L. party funds for the last election?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL replied:

Nothing at all.

### TRANSPORT.

*As to Passenger Services, Metropolitan Area.*

Mr. MARSHALL (without notice) asked the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) Will he place on the Table of the House maps or plans showing what passenger services existed within the metropolitan area, including State-owned passenger transport as at the 1st April, 1947?

(2) Further, will he show what services have been instituted within the metropolitan area—both State-owned and privately owned—since that date?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied:

(1) and (2) I will ascertain whether the information desired is available and, if it is, I will endeavour to supply as much to the hon. member as is possible.

### BRICKMAKING.

*As to Disposal of Clay Deposit.*

HON. J. T. TONKIN (without notice) asked the Honorary Minister for Housing:

(1) Was the Minister correctly reported in a recent issue of the "Sunday Times" as stating that it was the intention of the Government to give away to a brick manufacturing company one of the largest of this State's clay deposits?

(2) Has the Government already given that deposit away?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied:

(1) and (2) No.

**BILL—ACTS AMENDMENT (INCREASE IN NUMBER OF MINISTERS OF THE CROWN).**

The PREMIER: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to provide for an increase from eight to ten in the number of principal executive offices of the Government liable to be vacated on political grounds.

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

**GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.**

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to announce that, with hon. members of this House, I attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to members of both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused copies of the Speech to be distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.**

*First Day.*

MR. HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe): [3.43]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—  
"May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our most gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament."

At the outset of this my maiden speech within these walls, I desire, as the inaugural member for Cottesloe, to thank the people of that electorate for the trust and confidence they have reposed in me. It will be my earnest endeavour to justify that trust and confidence by sincere application to my parliamentary duties and responsibilities.

My warmest congratulations are due to you, Mr. Speaker, upon your once again having secured election to your high office. I feel, too, that I would be lacking in my duty if I were not to congratulate Sir Ross McDonald on his recent knighthood. The honour conferred upon him is a just and fitting reward for his long and distinguished service to the people and the State of Western Australia. May I also congratulate the Government on its retention of the State's confidence at the recent Assembly elections. I submit that

in production and development, the Government has struck a keynote that is in perfect tune with the best interests of our rapidly expanding economy.

In the Governor's Speech pleasing reference was made to the fact that His Excellency's Ministers were actively seeking the support of the new Commonwealth Department of National Development. This avenue, if explored to the fullest extent, will, I feel sure, render material assistance in our developmental projects in far-flung areas.

I am particularly interested in the field of education and I desire to make one or two references to some salient problems confronting the Education Department of this State today. Education, to my way of thinking, is of paramount importance. It is, as I see it, the awakening of the mind. A noted writer has suggested that the house of the mind possesses a great many windows through which we look at the great moving spectacle of life. The educated man is one who is able to use all or many of those windows, and so our job, to carry the metaphor further, must be to aim at the cleaning and opening of those windows—the windows of science, art, the classics and music. Teachers today have the supremely difficult task of preparing people to live in the atomic age when in the main they have not yet adjusted themselves to the electric, or even the steam age. My endeavour has been so far to emphasise, if emphasis is needed, the importance of education generally and of the teaching profession in particular.

It would appear at first glance that there are many and varied problems associated with the Education Department, but I contend that these may be reduced to two great over-all problems. Firstly, there is the shortage of schools or lack of school accommodation, and, secondly, there is the shortage of teachers. The shortage of schools is a problem that is inextricably tied up with another problem, namely, that of housing, hospitals and developmental problems. The last three years have seen great strides forward in the construction of new schools and additions to existing ones and, in general, the renovation of schools.

The Minister for Education a few weeks ago outlined a bold and, I feel, a well conceived plan for starting on the construction of 48 new schools in this financial year. I think I can say with confidence that although the very nature of the building problem precludes the early solution of our school shortage, the job has been tackled with outstanding initiative and enterprise.

The second problem—the shortage of teachers—is a prime and urgent one. The problem here is that at the moment there is indeed a serious shortage of teachers, plus the fact that there is a decided lack of interest on the part of those young, bright people leaving school and the University at the present time. Educational

reforms crying out for immediate attention, such as a reduction in the size of school classes and the raising of the school leaving age to 15 years, cannot be implemented while such teacher shortage exists. Time prevents me from proving the shortage by quoting reliable figures. As a matter of fact, I know that has been done in this House already; but I do, on my own behalf, solemnly assure members that dangerous staffing problems exist now, and unless something is done in the immediate future the position will become far more acute.

Why is this so and what can be done? I think it will be agreed that these questions must be satisfactorily answered—and soon. Simply, the answer to the first question—why is this so?—is that the scale of salaries paid to teachers is hopelessly inadequate to attract bright, intelligent young people into the teaching profession. I could enumerate half a dozen callings attracting potential teachers which give a far greater financial reward for much poorer academic qualifications.

I feel it will be generally realised that we must answer the question, what is to be done, simply by making a substantial increase at the next reclassification early in the New Year on the complete range of teachers' salaries. I know full well that the Government has already made fairly generous marginal interim increases in salaries but it is my fervent wish that it will make such a reclassification as will help to remove one of the greatest educational problems of our day.

At this stage I would call the attention of the Treasurer to the totally inadequate grant made to the Surf Life Saving Association of Western Australia. This organisation contributes such a splendid, selfless service to the people of this State that I can say, without fear of contradiction, that it is a service—given, too, in an honorary capacity—that is unequalled throughout the world. Almost ten years ago, following a deputation led by five members of this House, Mr. Willcock, the then Premier, initiated an annual grant of £100 to the association. At the time of making this concession, Mr. Willcock said that the sum was merely a nominal one and he hoped representations would be made in the future when further favourable consideration would be given to the raising of the annual grant.

I feel that a substantial increase should be made this financial year. The original amount, although a handy contribution, is lamentably below that figure which the clubs in the association require for the maintenance of their essential lifesaving equipment. I believe that an annual grant of between £800 and £1,000 is necessary for the continuance of the magnificent work the association is doing for the people of this State. I hope the Treasurer

will, in his wisdom, see fit to make this further contribution to the welfare of the public.

The people of Western Australia—and indeed the people of the world—have for some time been viewing the trend of events in East and South-East Asia with a good deal of grave concern. In Korea particularly, the evil tide of communism has rolled along yet more red miles of human misery. The active intervention of the United States of America, acting in concert with the great majority of the members of the United Nations Organisation, in endeavouring to stem the communist invasion of South Korea, is an action that all democratic people must heartily endorse. Indeed, it is an action in which we as a nation have already joined. Let us remember that the communists' insidious infiltration into the free countries of the world, Stalin's annexations of complete territories, and Russia's bid for world power have their grim parallel in Hitler's rise to infamous power in the years preceding the second world war. I firmly believe that the only way to avert a third world war is by the means typified in the present intervention in Korea.

These grave events surely give keen point to the Commonwealth Government's anti-communist legislation; and, although at this stage I am not going to labour the point, I feel sure that the great majority of the Australian people hope and trust that the anti-communist Bill will be passed while there is yet time. Indeed, the State Government may find it necessary to bring down legislation complementary to the Commonwealth Government's measure in order to make that Bill work more effectively.

In conclusion, may I say that throughout the hubbub of our daily life, throughout the welter of our problems of housing, and our educational developmental problems and even the darkening international sky, there still runs high a bright and growing optimism concerning our State's future. Before us lie long years of prosperity, provided we all carry along with us the realisation that national prosperity was never achieved with sloth and insincerity. Let us then all go forward resolutely, courageously and co-operatively with a deep faith in our high destiny.

**MR. OWEN (Darling Range):** I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. F. J. S. Wise, debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

**THE PREMIER:** I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 1st August.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 3.59 p.m.*