

# Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 15th August, 1967

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

## QUESTIONS (11): ON NOTICE

### RAPE AND ASSAULT CHARGES

#### *Penalties, and Use of Birch*

1. The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Justice:

- (1) What is the maximum penalty for rape?
- (2) What is the maximum penalty for assault (grievous bodily harm)?
- (3) How many cases of—
  - (a) rape; and
  - (b) assault
 have come before the courts for the years 1960 to July, 1967?
- (4) What were the totals for the three years preceding 1960?
- (5) What were the numbers of cases of offenders—
  - (a) under the age of 21; and
  - (b) over the age of 21?
- (6) What were the lengths of sentences imposed upon the various offenders relating to—
  - (a) rape; and
  - (b) assault?
- (7) Is the birch still retained within the Criminal Code?
- (8) If the answer to (7) is "Yes," can offenders be dealt with accordingly for—
  - (a) rape; and
  - (b) assault?
- (9) When was the birch last applied, and for what offence?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Section 326 of the Criminal Code provides a maximum penalty of life imprisonment with or without a whipping for the crime of rape.
- (2) The maximum penalty for an assault is, where a conviction is before the Criminal Court or a court of sessions, one year's imprisonment, or where a conviction is before a court of petty sessions, the maximum penalty is six months' imprisonment. However, where there is an assault which occasions grievous bodily harm, the maximum penalty provided by section 297 of the Criminal Code is seven years' hard labour. It should be made clear, however, there are very many offences of which an assault is an element and these range in

gravity from the case of common assault already mentioned right up the scale till one comes to section 294 of the Criminal Code, where for an unlawful wounding with an intent to do grievous bodily harm, the maximum penalty is life imprisonment. There are also other assaults of a sexual nature. Part (2) specifies assaults occasioning grievous bodily harm and the answers to subsequent questions are based on assaults only of this character.

- (3) (a) The number of cases of rape which have come before the court between the years 1960 to July, 1967, is 73.
  - (b) The number of cases of assault occasioning grievous bodily harm for the period 1960 to July, 1967, is 18.
  - (4) (a) The number of cases of rape which came before the courts for the years 1957, 1958, and 1959, was 21.
  - (b) The number of cases of assault occasioning grievous bodily harm for the years 1957, 1958, and 1959, was 16.
  - (5) The answer to this question is shown in tabular form in appendix "A."
  - (6) The answer to this question is in the form of lists set forth in appendix "B."
- I would like your permission, Mr. President, to table both appendix "A" and appendix "B," because they are very lengthy and contain innumerable figures.

The PRESIDENT: Permission granted.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The answers continue—

- (7) Act No. 91 of 1965 substituted for the birch and other instruments a "cane or a leather strap."
- (8) (a) and (b) Strictly not applicable, but corporal punishment can be ordered for rape but not for assault occasioning bodily harm.
- (9) A sentence of birching was last imposed in July, 1962, for an offence of unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under the age of 16 years.

*Appendices "A" and "B" were tabled.*

## POTATOES

### *Licenses and Increased Acreages*

2. The Hon. V. J. FERRY asked the Minister for Mines:

Further to my question on the 2nd August, 1967—

- (1) How many growers are at present licensed by the Western

**Australian Potato Marketing Board in each potato-growing district?**

- (2) In each district, how many growers were granted increased acreages during the twelve months period ended the 30th June, 1967?
- (3) What was the total increased acreage for each district granted to these growers during the twelve months period ended the 30th June, 1967?
- (4) How many new growers in each district were issued with a license during the twelve months period ended the 30th June, 1967?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Albany	....	....	96
Dardanup	....	....	55
Donnybrook	....	....	85
Harvey	....	....	6
Manjimup	....	....	90
Marybrook	....	....	56
Metropolitan	....	....	130
Waroona	....	....	8
Warren	....	....	77
			<hr/> 603

(2) Albany	....	....	13
Dardanup	....	....	15
Donnybrook	....	....	18
Harvey	....	....	3
Manjimup	....	....	29
Marybrook	....	....	22
Metropolitan	....	....	48
Waroona	....	....	3
Warren	....	....	19
			<hr/> 170

(3) Albany	....	....	14
Dardanup	....	....	16½
Donnybrook	....	....	18
Harvey	....	....	3
Manjimup	....	....	31
Marybrook	....	....	23
Metropolitan	....	....	25½
Waroona	....	....	2½
Warren	....	....	19½
			<hr/> 153

(4) Albany	....	....	-
Dardanup	....	....	1
Donnybrook	....	....	1
Harvey	....	....	-
Manjimup	....	....	3
Marybrook	....	....	3
Metropolitan	....	....	-
Waroona	....	....	-
Warren	....	....	3
			<hr/> 11

**VETERINARIANS**

*Training*

3. The Hon. N. McNEILL asked the Minister for Mines:

Further to my question on the 2nd August, 1967, regarding training of veterinarians—

- (1) Is it correct that there are in fact six cadets in first year at the University of Western Australia, not five; and 21 at the University of Queensland, not 20, as advised in the reply to part (4) of the question?
- (2) (a) Has the University of Queensland advised that it will no longer be able to accept all students completing their first year in Western Australia?  
(b) If so, how many will be accepted?
- (3) What arrangements are likely for the students unable to gain admittance to the second or subsequent years?
- (4) What progress has been made towards the establishment of a veterinary school in Western Australia?
- (5) Has a further approach been made to the Universities Commission for funds for such a school in the current triennium—if so, with what results?
- (6) Is there any other source of funds known to the Government which could be, or has been, approached to provide the means for the early establishment of such a school?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) There are in fact a total of 24 veterinary cadets—five first-year cadets and 19 others. Four first-year cadets are at the University of Western Australia and one first-year cadet and 19 other cadets are at the University of Queensland.

It was previously reported that there were 25 students. This was based on the knowledge that there were five first-year students and 20 students in Queensland, but overlooked the fact that one of those in Queensland was a first-year student.

- (2) (a) Yes.  
(b) Two students only will be accepted and only into second year.
- (3) Alternative arrangements are being sought at Melbourne University.
- (4) and (5) The Universities Commission did not approve of the submission for a veterinary school in Western Australia in the

current triennium and gave no indication of its future attitude.

- (6) The State could not undertake such a project without Commonwealth assistance.

### NOISE IN INDUSTRY

#### *Occupational Health Officers*

4. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many persons are employed in or by the occupational health section of the Public Health Department on—
  - (a) noise; and
  - (b) other hazards?
- (2) What are their various classifications?
- (3) What legal powers do they possess regarding entering any building, factory, mine, or place where a hazard exists?
- (4) Have they any power or authority to stop any work or machine, or any object that is making an excessive or hearing-damaging noise?
- (5) Do they have power to issue orders, including condemnation orders, issue summonses, and prosecute offenders?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) and (2) There are a total of six persons employed on occupational health in the occupational health division of the Department of Public Health. They are:

Dr. D. D. Letham, Physician in Charge.

Dr. J. C. McNulty, Physician.

Sister M. Wilkinson, Sister.

Sister A. Flood—Assists part-time.

Mr. W. H. Moyle—Inspector.

Mr. D. J. Kemp—Kineticist.

The two doctors and the sisters are all employed from time to time on noise problems.

Sister Wilkinson spends more than half of her time on this work; Sister Flood is employed part-time on the mines.

- (3) All have legal powers of entry.
- (4) No.
- (5) Occupational health officers act with the authority of the Commissioner of Public Health; and accordingly have various powers which are stipulated in the Health Act.

### SPEARWOOD SCHOOL

#### *Demountable Classroom: Supply*

5. The Hon. R. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) When will the demountable classroom be available for the Spearwood State School?

- (2) On what date is it anticipated it will be ready to accommodate students?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) and (2) It is not the intention of the department to provide a demountable classroom at Spearwood. Two classrooms, being the nucleus of a new school, are to be erected at the corner of Gerald and Easton Streets. It is anticipated that these will be ready for February, 1968.

### POWER STATIONS

#### *Kwinana: Effect of Extension on Muja*

6. The Hon. T. O. PERRY asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) When the planned 480 megawatt oil-fired power station to be built at Kwinana is fully operative, will the older power stations in Western Australia be reduced in capacity?
- (2) If so, what effect will this have on the coal-fired power station at Muja, and will that station remain the base station for Western Australia?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) It is anticipated that Muja will remain a base-load station.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

#### *Brentwood: Approval of Land Subdivision*

7. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) In connection with the subdivision known as the Bateman Estate in Brentwood, did the metropolitan town planning authority fully approve this subdivision as suitable for a residential area in regard to drainage and sewerage?
- (2) Have authorities other than the town planning authority responsibilities in this matter—if so, who are they?
- (3) Will the responsible authority do something urgently to relieve the flooding at a home at the corner of Electra Street and Mandella Crescent where the water table is within 2 in. of the surface, and thus enable the occupier of this new property to use his septic system?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) No. The Town Planning Board approved the subdivision subject to certain conditions. One requirement was that all land had to be

filled to a level that was fixed after consultation with the Public Health Department. Another requirement was that the subdividers had to bond themselves to provide any additional drainage that proved to be necessary.

- (2) Yes. The local authority, together with the Public Health Department and the Metropolitan Water Board.
- (3) The Town of Melville has the problem in hand. The subdividers—who have retained expert advice—stand ready to honour their bond; and the local authority, working in conjunction with the other authorities, has a remedial scheme afoot. However, the heavy rains this winter have introduced unusual complications; and immediate relief measures present exceptional difficulties. It is however understood that in the near future a further inspection will be made to establish the practicability of early remedial action.

#### NOXIOUS WEEDS

##### *Government Financial Contributions*

- 8A. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Minister for Mines:

For the year ended the 30th June, 1967, what sum of money was paid from the Consolidated Revenue Fund into the Treasury Trust Fund established under the Noxious Weeds Act?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:  
\$139,853.

#### VERMIN

##### *Land Tax Collections*

- 8B. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Minister for Mines:

For the year ended the 30th June, 1967, what sum of money was paid from land tax collected pursuant to the Land Tax Assessment Act, 1907-1956, to the credit of the account to be kept at the Treasury as provided under section 103, subsection (3) of the Vermin Act?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:  
\$440,827.

#### PILBARA AND KIMBERLEY DISTRICTS

##### *Minerals and Metal Ore: Production in 1966-67*

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

What was the value of each mineral and metal ore produced in Pilbara and Kimberley districts during the year ended the 30th June, 1967?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Mineral	Pilbara \$	Kimberley \$
Asbestos ....	1,244,489.08	
Cupreous Ore ....	13,018.15	
Iron Ore ....	*32,178,209.80	6,117,272.00
Lead/Zinc Ore ....		15,956.00
Manganese ....	2,726,420.68	
Silver (By-product of Lead/Zinc) ....		4,731.80
Tanto/Columbite Ore and Concentrates ....	5,209.58	
Tin ....	1,628,839.54	
Gold ....	29,521.25	771.56
	\$37,823,716.08	\$6,138,731.36

\* The April-June figures for iron ore from Mt. Goldsworthy and Hamersley are estimated value of shipments and are subject to revision.

#### *Agricultural Production in 1966-67*

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

Will he obtain from the Minister for Agriculture the value of each agricultural product grown in the Pilbara and Kimberley districts during the year ended the 30th June, 1967?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Figures for the year ended the 30th June, 1967, are not yet available.

Production figures for the 1965-66 year are as follows:—

	Kimberley District	Pilbara District
Sheep numbers ....	159,117	476,833
Cattle numbers ....	523,625	30,088
Pig numbers ....	562	208
Sheep and Lambs Shorn ....	165,991	470,071
Wool clip (lb.) ....	1,240,575	3,694,829
Cotton (cwt.) ....	182,421	....
Value of production is estimated at—		
	Kimberley District \$	Pilbara District \$
Meat ....	4,254,000.00	244,544.00
Wool ....	623,288.00	1,847,415.00
Cotton ....	2,300,000.00	....

#### *Ocean Products: Value*

11. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna: What was the value of—

- prawns;
- fish;
- pearl shell;
- natural pearls; and
- cultured pearls

produced in the Pilbara and Kimberley districts during the year ended the 30th June, 1967?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:  
Information not yet available.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by The Hon. N. E. Baxter, leave of absence for 12 consecutive sittings of the House granted to The Hon. A. R. Jones (West) on the ground of ill-health.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY***Motion*

Debate resumed from the 10th August, on the following motion by The Hon. F. D. Willmott:—

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

**THE HON. J. HEITMAN** (Upper West) [4.57 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion moved by Mr. Willmott. I listened with interest to the remarks of His Excellency when he opened this session of Parliament. On looking through the list of works he mentioned in his Speech, one realises just how much the Government has done for this State, as it includes practically everything one can think of.

On many occasions there have been several complaints about the housing situation in the State, but I feel that people just do not realise it is the job of the commission to build down to a standard for which those in the lower income groups can afford to pay. It is quite evident from the amount of private building that is proceeding that most wage-earners and people generally are building to a higher standard; and we see much more private building today than has been the case over the last 10 years. I think this is brought about by the buoyancy of the money market. There are more jobs than there are people to fill them; and a good atmosphere prevails in every walk of life in the State today. This could only be brought about by having a good reliable Government in the State—one that has the confidence of the people and the confidence of the other States. I feel His Excellency realised this when he mentioned the things he did in his Speech on opening day.

I suppose there are one or two matters that worry everybody in the State, but once they are dealt with in a broader manner, perhaps with a little upgrading, quite a few people will benefit.

I would like to mention the super plan which has been in operation over the last year. Whilst on the whole this plan has worked very well, several farmers, as was mentioned in one newspaper article, through not being able to arrange finance in time, received very late deliveries of superphosphate. However, I would also mention that many farmers who were able to make arrangements for finance to purchase their super,

were left lamenting and did not receive supplies until a later period in the year. It was only because of the late season that deliveries did finish up fairly satisfactorily for most farmers.

I was disappointed when the new plan came out this year to see that a committee was not set up to organise matters and to let the farmers know if trouble was being experienced in supplying super. People could apply to a local committee to find out when they would get their super—this month or next month—or whether the order had been cancelled or lost altogether.

Last year the committee was centred in Perth and if there was a request to find out what was happening with regard to super, a reply was not available. It took quite a while to sift the information so that a farmer knew where he stood. I know that on one occasion at the end of March I put in complaints to the central committee from 215 dissatisfied farmers. The farmers eventually received their super but they were not told why it had been held up and received no advice until the super arrived at the sidings. This aspect could be overcome by setting up local committees which could advise the farmers that their orders had been received, and when the super would arrive. Farmers were advised that super would arrive in March, but in March they were told it would not be available until June. Such problems could be overcome by the setting up of committees at local centres.

There is another aspect of the new plan about which I am not particularly keen. If a farmer takes his super in October—early in the season—he can get quite a good rebate on the price of the super. Also, he can get a rebate on the rail freight, and a further concession for paying cash. A new settler, even if he had the money, would possibly not have storage facilities for super and would not be able to take it until perhaps the end of May. As a result that farmer loses all the concessions just at a time when he is trying to establish his property. He has to pay the increased price, and in many instances other extra costs because he is not able to pay cash on delivery.

More notice should have been taken of these problems when the committee was set up. Many young farmers, and perhaps older farmers who have taken up new locations, should receive better treatment. We all know that 1,000,000 acres of land are being opened up each year, and those who have taken up land over the last three years would not be in a position to pay cash for their super or be able to erect a shed to store the super if able to take immediate delivery.

Another point with regard to super to which I wish to draw attention is that an unrestricted cartage zone up to 50 miles from the works exists. A tremendous

amount of super is being carted in bulk today and if the unrestricted cartage zone could be extended to cover any distance from the manufacturing works it would be of benefit to farmers. At the present time if a farmer is 120 miles from the works he pays about \$4.40 a ton for cartage to the nearest town. On top of that he has to pay \$2.40 a ton to have the super carted out the 12 to 15 miles to his property. If the super could be carted in bulk from the works, and stored in a shed on the farm, it could be handled for \$5 a ton. That is quite a saving in these times.

Farmers who cart their super from the siding have the added expense of having to provide bulk elevators and bulk trucks. Quite a lot of expense is entailed in the purchase of bulk super. That expense could be avoided if the super could be carted direct from the works to the farms.

I do not see why anyone who lives within 50 miles of the works should be treated differently from those living, perhaps, 150 miles from the works. After all is said and done we are all taxpayers and we are all entitled to the same conditions with regard to the carting of super.

Last weekend I went to Geraldton. While I go there fairly often I admit that one does not realise the improvements which are taking place unless one goes looking for them. One does not realise the progress being made. Just recently I asked the Minister for Health what had happened with the old hospital buildings at Geraldton. The Minister informed me that one building was being used for a police station, and the maternity section was being used as a civic centre. So at the weekend I had a look at the civic centre, which has been in operation since last February.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Community centre, not civic centre.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: Yes; I should have said community centre. We were surprised to see just how much good could come from a project of this type. Mrs. Willock of Geraldton has more or less made herself responsible for the operation of the centre. She has been able to organise the people at Geraldton to supply meals on wheels and to cater for the old people. The townspeople are making sure that the elderly people have rooms to sleep in, and are fed properly. Those old people have recreational facilities at the community centre. It is pleasing to know that we have workers of this calibre in Geraldton—as in other places—who cater for the elderly people, especially when they have passed the stage where they can look after themselves adequately. As I said, I was most impressed with the way Mrs. Willock has organised this centre.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is gratifying to know it is so well run.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: I can assure the Minister that a terrific job is being done, but I do feel a little more financial assistance would help considerably. Most of these ventures rely on outside finance, and the people of Geraldton have been very generous. Rotary and the Jaycees, and other different organisations, help this centre. I can assure you, Mr. President, that the centre is well run but, like every other such centre, of course, it could do with a little more finance.

I do not think I need labour this speech to the Address-in-Reply. Most of the places I have been to and looked at in the last six or eight months have shown signs of progress. No matter where one goes one sees TV antennae, and motorcars parked under verandahs. I feel that with this prosperity the people are happy with the Government. We have a State which is very progressive at the moment and I support the motion.

THE HON. T. O. PERRY (Lower Central) [5.10 p.m.]: I would like to congratulate the honourable member representing the South-West Province, Mr. Willmott, on his rather thought-provoking speech on reforestation in the Blackwood Valley. The Blackwood River is fed by the Hillier, the Arthur, the Beaufort, and the Balgarup Rivers. I have had a lot to do with the upper reaches of the Blackwood River. As a matter of fact, my home is built in this area, about 100 yards inside the boundary which divides the Collier watershed from the Blackwood River.

Whilst much of the soil of the Blackwood Valley might be suitable for pine growing, I consider the land in the West Arthur Shire District much too valuable and fertile to plant to pine. It is in this area that most of the best fine wools and heavy grain crops in Western Australia are produced.

I would like to refer very briefly to the contribution made to this debate by Mr. Abbey. He put forward a case for more veterinary surgeons to be trained in Western Australia. I feel we cannot over-emphasise this need. The need is very great and we should study further his suggestion for the financing of a scheme. Mr. Abbey mentioned the position we might have to face if there were an outbreak in Western Australia of one of the more serious diseases which affect animal life in other parts of the world. We do not only need qualified people, but we also need the facilities to enable them to carry out their work.

A problem which faces sheep breeders in Western Australia, and to which higher priority should have been given, is infertility in sheep, known as clover disease. This disease was first noticed in the district in which I live in about 1940. Just prior to 1940 large areas of land were planted to a subterranean clover, known

as Dwalganup. This variety was first spread on Mr. P. D. Forrest's property on the Blackwood River. When the farms were sown to this variety of clover they became clover dominated.

Lambing percentages dropped alarmingly, and I can quote the figures from my own farm for the 10-year period from 1930 to 1940. For the 10 years prior to the outbreak of this disease the percentages ranged from 87 to 103 per cent. The average was 93 per cent. By 1945 our lambing had dropped to as low as 30 per cent.

Quite often, when we refer to our inability to breed lambs, we are told that better stockmanship is required. I claim that the same standard of stockmanship which resulted in the high percentages I have mentioned was of no avail on the properties affected with clover disease. We should surely recognise that both the scientists and the farmers have a part to play in producing more lambs. Good husbandry is the responsibility of the farmer but research, for which the average farmer has neither the knowledge nor the facilities—nor the time—must remain the responsibility of the scientists.

In some respects, both have succeeded, and on other aspects both have failed. I know that many of our farm advisers who hold degrees in science have, at times, overplayed the advice they have given on stocking.

Set stocking may have a place in modern farming, but some farmers, carried away with the advice they have been given by farm advisers have overstocked to the detriment of the industry. At one time the advice often given by farm advisers was to sell one's hay-making machinery, not to conserve fodder and to stock from three to four sheep to the acre. One often heard the saying, "It is wool per acre that counts, and not wool per head of stock." In following the wool per acre policy it was often found that the stock could not stand up to months of semi-starvation and they died.

In discovering the cause of infertility in ewes and in bringing about a rise in clover production our scientists have done an excellent job, but at that point their success seems to have come to a halt. After nearly 30 years since the outbreak of the disease we have not yet found a cure for it. In 1944 an investigational committee was established in an effort to solve the problem. At this stage I would like to quote an extract from a thesis prepared by Dr. Curnow. I went to school with Dr. Curnow and I wish to pay a tribute to his success. Although he was a bright boy at school, it was largely due to his initiative and drive that he met with the success he did. Dr. Curnow was only one member of this investigational committee. I think the other members were Dr. Bull, Mr. A. J. Vasey, of the

Division of Animal Health and Production, C.S.I.R.O., and Dr. H. W. Bennetts, Dr. E. J. Underwood, and Mr. F. L. Shier of the Western Australian Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Curnow was the man who was chosen from the personnel of this committee to go to London to conduct investigations concerning this work. In a general introduction, this is what Dr. Curnow had to say—

A major breeding problem in sheep maintained on pastures dominated by an early variety of subterranean clover (*Trifolium subterraneum* L., var. Dwalganup), first described by Bennetts (1944), has developed in the past few years in a large area of Western Australia and in some other sheep breeding districts in Australia. The problem has three manifestations: a female infertility, dystocia and prolapse of the uterus. The fertility of the ram is unaffected.

The decline in fertility may best be seen from an analysis of the lambing figures on some of the properties involved. Bennetts, Underwood and Shier (1946) cite farms where lambing is as low as 8 per cent. of mated ewes. This aspect of the problem is the most serious one from the breeder's point of view.

He then goes on to describe how the committee was formed. Another extract taken from this general introduction is as follows:—

An attack on the problem was commenced in 1944 by a team of workers led by an Investigational Committee, consisting of Dr. L. B. Bull and Mr. A. J. Vasey, of the Division of Animal Health and Production, C.S.I.R.O., and Dr. H. W. Bennetts, Dr. E. J. Underwood and Mr. F. L. Shier of the Western Australian Department of Agriculture.

As I said, Dr. Curnow was selected to go to London where he carried on his work and investigations in the Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, and The Middlesex Hospital, London. The investigations were designed to characterise and identify any compound or compounds present in the clover of affected areas, which may be responsible for the disease in sheep.

Dr. Curnow went to London in 1947 and returned in 1950, and when I was speaking to him recently he expressed disappointment that no cure had yet been found for this disease. This same view is expressed by Professor Robinson of the Sydney University who, following an interview with him on the 31st January, 1967, was reported as follows:—

Professor Robinson said that he was a graduate of the University of W.A., and that he was a member of the original infertility (clover disease)

committee with Dr. Bennetts, Professor Underwood, and David Curnow, when the oestrogenic effect of clover on sheep was discovered.

He said that he was amazed on his return to W.A. recently to find out that little more is known now than was known 20 years ago about the basic causes of clover disease.

A good deal more is known about the plant, various isoflavones have been isolated, and a lot of excellent work has gone into breeding oestrogen free clovers. However, it is still anybody's guess how long the new clovers will remain oestrogen free in the field and whether their use will avoid clover disease.

Professor Robinson said that the effects of clover on the grazing animal is the field where research is most urgently needed. No one can tell us just how clover affects the viability of the sperm in the reproductive tract; how it affects and why it affects sperm transport; ovulation; fertilisation; egg implantation; resorption of the foetus, etc. (if, in fact clover does affect these processes). It is not known whether ewes on different clovers have normal or abnormal oestrus cycles, whether they mate normally, etc.

It is probable that a good many abnormalities are wrongly blamed on "clover disease"; possibly some of the effects of grazing oestrogenic pastures are not yet recognised.

The whole basic mechanism of sheep infertility is not known, because the basic physiological work on sheep reproduction has not been done to study the effects of "clover disease."

Professor Robinson says he feels this problem is so great because of W.A.'s inability to breed the sheep it needs to stock its rapidly developing pastures. It could be described as a national or State emergency, which requires emergency measures to deal with it.

If men like Professor Robinson and Dr. Curnow share these views one can imagine the concern that is felt by farmers who are faced with the problem which affects their prosperity and their livelihood.

Several years ago when the C.S.I.R.O. purchased from Bell Bros. the "Glen Lossie" farm at Kojonup it was rumoured that the farm was to be used for research into clover disease. Although a certain amount of work was conducted on the problem, I think "Glen Lossie" was used mainly for research into pasture development and pasture utilisation. Eventually half of "Glen Lossie" was sold and then it was rumoured that the second half would be sold when the current experiments were finalised.

The people at Kojonup, especially the Orchid Valley pasture improvement group, became so dismayed that research work into clover disease was to cease before a cure had been discovered that they formed a small committee to ascertain what could be done. They called a public meeting at Kojonup at which 340 farmers attended. They came from an area extending from Narrogin in the north to Albany in the south, and from that meeting the Southern Districts Sheep Research Council was formed.

At a later meeting of that council farmers from the area mentioned offered to contribute 1,000 ewes to stock a research station if the Department of Agriculture would establish such a station in the area. Much credit is due to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis of Kojonup for the tremendous amount of work they did towards the formation of the Southern Districts Sheep Research Council.

I think I could also impress upon this House the importance of this work by quoting a statement made by Dr. Moule in C.S.I.R.O. Bulletin 54, 1966. He said, when he met the council at Kojonup on the 13th October, 1966, that the growth there was so great that Western Australia would soon be the second largest producer of sheep and wool in Australia, and may eventually become the largest. Professor Underwood, in an address to the Australian Export Advisory Council on the 17th September, 1965, gave the figures for the agricultural division of Western Australia. I will not quote all the figures, but I must quote these—

	1945	1965	1975
			estimated
Sheep (million acres)	7.1	18.7	38

However, it was also shown that the potential, by 1975, will have risen to an estimated 51,600,000 sheep. Professor Underwood was then reported as having said—

If sheep were stocked in 1975 over the increased acreage at present rates, they should number 38 million. However, if pasture improvement increases at the present rate and recommended heavier stocking and management techniques are used, 51.6 million could be carried. This could not be reached in practice, as it would require either a dramatic increase in fertility or imports from the Eastern States to W.A. at the rate of 1.5 million sheep per annum. As neither is at all likely, a reasonable estimate of sheep numbers in 1975 is 38 million—double the 1965 figure.

In answer to the question: "What does this mean to W.A.?" he had this to say—

It means that in 1975 W.A. will be carrying 13 million sheep below its potential with a consequent loss for wool alone of approximately \$47 million per annum, . . . .



The Southern Districts Sheep Research Council has requested that the Department of Agriculture set up a research station somewhere in the heavier rainfall areas of the great southern. I believe the department has investigated a number of properties, but in most cases, through lack of sufficient finance, it has turned them down. At this stage I would like to make the suggestion that an approach be made to the Commonwealth Government for assistance on a dollar for dollar basis to establish a research station to try to solve this problem which has had a great effect on stock numbers in Western Australia.

This problem has confronted me during most of the time I have been actively engaged in farming in this State and if it continues for a similar period my son will probably have to face up to it. It is an extremely serious problem, and, as I have said, it will probably remain with us for another 30 years unless a determined effort is made to solve it.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Non-oestrogenic clovers are being bred.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: Yes, but for how long these clovers, when introduced to pastures, will remain non-oestrogenic, I do not know.

Recently an article taken from the *Agricultural Journal* of Western Australia was published in the *Wesfarmers News*, and it reads—

The first accurate measure of losses through subterranean clover infertility made in W.A., now published by the Department of Agriculture indicates that losses from this disorder could be higher than was previously thought.

So I sincerely hope that more definite steps will be taken to solve this problem, perhaps by following my suggestion that an approach be made to the Commonwealth Government for assistance to establish a research station so that the necessary studies can be made of the disease.

During the speech made by Mr. Heitman this evening I heard his comment that he was very pleased with the agricultural picture generally throughout Western Australia. I have in front of me a scrapbook of newspaper cuttings. In this I keep some of the evidence of the statements made by leaders in the agricultural industry of this State, and quite a few give cause for concern. We know what is happening in New Zealand, and if prices continue to rise as they are now, we may find ourselves in the same position as farmers in New Zealand find themselves.

We are extremely fortunate we have the mineral wealth in Western Australia to help our economy at present. In the *Farmers' Weekly* of the 23rd March, 1967,

the National Farmers' Union had this to say—

Mr. Holt Urged to be "Sensitive" to Farmers' Requests.

Their request was that consideration be given to some relief from taxation.

One article which appeared in *The Countryman* is headed, "Producer disturbed at wool prospects." Another contains a reference indicating that the Merino Wool Campaign Committee pointed out that many farmers were switching from wool production to escape the rising costs.

There is one article on dairy farming, and this states as follows:—

Dairyfarmers Want Government Help

Western Australia's dairying industry would perish unless farmers sought immediate government assistance to increase butter production.

A further report states—

Lamb reports worry board.

It indicates that the fat lamb industry is in trouble.

Relating to the production of apples one article states—

No cheerful picture for apple exports.

Another article is headed—

Poultry men dread new competition.

Yet another is headed—

Production figures show big increase.

I will refer to that at a later stage.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: Did that slip in by mistake?

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: Other headings from my scrap book are—

W.A. Grape Producers Face a Cost Crisis.

Wool Prospects Hinge on Marketing Efficiency.

A.W.G.C. President Urges Government to move against rising costs.

Freight Rise Hits Wheatgrowers.

The last-mentioned heading referred to the increase in freight rates brought about by the Suez crisis. The farmers of Western Australia will need every assistance to enable them to pay their way and to continue producing the major portion of Australia's exports.

Regarding the heading which Mr. Ferry said had slipped in by accident: "Production figures show big increase," the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Nalder) gave the figures of the increase in agricultural production in Western Australia in that article. That illustrates the farmers are playing their part.

The newspaper references which I have just quoted were statements made by the leaders of industry, and they know what they are talking about. These are not ordinary men in the street; they are the leaders in the wool, dairying, fat lamb, and apple and pear industries.

I would now like to refer to the position of Collie. Most of the Collie Shire district lies in the Wellington watershed and, as a result its development is somewhat restricted, because much of the land is withheld from allocation for farming. The land is withheld because of the fear that the salinity level in the Wellington Dam might rise, and this is quite a valid reason. Further, large tracts of forest land are reserved to supply the timber needs of the State. The people of Collie realise that certain parts of the State must make sacrifices in the interests of the State's needs, and they are not resentful of that fact.

The residents of Collie look to the coal industry to provide for the stability and growth of their district and its population. One thing which disturbs me very much is that quite often when the position of Collie is discussed there is, in certain circles, an anti-Collie feeling. I do not know whether I imagine this or whether it is real.

I have mixed with as many of the people in the great southern, through sporting and other activities, as I have with the people in Collie. I would like to draw the attention of members to the record of the people of Collie, and, as an example, I take the coalminers. During the war years they worked six days a week in an effort to produce sufficient coal to meet the needs of power supplies in Western Australia. Not one day was lost during the war years through industrial action on the Collie coalfields. Since 1960 only four days have been lost. One day was lost recently when an aggregate meeting of miners was called to discuss the planned additions to the Kwinana power station, and that is quite understandable because the proposal affects the town of Collie to a great extent; while three other days have been lost since 1960.

Under the industrial award, the industry is allowed four days a year for loss of work, without any penalty being applied. I should point out that in the last seven years the coalminers were entitled to 28 days, but only four days have been lost since the last war. That would possibly be a world record for any coalfield, as regards the number of days lost since 1960.

Although I do not live in the Collie district, but in an adjoining shire, I have found the people of Collie to be very friendly and kind. When the properties of farmers at Mayanup were burnt out, the Collie people went to their assistance. On one occasion they helped to put up the fences on the damaged properties. I remember the day after the Dwellingup fire. I was in the streets of Collie, and I saw many of the people there who had volunteered to fight the fire, but word came through that their services were not required. I saw the large group in the street opposite the police station who were ready to go. On another

occasion when a man from my own district became lost in the bush—and he has not been found since—not 60 or 160, but 600 miners gave their time freely and willingly in an endeavour to find him.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: I would say they are typical, good Australians.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: They are.

The Hon. J. Dolan: That is typical of a mining community.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: Before an ambulance service was established at Darkan, we called upon the Collie ambulance. That ambulance was driven by voluntary drivers or by paid drivers, and that service came to our assistance whenever we required it, irrespective of the time of the day or night. When we established our own ambulance centre, the officers of the Collie service came over to demonstrate, and to train the people of Darkan in, first aid.

When the people of Collie realised that the State was using oil in preference to coal it disturbed them greatly. Whether they be professional, working, or business people they all realised that their prosperity depended on the production of coal.

An article which appeared in the *Australian Financial Review* of the 7th July last caused much concern in Collie. It was headed, "Fuel Oil and Coal." That article was summarised in the following terms:—

Friday's *Australian Financial Review* referred to what it called the recent "controversial" decision of the West Australian State Government to make the next major power extension in that State by doubling the capacity of the oil-fired Kwinana Station.

The article said this decision was seen locally as a major blow at the Collie coal field, and went on to say that Collie miners were heading a campaign to force the W.A. State Government to publish the price it was paying BP for fuel oil for Kwinana.

The pricing policies of the oil refineries have been examined in several Tariff Board hearings and the Tariff Board has reported (to quote from its 1965 report) that "confidential information submitted by the marketing companies show that the actual prices for refined products have been reduced more than indicated by the changes in list prices. It was stated that marketing companies have been prepared to allow large discounts off list prices to defend their market position or to secure large contracts for which distribution costs are low. Discounting is most pronounced in the furnace fuel market . . ."

The increases of \$1.25 per ton in fuel oil prices for bunkers announced last month are evidence that it is not "to secure large contracts for which distribution costs are low" that price

reductions are made for fuel oil. It is "to defend their market position", in other words to drive out competition from competitive fuels, the chief of which is coal.

The new fuel oil prices for bunkers, for which distribution costs are virtually nil compared to the distribution costs to coal's customers are as follows:—

The article went on to give the price of fuel oil for various centres in Western Australia and in the other States. It pointed out that the same product was being offered to the customers of coal at under 14s. per ton delivered to the customer.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What price per ton? You said 14s.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: I meant \$14 per ton. It would appear that the main aim of the oil companies is to kill competition from coal, and once competition is destroyed we will see an increase in the price charged for furnace oil. No-one can tell me that the oil companies are selling furnace oil at a reduced rate out of the goodness of their hearts.

In effect the State Shipping Service, which serves the people living in the isolated centres in the north, is being levied. If it is correct that the oil companies are selling furnace oil at a reduced rate to the Kwinana power station, then they should also sell at a reduced rate to the State Shipping Service.

I am aware that a decision has been made by the Government to extend the oil-fired power station at Kwinana. At this stage I would make a plea that instead of building a 240-megawatt unit, it should build a 120-megawatt unit. I know that Cabinet has many worries in trying to provide for the increased demand for power in Western Australia.

Some time ago I spoke to an engineer engaged on the Muja project, and he gave me to understand that the coal-handling facilities were sufficient to supply the needs of a 360-megawatt power station. If one half of the proposed extension went to Collie and the other half to Kwinana, Collie would be helped to overcome the difficulties it faces.

In many respects the Ministers are very sympathetic to approaches I have made, and since I have been elected to this House I have requested the Deputy Premier to visit Collie, and he has done so. On one occasion I asked the Minister for Mines if he would visit Collie, and that was before he went away on an overseas trip. He told me that he did not have time to make such a visit before he went overseas, but that when he returned he would do so when time permitted. I also asked the Premier, when the coal contracts were announced last year, to visit Collie. I realise that a reduction of 30,000 tons of

coal for the production of gas would result in unemployment in the deep mines. He said he would make the visit when time permitted. I was very grateful that the Minister for Mines was able to make a visit.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What is more, we got a very good reception.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: That did not happen by accident. I spent a lot of time to ensure that the Minister got a good reception at Collie. Surely the happiness, welfare, and well-being of the people of Collie should be taken into consideration. Many people in Collie were very concerned about their future after the announcement of the contracts. A young couple with two children, and expecting a third, approached me about their fears for the future. This couple had a home for which they had paid half the cost, and they had a car on hire purchase. With the husband's employment in the mine this couple were able to meet their commitments. They could lose all this if the husband lost his job.

The miners realise that if they lose their jobs they could be offered work in the timber mills elsewhere. These people are not complaining about the conditions under which they work. When the Minister for Electricity, who is also the Deputy Premier, and Mr. Syd Thompson visited Collie and saw the miners working knee-deep in water, they said they would not like to work in the conditions under which the miners worked.

These people are not complaining about the conditions under which they work; all they want is the right to work in the industry in which they were brought up. As so much is at stake in connection with the welfare of our own Western Australians, I would like the Government to have another look at this and, if possible, extend Kwinana by one unit and establish the other unit at Collie. This would help Collie considerably. I support the motion.

**THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY** (South Metropolitan) [5.45 p.m.]: May I first of all thank you, Mr. President, and all other members for the kind wishes and thoughts conveyed to me from time to time while I was ill. Fortunately that illness was not as serious as the one from which I suffered the year before last, and from which I have now fully recovered. However, Mr. Jones is suffering from a severe illness and I hope and pray he will have the same good fortune I have had and that he will soon be back here with us.

I am most sincere when I say that, because I think the suffering Mr. Jones has experienced, as I have noticed since I entered Parliament 15 years' ago would not be borne by many people. The report I received today from a friend indicates

that Mr. Jones is making reasonably good progress. He is a little lonely, though, and would like to see one or two more people. If any members have the time to visit him, I am sure he would be only too pleased to see them.

I am not going to give a resume of my long overseas trip, but may mention one or two items about which I made inquiries while overseas. At the outset I must convey to you, Mr. President, and to all members of Parliament in Western Australia the compliments of Mr. Dimitri Papaspyrou, a very learned man of 84 years, who was the President of the caretaker Government of Greece, and also the Speaker. We were there on the 16th March of this year. Both my wife and I were welcomed by him to Parliament House and he said that to the best of his knowledge we were the first two Australian members of Parliament to attend a sitting of the Greek Parliament; and he particularly wished us to convey the message that he was very proud of the association of the Greeks and the Australian soldiers in time of war when the Greeks needed so much help. He also said he was very proud of Australia because of the way it had accepted Greek migrants into their country.

Although he is not now the leader of the Government, because it has changed, I am quite sure that the same hospitality would be extended to any other member who visited the country. We were entertained and had vehicles placed at our disposal, and this is the type of thing we expect from our Parliamentary Association, but not necessarily from a strange country, which is why I felt I should have the experience recorded.

Two or three items have worried me very much for some considerable time. I will delay mentioning the first one because the Minister concerned is not here at the moment.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He will be absent for only a few moments.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: While in London, I naturally took the opportunity to see the Agent-General's office, which has been remodelled and is an office of which we can now be very proud. The Government has made a very fine job of it. The officers themselves, I think, know about as much about Australia as I do; in fact, I feel they know more. I do not know all about Australia, but they seem as though they do. They are a wonderful group of fellows, and the Hon. G. P. Wild himself went to no end of trouble to assist us both in many ways. He will be coming home for Christmas, but asked me to convey his regards to those who will not be fortunate enough to see him in the meantime.

One of the things which surprised me was to discover that a State such as ours which is so much on the move, and has

been able to provide such a fine office for the Agent-General, leaves him to find his own accommodation. We know how bad the housing situation is in Western Australia, despite what Mr. Heitman just said, but most Western Australians would have no idea how awkward it is for a person holding the position of Agent-General to find a home in London to suit his position.

I know that when the previous gentleman held the office, twelve months elapsed before he was able to sell his home upon leaving the position. It was not the type of home the ordinary man in the street could buy, but it was the only one he was able to purchase.

Mr. Wild might not appreciate my saying this, but I feel that the facts should be made known. The first accommodation he was able to obtain was not very suitable for the office he holds and in the process of selling the first home and purchasing the second, he lost between £600 and £700 sterling, which is a lot of money from anyone's pocket.

I believe that this State is financial enough to provide a home of the standard required for an Agent-General. It would cost the Government nothing at all over a period of years in comparison with the benefit it would give to those who hold that high office. I was very surprised to know that the State—I am not referring to any particular Government—does, in fact, leave the Agent-General to find his own accommodation. This may not seem a very important matter to bring to Parliament, but I was in London for a considerable time and when I ascertained the facts, I felt that this was a very serious, what I call weakness, in our structure at home.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Is Western Australia the only State which does not provide a home for its Agent-General?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I could not answer that. I am, perhaps, a little parochial.

I would now like to deal with migration and the work our office does in this respect. Some States—particularly South Australia, and Western Australia—find it very difficult to enlist migrants. I will give a particular instance. A jeweller in Canterbury is coming to Australia with his wife and five children. He applied to the Western Australian office and was accepted. Arrangements were then made with the Commonwealth for the transport of these people, and when this jeweller and his family were almost due to depart for Western Australia he was informed by the Commonwealth office that it desired him to go to Sydney because there was more work and housing available there.

This man will arrive in Sydney on the 2nd September and it is his intention not to stay there, but to come back to Western Australia. On making inquiries, however,

I found that the experience of this jeweller is fairly common to those who apply to come to Australia. A number of people from Scotland migrate to Canada, but some—the next biggest group—come to Australia. When they make inquiries from Australia House they are always asked to go to Victoria or New South Wales. When the intending migrants inquire why they cannot go to Western Australia, they are told that Western Australia is experiencing difficulty with employment and housing, while there is plenty in New South Wales and Victoria.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: They have plenty in New South Wales.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: What I have been saying may or may not, in fact, be true, but I must accept the word of those who have told me that it is true. It appears a great number of people—and particularly young people—would like to migrate to Western Australia but, because of the position they are in with regard to purchasing their homes in England, and particularly in manufacturing places such as Bristol and Manchester, they are led to believe that it would not be advantageous to them to sell up and come to Western Australia.

I would now like to refer to an item I postponed because the Minister for Health was not here. He still is not, but he will probably read what I have to say. One of the matters worrying a number of doctors in Western Australia is the reduction by the Commonwealth in the number of visits doctors are allowed to make to or receive from pensioners. The doctors feel that this is not in the interests of the pensioners themselves, the medical profession, or the State, because as a result the doctors send to hospital patients who otherwise could be treated at home.

I have been told that it costs \$17.45 per day to keep a pensioner patient in a Government hospital. Of this amount the Commonwealth Government contributes \$5 a day, provided the State Health Department does not raise any dues against the pensioner. In other words, it is costing the State Government \$12.45 net a day to hospitalise the pensioner, and the Commonwealth contributes the other \$5. One doctor suggested to me—and I have since discussed it with others—that the Government of Western Australia should put the proposition to the Commonwealth Government that a number of these patients who are now in hospital merely because the number of allowable visits has been reduced could be treated in their homes. It would be much better to increase the amount allowed for visits to doctors by about 30c and allow the doctors to attend pensioner patients in their own homes.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We have put a number of propositions like this to the Federal Government without any marked success, because, as well as this

payment, it also pays the full pension to the patient, which he retains all the time, as well.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: These doctors believe that the necessity for beds in hospitals is so acute in Western Australia that instead of so many of our pensioners using the beds for an average of seven days, as they do now, this time could be spent in bed at home. Not all pensioners, of course, could spend the time at home because we know that some patients have to go to hospital. However, the doctors feel that, over all, the State, the doctors, and the pensioners would benefit very much if the Commonwealth Government would look at this suggestion. It would not cost the Commonwealth Government more because \$5 per day is what it is costing that Government now. If, as a basis, we use the amount of \$5, which it is costing the Commonwealth Government to maintain a patient in a Perth hospital, we find it would not cost this much if the patient were at home. The Commonwealth Government would not be paying \$5, but it would be paying the doctor \$2.50. I was asked to bring this matter forward.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is a good idea. We would class this as domiciliary service.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I have often heard Dr. Hislop mention that beds in hospitals are sometimes used by people who really do not need hospitalisation. Perhaps he was referring to accident cases. In some instances the patient, after two or three days, could probably go home, but he is kept in hospital for two or three weeks.

In 1958 a census was taken of a Perth hospital and it showed that patients spent 17.2 days in the hospital, whereas in Fremantle, because of the shortage of beds, the patients were in hospital for only 11.3 days. Because of the shortage of space in Fremantle, the hospital authorities could not allow as long a stay in hospital.

I do not know whether that position has been changed since 1958. However, it seems to me that there are numbers of people who should be in hospital, yet they cannot go there because there are not enough beds. This is because other people, who could be treated at home, are occupying the beds. This is brought about simply because of the restriction which the Commonwealth places on the number of visits a doctor may make to a pensioner.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is true that many of our procedures are markedly tied by the method of payment insisted on by the Commonwealth Government.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I agree that the position is as the Minister says. While on this point, I mention that a lot of patients are waiting for operations, but

are being told by their doctors that a bed is not available. What is happening, in fact, is that the doctors cannot get a turn at the operating theatre. For instance, there are not enough operating theatres in our hospitals to allow a theatre to be used a reasonable number of hours a day.

I have just been in St. John of God Hospital and the doctor who was my anaesthetist gave me facts and figures to support his statement that he was often working there 18 hours per day simply because the operating theatre at that hospital is, in actual fact, used for as many as 22 hours out of the 24 on occasions. In the remaining two hours the theatre is closed to enable proper hygienic treatment to be carried out.

I know it sounds as though I will be mentioning State aid, but one of the things which I wonder is whether the State could not, perhaps, make an interest-free loan, or some other type of loan, available to private hospitals so that they can, in fact, increase the size of their operating theatres. I think there is very good liaison between the Medical Department and the private hospitals which are of the stature of St. John of God Hospital, and the other big "A"-class hospitals which are privately run. If the State could make available a loan, it would ease the position considerably.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: St. John of God Hospital would like a new theatre block, and it has the facilities for it. We will pay the interest on the loan, but the hospital is having some difficulty in raising the actual money which is required.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: This matter was broached to me in my own hospital room when the anaesthetist found that I was a member of Parliament.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We have discussed this with the Mother Provincial.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Because of my visit overseas, there are two items in the Press which have impressed me. One is that some officers of the Main Roads Department are going overseas in order to carry out studies, and the places where they are going were mentioned in the Press. Secondly, some officers of the Railways Department are also going overseas. I have forgotten the countries they are to visit, but I was rather surprised to see that the officers of the Main Roads Department are not going to Europe. I wonder why?

The purpose of their trip is in connection with overways, underways, and free-ways, and it seems rather strange to me that they are not visiting Europe. Any person who goes to Europe, and who is traffic-minded in any way at all, cannot come away without being most impressed with the advances which are being made in some of the European countries, particularly Germany, Holland, and Italy.

Italy has found a way not only of building the overways but also the actual structure itself which is over the freeway—that is, the concrete road and that kind of thing—with prestressed concrete. The Italians can build in this way at 17 per cent. of what it cost six years ago. The system which has been evolved enables them to put the overways across highways in 90 man hours from the time they are ready to start until the whole roadway is open for traffic.

To my mind, this seems something which our Main Roads Department should consider. The department is sending officers overseas and they should be sent to Italy, Germany, and Holland because the highways connecting these three countries and the construction of them are something which has to be seen to be believed.

I would like to mention the matter of covering the gaping hole which will be left at the bottom of the hill in front of Parliament House. This is something which I cannot understand. Construction of that sort is not to be found in France, Rome, or even England. The story we are told is that the cost will be \$1,250,000, and that the cost of maintaining a clean air control plant will be tremendously heavy.

When one enters the countries which I have mentioned, sometimes one goes under the harbour, as in Amsterdam, and great ships are sailing over the top of the road connection. This harbour handles something like 300 to 400 ships a day, yet one travels under the harbour itself in order to go to Germany from Rotterdam.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you know the cost of construction and maintenance?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I do not know the cost, but the roads are 600 or 700 feet in length. I did a lot of driving overseas and I travelled through many of these tunnels. I was very concerned with, and interested in, traffic and transport matters, and I made it my business to study them by actually travelling on these roads myself.

At the moment France, and particularly Paris, is getting over the situation of the two collision roads, because the authorities are building the roads underground now in places where they cannot go over. In most places it is not easy to go over, but it is no trouble at all to go underground. The road in Amsterdam I have mentioned is some 300 to 400 feet below the harbour. At the present time there is no collision with heavy transport, yet large streams of traffic are going each way.

We in Western Australia talk about the number of vehicles per hour, but members should go to these countries to realise what heavy traffic means. At this late hour, I wonder whether some consideration could not be given, when the work is finally carried out, to a concrete struc-

ture to go over the top of the cutting in front of Parliament House. When all is said and done, despite the fact that the Barracks Archway does seem almost to be in the city now, and despite the fact that it is there, surely to goodness we could find some way to deal with the matter, other than what is proposed. What a fantastic sight it would be if provision were made for beautiful gardens at this point of planning.

*Sitting suspended from 6.10 to 7.30 p.m.*

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: At the tea suspension I was speaking of underways and overways which are used overseas to obviate traffic problems; and I had prefaced those remarks by saying that I understood two Main Roads Department engineers have already left the State to visit overseas countries. I was wondering why it was not their intention to visit some of the European countries where the latest techniques in road construction and planning are now being used.

I was also concerned at the fact that the Railways Department was sending two of its senior officers overseas because I had the same thought in mind: Why are not these officers visiting places of interest in the European countries? In this regard I refer to the big railway works of Krupps, in the Ruhr, and other big German works, and the railway systems of Holland and other European countries. They are worthy of our inspection and I think it would have been advisable had these officers visited those places.

The question of transport generally may have been one of the reasons for a very controversial citizen in this State gaining a lot of publicity recently. I often wondered how any town planner could plan for a city such as ours when up to a week ago no decision on the siting of the East Perth railway station, or on the developments in the Kewdale area had been made public—or at least no complete or final plans had been published. I had written out this part of my speech before the plan was published in *The West Australian* a couple of days ago.

It seems to me that the planning so far as railways, and transport generally in Western Australia, is concerned, is a little like the planning for housing, from a Commonwealth point of view—it is a sort of stop-and-go arrangement. When we get so far we ask ourselves, "Where do we go from here?"

In view of the fact that we have senior officers from the Main Roads Department and the Railways Department travelling overseas for study purposes, and to learn something of the systems in use in other countries, it would have been better had they decided to visit European countries as well.

I now want to speak of housing. In one sense my speech in this regard will be

somewhat lengthy but I want to preface these remarks by saying that I shall refer to the Australia-wide situation and not only to what is happening in Western Australia. Recently the Labor Party moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply but, unfortunately, I was not present to take part in the debate. Like everything else that the Labor Party brings forward this amendment was not without substance, despite the fact that members in this Chamber—and I say this without casting any reflections on the Chamber—did not allow anything to come of the amendment. All we could do was debate the question.

I want to refer briefly to a paper which was delivered by a Mr. Bruce McFarlane, a research fellow in economics at the Australian National University. In doing this I want to discuss the housing policy in Australia generally. I am not sure when the paper was delivered but it could have been within the last couple of years. I merely want to quote some extracts from it because I believe the statements made tie in with the position in Western Australia today.

My complaint is that this State is not getting sufficient money from the Commonwealth to allow the State Housing Commission to carry out the work for which it was established. I know the Minister for Mines, when he was Minister for Housing, was up against the same problem—the yearly Budget. Having that in mind I now wish to quote a couple of extracts from this paper. I quote firstly—

Perspective Planning or Stop-Go?

When I used those words a few moments ago I did not get them from this paper; they were my own words. To continue—

In Western Europe expenditure priorities are established within a framework of social and economic objectives, and official policy holds that housing and education investments in particular ought to be planned at least five years ahead. To do otherwise, in the view of Scandinavian, French and other policy makers, would be to run the risk that sectors like housing, upon which productivity and economic life depend, would be dislocated by substantial changes in the fortunes of the economy and by the political zig-zag of governments.

In short, housing is, as far as possible, left undisturbed by the vagaries of short-term economic management, fluctuations in home-building are reduced to a minimum, plans are carried through with few short-term distractions.

What is the position in Australia?

No long-term planning exists. There is the annual scramble for funds at the Loan Council and for allocations through the Commonwealth - States Housing Agreements of 1945, 1956 and

1961. The States are not required to present their housing programmes for five years ahead.

No federal authority is responsible for looking at the complex interconnection between home building, urban redevelopment and road construction on a perspective long-term basis.

That coincides with thoughts I have had for some considerable time—that the Commonwealth Government can make thousands of millions of dollars available to fight a useless war in Vietnam—one it can never hope to win—and yet housewives are compelled to walk from land agent to land agent in their endeavours to get housing for their families. That goes on incessantly. As members we all have a tremendous number of people knocking on our doors for help with housing problems.

I now want to refer to a union point of view on the matter of housing in Australia. I wish to refer to a paper that was delivered by Frank Purse, the Federal secretary of the Building Workers' Industrial Union of Australia. I intend to read this address in full. He said—

Firstly I want to congratulate the Trades and Labor Council of N.S.W. for convening this Living Standards Conference and also express the hope that as a result benefits will flow to the people.

The fact that housing has been made a special subject for discussion indicates that there is widespread recognition that there is a serious housing problem.

Each of us see evidence of this problem in the course of our daily lives.

Families are crammed into tenements and slums, others are forced to live in the outer suburbs and country areas and spend much time and money travelling to and from work.

I know of a man who is working at Kwinana and every day he drives his car from Wundowie to Kwinana and back, a distance of 120 miles, because he is unable to obtain housing in the Kwinana area. I will come back to that aspect. To continue—

At the same time, the capital cost and the annual cost of housing continues to rise to higher and higher levels causing families to spend money on housing which should be spent on food, clothing, education and so on.

The Trade Unions demand that there should be adequate housing for the people.

It seems that the idea of "adequate housing" is not understood by many people and certainly, if the Federal and State Governments do not understand it, they are not prepared to face up to their responsibilities and bring

closer the day when the idea will become the reality.

We say there is a section of the people which cannot house itself and that it is the housing of this section of the people adequately which constitutes the housing problem.

Various authorities, including Professor Irvine in 1913, and the 1936 Housing Investigations Committee in N.S.W., have stated that the proper housing of the people in the low income group is beyond the capacity of private enterprise and that the task should be undertaken by the Government and carried out with the utmost expedition.

With which I agree. To continue—

The Commonwealth Housing Commission in its final report of August, 1944, said—

We consider that a dwelling of good standard and equipment is, not only the need but the right of every citizen—whether the dwelling is to be rented or purchased, no tenant or purchaser should be exploited by excessive profit.

This is the principle to which the Trade Unions subscribe but it is a principle not recognised either in theory or practice by either the Federal or State Governments.

Arising out of the Commonwealth Housing Commission's report in 1944 the Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement for 1945-1955 came into being.

This Agreement provided for the building of homes for rentals by the States.

The Commonwealth Government provided finance to the States and guaranteed them against any losses which might be incurred as a result of the operation of the rental rebate system.

I have learnt something from this because I understood that Western Australia's Housing Commission was the first commission to bring in the rebate system. I may be wrong, but I thought that was so.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I think in the early days it was a Commonwealth-State provision and under the 1956 agreement the Commonwealth used to share the loss.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: According to this that is correct.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: But with the later agreement that is not so.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: To continue—

Under the Agreement families in urgent need would be able to secure a home, their rent was based on the family income—the balance if any to be made up from the overall operations of the State Housing Authority.



Pensioners and others in the low income bracket were able to get a house or flat as low as 8s. per week.

This was a good scheme based upon the principle that adequate housing is not only the need but the right of every citizen.

But all this was thrown overboard in the subsequent Commonwealth-State Housing Agreements.

The Commonwealth withdrew the guarantee and the States in the main, discontinued the rental rebate system.

I want to make it clear that the rebate system still operates in Western Australia.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: My word it does.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I think many people in Western Australia would be out of their homes now if this system did not operate; and, of course, it costs the State Government money. This again is something which I believe should be the responsibility of the Commonwealth and not the States. The address continues—

Now the emphasis is on home-ownership. Generally, the housing position has worsened for families in the lower middle, and low income groups.

The people in the low income group—the people unable to house themselves are not provided for.

This makes a mockery of the idea that a dwelling of good standard and equipment is not only the need but the right of every citizen.

The accumulated experience of the nation on this question is in practice rejected by the Federal and State Governments.

Let us look at the position this way.

For years the number of approved applicants for Government housing has remained constant at 82,000, yet the combined efforts of the Federal and State Housing authorities has only resulted in the building of 12,000 dwellings a year.

This means that 70,000 approved applicants appeal in vain to the Federal and State Governments to have their housing needs satisfied. Or, on the basis of four to a family 280,000 people are affected.

In N.S.W. the number of approved applicants has for years been between 34,000 and 40,000 and at June, 1965, the number of applications on hand was 35,219.

During the year ended June, 1965, the N.S.W. Housing Commission built a record number of dwellings—a mere total of 5,482.

That was out of a total number of 35,219 applicants on hand. To continue—

A very sorry record indeed!

At this rate it will take the commission upwards of seven years to satisfy the current applicants alone.

This is exactly what is happening with the State Housing Commission in Western Australia. It has 5,700-odd applicants approved for home purchase in this State, but at present it is housing in the vicinity of only 730 to 760 families a year; and again it will be another seven or eight years before the lag is taken up. To continue—

And it should be remembered that the Commonwealth Government determines the amount of money to be advanced and that for every \$1 advanced the Commonwealth gets \$2 back—a lucrative business.

The question arises as to what should be done?

The starting point, as the Unions see it—

And after all is said and done it is the members of the union who belong to the low income group to which this report is referring. The report continues—

—is for the Federal and State Governments to join forces to vigorously attack the problem of satisfying the people's housing needs.

We believe that there should be a vigorous Government home building programme, designed to provide good housing at low cost to the people.

The Government home building programme should be brought into healthy competition with private enterprise.

The rental rebate system should be re-introduced, interest rates should be reduced to not more than 3 per cent. and Crown land should be released at low prices with necessary safeguards against speculation.

Those are measures essential to bring housing within the economic reach of the people.

If these things were done there would be a general reduction in the capital and annual cost of housing.

In addition, the Unions have called for—

An immediate doubling of the finance allocation under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement.

This is what I have worked for and spoken about for years. Continuing—

Banks should maintain a high level of lending for home building.

A special loan should be floated to provide money for Housing Co-operatives.

Price control should be imposed on all materials required for housing.

Price control should be imposed on the price of land.

Land speculation should be controlled and no-deposit land

should be available to home builders.

Home purchasers and tenants should be protected against dis-possession or eviction when they fall into arrears because of sickness or unemployment.

Slum clearance should be carried out in the inner suburban areas and higher density housing developed in the reclaimed areas thus mitigating the sprawl, reducing the strain on transport and services and saving the fares and travelling time of workers.

The Trade Unions seek and welcome the support of other sections of the community for the achievement of their Housing Policy and Programme, a policy and programme designed to contribute a solution to the Australian housing problem.

It is my belief, and has been for a long time, that the loan council meeting each year at which the Premiers of the various States put up a fight for loan moneys, and at which they are given a certain amount by the Federal Treasurer to be spread over the six States, is unrealistic in relation to housing so far as the State and the Commonwealth are concerned.

As I said in the earlier part of my speech it is just as uneconomical for pensioners to occupy hospital beds when they could be treated at home. This could be possible if the Commonwealth was prepared to have another look at the position and formulate some further plan.

I have been reading some answers to questions which were asked in this House earlier in the session, and despite the fact that the Minister says about \$22,000,000 has been spent over a given period whereas only so much was spent in 1959, the fact still remains that after the Minister for Mines became Minister for Housing the number of houses built by him in his first year of office, after taking over from the previous Government, diminished greatly and continued to diminish; and this despite the fact that we have a population which is increasing every year. In spite of all this we are told by Mr. Heitman tonight that the State is really going ahead.

I think it is well worth reading a letter which appeared in last night's issue of the *Daily News* from a gentleman in Hamilton Hill in which he said—

#### Housing Difficulties in W.A.

The Housing Minister tells us a housing crisis doesn't exist here. I presume he speaks from personal experience, but he doesn't say how long he has tramped round the estate agents looking for a house.

Sure, there are plenty of houses to rent or buy, but you must have at least \$2,000 if you want to buy one and must hide your children in the bush if

you need to rent one—assuming, of course, you are able to afford the ex-orbitant rents asked.

I agree with what Mr. Clive Griffiths said about the flats which are being built not being able to house families, and that the rents are too high for a man who is drawing \$56 a week. To continue with the newspaper extract—

In September, last year, the State Housing Commission told me they were housing applicants from April, 1965. Last week I again inquired and was told they were housing applicants of May, 1965—one month's advance in almost a year, which is pathetic.

I cannot agree with him more, because we have the Minister's figures in *Hansard*. To continue—

At that rate I should be at the top of the list in 1971. God help the many thousands below me on the list.

I now know what they mean by a State on the move. It's all those people looking for somewhere to live.

I do not think any of us would wish to smile at that letter, because I am sure Ministers are as concerned as I am about the housing position. Would it not be possible, under this new housing insurance policy, for the Federal Government to make a greater advance available to the State for, say, even three years, to give it an opportunity to take up some of this leeway? I have been in bed for three weeks, but many people have phoned me, giving me their file numbers, the dates of their applications, and the number of times they have applied for houses.

On one occasion I was able to supply one family with information, because it was given to me by the Parliamentary Liaison Officer, and I told them that 14 months would elapse before they could get a house. Twentyfour months have passed since then, and the family in question has received a letter telling them that there is no chance of their getting a house before March or April of next year.

It is not good enough that a member of Parliament should be given information to the effect that people will be eligible for a home in 14 months, and then for them to be told by the Housing Commission two years later that it will be another seven or eight months before they will qualify for a home.

I know it to be quite true that one of the problems the Housing Commission is up against is the fact that it has to make available out of its meagre funds housing for migrants who have not been in this State six months; and yet there are people who have been applying for houses for the last 2½ years. I want to reiterate that it is for purchase homes that people are having to wait such inordinately long periods. Some people who wish to own their own homes find it necessary to pay \$2,500 and more to buy a block of land on which to build, and having paid that amount for a

block they find that the Housing Commission cannot help them. Quite apart from the people who are earning \$55 a week, there are those who earn \$60 a week and are thus outside the Housing Commission scheme altogether. They cannot be provided with homes, and they cannot get sufficient money to pay the deposit required by banks and building societies. We all know that at least 20 per cent. is required.

I am not blaming the Minister as a person, or the members of Cabinet as persons, but I am blaming the Government for trying to tell the people that everything is hunky-dory so far as the State's housing position is concerned; when the Government knows that it is as worried about the situation as we are.

While I was in London I wanted to record my vote for the Federal referendum and I found my name was not on the roll. But because I had a certificate from this Parliament, and because I had a passport my vote was accepted. I have received two letters since I have come home, and they are both asking me why I have not voted. Both these letters are addressed to Frederick Richard Lewis. If it is not possible for the Government to keep a check on one person, how can it be possible for it to check the wants of thousands of people who are seeking homes in Western Australia?

**THE HON. G. E. D. BRAND** (Lower North) [7.58 p.m.]: I, too, would like to congratulate Mr. Willmott on the interesting manner in which he moved the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech on opening day. I heartily agree with the motion and support it. I would also like to say how sorry I am to hear that Mr. Ray Jones is still ill. I do not know how long it will be before he is back with us, but I am sure we all wish him the very best in the future.

In speaking to the Address-in-Reply this evening I propose to do something that I have never heard done in this place before; I propose to thank the Ministers for what they have done for me in regard to requests made during the year. Those who have not done anything for me have the nicest way of saying, "No." After the next elections the Lower North Province will comprise 463,000-odd square miles. I should have more problems than a centipede with a bunion on each leg.

I wish to deal with two or three problems this evening. First of all, I would like to thank the Premier for his assistance and support during the year in parts of the Lower North Province. He has always been willing to assist when asked, and sometimes when not asked. I will keep mainly to the Ministers in this House. I wish to thank the Leader of the House (The Hon. A. F. Griffith) for his support in all mining activities around Kalgoorlie, part of which is still in my province but

will not be later on. We are all thrilled at the luck and good fortune of the Western Mining Corporation in regard to the nickel areas at Kambalda. On behalf of the people there it is necessary for me to thank the Government which will, with assistance from the Western Mining Corporation, build a bituminised road. This was in the news this morning. I went through the area last Sunday, and it is a nice drive and should attract a large number of tourists to both Kambalda and Kalgoorlie in the future.

I would like to thank Mr. Charles Court (Minister for Industrial Development and Minister for the North-West) for his helpful actions over the past year; and also thank his two officers (Mr. Fletcher and his offsider, another Mr. Brand) for relieving the doubts, dangers, and difficulties which have confronted me from time to time. I have often phoned Mr. Sam Fletcher and he has been most helpful.

I come now to Mr. Lewis who has two portfolios, one being Education, which is difficult, and the other being Native Welfare, which is indeed very hard to administer. It is encouraging to know that some people in the native community are willing to help each other. We have a dogger in Kalgoorlie (Mr. J. Sullivan) who has approached the Western Mining Corporation asking for some land near the Kalgoorlie reservoir. This land was offered by the superintendent of the Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie, and all that has to be done is to raise the finance necessary to erect a building.

Mr. Sullivan, who is of native blood, feels that with assistance, some of the natives can help other natives in connection with hygiene and general cleanliness. They can also be taught how to live properly and generally become acceptable citizens.

No doubt members have all heard that the Kalgoorlie council recommended handing over the Victoria Park to the Little Sisters of the Poor. The natives are going to miss this place, because they have been using the park for a long time. However, I do not wish to dwell too long on that topic; that part of Kalgoorlie does not concern me it being in someone else's electorate.

I would like to thank the Minister for Lands (Mr. Bovell). As members know, in Carnarvon we have had many housing problems over a long period as it is a town that does not lend itself to building. There are three main areas which were recommended by the Lands Department for housing settlements. The Lands Department seems to be keen on an area at Brown Range, some four miles out of Carnarvon, near the tracking station. However, it is hot, very dusty in the summertime, and wet in winter. It is no good at all. The Premier arranged for the Minister for Lands, and a subcommittee

from Cabinet to go to Carnarvon this year and consult with the council. Being a worth-while council, it agreed to the Morgan Town site. That is a step in the right direction.

For a place as big as Carnarvon has become, housing is a great problem. In the future a potash firm will commence work at Carnarvon and the Mayor of the town (Mr. Wilson Tuckey) persuaded those responsible to let the employees live in the town instead of at the site. This will help the people of Carnarvon, provided those employees are able to obtain land for houses. We are looking forward to a bright future there.

The Lands Department has been maligned for a long time about being slow in regard to one thing and another; but anyone who is worried about the Lands Department needs only to pay a visit to Carnarvon to see what activities are going on. I am sure none of us could do any better than that department is doing, even if we tried. I would like to thank the officers for what they have done at Carnarvon.

I must thank Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Works) for the heartening answer he gave last week to a question concerning the damming of the Gascoyne River. It is to be hoped that something will be done in the near future. I had one rather outrageous thought that it would not be a bad idea to pipe from Millstream Station, approximately 320 miles north, some of the water that is now going to waste. When C. Y. O'Connor suggested piping water to Kalgoorlie, a distance of nearly 400 miles, everyone said he was mad; so we might as well be in his company. It is a pity that this water, which I believe is excellent, is so far away.

I wish to thank Mr. Logan. He was a member of the Cabinet subcommittee that visited Carnarvon and was a wonderful help on that occasion. Although town planning is not one of my best subjects, I am sure Mr. Logan will be interested in the future of Carnarvon and other places.

The Minister for Police and Traffic (Mr. Craig) has a most charming way of saying "No." I do not think I have worried Mr. Craig very much. We all watch with interest the efforts of the Police Department and Mr. Craig in their endeavours to stop people from killing themselves and others. I do not think anybody has come up with the answer, but I feel that 95 per cent. of the trouble, whether it be speed or anything else, is caused by the incompetency of drivers. If some go too fast they cannot handle their vehicles; and the position is just the same with some who drive slowly. Perhaps our driving methods are out of date or are wrong. I do not think half of the drivers are careful

enough and half of the youths of today are really crazy.

The Hon. E. C. House: Have they become crazy since the beginning of the century?

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND: Last week we had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Ray O'Connor (Minister for Transport and Railways) to Leonora. The people there are extremely worried to say the least because they look like losing their railway line. I do not think this is as much a general problem as it is a psychological one. It was more or less stated by those in power at the time, that if the black road went through, the railway line would probably disappear soon afterwards. I do not know when that railway line was built, but Mr. G. Spencer Compton of Kalgoorlie stated in the Press that no railway could have been contemplated in 1893.

I think the railway was built in 1902. That line has seen a lot of work, but the tonnage has unfortunately dropped down to about 10,000 tons per month. Nevertheless, we hope the Minister will, in his wisdom, allow the line to operate for a little while longer. We are all aware of the remarkable mining activities throughout the area from the Warburton Range to the State border. Nobody expected Kambalda to be such a fine show, and we do not know what will be found in the north. If the Government can see its way clear to leaving the line there, I am sure the Minister will redeem himself in the eyes of the local people.

Since 1961, 625 people have left Leonora—more than half. If the town loses any more people, it will become more or less a ghost town. There will always be pastoral activity there. The electricity supply has just changed over from D.C. to A.C. power, with a \$24,000 subsidy from the Government. Some of the homes have been wired and some have not. This is because the people are not sure about what is going to happen up there.

If the line is discontinued transport will probably become the responsibility of a big firm in another town. People at Leonora will have no employment in the town and will leave and possibly seek work on the stations. Business places in the town will suffer; and I would not like to see either of the two hotels close down. Since 1961 Laverton, with a population of 209, has lost seven. The percentage of loss is 3.24. The population of Leonora is 616, and 625 people have left in the last five years, a loss of 53.6 per cent.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Laverton had a false figure while Hunt Oil were in the area.

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND: I suppose so. It looked rather good. Menzies used to have a population of 512, but this figure went down to 404, a loss of 108. The percentage of loss was 21.09. I hope the

Minister in his wisdom will leave the line where it is in order to see what will happen in 12 months' time so far as mining is concerned. After all, the railway is an amenity for the people, despite the fact that it is losing \$165,000 a year. That loss cannot all be attributed to the line.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You realise that lines cannot be removed until a Bill passes through Parliament. A line can be discontinued but not removed.

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND: I would like to commend the local railway retention committee on the manner in which it has put up its case. It made good reading, was quite sensible, and brought to bear the facts of the situation.

I had a letter from a friend in Sandstone in regard to the loss of the line from Mt. Magnet to Sandstone. He was not worried because everything was to be subsidised. The people there had a few grizzles, because sometimes they might order 20 tons of cement and get only five tons each week.

I would like to thank Mr. MacKinnon and his department for the attention given to affairs in my electorate. In the Shark Bay and Carnarvon areas people are busily engaged in the fishing industry. Unfortunately, things are not going too well at Shark Bay but I hope the committee which is there at present will find ways and means to assist the people concerned. There are plenty of fish but we have to find a way to treat them to provide employment and also to provide food for the people in the south.

I will return to the subject of tourism. As we know, Mr. Dick Burt, a member of the Legislative Assembly, and several people from around Laverton and Leonora went for a trip to Ayers Rock and Alice Springs. The intention was to survey a road through to the Alice with the idea of attracting tourists. Many miles could be cut off the trip to Darwin by travelling that route. A bugbear, of course, besides the condition of the roads, is the necessity to obtain permission to travel through the native reserves. As it is now, many extra miles have to be travelled to avoid the reserves.

The vehicles used on the trip were a new Ford Falcon sedan, a Holden station sedan, a Holden utility, and a four-wheel drive Nissan patrol vehicle. From letters written to the newspapers, I gather it is not a good idea to embark on this trip without advising someone when one is about to leave. Also, it is necessary to have a four-wheel drive vehicle. I have been to the Warburton Range myself, and I know that one has to make quite a run at some of the hills which are as high as the roof of this building. There are also numerous deep creeks. If any honourable member would like to read the story of the trip I have mentioned, I have some copies available.

The story is fairly complete and gives the names of the places visited. Lassiter's cave was visited, but no gold was found. However, no doubt there are many minerals in that area, as there appear to be in several other places in Australia. I will read a section of the account of the trip which might be of interest to members. It has been discussed in an interesting way. Some of the concluding remarks are as follows:—

It is felt that the tourist potential along the proposed route is enormous. The general feeling from people in authority on the Northern Territory side was most encouraging. There are several companies in Alice Springs that would like to bring their buses through now, but are prevented by the Native Welfare regulations concerning permits. This is a problem which must be overcome in both States before any consideration can be given for road construction.

Then it goes on to advise how much petrol to carry and where it is available. It also mentions where not to go. To continue—

A very important point to remember is that no matter how good the road may be, all travellers must be well equipped with sound vehicles, plenty of supplies and fuel, and if possible a radio transceiver.

If this area of Central Reserve is thrown open and a serviceable road constructed, there isn't any doubt that the resulting influx of tourists will give the Towns in the Eastern Goldfields a much needed economical boost.

Some time ago I received a request for assistance from a company in Leonora which is hoping to get permission to run a safari through the area. The man concerned is Mr. Bob Collard who has been through the area many times. He is a guide and he has the trip down to a fine art. I think he said that if the road was not serviced properly, it was not worth doing anything at all to it. However, the party to whom I have referred said that the surfacing of about 120 miles of the road would make it serviceable.

I have also read a letter to the Press from Mrs Joy Smith of Earahedy Station, Wiluna, and another from M. De Graaf of Wembley Downs advising people not to go to the area unless they were well equipped. One member of their party spent most of his time getting the other party out of bogs. They therefore warned people not to get themselves into trouble by travelling on that road.

On the 6th August last I went to the Fremantle Port Authority terminal to meet a ship—the *Castel Felice*. I had a very pleasant duty to perform—to meet Miss Bettyanne Hopkins who is Miss West Australia. She is a charming and beautiful girl, and I had to pick up some luggage

from her which she had brought back for another person. While carrying out this delightful task I met some people from the Spastic Centre and I learnt quite a few things which rather surprised me. As a result of meeting those people, today I had the honour of being shown over the Spastic Centre in Rookwood Street, Mt. Lawley.

Perhaps I am encroaching on Mrs. Hutchison's field, but it is a worthy one. I was rather amazed and shocked to see all the youngsters there, but I was heartened to see the treatment they were receiving. It was loving treatment and the youngsters were being well looked after. We are told that the brain acts like a switch and in the case of these kiddies the switch has not cut in. They cannot do anything to help themselves. Big children and small children are learning to crawl. Seeing that centre made me feel that anything we could do to assist by bringing it to the notice of the people of Western Australia should be done. The fact is that help is required. The Spastic Centre is assisted by the public and it does a wonderful job, but the more help we can provide the better.

The spastics' parents group was formed on the 22nd September, 1946, by a man named Joe Michell. I knew him in Kalgoorlie. His son was unfortunate enough to be afflicted with a cerebral palsy. That man did not bemoan his misfortune, but decided to do something about it. So the group was formed. It became an association in 1950 and the Sir James Mitchell school was commenced in February, 1950.

The treatment of spastics began in July, 1952, and one can imagine how much work went into the association in the early years. Its members had practically nothing to go on but now they have learnt a lot. I would again applaud the efforts of the people who help this association, and I wish them the best in the future.

In the other States, treatment is in the hands of voluntary organisations. For some reason I always imagined spastics were looked after by the Commonwealth Government. However, associations depend on public support. The service which is provided depends on the extent of public support and the number of patients seeking assistance.

Whilst in conversation with the staff I was told that the association acknowledged the sympathetic help provided by the Premier and the Minister for Health, and also by the Public Health Department. Assistance is also provided by members of the medical fraternity, and many other people. They are mostly those closely connected with spastic children. At the moment there are some 300 patients and each year there is an increment of 50 or 60 patients. Some of the duties undertaken are the diagnosis of patients, parent counselling, programming of treatment, and surgery, as well as other services.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Did you say they had 300 patients?

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND: Yes, 300, and each year there is an increment of 50 or 60. Also a vast amount of research is being carried out and this involves all branches of medicine. Cerebral palsy is not a disease; it is an injury to the brain—presumably sustained at birth. Perhaps our friend Dr. Hislop can put us right on that point.

The aim of the society is to prevent damage occurring in the first place. The society hopes, in the future, to have the treatment accepted by the Federal and State Governments. It approached Sir Robert Menzies and Mr. Harold Holt in this regard, but despite the good cases put forward it has not had much success as yet. The Governor-General (Lord Casey) is patron of the Federal organisation, and the officers of the local organisation, the Spastic Welfare Association of W.A., are—patron, Mr. A. F. Watts; president, Mr. Hugh Leslie; and chairman of the board of directors, Mr. Athol Gibson. These men are all well known Western Australian people.

All States have their own organisations and they have got together to form the Australian Cerebral Palsy Association. In this way they can now pool their ideas. One of the most unwelcome duties, of course, is to inform the parents of children that their babies are afflicted with this dreadful disease. However, usually the people concerned settle down and do not bemoan the fact. They carry on and try to give the children a chance.

I now come to the real reason for this exhortation. Some time ago members may have noticed from an article in the Press that Professor Hirotaro Narabayashi had visited Australia as part of a world tour and had spent five days in Perth during which time he gave three lectures. Whilst in Perth he was the centre of attraction for all neuro-surgeons and other interested medical people who, no doubt, listened very intently to his lectures.

It is surprising to know that there are approximately 10,000 spastic children in Australia, of whom about 2,000 would probably be suitable for successful treatment. As is probably known, Professor Hirotaro Narabayashi is a brain surgeon and, within 10 years, has built up a team of neuro-surgeons who are capable of performing this operation. The ambition of the Spastic Welfare Association is, of course, to establish a clinic in Perth with a sufficient number of surgeons adequately trained to carry out the operation in this city.

Several people have already been operated on, and over an article in one of our local newspapers on the 14th May last appears the heading, "He'll Shake Hands With The Boy He Cured." For those affected with the disability in this State that will be wonderful news and it is

certainly hoped he will be successful in attaining his objective. Unfortunately, only a certain proportion of the children affected by the disease can be treated, and when the professor visited Perth he did not begrudge the time he spent in examining thoroughly about 30 children with a view to selecting those whom he considered suitable to undergo the operation.

The operation itself is fairly costly, but I feel sure the people of this State who already contribute a great deal of money to the association would be only too willing to contribute additional funds so that the dream of a Western Australian clinic for the treatment of these children could be brought to fruition. In Perth we have surgeons who possess some knowledge of the operation and who have the ability to undertake further studies to operate successfully on selected patients.

It is considered that such medicos would require only a short period of training to familiarise themselves with the technique of the operation and so become proficient enough to carry out the work themselves. As can be imagined, neuro-surgeons are extremely busy people, but I am certain we will get the utmost support from them if a clinic is established in Perth. I believe it would be a feather in the cap of the Western Australian people if they were successful in having the first of such clinics established in this State.

In fact, the cost of equipment necessary for the operation is rather frightening. The equipment required includes a brain stimulator, an electro-encephalograph, an electro-myograph, and special surgical instruments. The cost of the best unit in the world at present is \$US.100,000, and the building will probably cost about \$40,000. It must be a special type of building. Surgeons selected to study under the Japanese professor and his team in Japan would train for about six to 12 weeks, depending on the personal ability of each surgeon in learning the techniques of the operation. Part of the operation is already being done in Western Australia in connection with treatment for Parkinson's Disease.

Professor Hirotara Narabayshi has offered to donate the special surgical instrument, a stereotactic, required for the operation. This gives some indication as to how keen he is to have a clinic established in Perth. Finally, I would point out that the cost of the operation is \$US.2,400, plus the cost of the fares to transport the patient for treatment. It is known that one child from Western Australia has already been taken to his clinic in Japan for treatment and two have been sent from Tasmania. There is another spastic child living in a suburb of Perth but the parents do not have the finance to pay for the transport of the child to the clinic and the money necessary for the operation.

It is to be hoped that, eventually, a fund will be established, with the help of sym-

pathisers, charitable organisations, business organisations, and newspaper appeals, so that these youngsters can be assisted. It is surprising that more is not done for them. There is one aspect of the work conducted by the organisation which draws my admiration and for which I offer my congratulations. When native children who are educated in the various missions throughout the State finish their schooling they are sent out to fend for themselves, but with children suffering from cerebral palsy, even those whose parents have passed on, it is most commendable to find that the association still continues with the treatment of them by sending them to suitable centres within the organisation. I conclude with the hope that we can look forward to your moral, spiritual, and financial blessing on this project, Mr. Deputy President (The Hon. N. E. Baxter).

**THE HON E. C. HOUSE** (South) [8.36 p.m.]: I, too, would like to express my sympathy to those members who, unfortunately, have suffered sickness, and my remarks apply not only to the members of this Chamber but also to those in another place. It is with deep regret that we noted the death of one of the members of another Chamber as a result of an accident. I am pleased to see Mr. Lavery present in the Chamber. Obviously he has made a fairly rapid recovery because not only has it been possible for him to attend the Chamber this evening, but also he has been able to contribute to the debate.

I think all members would agree that most of the speakers to date have been extremely interesting, and some of the subjects they have chosen have given all of us something to think about. In this regard I would also like to congratulate Mr. Willmott on the subject matter of his opening speech; namely, timber and reforestation. For many years in the timber industry a royalty of only 80c a loading has been paid for timber that has been cut under Forests Department instructions.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: It was only 50c until quite recently.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: Yes, that is so. Even at the present rate the royalty does not seem to be very great considering the boom the timber industry is experiencing at the moment. I do not suppose there is any secondary industry in the State that is enjoying such a period of prosperity as is the timber industry. The demand for all types of timber is very keen and supplies can be obtained only at a premium. Therefore I cannot see any reason why the royalties per load could not be increased to keep pace with the increased costs everyone is experiencing in all types of industry.

Whilst speaking of timber and forestry development, I would like to advocate the establishment of a forestry nursery in the Esperance area. In the first instance

millions of acres of that district were not covered with a great deal of big timber, and the small scrub with which the area was overgrown did assist to protect most of the country from serious sand erosion, and also prevented the destruction of crops and pasture from the action of the sand cutting through them.

If a line is taken due east from Lake King 50 miles past the rabbit-proof fence and north through to Forestania it will be found that there is some wonderful country in this area. Obviously this land will be thrown open very shortly for agricultural production. I cannot see any reason why it should not be, because it has the appearance of country capable of good production. It is land people would be desirous of selecting.

When allocations of this country are made, bulldozers will be operating in the area in the same way as they have right throughout the State, destroying timber and forests which afford protection and which are a haven for birds. This clearing work is going ahead at a tremendous pace and therefore I feel certain the establishment of a forestry nursery somewhere in the Esperance district would have a great appeal, because people would be conscious of its existence and would be encouraged to develop an interest in such work. Strangely enough, although the land in that district did not have any heavy timber originally, it seems to be quite suitable for the planting of pines or eucalypts, and they develop very rapidly.

When one visits the plains about 50 miles north of Marseilles in France, one finds that most of the areas there are as bare as a bitumen road. In one of the districts the people have planted pencil pines on five-acre plots and inside these sheltered boundaries there are cattle, sheep and lush pastures. This is entirely due to the protection these trees give against the high winds experienced on those plains.

In this State the bulldozer is a comparatively new innovation, but it has wreaked great havoc in many of our agricultural areas and we will need to take steps to plant trees in the near future to replace those that have been torn down.

I would like to support those speakers who have advocated the introduction of a veterinary school at the Western Australian University. I do not want to reiterate all they had to say, because they have made some very good points on this subject, but there is no doubt it is most essential we should be training these men in Western Australia instead of importing them from the Eastern States.

Further, those young men who have decided to take the course of veterinary science should not be experiencing the difficulty they are having in trying to enter universities in the Eastern States, particularly the Queensland University. At the recent farm management conference held

at Katanning, one of the chief veterinary surgeons in this State was asked if it would be better to withdraw all the field veterinary surgeons and employ them on research work, and he replied in the affirmative.

This indicates, quite positively, that we are extremely short of veterinary surgeons, because no doubt a great need exists for veterinary surgeons in the field. If our leading veterinary surgeons in this State are of the opinion we are short of veterinary surgeons for research we must be short of men in both fields. On the present figures, there are 24,500,000 sheep and approximately 1,285,000 cattle throughout the State. By 1973, in the Albany zone alone—that is, in the Esperance, Lake Grace, Dumbleyung, Wagin, West Arthur, Bridgetown, and Manjimup Shires, and in parts of the Upper Blackwood Shire—it is expected there will be an additional 21,500,000 sheep and 530,000 head of cattle. This is expected in one small, lower section of the State. In other words, in about six years' time, in that area alone, there will be the same number of sheep and nearly half the number of cattle we now have throughout the State.

This means we will need more veterinary surgeons to attend to the increased stock numbers. The figures I have given are based on two sheep to the acre, but most of this country is capable of carrying more than that. Very little of the country in the southern part of the State does not carry more than two sheep to the acre, and the number can and does go up to four, five, and six sheep to the acre. Therefore the figures which I have given are very conservative. Providing we can breed the stock, additional research and general field work will have to be made available.

Last Sunday my dog suffered a heart attack, and although I had to drive 80 miles it was very pleasant to know that I could get it to a veterinarian to receive treatment and hospitalisation. Many dogs are valuable, and their owners appreciate the fact that a veterinary surgeon is close by.

It takes five years to train a veterinary surgeon, and if a scheme were implemented now the present trainees would only then be available at the time when the high peak in stock numbers is expected to be reached. With the concentration of sheep in bigger numbers, more and worse diseases will be introduced, not only from overseas but also from the Eastern States. I realise the cost factor is one of the major reasons for people rejecting this idea. I believe it takes up to \$24,000 to maintain a student at the University, and that does not take into account the cost of setting up an animal hospital. When one refers to the costs one must take into consideration the economics of the scheme and assess the gains to the State, as well as the need for animals to receive proper attention. I have made



these comments in support of the remarks of those who have advocated the establishment of these centres.

In Melbourne a training scheme was inaugurated in the early 1900s, but it ceased to function in the 1930s. It has just been recommenced. A similar scheme has started operating in New Zealand. That shows that in other places the need for such training services is recognised.

Mr. Heltman referred to the prosperity and to the lucrative experiences of the farmers in his portion of the State. They have been very fortunate, because they have had a series of good seasons. If we look at the map it shows the research stations of this State are concentrated in the upper part, where modern plant breeding facilities and advisers have been made available, and where experiments are being conducted all the time.

Of the research stations, there is not one inside the 20-inch rainfall area, and that area takes in a large part of the south-west corner of the State. Even Esperance, where there is a research station, is outside the 20-inch rainfall area and is between the 15-inch to 20-inch line, and this station does not serve the parts of the State in which research into new varieties of wheat, barley, and oats should be undertaken. We have to rely on the research on wheatbelt wheats which have to be sown in the excessively wet seasons and in wet areas; these varieties are drought resistant and quick maturing, but do not thrive in the lower part of the State.

The old varieties such as Nabawa, Ben-cubbin, and Bungulla, which gave wonderful yields almost State-wide, have given way to newer ones. The same applies to oats and barley. If we go through the list of the varieties of oats recommended by the Department of Agriculture we will find mainly two or three which are advocated for the whole of the productive area of the State. The same applies to barley, and when summer rains are experienced it turns black. There is not a variety that is suitable for growing in the 20 to 30-inch rainfall area. We are in great need of research stations to cater for this demand.

I am leaving out the research stations which have been advocated to conduct experiments on cattle, and which were mentioned by Mr. McNeill. I support his remarks. I believe that research stations should be established every 75 to 100 miles from the north to the south of the State. When we get into the 20 to 30-inch rainfall area we find the oestrogen content clovers are dominant. Once again, as with the grains, we experience problems with sheep, and intensive research should be undertaken to solve them.

In the Mt. Barker area the Pardelup Prison Farm is located, and bounding it there are 6,000 to 8,000 acres of good to bad forest country held by the Forests Department. Here is a wonderful opportunity

to utilise land, to clear it progressively, to use it for research, and to use prison labour to help in this direction. Instead of building a costly brick structure at some other centre, this farm could be made to provide a full occupation for the majority of the prisoners. Although we realise that people who have been sentenced to prison should be confined, none of us likes to see them being given a type of solitary confinement under very drab conditions, as exists at the Fremantle Gaol.

The Pardelup Prison Farm could be made to pay for itself, and if it was worked properly it would cost the State very little. The land and the buildings are available, and by combining these with the prison labour we could create an asset for the State and at the same time help towards the rehabilitation of the prisoners.

I would like to say a few words about the unfortunate position in which the wool industry is placed. This is causing much concern to woolgrowers, and no one seems to be able to come up with a satisfactory answer. The wool trade is very involved, and it contains some facets and complexities which present difficulties in setting up a system to satisfy everyone.

There are advocates in defence of the auction system, but I cannot see it as a true auction system, despite the fact that bids are made and the hammer is used. The prices are fixed a week and sometimes a fortnight before the auction takes place, and therefore it is not a genuine auction.

The time is ripe for the introduction of a wool appraisal scheme. Such a scheme would be as acceptable as any other to the woolgrowers. One was introduced in the war period and it worked very well. The recent proposal for the fixing of a minimum price for wool was rejected by the majority of woolgrowers, although not by the majority in this State. In view of the experience of New Zealand it might be thought there is some justification for its rejection. New Zealand is in the unfortunate position of having last season's wool and having this season's wool as well to be disposed of at a low price.

If we could fix a price at the beginning of each year by mutual agreement between the grower, the manufacturer, and the retailer, it would be as near as we could get to an average price system. No manufacturer can stand the violent fluctuations that take place during each season under the wool auction system as it exists.

Here I would like to quote an example of the sale of Sarawak and Borneo softwoods in the 1950s, when the wood was sold by auction at about 18s. per 100 running feet. At that time Czechoslovakian and European softwood was selling at a fixed price of 22s. per 100 running feet. The Chinese got control of the

Sarawak market and cut the price to 14s., and from that it fluctuated to 15s. and 17s. The British manufacturers said if the price of the Sarawak softwood could not be fixed they would buy on the European and Czechoslovakian markets at 22s., because they had to go to their bankers and arrange for millions of pounds to buy the wood and they must know the final price of the article in order to budget accordingly. I suppose the same applies to the sale of wool.

The cost of the article when it reaches the retailer must be known. However, there is more to it than that. One could question the quality and the price of woollen articles which are sold, but at this stage I do not want to go into that aspect. I have some figures which came out only last month, and they refer to wool exports from Australia as a whole from 1950 to 1960. The exports in the 1959-60 period amounted to \$772,000,000. In 1966-67 they were \$810,000,000.

Our total exports in 1959-1960 were \$1,875,000,000, and in 1966-67 they were \$3,000,000,000. The prices fluctuated from 1959-60 at 48c down through 43c, 45c, 49c, 58c, 48c, and 46c; and the number of sheep has risen from 151,000,000 to 164,000,000. The cost index which is taken on a five-year average up to 1950, and equalling 100 on goods and services purchased by wool has gone from 219 to 261.

It is rather interesting to note, too, that exports of wool, wheat, meat, and sugar amounted to 66 per cent. of our total exports in 1963-64 and dropped progressively each year until this year they will barely make up 50 per cent. of the total exports.

When I gave those figures of the average price for wool throughout the season I have no doubt most members will have in mind what they read in this morning's paper. It is reported there that it is now down to 38c, which is a drop of nearly 10c in the 12 months. That means a good deal of money to the wool industry. The price has gone down from \$154 a bale to \$124 a bale and one cannot help but feel that with the rising costs and the fall in profit, there is no incentive for farmers to develop their farms in the way they desire. The situation is even more disastrous when we realise that 1,000,000 acres of land are being opened up each year and those concerned are relying to a great extent on the wool to keep them going.

The wool industry has contributed a great deal to the Australian economy over the years, although it may be falling in importance in some ways now. However, it still indirectly employs a tremendous amount of labour and is responsible for a big turnover in manu-

factured goods. I cannot help but feel that those in the farming sphere are in a serious situation because, not only have costs risen and the prices for commodities fallen, but also last year taxation was increased in many ways, including stamp tax and road maintenance tax. Although I am not running them down or criticising them in any way, added to the other factors I have mentioned, these taxes do place the farmer in a bad position.

I think we would be in a better position if we had the right type of farm advisers. At the moment we are importing them into this State and they are at a premium. At present there are about 60 but there is a demand for approximately 100 more. We are virtually scraping the bottom of the barrel to meet the requirements and consequently we are not getting the most experienced or the best qualified advisers. Often young lads from the University are appointed before they have finished their course and they are being offered almost incredible salaries to take up the position despite the fact that they have had no practical experience. I do pay tribute to Dr. Schapper for the work he has done in this field.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Hear, hear!

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: He has the practical experience and not just the theoretical background to help him in what he is doing, and he has put a tremendous amount of time into his work. To set up a training unit at our University would cost the Government in the vicinity of \$12,000 a year over five years. The Reserve Bank has promised to lend \$30,000 to the University for this purpose so it must recognise the need for these advisers. However, apparently the Government does not seem to be in agreement. I can assure the Government that these men, provided they are good, can lift a farmer's income by 20 to 25 per cent. by general economics and advice on the right equipment, and so on. On the other hand, the inexperienced man can send a farmer broke. I would commend this project to the Government and appeal to it to do something to instigate this training school and back up Dr. Schapper in the work he is doing.

Finally I would like to say a few words on the present controversial subject of accommodation for school teachers in country areas. I think we ought to be fair when assessing this problem and realise that the Government Employees' Housing Authority only began its operations in August, 1965, and at that time it took over a large number of houses. I do not know how many it had at first but I do know it has 624 at present under its jurisdiction. Of that 624, a large number were houses which it took over at the beginning and many of them were suffering from serious neglect and required a great deal of renovation and upgrading generally.

One of the purposes of setting up the authority was to allow it to have its own borrowing powers so that it could borrow in the loan field and also engage in private borrowing, in addition to being allotted Government grants. Now, of course it is allowed to borrow up to \$300,000, which is an increase on the previous \$200,000 and this should help considerably. In the houses which were taken over by the authority, 190 hot water systems have been installed at a cost of \$350 each, and 55 have been provided with garages. The total cost of hot water systems, flyscreens, garages, and so on has so far been \$158,231. The provision of furniture, lino, and other necessities for the interior of the houses has involved another \$69,308. In addition to this expenditure, \$50,000 has been spent on general maintenance such as painting and other repairs.

We can gauge some of the progress the authority has made by the amount of money it has spent. In the first year, 1964-65, it had \$200,000. In 1965-66 the amount was \$350,000; that is, both loan and private borrowing. In 1966-67 the amount was \$485,000; while in 1967-68 it is anticipated that it will have \$600,000. Therefore one can only give credit to the authority for the progress it has made since its inception. It could not set the world on fire the first year, but we can see by what it has done already that it is going to make a tremendous difference to the school teacher accommodation, because a problem does exist in this direction: there is no question about that.

The authority also provides accommodation for all Government employees except those connected with the Main Roads Department, the Forests Department, and the Railways Department. Of the 23 houses it built or bought in 1965-66, 13 were allotted to teachers. Of the 50 available in 1966-67, 29 were provided for teachers; and there are 20 under construction already for 1967-68, and a further 43 programmed, and 35 of these will be for teachers. I believe that this rate of progress is fairly good considering the backlog and the expenditure which was required on the old houses as well as the money necessary for the building of new ones.

No preferences are to be given in regard to teacher accommodation. Almost half is to be provided for single teachers and half for married quarters, so the Education Department has recognised the need for the single-teacher units.

Shortage of land in a number of these country shires is holding up some of the programmes. It is astounding to realise the number of towns in which there is very great difficulty in finding suitable building blocks big enough for the units. A six-single-teacher unit I think needs two blocks together.

There is certainly a problem in regard to accommodation in the country. It is

not very pleasant for parents of daughters straight out of training college, because they know that their daughters must search in the town to which they are appointed in order to find someone with whom to board, and then it is nearly always with people of whom the parents have no real knowledge.

This problem was discussed on a TV programme the other day and teachers highlighted the accommodation problem. One must bear in mind of course that the teachers are themselves partly to blame for some of the conditions under which they exist. They must be held partly responsible for the lack of accommodation in country towns. Shire councils which would, in most cases, have been quite willing to raise loans and build single accommodation, have been reluctant to do so after having seen what some of the tenants do. Certain tenants show no consideration for the buildings in which they are living. It is one of those cases where if the person does not own the building, he takes no care of it.

Another point is that a number of the teachers are willing to live in sheds, in some cases, or any old accommodation they can find provided they can get it for \$1 a week. Until the Teachers' Union is willing to agree that the teachers will use the accommodation provided and will pay a rent, provided it is economic, then we must continue to experience this problem. However it could be wiped out overnight. The Government Employees' Housing Authority, if a town is known to have poor accommodation for single teachers and the number requiring accommodation is large enough, will build the flats on a priority basis.

This is much more preferable from a shire's point of view, because it does relieve it of maintenance and rent collection for which, under that one proposal, there is no responsibility at all to the shire. In most cases, at this stage the housing authority is only providing accommodation for families. This, of course, will alter as more and more of these units are built. The rent of these housing authority units is very reasonable. The duplex flats work out per person at \$4 for the building and \$1.50 for all the furnishings and fittings which are complete except for bedding and linen. They are very well fitted out with blinds, curtains, lino, washing machine, troughs, a fridge, and, in fact, the whole box and dice. At that rent there should be no reason why people should not take advantage of it.

There is another proposition and, that is, if a shire council can have the Education Department recognise the need for this single or married accommodation in a town, it can then raise a loan which the housing authority will amortise over 45 or 53 years under its long-term borrowing powers and only that amount in amortisation will be paid. A shire's bor-

rowing power is limited to shorter terms than 45 or 53 years, but at the end of the period of the shorter loan, the shire council can raise another loan to pay for the balance of the existing loan and to continue the loan on. Therefore, virtually the amount is covered from the amortisation of the Government housing authority over the full period of the time of 53 years. This obviates any need of subsidy by the shire council.

The only difference between this proposition and the first one is that the council is responsible for the maintenance and the rent. Many shire councils have passed the responsibility to a committee from the parents and citizens' association which acts as the rent collector and insists on a deposit when the teacher goes into the accommodation. This deposit is required against any excess damage which may occur in the year. The system has worked very well. Where shire councils wish to provide accommodation for all single people, who are not necessarily school teachers, they have to raise their own loans on their own amortisation. The Superannuation Board has been about the only source which offers a term of 30 years, which does cut the rent down considerably. Once again, the parents and citizens' association acts as the rent collector and first preference is given to teachers. The rents in these cases must be kept at about \$6; otherwise it does not seem to work.

The fourth point is to try to encourage the private builders to build flats in the towns. I have questioned some of the builders who have done this and they are charging about \$6 a week per person for four units which accommodate eight people. They say they are making 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. on their outlay of capital, which is quite a good return, and it serves a dual purpose in that the builder properly obtains other contracts in the town, because people know he is trying to help the area in which he is living. There really should be no problem with this single-teacher accommodation. It should be solved very quickly with a little co-operation on all sides.

Finally, I would very quickly like to emphasise, as I think has been done before in this House, the need for some better means of providing housing on conditional purchase blocks. In one little group alone, we have 33 occupants on the blocks and only two have houses. These people have young families, because it is mostly young people who are allocated these blocks today, and it will be many years before they are able to build accommodation in their own right as their funds naturally are limited. They borrow as much as they possibly can in order to proceed with the development of their properties.

I would suggest it will be many years before they can get around to providing the actual capital on a short-term basis for a house. With the price of land the

way it is there seems to be no reason why initially the interest and sinking fund on a loan for a house could not be incorporated into the conditional purchase rental over the acreage of the block itself.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: A very good suggestion.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: It is most important in any project today that the wives are treated with as much consideration as possible, because they play equally as important a part as they always have done in helping to develop a farm. Without that support and a general feeling of security and comfort, it does not make for harmony in the household.

I do not think I will say any more on that subject. We are not happy with the inability of people on conditional purchase blocks to borrow money for housing from practically any source at all. One only has to go around amongst the people who are working this land to see them living in sheds with their very young families in order to realise what they are putting up with in their keenness and desire to own a plot of farming land. There seems to be no good or just reason why finance could not be provided in some way in order to allow them to have a modest kind of unit. It could be one which is pre-cut and which simply could be erected on the site and removed if necessary.

The people themselves are very happy to have this land. They are doing a good job, but it would be an added consideration and help to them to get on with their work if they had better living accommodation. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. H. C. Strickland.

*House adjourned at 9.24 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 15th August, 1967

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### QUESTIONS (36): ON NOTICE POLICE

#### *Antique Firearms: Amending Legislation*

1. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Police:

Is it intended to introduce legislation this session for the purpose of amending the Firearms and Guns Act in order to provide for the issue of licenses to *bona fide* collectors of antique firearms?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

This matter is at present under review.