

amendment which I propose. The names of the persons who come readily to mind after reading through the names of those present at this conference are as follows:—

Dr. Rutherford T. Johnston, M.D.—Consultant in Industrial Medicine, University of California.

Seward E. Millard, M.D.—Director of Industrial Health, University of Michigan.

H. O. Jacobs, M.D., M.R.C.P.—Specialist Physician, Pneumoconiosis Bureau.

If more than one specialist physician were appointed, he could be accompanied, perhaps, by—

J. S. Harrington, Bachelor of Science, Ph.D.

Those two men together would make an excellent combination of specialist physicians. I propose to hand over this journal to the Minister at the conclusion of my speech so that he may peruse it at his leisure. I am merely suggesting the names of those men who, I feel sure, would be of real assistance to us.

#### *Amendment to Motion*

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I move—

That all words in the motion after the word "That" be deleted and the following words substituted:—

this House requests the Government to appoint a Royal Commissioner (or Commissioners) with extensive overseas experience of the diagnosis of pneumoconiosis, and compensation of workers afflicted with pneumoconiosis, to inquire into the bases of diagnosis of pneumoconiosis, and compensation of workers afflicted with pneumoconiosis in Western Australia, and make any recommendations deemed necessary as a result of the investigation which should cover medical conditions associated with, and, or, subsequent to, affliction with pneumoconiosis.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines).

*House adjourned at 9.21 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 9th October, 1962

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

## BILLS (11): ASSENT

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. Police Act Amendment Bill.
2. Pharmacy and Poisons Act Amendment Bill.
3. Pilots' Limitation of Liability Bill.
4. Child Welfare Act Amendment Bill.
5. Guardianship of Infants Act Amendment Bill.
6. Justices Act Amendment Bill.
7. Interstate Maintenance Recovery Act Amendment Bill.
8. Western Australian Marine Act Amendment Bill.
9. Metropolitan Market Act Amendment Bill.
10. Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act Amendment Bill.
11. Companies Act Amendment Bill.

## POTATOES

## Shipment to Asia: Personal Explanation

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [4.35 p.m.]: I desire to make a personal explanation in regard to some figures which I gave to the House last Thursday. I am reported in *The West Australian* of the 5th October as having said, amongst other things, that the Government should subsidise the shipment of Western Australian potatoes to Asian ports. The article reports that I stated as follows:—

The present freight rate of £20 a ton to Singapore was only about £7 less than the overall value of W.A. potatoes a ton.

I want to make it abundantly clear to the House that I am not claiming I was misrepresented in the newspaper report. It tallies substantially with what appears in *Hansard*. However, for the record, the true statement is this: Freights on potatoes: Colombo, 247s. per ton; Singapore, 229s. per ton; Mauritius, 360s. per ton; Hong Kong, 250s. per ton. The actual average return for the years 1956 to 1961 for potatoes in Western Australia was £28 15s. 7d. per ton for all grades, and not £27 9s. 7d. as indicated by me. I would appreciate it if this correction could be made in the proper quarters.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

## MOTOR DRIVER'S LICENSE

## Disqualification under Section 60 of Traffic Act

1. Mr. GUTHRIE asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Did he read an article appearing on page 1 of the issue of *The West Australian* newspaper dated the 2nd October, 1962, headed "Joy-ride Gang Dealt With"?

(2) If so, did he read a paragraph therein which stated (*inter alia*):

Under the Traffic Act a sixteen year old boy convicted on eight charges of having unlawfully used a motor vehicle will be disqualified from holding a motor driver's license for eight years"?

(3) If so, does he agree that this is an incorrect statement of the effect of section 60 of the Traffic Act?

(4) If the answer to No. (3) is "Yes," will he agree that the correct construction of the section applied to the offender mentioned in the quotation set forth in No. (2) is that the convicted boy will be debarred from holding any license to drive a motor vehicle for a period of fifteen years from the seventeenth anniversary of his birthday?

- (5) If the answer to No. (4) is "Yes," will he give consideration to the desirability of amending the provisions of section 60 of the Traffic Act to reduce the period of disqualification in circumstances similar to this case?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The quotation in No. (2) would not be incorrect as for a first offender, but the suspension date would commence as from the offender's seventeenth birthday.
- (4) The fifteen years' suspension would apply only if the offender had been convicted under the provisions of section 60 prior to committing the present eight offences. The date of suspension would commence as from the offender's seventeenth birthday or following the expiry date of the prior offence suspension (if any) whichever was the later date.
- (5) Explained by answer to question No. (4).

#### HANNAN STREET RAILWAY CROSSING

##### *Installation of Traffic Lights*

2. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) In respect of his answer to my question No. 14 on the notice paper of the 1st August, 1962, could he now indicate whether the deputy commissioner has given consideration to my comments made during the Supply Bill debate of the 31st July?
- (2) If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes," what action is contemplated with regard to the installation of traffic lights at the Hannan Street railway crossing at Kalgoorlie?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Further consideration which has been given this matter has confirmed the views previously expressed to the honourable member on the 1st August that the "Stop" signs meet the situation satisfactorily and the installation of flashing lights at this crossing is not warranted.

If the local authority desired the "Stop" signs removed, action in this regard would need to be initiated from that quarter for further consideration.

#### CIVIL SERVICE

##### *Three Weeks' Annual Leave: Government Decision*

3. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware—
  - (a) of reference to three weeks' annual leave on page 9 of the September issue of the *Civil Service Journal*;
  - (b) that the reference states it was hoped that the Government could apply itself to obtaining a decision on this issue as soon as the political situation was more stable?
- (2) As the Government was successful in winning the recent Bunbury by-election, does he now consider the political situation sufficiently resolved and stable to make an early decision on the subject of three weeks' annual leave?
- (3) If not, what other reason can he offer for the further deferment of this issue?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Answered by No. (2).

#### MILK: TESTING FOR SOLIDS-NOT-FAT

##### *Interest of Pure Bred Dairy Cattle Associations*

4. Mr. RUNCIMAN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the department of Agriculture any plan to test for solids-not-fat?
- (2) Is he aware that certain of the pure bred dairy cattle associations are anxious to take part in a S.N.F. testing scheme?
- (3) In view of the trouble that many farmers have in regard to S.N.F. at different times of the year, does the department consider that regular S.N.F. testing would be of assistance in overcoming this problem?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) A plan for solids-not-fat in pure bred herds is under consideration.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A testing scheme in pure bred herds would assist breeding programmes. A scheme for commercial herds is, at the moment, not practicable.

**HOUSING AT CARNARVON***Road Construction by Main Roads Department***5. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:**

- (1) Has the Main Roads Department completed the levelling, loaming, and road construction for the State Housing Commission on a subdivision south of McNish Street, Carnarvon?
- (2) If not, when will this work be completed?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Wild) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

**.SHIPPING SERVICE***Provision Between Fremantle and Esperance***6. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for the North-West:**

Has the Government given consideration to providing a coastal passenger-cargo service between Fremantle, Bunbury, Albany, and Esperance?

Mr. COURT replied:

No. There is insufficient traffic to warrant re-establishing a south coastal service to ports which enjoy regular rail services.

**SOUTH-WEST SPACE STATION***Site***7. Mr. HALL asked the Premier:**

- (1) Is he familiar with the article in the *Weekend News* of Saturday, the 15th September, 1962, headed "W.A. May Get Third U.S. Space Station—S.W. Site May Be Chosen"?
- (2) If so, has a site been selected; and, if so, where?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not to my knowledge.

**SUPERPHOSPHATE***Reduction in Price***8. Mr. MITCHELL asked the Minister for Agriculture:**

- (1) Is he aware that the price of superphosphate has been reduced by 30s. per ton in Victoria?
- (2) Will this mean a similar reduction in Western Australia?
- (3) If not, can he give any reason why the same reduction should not take place here?
- (4) Is it a fact that a co-operative company has been paying a rebate of 30s. per ton for some years in Victoria?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes. I have read a Press report that a Victorian company has reduced its list price by £1 10s., but I am advised that this will not lower the net cost to farmers. Formerly all Victorian companies paid rebates of approximately this amount at the end of the season, but now the list price has been amended the Victorian company has announced that a rebate will no longer be paid.
- (2) No. Superphosphate prices for Western Australia, including early delivery discounts of up to 20s. per ton, were announced in July.
- (3) There has been no change in costs since the Western Australian price was announced. The alteration in Victoria would seem to be mainly in invoicing with the elimination of the previous system of rebates.
- (4) Answered by No. (1).

**GRAPES FOR TABLE WINES***Growth in Lower Great Southern Area***9. Mr. MITCHELL asked the Minister for Agriculture:**

- (1) Is he aware that the Lower Great Southern area is stated to have the best prospects of growing grapes for the making of high-quality wines?
- (2) In view of the need to increase and improve our primary products, would he have investigations carried out with the object of encouraging this industry in that area?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) An American viticulturist who spent some months in this State suggested that—on the basis of climatic data—the Lower Great Southern could have possibilities for the growing of selected varieties of grapes for the production of high-quality table wines.
- (2) This matter is receiving consideration at the present time.

**TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD***Retention of Bets***10. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:**

- (1) As no time has been prescribed for the purposes of section 20 (1) (b) of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act, 1960, has the board retained bets lodged and received by it under section 20 (1) (a) of that Act and not transmitted them to a totalisator on a race-course within the State as required by section 20 (1) (a) of that Act?

- (2) If "Yes" to No. (1), then has the board formed a general opinion as to the circumstances in which it is impracticable for it to so transmit such bets, and if "Yes", then when was such opinion formed and how, and in what terms was such opinion recorded and what were the criteria of impracticability upon which such opinion was based?
- (3) If "No" to No. (2), then on what number of occasions and when has the board formed a particular opinion for the purposes of section 20 (1) (b) of the Act that it was impracticable for the board to transmit bets to a totalisator on a racecourse within the State and how and in what terms was each such opinion recorded and what were the criteria for impracticability sustaining the board's opinion in each case?
- (4) If the board has retained bets in purported exercise of its powers under section 20 (1) (b) of the Act, then will he inquire into the facts to ascertain whether the board has so retained bets on any occasion—
- without forming an opinion as required by that subsection; and
  - having formed an opinion as required by that subsection, and in each such case the criteria sustaining such an opinion;

and report to this House on the matters disclosed by such an inquiry?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- Yes. In answering this question in the affirmative it is pointed out that section 20 (1) (a) of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act 1960 merely makes it lawful for the board to accept bets and transmit such bets to a totalisator on a racecourse within the State.
- Yes. The opinion that it was impracticable to transmit all bets received to a totalisator on a racecourse was formed prior to the board first commencing operations on the 18th March, 1961. Such opinion was not recorded in any specific manner or based upon particular criteria of impracticability, apart from that which would naturally follow from the decision made to receive bets "up to the jump." In addition the board has sought to avoid "bearing" and "bulling" of the tote.
- Answered by No. (2).

- (4) No. Such an inquiry appears unwarranted as it follows that in "up to the jump" betting it is impracticable to transmit all bets received to the on-course totalisator and thus no separate opinion would be required relative to each race. In addition the board, whilst paying due regard to the cost factor, endeavours to place as many of the bets received as it possibly can on the on-course totalisator without unduly "bearing" the tote against on-course and off-course backers alike.

## ELECTRICITY: TIDE-POWER GENERATION

### *Investigations in North-West*

11. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for the North-West:

- Would he give early consideration to appointing a permanent "tidero"-electric section in his Department of the North-West with experts in hydraulics, electricity generation, and tidal habits to form a permanent basis of a future authority to make necessary surveys and conduct on-the-site investigations as to the exact possibilities of the various areas considered suitable for electricity generation purposes?

### *Establishment of Pilot Plant*

- Will he give consideration to making special representations to the Commonwealth Government for a financial grant specifically for the construction of a pilot plant for tide power electricity generation?

Mr. COURT replied:

- The appointment of a special section as suggested is considered premature, particularly as the Department of Public Works which normally undertakes this sort of work for the Department of the North-West has staff capable of undertaking much of the required work as the need arises.  
As previously announced, the Government is aware of the hydro-electric and tidal power possibilities in the Kimberleys both from local research and the interest of France Technique. A programme of basic surveys and gaugings in respect of tidal power is currently under consideration by Cabinet.  
The hydro-electric potential of rivers is a separate study and sufficient information is known to enable reasonably quick detailed assessment to be made if a prospective user is located.

- (2) The question of surveys has already been the subject of preliminary discussions with the Commonwealth. The construction of a pilot plant is not considered desirable or necessary at this juncture.

Overseas research and information on pilot plants are available to us. In addition, the first large-scale commercial plant is under construction in France and its operation can be assessed in relation to local conditions.

For the time being the important thing is gaugings and other survey information which are the essential preliminaries to more advanced work when the prospect of large-scale use becomes apparent.

### STATOR HOLDINGS LIMITED

#### *Establishment at Maddington*

12. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Will he advise whether any firm decision has been reached in connection with the establishment at Maddington of the German group manufacturing venture, Stator Ltd.?
- (2) As the three months granted this firm have now expired, what action is contemplated relative to the Canning Park racecourse?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) I undertook not to commit the former Canning Park racecourse at Maddington to another party for a period of three months to enable Stator Holdings Ltd. during this period to submit firm proposals for the use of the land. This period has now expired without any such proposals being submitted by this company.
- (2) The Government's intention for this area has always been development for industrial purposes. There has been no change in this policy.

### SWAN RIVER

#### *Dredging of Upper Reaches*

13. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has the work of dredging the Swan River in the upper reaches commenced?
- (2) If not, when will the work commence?
- (3) If so, what stage has been reached in the dredging?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Wild) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) Approximately 800 lineal feet of channel dredging has been completed upstream of the Garratt Road Bridge. Later this month a commencement will be made on dredging a section upstream of the West Midland swimming pool area.

### FRUIT-FLY INSPECTORS

#### *Applications for New Appointment*

14. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Were applications called for the appointment of a fruit-fly inspector during the last six months?
- (2) If so, how many applied?
- (3) Did the appointee have any experience in fruit-fly prevention?

#### *Training*

- (4) Are any classes held for training fruit-fly inspectors?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 51.
- (3) Yes — as a commercial fruit grower.
- (4) Newly-appointed inspectors receive a period of training in the various phases of their work.

### MILK: TESTING FOR SOLIDS-NOT-FAT

#### *Report on Milk Board Experiments*

15. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) On what date did he receive the report on the experiment carried out by the Milk Board into solids-not-fat?
- (2) What was the result of the feeding trials carried out on Skidmore's property at Coolup?
- (3) Is he satisfied that the control of solids by type of feeding is economical?
- (4) As dairymen generally are keen to know the result of the trials, will he lay the report on the Table without further delay?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The 31st July, 1962.
- (2) Improved milk production and quality.
- (3) When coupled with sound farm and herd management, nutrition is a major factor in milk quality.
- (4) The report is at present being re-drafted in a form suitable for publication by the board.

**GAMES VILLAGE***Itemised Cost of Houses*

16. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing: Respecting the Games Village, will he advise the actual and/or anticipated total cost of—
- (1) The actual construction of the houses;
  - (2) administration;
  - (3) architects' fees;
  - (4) architectural (additional to architects' fees);
  - (5) supervision;
  - (6) security;
  - (7) insurance;
  - (8) earthworks;
  - (9) garden development;
  - (10) garden attention (e.g., planting, watering, fertilising, cutting, etc.);
  - (11) installation of pumps and reticulation;
  - (12) roads;
  - (13) footpaths;
  - (14) kerbing;
  - (15) drainage;
  - (16) driveways;
  - (17) fencing;
  - (18) incidentals;
  - (19) any other costs?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The actual and/or anticipated cost to the State Housing Commission is—

- (1) £760,500.
- (2) £10,225.
- (3) £14,000—plus £5,295 for architectural prize money and competition expenses.
- (4) £4,513.
- (5) £7,632.
- (6) £200.
- (7) £2,800.
- (8) £10,475.
- (9) £4,500.
- (10) £3,500.
- (11) £19,500.
- (12) £25,000.
- (13) Nil.
- (14) Included in No. (12).
- (15) Included in No. (12).
- (16) £12,500.
- (17) £18,000.
- (18) Included in No. (2).
- (19) Surveys—£3,700.  
Clearing—£1,305.  
Village subdivision competition—£220.  
Water Rates—£320.  
Renovations—Post Games—£3,750.

*Source of Building Funds*

17. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing: Respecting finance to meet the cost of the Games Village:—
- (1) What amount was spent from the 1961-62 allocation of Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement money?
  - (2) What amount is it anticipated will be spent from the 1962-63 allocation of Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement money?
  - (3) Have any of the costs been met from accumulated funds?
  - (4) If so, what funds and the sum in each case?

*Interest Rate*

- (5) What rate (or rates) of interest will be payable, when such is payable?
- (6) Is the reply given to the final portion of question No. (23) on the 2nd October in accordance with fact?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The whole of the costs is met from reserves of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreements.
- (5) The expenditure on Games Village housing is free of interest up to the 28th February, 1963, and 4 per cent. from the 1st March, 1963. The year 1963 included here might have been mentioned as 1962 previously.

Mr. Graham: Hence the No. (6) question.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The next answer is—

(6) Yes.

I notice that the answer to question No. (6) is "Yes", but I have already qualified it by the reservation I have made.

Mr. Graham: The previous answer was "1962" and that is why I asked the question.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes; it is 1963.

**TELEPHONE FACILITIES***Bremer Bay Requirements*

18. Mr. HART asked the Premier:

Would he take up with the Federal authorities the urgent need for telephone facilities to be expedited for Bremer Bay, in view of the incidents that have taken place

over the last 12 months in the Gairdner River and Bremer Bay area—

- (a) the drowning tragedy at Bremer Bay last year. (A large number of people reside in the district, and it is important as a holiday resort);
- (b) the recent incident when youths stole a vehicle and arms?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

I suggest to the honourable member that this is a matter which should be taken up with the Commonwealth Government by the Federal member concerned.

### MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC

#### *Enlargement of Itinerary in Murchison Area*

19. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it possible for the mobile dental clinic now visiting towns in northern and Murchison districts to include Wiluna, Sandstone, Leonora, Laverton, and Menzies in future tours?
- (2) If not, would he advise if arrangements are in hand to provide a dental service to the above-mentioned towns?
- (3) In view of the success and popularity of the mobile clinic, will he give consideration to making another unit available to serve distant centres lacking dental facilities?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No, because the clinic is fully occupied in providing a service to the towns of Mt. Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra, Wongan Hills, Dalwallinu, Yalgoo, Mullewa, Morawa, Three Springs, and Moora.
- (2) The Superintendent of the Perth Dental Hospital is at present negotiating with the Royal Flying Doctor Service in this respect. A number of public-spirited private dentists have offered their services and it is hoped that arrangements can be finalised to provide a service to the towns of Wiluna, Sandstone, Leonora, Laverton, and Menzies.
- (3) Plans and specifications are at present being prepared for a second mobile dental clinic.

### MOTOR VEHICLES

#### *Licensing and Accident Incidence of Certain Models*

20. Mr. O'CONNOR asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Will he advise approximately the number of motor vehicles licensed—
  - (a) models prior to the 1st January, 1955; and
  - (b) models later than the 31st December, 1954?
- (2) How many vehicles in each of the above categories have been involved in accidents during the twelve months ended the 30th June, 1962?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) 95,000.  
(b) 142,000.
- (2) Information not collected.

### SAND FROM FISHING BOAT HARBOUR

#### *Invasion of Adjacent Homes*

21. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that tons of the sand dredged from the Fremantle fishing boat harbour is being blown by the prevailing winds across Marine Terrace and into adjacent houses and yards?
- (2) Will he have investigations made with a view to preventing this nuisance now, and in the future?
- (3) Will he make departmental trucks and other necessary assistance available to clear the sand deposited during the recent storms?

#### *Compensation to Householders*

- (4) Will he consider reimbursement of expenses involved by householders in damage to property?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Wild) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The nuisance will be progressively reduced by blinding completed sections of the reclamation with quarry rubble. A large area of completed work has already been treated in this manner.
- (3) The Public Works Department has an arrangement with the Fremantle City Council to collect and remove wind-blown sand from Marine Terrace as and when necessary.
- (4) Arrangements have been made to remove sand blown in to private properties in Marine Terrace during the severe storms of last week. Any claim will receive consideration.



## ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND PROVINCES

### Enrolment Figures

22. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice: What are the present enrolment figures for—

- (a) each of the 50 Legislative Assembly districts;
- (b) each of the 10 Legislative Council provinces;
- (c) each sub-province of the 10 Legislative Council provinces?

Mr. COURT replied:

The information required by the honourable member is contained in the papers which I will table.

*The papers were tabled.*

## CAPE TULIP

### Details of Spraying Undertaken

23. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What was the area sprayed by units of the Agricultural Department for the Agriculture Protection Board in the eradication, or control of Cape tulip in the years 1959, 1960, 1961?
- (2) How many units were operating?
- (3) If no record is kept of area treated what number of hours were recorded?
- (4) What districts were involved?
- (5) What was the name of the herbicide used?
- (6) What was the total cost of herbicide to the Government in each of the years indicated in No. (1)?
- (7) What charge per gallon was levied on primary producers?
- (8) What charge per hour was made for labour and equipment?
- (9) Did the acreage involved apply to rural producers only?
- (10) Did the department serve notices on any shire councils instructing those bodies to undertake eradication measures within their boundaries; and, if so, with what result?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The area of Cape tulip sprayed by the Agriculture Protection Board units is not recorded.
- (2) Fifteen units operated on Cape tulip. At times other weeds were being sprayed concurrently.
- (3) 1960 — 1613 hours.  
1961 — 1862 hours.  
Figures not available for 1959.
- (4) Spraying of Cape tulip was undertaken in most shires in the agricultural districts.

(5) The main herbicides used were 2,4-D ester and 2,4-D amine.

(6) The value of herbicides purchased by the Agriculture Protection Board for use on Cape tulip was—  
1960 — £6,500.

1961 — £8,800.

Figures are not available for 1959. This chemical was either applied with Agriculture Protection Board equipment or supplied to farmers or local authorities.

(7) Charges made for herbicides were—

2,4-D ester 80 per cent. acid equivalent £3 8s. 0d. per gallon.

2,4-D amine 50 per cent. acid equivalent £2 0s. 0d. per gallon. Less 10s. per gallon if Agriculture Protection Board equipment not used.

(8) Labour — 13s. 6d. per hour or £3 12s. 0d. per day.

Vehicle — £2 per day or 1s. 6d. per mile, whichever was the greater.

No charge was made for the use of spraying equipment.

(9) No. Spraying also included road reserves, Crown land, and town lots.

(10) No.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### WEST NORTHAM SCHOOL

#### Contractor and Architect

1. Mr. HAWKE: asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Was the recently severely damaged new State school at West Northam constructed departmentally or by a private contractor?

(2) Was the school building designed by the Public Works Department or by a private architect?

#### Tabling of Reports on Damage

(3) Will he lay upon the Table of the House all departmental reports covering the damage as soon as such reports have been completed?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Wild) replied:

On behalf of the Minister for Works I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the notice he gave me of this question, and the answers are as follows:—

(1) Private contractor.

(2) Private architect.

(3) Yes.

## STATE SHIPPING

### *Chairmanship of Proposed Commission*

2. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for the North-West:

Has Mr. Edwards, the Deputy Chairman of the Australian Coastal Shipping Commission, been offered by the Government the job of chairman of the proposed State Shipping Commission, and has he accepted it?

Mr. COURT replied:

Answering the second part of the question first, the answer is "No." I sensed that this was behind a question asked the other day. The question of the composition of the State Shipping Service and various matters relating to its operation has been the subject of discussion with Mr. Edwards because of his special experience with shipping matters and his previous shipping experience as a member of the Australian National Coastal Shipping Commission which operated the Australian National Line.

## NORTH-WEST ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### *Mr. G. K. Baron Hay's Report*

3. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for the North-West:

Will he lay upon the Table of the House the report of Mr. G. K. Baron Hay and his recommendations on the administration and development of the North-west?

Mr. COURT replied:

Yes.

## GAMES VILLAGE

### *Inspection by Members of Parliament*

4. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

(1) Will he make arrangements at an early date for an inspection of the Games Village for all members of Parliament who might be interested to view the project?

(2) If not, why not?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) and (2) Until about a month ago, when the Games Village was fenced off, access to the village was available to the public, and many thousands of people availed themselves of the opportunity to inspect it.

However, in view of this request, arrangements will be made for members of Parliament to inspect the village. It is suggested that interested members meet at the entrance gate to the village at 11

a.m. on Wednesday, the 17th October, 1962, following which an inspection will be made.

## TELEPHONE FACILITIES

### *Bremer Bay Requirements*

5. Mr. HALL asked the Deputy Premier: In view of the answer given to the member for Roe to his question No. 18 on today's notice paper, which refers to a telephone service for Bremer Bay, does he not agree that there is great urgency for this service especially in view of the fact that no report could be made regarding the juvenile escapees who are still at large; and, further, that no report could be made of the loss of life as the result of a fishing tragedy because no telephone service was available at this centre?

Mr. NALDER replied :

The question asked by the member for Roe was answered on the basis that this information can be obtained from the Federal representative; and if the honourable member has had any previous experience he will appreciate that this is the way in which these representations can be made to the Postmaster-General. After he has considered the request for a telephone service, further consideration of the matter will be made by the Government if necessary.

## TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

### *Retention of Bets*

6. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

Arising out of the answers which he gave to the questions asked by me today, as the Minister has refused to inquire into the facts of the situation as outlined by my questions, is the situation that the Minister and the Government have no regard as to whether the law is being observed?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

The questions asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition were not disregarded in any way; and, as far as I am concerned, the answers were quite honest. If the honourable member feels he should be acquainted of something further he will assist me by placing such a question on the notice paper.

Mr. TONKIN: I fear the Minister has misunderstood me.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I think he did.

Mr. TONKIN: My last question under No. (10) on today's notice paper reads as follows:—

(4) If the board has retained bets in purported exercise of its powers under section 20 (1) (b) of the Act, then will he inquire into the facts to ascertain whether the board has so retained bets on any occasion—

(a) without forming an opinion as required by that subsection; and

(b) having formed an opinion as required by that subsection, and in each such case the criteria sustaining such an opinion;

and report to this House on the matters disclosed by such an inquiry?

All that question sought to do was to have the Minister examine the situation and make a report. However, the Minister's reply to it was "No." That is, he is not prepared to undertake such an inquiry. The Minister's reply then continued as follows:—

Such an inquiry appears unwarranted as it follows that in "up to the jump" betting it is impracticable to transmit all bets received to the on-course totalisator . . .

and so on. What I ask the Minister is this: Without making any further inquiry into the situation, as disclosed by the questions and answers—namely, that the board may be failing to observe the requirements of the law, is he prepared to let the situation remain in that state without further inquiry?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

I am quite satisfied that the answer given is correct. If the honourable member considered that further inquiries should be undertaken by me on his behalf I would do what he asks, to see if I can assist him further in this regard.

## BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Constitution Acts Amendment Bill (No. 2).

2. Electoral Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and read a first time.

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1962-63

### In Committee of Supply

Resumed from the 27th September, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair.

Vote: Legislative Council, £15,858—

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [5.3 p.m.]: Those members who had the opportunity of hearing the Treasurer introduce the revenue estimates for the current financial year must have been impressed by the physical and mental ordeal through which the Treasurer had to pass. In all, he had to read 43½ full-size foolscap pages of material, which took up a considerable amount of time. I am quite sure the Treasurer obtained no pleasure from having to undergo such an ordeal, and I am aware very few members were able to stay with him over the whole distance. Only a few days previously he had to pass through a somewhat similar ordeal—although not such a big one—in connection with the presentation of his speech on the Loan Estimates. I think, in all, 31½ full foolscap pages had to be read during that effort.

I have been wondering whether it is really necessary in these days for such efforts to be made, or whether such ordeals should have to be undergone by the person who is either fortunate, or unfortunate, enough to be the Treasurer of the day. I am not suggesting for one moment all of the information contained in the introduction of the Loan Estimates, and the introduction of the Revenue Estimates, should not be presented to members.

I am not suggesting the information should not be incorporated in *Hansard*. What I am suggesting is that the Treasurer could give a reasonably brief summary of each statement, and the statements could be incorporated in full in *Hansard*, thereby giving to all members the opportunity of reading the statements in full. Where tables of figures have to be presented they could be presented in printed form, or for that matter the whole statement of the Treasurer—not necessarily the summary of the speech—could be presented in printed form.

It seems to me that as long as his full statement is available in printed form at the time, or subsequently, in *Hansard*, it should not be necessary for any Treasurer to go through the physical and mental struggle, as well as the eyestrain, which is involved in reading long statements in introducing both sets of Estimates.

The Treasurer told us the estimated total revenue in relation to Consolidated Revenue Fund for the current year is £78,167,000, and the total estimated revenue is £78,949,000, leaving an estimated deficit for the year of £782,000. He also told us the total Commonwealth payments to be included in the total estimated

revenue will amount to £37,901,000. As the total estimated revenue for the year is just over £78,000,000, and the total estimated payments from the Commonwealth amount to almost £38,000,000, it will be seen that the total Commonwealth payments into the Consolidated Revenue Fund of this State during the current year represents nearly 50 per cent. of the whole of our estimated Consolidated Revenue for 1962-63.

That fact emphasises very strongly our very great dependence upon Commonwealth revenues, in carrying out the normal departmental activities of the State which have to be financed from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. It is true a large proportion of the total moneys coming from the Commonwealth is represented in reimbursement payments in connection with the income taxation imposed on the people of Australia by the Commonwealth Government through the Federal Taxation Department. So it is fair to say quite a large amount of the total revenue paid by the Commonwealth Government to Western Australia during this year will have been raised during the year, as a result of Commonwealth taxation imposed upon the people of Western Australia but not all of it.

The uniform income tax system has been operating in Australia long enough to make it seem more than a temporary imposition. We know this taxation system was first applied during the early years of the war; and it was applied at that time on the understanding it would be of a temporary nature, with the qualification that as soon as practicable after the war the income taxing powers would be given back to the States, and each State would apply its own income taxation upon its own people.

The war ended in 1945, which is nearly 20 years ago, and I know of only one State in Australia which is really keen to get back its own income taxing powers, that State being Victoria. As far as Western Australia is concerned I do not think it would be a profitable transaction for us to return to the individual State income tax system at the present time; although the time will undoubtedly come in the fairly distant future when that system might be a profitable proposition to Western Australia, and by that time also to all the other States with the possible exception of Tasmania.

In his speech in connection with the Estimates the Treasurer told us he was going to give a brief summary of the State's economy, but the brief summary extended very considerably into a fairly lengthy statement. The summary dealt with the employment conditions, the situation in regard to manufacturing, the building industry, migration, banking statistics, the retail trade, and new motor vehicle registrations.

In dealing with the question of the total trade of the State for the last financial year the Treasurer told us Western Australia had an adverse trade balance, interstate, of £77,400,000; and the total trade of the State—as between Western Australia and the Eastern States, and Western Australia and overseas countries—represented a favourable balance of £98,400,000, as against the total favourable balance in the previous financial year of £104,800,000.

One wonders why the total trade balance of the State last financial year would not have been as good as that of the previous year. However, doubtless there were reasons in relation to some avenues of our production which caused our exports interstate and overseas to be insufficient to meet up to the total imports from the Eastern States and overseas to the same extent as in the previous year.

There is no doubt Western Australia has been very fortunate in recent years in regard to seasons. Last season was a particularly good one; and this season, as a result of rain during last week, now promises to be remarkably good in regard to all classes of grain. The rain of last week, too, of course, naturally gives the fodder a longer life in its green stages, which is also very beneficial. When we take our minds back to the beginning of last week, I think we would all remember the seasonal situation at that stage was one of some doubt; and, in many wheat-growing districts, of considerable doubt. Yet, two or three days later in the week, with the rain fairly general over the wheat-growing districts, the situation was very greatly improved and the prospects now for a heavy harvest in regard to all types of grain are very good indeed; and for that we can be extremely thankful.

It is quite easy to forget the very great importance of primary production to the total wealth of the State and, through that, to the welfare of our people as a whole. There has been a very strong tendency over the last two or three years to glamorise certain types of industries, none of them being primary in character. This sort of effort in glamorising one type of proposed activity often means a forgetfulness on the part of the general public of the very great basic importance of primary industries in this State.

There was a time when it was generally understood that we were very largely a primary producing and mining people and that the progress and development of those industries was essential to the further development of population and prosperity in this part of Australia. It is true that over the last 10 to 15 years secondary industries have developed and progressed, with several new ones being established; and consequently the manufacturing side of our total productive system has grown in importance; and, with the passing of years will continue to do so.

However, we would be foolish in the extreme if we allowed ourselves mentally to be caught up in this glamour propaganda which goes on, to the extent of forgetting the undoubted importance of primary producers to the welfare of the State, and also the great part they will play in the future both in regard to local industries and the great amount of wealth they make available for export to other countries of the world.

In that regard our primary producers are important not only to Western Australia but to Australia as a whole in relation to the credits Australia is able to establish overseas, and to the trade balance which Australia has with all the other countries in the world with which Australia carries on trading activities.

It is only natural for any Treasurer to present in his Budget speech the very best points which it is possible for Ministers and departmental officers to gather up. Those of us who have had practical experience in government know Governments are always anxious to promote an idea in the community that the Government is doing great things; is achieving wonderful progress; is setting records in this direction and other directions; and consequently all declarations made by a Government or by its individual Ministers are made with the thought in mind that the statements are, to some extent at any rate, of a political propaganda type. This applies particularly to a Budget speech when an economic survey is being made by the Treasurer after all the requisite information has been gathered.

In the gathering of this information, of course, every avenue is explored and exploited. Not all the information gathered is used in the Budget speech, because some of it would not be suitable; it would not be acceptable or favourable to the Government; it would not impress the public with what the Government has done or failed to do.

Some of the very important happenings in the State which I find missing from the Treasurer's summary are worthy of mention because they are part of the total activities of the State. They are among the things which are happening in the State, and I think it might be desirable for the public to have a reasonably complete picture—not that all the information the Treasurer has given and all the information I shall give, taken together, present anywhere near a complete picture; but such information will, to some extent, give both sides of the picture.

There is no mention in the Treasurer's speech of the record number of vacant shops in Western Australia today. Members in this House have only to travel around a bit to see that the number of vacant shops is considerable and is increasing. I know members of the Government could argue this is a trend in the

economic system about which no-one can do much. They might even argue it is something of the same nature as the motor vehicle displacing the horse-drawn vehicle.

However, it is a very significant feature of the State's economy at the present time that small traders are finding it more and more difficult to carry on their trading activities. It is also true to say many small traders over the last few years have gone out of existence altogether because they have not been able to wage successfully the struggle to make their business activities pay.

This could quite easily be dismissed as being inevitable, unavoidable, and something in relation to which no Government or anyone else can do anything effective. I would think that under the policy and control of the present Government the number of small business concerns which have gone out of existence and which will continue to go out of existence would be much greater than under any known and acceptable form of Government in Western Australia.

Mr. Court: Have you any positive ideas as to how you would keep these people in business—

Mr. HAWKE: Yes.

Mr. Court: —who become the victims of a changing system?

Mr. HAWKE: I think they could be given far more protection than they are given at present, and there should be legislative authority available to enable them to receive a reasonable measure of protection.

We know the distribution of many commodities in Australia today is basically getting into fewer and fewer hands; and we know that when the basic distribution of essential commodities—or any other type of commodity for that matter—gets into fewer and fewer hands, combine and monopoly influence, if not control, comes more solidly and more frequently into operation.

Mr. O'Connor: Would you say that supermarkets are largely responsible for this, or not?

Mr. HAWKE: I want to pursue the line of thought I am handling at the moment, without being dragged into the supermarkets question.

Mr. Jamieson: What about the used-car sale yards?

Mr. HAWKE: I know from experience in Government that some combines and some monopolies have made it extremely difficult for the smaller business concerns to operate successfully; and no doubt have been responsible for forcing many of them out of existence.

It is quite easy to understand that where powerful groups control the manufacture of goods and powerful groups control their distribution, the smaller man engaged in

the distribution of goods could easily be put into a difficult, if not impossible, situation—and I am sure the Minister for Industrial Development knows as much about that as I do, if not more.

I remember what was happening in regard to the distribution of galvanised iron in this State when we were in office. The firm of Lysaght—the manufacturers—were distributing the galvanised iron through agencies, and they advised all distributors of a new system which was to be introduced. Clearly the proposed new system would have greatly benefited the bigger distributors and greatly penalised the smaller ones. We were able to take effective action at that time to prevent the system from being introduced.

I understand it has since been introduced, with the result that the distribution of galvanised iron in Western Australia is more and more getting into fewer and fewer hands, with the bigger distributors handling much greater percentages than previously and the smaller distributors handling much less than previously, or being forced into the position of handling none at all.

I think most members would know that when buying galvanised iron a builder or contractor—or anyone for that matter—would like also to obtain the other appropriate lines such as other building materials, nails, and all the rest of it, at the same time. I think it would also be generally well known that a firm selling galvanised iron to builders and contractors and the public generally would also desire to sell all the other appropriate lines. So the process goes on in such a way as to make the bigger firms bigger and the smaller firms smaller or drive them out of business altogether.

With regard to supermarkets, I think it is generally well understood that the fact of supermarkets selling on a cash basis completely—which is what they do as far as I know—and having no delivery services as far as I know, and of employing their staffs on a basis which does not put them under the shop assistants' award as such, would have a great selling advantage over the corner grocery stores, because the corner grocery stores usually have to give credit, and have to have some sort of delivery service, and have to employ assistants, if they do employ any at all, on the basis of the appropriate award. I understand, too, that a lot of people who buy their groceries on credit at the corner stores do their cash business with the supermarkets. However, I am not well informed on these happenings and so I am not able to speak with any of the authority I would like to have.

I think it is clear from what we have seen in the last few years in all parts of Australia that capital is increasingly being concentrated into fewer and fewer industries in the business world, and it is

not an exaggeration to say that one of the great dangers which faces Australia in future years is the danger of monopoly capitalism. Monopoly capitalism could become intensely dangerous to Australia, not only because of what it might do in the business world to smaller traders, or even larger traders who were not prepared to toe the line, but also because of the very great influence which it could exercise over Government policies and over the type of legislation which Parliaments would have put before them and might approve.

I think it is reasonable to say the destiny of the people, as well as the welfare of the people, is decided, very substantially, by the laws which are passed through a Parliament. In future years, if monopoly capitalism develops to the stage I fear it will, and its representatives are able to prevail upon Governments and Parliaments to pass legislation which is favourable to the powerful vested interests of such monopoly capitalism, then obviously the welfare of the general community must suffer, and must suffer fairly severely. This danger is one which should receive much more publicity and much more emphasis.

I suppose it is a fairly faint hope for one to think that the daily newspapers or the weekly newspapers published in the cities of Australia would give worthwhile publicity to the problem, because they themselves are locked within the circle of this sphere of developing monopoly capitalism in Australia. They, as a matter of policy, would promote its further development and would, of course, be largely inclined, if not totally inclined, to protect it in regard to giving it publicity only of a favourable nature. They could, and probably would, go very close to convincing the ordinary citizen it was a good thing for him that monopoly capitalism should develop further and receive more legislative protection. Somehow, they would convince the public that all this would be good for the public.

I am not setting out to condemn those who are associated with big business firms in Australia or those who are associated with combine companies or monopoly companies. I think the basic trouble with such persons is that they see the welfare of Australia being promoted through a different atmosphere from that which is seen by the ordinary citizen in the community.

It is natural, I suppose, that a person associated with the management of a big business concern, a monopoly company, or a combine company, believes the progress and prosperity of Australia is best being promoted when the financial return of his company reaches record proportions and when the profits of his company each year are reaching record heights. Maybe if we were in the position of people of that kind we might develop the same attitude

and might become so absorbed in the field of big business as to believe the economic salvation of Australia was safely to be measured, and only to be measured, by the record profits, year by year, which these companies would be receiving.

But surely there must be some safety point beyond which record profits cannot go. After all is said and done, profits—record or otherwise—can only come from the general public. Profits do not grow on trees; somebody has to pay hard cash to provide them.

I know that many primary producers in this State and others in the Eastern States of Australia are very worried about the cost structure. They are all the more worried at this stage because of the uncertainty which will occur after Britain goes into the European economic community, because in that new situation no-one can foretell with certainty what volume of the Australian total export of primary products will be saleable in the world. Nor can anyone tell what general level of prices might exist then as against the level of prices which exists now.

So I think there is a great element of danger in an economic set-up where there is no relationship between the total volume of profits which are taken out of the wealth production of a country and the prices people have to pay, and the costs which various sections have to meet in relation to goods which they are producing. In essence, the Australian economic set-up, briefly, is one where some sections engaged in certain types of production can put upon each unit of their production the price at which they will sell, and other sections in the community producing wealth, by and large, have to take whatever buyers are prepared to offer them for what they have to sell.

In between those two sections, of course, we have the people who are generally referred to as the working people, or the working class. Most of them have some protection inasmuch as they have access to industrial tribunals of one kind or another, and those tribunals fix the wages and conditions of employment generally.

So in this economic set-up in Australia we have the primary producers generally, but not totally, who produce wealth and accept what is given to them for it. I know some groups of primary producers in Australia are protected in regard to marketing and price, but generally they are not. Then we have the working people whose wages are fixed by an industrial tribunal, or a number of them, and those tribunals decide the wage and salary levels upon a basis of what they consider the nation's wealth production can afford. Then we have the other section, the manufacturers and so on, who produce wealth of one kind or another or distribute it, and they fix their own returns; and people who are

not prepared to pay the price which they want for the goods which they manufacture or distribute, can go without them.

I submit that an economic set-up of that kind is not safely based and not fairly based, because it gives great advantages and great power to a small but strong group in the community whilst at the same time the very much larger group of people in the community are left to the mercy of this small powerful group which fix their own rewards and their own returns.

The entry of Britain into the European economic community might easily bring about a serious situation in Australia, at least for some of our primary industries; and, through those industries, a fairly serious situation for Australia as a whole, including the Governments, and more particularly the State Governments. Such a situation would not develop seriously, of course, until after 1970. As far as we can judge at present, until 1970 there will be some degree of preference and some degree of protection for the primary commodities which Australia will export to Britain.

During the last financial year a record number of factories closed down in Western Australia. We had a record number of Police Court cases; we had a record number of imprisonment sentences; we had a record number of breaches of the law, by adults and by young people. We had a record number of insolvencies and bankruptcies; and we had a record high level of State taxes and charges. If one cared to survey the total situation of the life of the community of Western Australia one would doubtless find some other factors which should, I think, be put into the picture if we are to have a fair and square look at the total picture of activities in Western Australia.

Mr. Grayden: Those factories which you said had closed down could not have been making the exorbitant profits you talked about earlier.

Mr. HAWKE: I never said that every factory was making large profits, or exorbitant profits.

Mr. J. Hegney: They could have been swallowed up by the others.

Mr. HAWKE: Obviously every manufacturer is not making exorbitant profits; some of them struggle.

Mr. H. May: And some of them are squeezed out.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes.

Mr. Rowberry: And some of them are swallowed up.

Mr. HAWKE: Some would be swallowed down rather than swallowed up, I should think. As a matter of fact, it is a great pity in a way the member for South Perth does not have something of the same outlook in regard to this problem as his

brother had, when his brother was a member of this Parliament representing the district of Nedlands.

Mr. J Hegney: He was very radical, wasn't he?

Mr. HAWKE: He was so active in regard to advocating justice in the commercial and business world that the Liberal Party set out to destroy him; and it succeeded.

Mr. Court: Nonsense! In spite of these gloomy things you are talking about, the employment factor in Western Australia went up by 6,000 people for the year.

Mr. HAWKE: I was not necessarily talking about gloomy things

Mr. Court: Yes you are. You have to take the whole thing in its proper perspective.

Mr. HAWKE: Of course; and that is my whole argument.

Mr. Court: That is all we ask.

Mr. HAWKE: I pointed out earlier that the Treasurer, in his summary, dealt with a number of subjects; and I mentioned specifically that one of the subjects dealt with by the Treasurer was on the question of employment. I went on to say I thought we should have more of a total picture of what had been happening in Western Australia during the last year or so; and I have put into the Treasurer's picture a few other items. They are not fantasies, or dreams, or imagination; they are factual.

Mr. Court: But they are things that are with any community at any time.

Mr. HAWKE: Of course; and so are the other things.

Mr. Nalder: And under any Government.

Mr. Court: Yes, and under any Government.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes, under any Government and under every Government. But does the Minister for Industrial Development think they should not be mentioned?

Mr. Court: No, not at all.

Mr. HAWKE: Does he think they should be forgotten—smothered up—simply because they do not suit him?

Mr. Court: Not at all, so long as you realise that we as a State are going forward; and that is the important thing.

Mr. HAWKE: I heard the Premier and Treasurer say at Bunbury the State was lurching forward, and I do not propose to argue about that at this stage.

Mr. Court: The main thing is that it is going forward.

Mr. Bickerton: It has been going forward for 50 years.

Mr. Court: It went back in your regime. You want to be careful of that one. Employment went back 2.6 per cent. in the last three years of your regime.

Mr. HAWKE: The Minister for Industrial Development has successfully tempted me to say a few more words on this particular subject.

Mr. Court: I was hoping you would.

Mr. HAWKE: The thing which amazes me, and must amaze even some members on the Government side, is how Western Australia ever made any progress prior to 3½ years ago. It must absolutely amaze them that any wealth production was developed in this State prior to 3½ years ago; that any industries—primary, mining, or manufacturing—were developed in Western Australia prior to 3½ years ago. As a matter of fact, anybody who has any commonsense and who has sufficient political honesty in his make-up, knows Western Australia made tremendous progress during this century. The Minister for Lands would know of the great progress and development in wealth production which was effected in the south-west for 50 years prior to 3½ years ago; and every other member on the Government side who is prepared to think about the situation would know that, too. The member for Murray knows what happened throughout his country prior to 3½ years ago, and so does the member for Stirling.

Mr. Court: No-one is disputing that.

Mr. HAWKE: The member for Avon, the member for Roe, the member for Narrogin, and the member for Murchison, all know.

Mr. Bickerton: And so would the member for Nedlands.

Mr. HAWKE: One would think, when listening to the Minister for Industrial Development, that all the people in this State prior to 3½ years ago did nothing—

Mr. Court: That is not correct.

Mr. HAWKE: —and achieved nothing.

Mr. Court: That is neither correct nor fair.

Mr. HAWKE: It is a fair interpretation of the attitude the Minister adopts.

Mr. Court: No.

Mr. HAWKE: If any member cares to take the trouble to have a look at the *Year Book* which covers the State's total wealth production for the financial year 1959-60—just to take a year which is appropriate — he will find our total wealth production was tremendous; he will find the primary producers of this country in that year, and in many previous years, had made a mighty contribution to the total wealth production of this country. He will find the manufacturers of this State, through the various industrial establishments, have made a great contribution to the welfare and prosperity of Western Australia; he will find the miners of this country—coal, gold, and



every other type of mining—have made a mighty contribution to the production of the wealth of this country, and the development of progress and prosperity.

I say it is nothing but an insult to those who did all this work in various fields of production in previous years to have this glamorous situation developed as the Minister for Industrial Development would try to have it developed—that nothing ever happened in Western Australia except during the last 3½ years. It is so much tommyrot—so much nonsense.

Mr. Court: It has never been represented in that way at all.

Mr. HAWKE: I say quite frankly this afternoon that there was far more development of benefit—of lasting benefit—to the people of Western Australia in the years after the war, until 1959-60, than has been the case since, or is likely to be the case for some years to come.

Mr. Grayden: We have never had progress on this scale before.

Mr. HAWKE: I know—on this scale!

Mr. Grayden: This is the leap forward.

Mr. HAWKE: The member for South Perth means on the Court-Grayden scale.

Mr. Brady: The Chinese scale.

Mr. HAWKE: A lot of it exists in imagination.

Mr. Grayden: You have heard the story about the fox and the grapes.

Mr. HAWKE: I am more than pleased that a few moments ago the Minister for Industrial Development successfully tempted me to stay on this subject longer than I had proposed; because I have here an extract from *The West Australian* newspaper of Saturday, the 29th September, 1962, which is a fairly recent date. The heading is "Investors' Notebook" and the subheading, "Role of W.A. Firms Not Appreciated." In gratitude to the Minister for Industrial Development for his action in successfully tempting me to speak on this subject, I propose to quote a portion of this article.

Mr. Court: You will quote this morning's paper as well, I hope.

Mr. HAWKE: I will refer to this morning's paper, too.

Mr. Court: On this particular subject?

Mr. HAWKE: Yes. I thought what appeared in this morning's paper was very weak; and, as a matter of fact, I will refer to it later on. I shall quote from this newspaper article, with your indulgence, Mr. Chairman. It reads—

At the annual meeting of Swan Portland Cement Ltd. this week chairman A. Eric Sandover—

Mr. Rowberry: He should know something about this one.

Mr. HAWKE: The article goes on—

—appealed for greater recognition of the part played by W.A. companies in the State's development.

Mr. Kelly: He is one man who should know, too.

Mr. HAWKE: The article continues—

He contended that there had been a noticeable tendency for many people to overlook the contribution made by local companies in the past and what they would contribute in the future.

Mr. J. Hegney: To whom is he alluding there?

Mr. HAWKE: Might I break in there to say that in those words Mr. Sandover has endorsed 100 per cent. what I have said during the last 10 minutes or so. Quoting again—

Mr. Sandover said that almost daily a great deal of attention was given to the intentions of outside industrialists while W.A. concerns were often ignored. Many of these local companies had made invaluable contributions to the State's progress when the population was smaller, conditions more difficult and the need greatest.

Here is another extract—

Mr. Sandover has expressed publicly for the first time—

This is not what Mr. Sandover is saying, but this is what the financial editor of *The West Australian* newspaper is saying in comment on Mr. Sandover's statement—

Mr. Sandover has expressed publicly for the first time what many West Australian industrialists have been saying privately.

I wonder why they did not say it publicly?

Mr. Court: That is their own business, I suppose.

Mr. H. May: They were gagged.

Mr. HAWKE: The article goes on—

They feel that new industries from outside the State have been treated more generously by the State Government than they have been.

Mr. Grayden: Now read the Minister's reply. Be fair!

Mr. Toms: Don't be impatient!

Mr. Court: Overseas and Eastern States people have certainly not been treated as generously as the local ones, as you well know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order! The Leader of the Opposition may proceed.

Mr. HAWKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know Mr. Sandover very well. I know his politics; and so, I think, does the Minister for Industrial Development; and judging by the smile on his face, so does the Deputy Premier.

Mr. Heal: I think he might have to wipe that smile off.

Mr. HAWKE: Those who know him can imagine there must have been tremendous pressure on him for him to make a statement of that nature. Knowing it would be published, that is the last sort of statement he would make if he could possibly avoid making it.

Mr. Grayden: Are you going to read the Minister's reply? Be fair!

Mr. Bickerton: It is like a cracked record.

Mr. HAWKE: I think we all know who the finance editor of *The West Australian* newspaper is; and I think we would know his politics. I think we could also rely upon his knowledge of what other men in the manufacturing and business world, similar to Mr. Sandover, would be thinking in connection with this matter.

Mr. J. Hegney: They are trying to suppress that.

Mr. HAWKE: I will read again what the financial editor said by way of comment on Mr. Sandover's remarks. He said—

Mr. Sandover has expressed publicly for the first time what many Western Australian industrialists have been saying privately. They feel that new industries from outside the State have been treated more generously by the State Government than they have been.

I am not so concerned about that last part, as I am about the emphasis given by Mr. Sandover to the invaluable contribution which established industries have made to the progress and development of the wealth production of this country in years past.

Mr. Court: Nobody has ever disputed or denied that.

Mr. HAWKE: Why would Mr. Sandover come out and make a statement of this kind which, of course—and we can be completely frank about it—was a very severe criticism of the Minister for Industrial Development.

Mr. Court: Oh no it wasn't!

Mr. HAWKE: Let us not beat about the bush in this matter.

Mr. Court: That is no criticism.

Mr. HAWKE: As I said before, Mr. Sandover is 100 per cent. Liberal Party in his politics. He would be the last person, or one of the last anyway, in Western Australia, to say anything which would be likely in the slightest way to be politically embarrassing to the Government.

Mr. Grayden: He obviously was not aware of the facts.

Mr. HAWKE: Obviously, if Mr. Sandover were not aware of the facts, he did not take the trouble to consult the member for South Perth.

Mr. Grayden: You read the Minister's statement.

Mr. Court: Mr. Sandover is likely to make any statement he pleases. He is not likely to get expelled as he would from the Labor Party.

Mr. HAWKE: Mr. Strickland was expelled from the Liberal Party.

Mr. Court: For different reasons. But if a member of the Labor Party had criticised a Labor Minister—if you call this criticism—he would be expelled the next week.

Mr. HAWKE: The Ministers of the Labor Government came in for plenty of criticism. I am not suggesting the Liberal Party would expel Mr. Sandover.

Mr. Court: You are implying it.

Mr. HAWKE: That is the last thing they would dare to do, because by expelling him they would expel half their membership; and at the same time they would blow out most of their brains. So they are not likely to expel Mr. Sandover. They only expel small poppies; not the big fellows.

Mr. Court: I am not suggesting we are likely to give consideration to it.

Mr. HAWKE: The Minister brought up this question of expulsion; it had not occurred to me! It might be a good idea, and I thank the Minister for bringing that feature into the discussion.

Mr. Court: He might be endorsed for Northam if you are not careful.

Mr. HAWKE: Unless the Government gives more credit to existing industries, and to people associated with existing production—the people who have been responsible for building Western Australia up in the years past—Mr. Sandover could conceivably, but only possibly, endorse himself for Nedlands.

Mr. Court: That would suit me.

Mr. HAWKE: If he does I will do everything I can to influence the Labor voters—though they are not many in numbers—to assist him. However, I think we are getting away from what Mr. Sandover had to say, and the very powerful reasons and influences which must have been upon him to cause him to make a public statement of the nature I have quoted. In case the member for South Perth has an epileptic fit, or something of that kind, I want to refer to the statement he has been blabbering about.

Mr. Grayden: You are doing it grudgingly.

Mr. HAWKE: This statement was published in *The West Australian* of today. It is one, as might be imagined, from the Minister for Industrial Development.

Mr. W. Hegney: One of many.

Mr. HAWKE: Judging by the enthusiasm of the member for South Perth, however, he might have actively co-operated with the Minister in preparing this statement. The Minister starts off on the following basis:—

Facts did not support the recent contention that there had been a noticeable tendency to overlook the contribution made by local companies in the past and what they could contribute to the future of the State.

It will be noticed that the Minister is very careful indeed not to mention Mr. Sandover's name for fear that some offence, slight or otherwise, might be given.

Mr. Court: Would you like me to send you a copy of the statement I sent the Press?

Mr. HAWKE: Is the Minister suggesting *The West Australian* did something to the statement he sent them? Is he suggesting they doctored the statement or cut pieces out of it?

Mr. Court: They did not publish it in full; but if you would like a copy of the full statement I will send one to you.

Mr. HAWKE: I would be happy to have one, because it would enable me to see again what *The West Australian* newspaper does to statements sent to it.

Mr. Court: The newspaper has so much space and it uses its judgment, as you well know.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): I think there are too many interjections.

Mr. HAWKE: I am all the more surprised that *The West Australian* newspaper should cut out anything, particularly a statement sent to it by the Minister, because he makes so few public statements. In the next paragraph the Minister does mention Mr. Sandover's name as chairman of Swan Portland Cement Ltd. So it will be very interesting indeed for me to get a copy from the Minister of the full statement he sent to the newspaper and to compare it with this published statement and find out exactly what sections of the Minister's statement were deleted.

Mr. Court: I will borrow it back from them.

Mr. HAWKE: In his statement the Minister went on to say—

New industries from outside of the State had not been treated more generously by the State Government than established local industry.

I know Mr. Sandover will not believe that; and I certainly will not. The Minister's statement continues—

More than three-quarters of the time and effort of the Department of Industrial Development was devoted to established local industry and local people wanting to establish an industry or expand.

That could quite easily be; but it does not prove anything. To continue with the statement—

The financial aid given to locally-established industry in the form of guarantees, loan funds, grants and interest payments by the Government dominated the funds made available to industry.

I do not believe that either, because it is not true. The statement continues—

In the past three years to June 30th last, £1,200,000 out of £1,600,000 used to help industry went to local people. Mr. Court said that if the State did not seek overseas investment it must accept a slower rate of development. Many big industries were becoming established here at their own cost.

Of course that is wrong. I am sure the Minister, in his statement which was sent to *The West Australian*, told the whole story. I have no doubt the parts that were cut out were towards the finish, where the Minister attempted to give the public detailed information of financial and other assistance which the Government is giving to Australian Paper Mills, to Broken Hill Pty. Ltd., and to the others.

Mr. Court: What assistance are we giving Broken Hill Pty. Ltd.?

Mr. HAWKE: All those hundreds of million tons of iron ore.

Mr. Court: That is a warped approach.

Mr. HAWKE: And all the financial assistance that is being given to Australian Paper Mills and to other industries. Anyhow, I will wait until I get a copy of the Minister's complete statement. I am sure in my own mind that the information which should be in the published statement and which is not, has been cut out by the subeditors in the office of *The West Australian*.

Mr. Court: They have given a fair coverage of it. They have given me the same amount of space as they gave Mr. Sandover. It is fair enough.

Mr. HAWKE: I have a very fair idea of what the newspaper cut out; because I am sure the Minister tried to present the full picture to the public in this matter. He would not endeavour to publish a one-sided or coloured statement; he would be most meticulous in his approach.

Mr. Court: Thank you!

Mr. HAWKE: The Minister would not want to leave out one detail, or one set of figures, even though the giving of the detail, or the one set of figures, might not have helped his case, or might not have helped the Government. He might even wish to prove that what Mr. Sandover said was well based and long overdue to be said by someone with the standing in the business world which Mr. Sandover has. I

would like to know whether I have quoted enough from the Minister's statement for the benefit of the member for South Perth.

Mr. Grayden: Aren't you convinced?

Mr. Rowberry: He is convinced all right.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to address the Chair.

Mr. HAWKE: Certainly, Mr. Chairman. You are always an inspiration to me and I cannot work out why I do not face you all the time! I rather enjoyed the approach of the Treasurer to the unpleasant task he had to shoulder in proposing increases in State taxes and State charges. Obviously the Treasurer, possibly with some skilled advice from the Minister for Industrial Development, and some unskilled advice possibly—but only possibly—from the member for South-Perth, felt it would be necessary to create a scapegoat.

Mr. Grayden: Mr. Chairman, is the Leader of the Opposition in order in turning his back on members of the cross-benches?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): He is quite in order.

Mr. HAWKE: I am not ten-faced, like the member for South Perth; so I can only look in one direction at a time. The scapegoat which the Treasurer and his colleagues fastened upon was the State basic wage. That was the scapegoat. That was the factor which was compelling this Government, against its will to impose increased taxes and charges upon the people of the State.

Mr. Tonkin: That is what the Minister for Water Supplies told me when he put up the water rates.

Mr. HAWKE: So the Treasurer in his Budget speech went into quite a lot of detail about the basic wage; about how much higher it is here than is the State basic wage in Victoria; about the problems which it creates in governmental expenditure; and how, consequently, it had become necessary for the State Government—because of threats or suggestions made to it by the Grants Commission—to bring in a lot of additional revenue this financial year.

I agree the State basic wage in Western Australia is higher than it is in the State of Victoria. But this is very much in the nature of a disgrace to the State of Victoria; because if there is one State in Australia which should have the highest basic wage, and which should pay its people higher wages and salaries and give them the best industrial conditions, it is the State of Victoria; because it has obtained far more benefits within the national policy of protection than any other State; in addition it is the smallest State in area, and the richest State per square

mile of production. It has a big population and is cheaper to govern than any other State of Australia. So it is a gross reflection upon that State that it should have a basic wage lower than the basic wage in any other State of the Commonwealth. I remember when the Commonwealth Arbitration Court judges made their first decision to freeze the cost-of-living adjustments—to freeze the basic wage, as it were.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr. HAWKE: Before the tea suspension I was discussing the question of basic wage levels, particularly as between Western Australia and Victoria. I remember very well when the Federal Arbitration Court judges first made the decision not to grant quarterly adjustments to the Federal basic wage. At that time the then Premier of Victoria (Mr. Bolte), who is still Premier of that State, made it clear in a public statement that so far as his Government was concerned it would continue to pay quarterly cost-of-living adjustments because he and his colleagues thought it was the fair and the reasonable thing to do. I thought so, too, and so did many other people in Australia.

The unjust, if not wicked, feature of the decision of the Federal industrial judges not to grant cost-of-living adjustments to the workers of Australia was to be found then, as it is now, in the fact that failure to grant cost-of-living adjustments means, in effect, a reduction in the real purchasing power of the wages and salaries paid to the workers concerned. The decision of the judges was based upon their opinion that the economy of Australia—the total wealth production of Australia—was not sufficient to safely justify the granting of quarterly cost-of-living adjustments.

So, here again, we find the same unfair comparison and problem cropping up; namely, that the business people in Australia can raise the returns which they receive for what they produce without having to justify such action to any authority, to any judge, or to any tribunal. They do not have to go along and prove that increasing the price of this or the profit on that which they manufacture or distribute is justified.

They do not have to prove the national economy can stand the impact of the increased prices and increased profits. They do not have to prove that the total wealth production of the nation can stand the added burden; they just put the added price on without consulting anybody except themselves. And yet these learned judges of the Federal Arbitration Court, laid it down as their opinion and decision that the national economy and the total wealth production of the nation could not safely stand the granting of quarterly

adjustments in regard to the cost of living to be added to the wages and salaries received by the Australian workers.

If it is a fair and reasonable and proper thing for those who work and produce wealth and assist to produce wealth, those who assist to keep the transport systems going and all of the other activities of the nation going, to have their adjustments to wages and salaries, when the cost of living moves up, put under the magnifying glass, then it is surely fair and reasonable and right that every other section of the community, before they take more out of the national income and more out of the total wealth production, should have to justify their action and have it approved by some independent skilled authority.

However, as I said when starting out to discuss this subject, the Treasurer in this State used the higher basic wage in Western Australia and the fact that our State court does grant cost-of-living adjustments quarterly when they are justified, as the scapegoat for the increased State taxes and increased State charges which he proposed when delivering his Budget speech.

I think it has to be remembered, too, when discussing our basic wage, which is higher than in Victoria and higher than in some other States, that a higher basic wage confers a lot of benefit upon the community. It certainly helps to push up the volume of retail trading and the volume of business which manufacturers can do; and naturally, of course, it creates much greater purchasing power in the hands of those people in the community who have to spend practically the whole of their income as they receive it. Some of them, of course, spend more than their income by becoming involved in hire purchase and other agreements which could conceivably be beyond their total means to meet.

The Treasurer, after painting this basic wage as the villain of the piece, as it were, and playing it up as a sort of scapegoat, asked: What was the solution to this problem which had been created for the Government in Western Australia? And what was the answer to the comments which the members of the Grants Commission had made in regard to this matter and in regard to other matters associated with what are known as social services expenditure in Western Australia, as compared with the levels of expenditure in that field in the standard States of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria?

In some Shakespearian style he asked: Are we to increase the size of school classes? Nobody said "No" when the Treasurer asked that question; but I think he understood we all felt "No" was the right answer to the question. He went on to ask: Are we to reduce hospital services? I did not hear any member of the

Committee say "Yes"; and I am sure we all felt that "No" was the answer to that question. Then he went on to ask: Are we to cut down on the size of the Police Force; and I am sure he knew the answer to that question before he even asked it; before he even thought of it; or before someone else thought it out for him.

Then he answered that these things were unthinkable; that they could not be contemplated; and he claimed the only alternative left available to the Government was to increase certain taxes and certain charges. He said this even though the total receipts from State taxes last year reached a figure of £470,000 more than the Budget Estimates; and he told us there would have to be more taxes, and he proposed more charges, even though he said in March 1959 that State taxes and charges had then reached the breaking point. That is what the present Treasurer said in 1959.

Mr. Rowberry: He has broken through the sound barrier since!

Mr. HAWKE: I remember that when we were in Government and I happened to be the Treasurer of the State, the present Treasurer, who was then Leader of the Opposition, often used to say the thought of greater efficiency in the administration of Government affairs never entered the minds of the then Labor Government. That was his great cry against us whenever we proposed any increase in a State tax or a State charge. By that, of course, he indicated there was no need for any increases in a State charge or in a State tax.

By such statements he clearly indicated there was great room for more efficiency in the administration of State departments; plenty of scope for Government departments to get more work done for less money, and so on; and to have less men in various Government departments carrying out more duties. So I am led to wonder what has happened to the views which the present Treasurer expressed in those days back in 1959, 1958, and 1957, because I am certain there has been no greater efficiency in the administration of Government departments either sought or achieved by the present Government.

Mr. Grayden: What about the Railways Department?

Mr. HAWKE: What about it?

Mr. Grayden: Don't you think it is more efficient now than in 1959?

Mr. HAWKE: I do not think so.

Mr. Grayden: It is saving about £2,250,000 per year.

Mr. HAWKE: As usual, the member for South Perth has only part of the story—the part that suits him and suits the Liberal Party as such. He concentrates his mind and his eyes on the pretty side of the picture. He does not bother about the rest of the picture, because it does not

suit him. I do not want to go into a discussion at this stage about the railways; but very briefly I would like to say the present Government very substantially increased railway freights and fares.

I would think the total amount of additional revenue which the Government received last financial year as a result of its policy in that direction must have reached somewhere around £1,750,000—maybe higher, because a very great quantity of wheat was transported last financial year. In addition, it has to be remembered that Labor Governments, prior to 1959, spent huge sums of money greatly strengthening the permanent way system to enable bigger engines, bigger trucks, bigger trains, and heavier loads to be carried; and that has been probably the biggest single factor in improving the efficiency and the financial result of railway operation.

Mr. Rowberry: And changed to heavier-type rails.

Mr. HAWKE: Before there could be any change to heavier-type rails, the permanent way had to be strengthened; and that included the putting in of heavier rails, on the main lines anyway. Furthermore, on that subject the Labor Government inherited a three-man control of the Railways which was set up by the McLarty-Watts Government, and which I think every member of this House who knows anything about the situation would agree turned out to be an absolute tragedy for the system and a very serious thing for Western Australia generally.

Furthermore, it was on the initiative of the previous Government to this one that a considerable length of railway lines in Western Australia was closed; and those lines were, of course, the most uneconomic, and the costliest to operate in relation to the return of revenue which was received from them. I have no doubt that, too, has played quite an important part in the operation of the railways physically and in the financial return; because clearly that has been one of the important factors in lessening the total number of men required to operate the railway system.

There has, in my judgment, been a considerable amount of extravagance in the administration of the present Government. Instead of this Government concentrating on the task of introducing greater efficiency into the conduct of Government departments; instead of the Government getting more value for the money which it expends, we have found, in the field of construction of public buildings particularly, that a great deal of extravagance has taken place; that a far greater sum of money has been expended in that field than has been necessary. It is also true to say that a fair amount of work done in that field has been done in a way which has not given the Government or the State real value for the money expended.

I do not propose to go into this matter in detail, because I have no doubt other members will do so. But we know that quite a deal of the work carried out by private contractors, where private architects have designed the buildings, has been unsatisfactory. We know much of it has had to be gone over again. This has applied in regard to the electrical systems in some of the buildings. It has applied to some portions of the buildings, and I have no doubt that in some instances it has applied to the whole of the buildings.

Recently at Northam the roof—the complete roof—of a whole section of a new school was blown in bits into the school recess playing ground. This school had only been completed some six or nine months. In fact, the present Minister for Education officially opened it only a few weeks ago. Yet today the whole of the roof of one complete section of the building is scrap in the schoolyard—absolute scrap—and, of course, all of the classrooms in the section of the building are unroofed—completely unroofed.

Now the members of this Government can be mighty thankful that the children were not at school on the day in question, which was Royal Show day—mighty thankful; because had the children been at school there would undoubtedly have been several lives lost and a considerable number of the children maimed, probably for life.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Can't we all be thankful about a thing like that?

Mr. HAWKE: I said so.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You said the Government only.

Mr. HAWKE: I am referring to the Government because it is responsible for this. Does not the Minister want to accept any responsibility, or does he want to accept responsibility only for the good things which come the Government's way?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Not at all; but you can't point a finger at the Government for a thing like that.

Mr. HAWKE: We will see whether we cannot—

Mr. Heal: Private enterprise!

Mr. HAWKE: —point a finger at the Government in connection with this matter.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: If, for example, it happened with a school which had been built by the Public Works Department—

Mr. Tonkin: No; it wouldn't.

Mr. HAWKE: It would not have happened.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Take for example that it did.

Mr. HAWKE: Why take for example that it did when it did not? I remember when the Minister for Health—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Don't point at me like that.

Mr. HAWKE: Mr. Chairman, now that the Minister for Health has butted in on this, I remember his having a footnote put to a letter which was sent to the editor of *The West Australian* the other day. One of the words in his footnote was, "Illogicality"—"Illogicality" of all things, from the Minister for Health, whatever the word means—if such a word exists. I say the Minister's attitude at the moment is full of illogicalities, if there is such a word. There is no logic in his attitude at all. He says let us take, for example, a situation where if the Public Works Department had built a school and the roof had blown off. What about that? He says if, for example, the Public Works Department had built a school and the roof had blown off—"if" it had!

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You have a lot to talk about. There is no doubt about you!

Mr. HAWKE: I think the Minister for Health should see a doctor, because he appears not only to have some mental aberrations, but he appears also physically to be losing control of himself.

Mr. Court: It doesn't do to get personal about these things. It doesn't get you anywhere.

Mr. HAWKE: Why does the Minister for Industrial Development indulge in that sort of practice when it suits him?

Mr. Court: You have been going for the last two or three hours.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You indulge in it all the time.

Mr. HAWKE: I am sorry the Minister for Industrial Development and the Minister for Health are not enjoying it. I did not stand up to speak on these Estimates for the sake of giving enjoyment and good cheer and pleasure necessarily to the Minister for Industrial Development and the Minister for Health. I am not here necessarily to please them or even to satisfy them, and I hope I never shall be here for that purpose.

Mr. Grayden: You are here to inject a bit of pessimism into the debate.

Mr. HAWKE: Injecting a bit of pessimism into the debate is better than injecting into it what the member for South Perth injects into it periodically when the spirit moves him. I say again that the Ministers of this Government particularly, and everybody in general, should be very grateful for the fact that the children were not at school at West Northam on Royal Show day.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: All of us. Quite so.

Mr. HAWKE: Ministers particularly, because it is as a result of their policy that this situation developed.

Mr. Wild: Would it not be better to wait and get that inquiry you asked for?

Mr. HAWKE: I made some inquiries of my own, Mr. Minister for Public Works, and they are not one bit flattering to the Minister for Works—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: May I ask—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order!

Mr. HAWKE: —because he, more than anyone else in the Government has the responsibility for allowing this sort of procedure to develop as a matter of prime Government policy.

Mr. Graham: Jerry-buildings.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: When you were Premier, didn't your Government ever use private architects and private builders to erect public buildings?

Mr. HAWKE: When we did we made certain they did the work they had to do in a way which was safe and acceptable, and which gave the Government value for its money—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: An absolute let-out.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order!

Mr. HAWKE: —if the Minister for Health is capable of understanding that sort of logic.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Get personal again! I can quite easily get personal so far as you are concerned.

Mr. HAWKE: It is an open season so far as I am concerned.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I don't need too many invitations, either.

Mr. HAWKE: I have not seen anybody holding the Minister for Health back.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There is no need to.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order! There is too much conversation and too much bickering. I am not going to allow it. If it is not curtailed, I will have to take some further drastic action.

Mr. HAWKE: I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, upon the indirect rebuke which you have offered to the Minister for Health in this matter. As I was saying, the total roof of one whole section of the new Northam School, running from north to south, was completely lifted off and deposited in a tangled mass in the recess playing area. I talked about the matter to a practical builder who lives close by. He gave me some information which if I had hair to raise would have been raised by what he told me, about the manner in which this roof was fixed—if that is an effective and proper word to use—to the building.

In regard to the other section of the building, of about equal length, running east and west, the roof was fixed in a very safe and very effective manner. One wonders why the roof of one section of a new building running east and west would be fixed safely and effectively, and the roof of another section of the building running north and south would not be fixed safely and effectively at all.

Mr. Bickerton: The Minister for Education would not notice that.

Mr. HAWKE: Having said so much, I look forward with considerable interest to copies of the reports of the expert Public Works Department officers in connection with this matter being made available as soon as those reports have been completed. I will be very interested to find out who is going to pay the cost of putting a completely new roof on the building and putting it on safely and effectively so that it will have every prospect of staying put.

I looked at all the other buildings in this area where the school was constructed, to see what had happened to the roofs of other buildings. Some of the buildings up there, judging by appearances, could almost be blown over by a puff of wind—judging by their age and the type of materials with which they have been constructed. But they have not been blown over. They did not lose any verandahs or roofs. The TV antennas were not even bent. It was only at the school that there was this sign of havoc—of a tangled mass of a complete roof from the long section running north and south of the new school building.

The Treasurer has proposed more taxes, even though the Government last year took £790,000 more than in the year 1959-60, from the ratepayers of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department. This year it will take over £1,000,000 more than was taken from them in the financial year 1959-60. Yet the Treasurer quite strenuously denied in his Budget speech that this Government was using the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department as a taxing machine.

The new taxes proposed include £1 per motor vehicle third party insurance premium. This, it is anticipated, will provide £234,000 per annum on the basis of the number of premiums to be written in this financial year. It will, of course, be a continuing amount in future years according to the increase in the number of motor vehicles which go on the road. There is no proposal, as far as I know, to use this money for the purposes of the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act. In fact, the Treasurer told us the whole of the money would go into Consolidated Revenue to be used for ordinary governmental purposes.

I think we all know that there is in the appropriate law in this matter a maximum compensation payment of £2,000 for each

victim of an accident who is able to substantiate a claim under the law. I am not suggesting that every claim receives an award of up to the £2,000 limit, but quite a number of claims are awarded the maximum and would be awarded a much greater sum if the maximum did not exist. So clearly some victims who have to receive compensation under this law are being robbed of a very substantial sum of compensation because of the failure of Parliament in leaving the maximum figure where it is.

I do not want to be one-eyed in this matter, or in any other matter. It is probable our own Government, as far back as 1958, was guilty to some extent in not raising the maximum, or seeking approval from Parliament in that year to raise the maximum, in order that a much fairer and more just maximum amount might be available.

I think that when a Government proposes, as this one does, to take an additional £234,000 a year through this type of premium, there should at the same time be action on the part of the Government to introduce legislation into Parliament to seek approval to raise the maximum of £2,000 to a much higher figure; and I certainly hope we will see amending legislation of that nature before the House rises some time next month.

Mr. Court: I think an answer was given on that question during the session. The whole matter is under review, because once you put the maximum up you have to put the premiums up as well.

Mr. HAWKE: The Government proposes in its Budget items to put on a tax—to take £234,000 this financial year from the motorists in premiums which are taken out under the motor vehicle third party insurance law, so the Government is taking extra money from the motor vehicle owners; and I think there is an absolute duty on the shoulders of the Government to introduce legislation this session, and to have it passed this session, considerably to increase the present maximum compensation of £2,000.

The next increased taxation item is one which will tax the excise content in relation to liquor license fees. At present this tax is placed upon liquor license fees without taking into calculation the amount of excise paid to the Federal department by those who handle liquor. So the State Government proposes to introduce a measure into Parliament this session to tax the excise content, and this it is anticipated by the Treasurer will bring in £297,000 in a full financial year; which, of course, is a very substantial amount of increased revenue.

I think every member knows I am no authority on beer or on anything associated with it, except that sometimes I see the effects of it without feeling them. It is probable other members better qualified



to speak with authority on this subject will have something to say about it during the debate.

We find that the schedule of stamp duties is to be rearranged; or that Parliament is to be asked to rearrange the schedule of stamp duties payable in Western Australia; and the result will be to bring in an increased annual revenue of £130,000 under this heading.

I do not intend to offer any criticism in this matter. In fact I think it is all to the good that stamp duty on receipts for smaller sums of money is to be abolished. After all is said and done, it has always been a considerable nuisance for people giving receipts to have to put a stamp on a receipt for £2, £3, £4, or £5, especially since the pound lost as much value as it has in recent years.

So this proposal of the Government is one which will not receive any opposition from me, because it will wipe away a lot of nuisance activity on the part of business people; and if the higher stamp duties are so rearranged as not only to make up for the deficiency but to bring in additional revenue per annum of £130,000, or more, I would not be able to see my way clear to criticise that.

Mr. Jamieson: You might not get so many 19s. 11d. bargains though.

Mr. HAWKE: Maybe not; but I never have been lucky enough to get those 19s. 11d. bargains. Another proposal on the part of the Government is to put up freights and fares on the State ships, and this is estimated to bring in £233,000 in a full year, presumably on the basis of the volume of trade done by the State ships during last financial year. This, of course, is a fairly substantial sum of money, and presumably the people who will pay most of it in the long run will be those living in the north-west. It rather appears as if the members of the Government think the people in the north-west can bear this additional burden.

I know the Grants Commission has had quite a bit to say about this subject for several years; but it should be made clear that the members of the Grants Commission do not insist that a Government increase a particular tax or a particular charge. They draw the attention of the Government to the fact that what is happening in Western Australia in regard, perhaps, to freights on State ships is such as to cause the State Shipping Service to be a very heavy burden upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund in relation to the losses which it makes year by year. They point out that it is not reasonable for the Grants Commission to go on asking the Commonwealth Parliament to vote moneys from Federal revenue to make up these continuing heavy losses by the State ships; they leave to the State Government the final decision as to what is to be done.

We know the State ships represent a real lifeline to the north-west; and I think we would all agree the north-west could not exist, except in a very minor form, in regard to production activities without a service of this kind being available. It is also true to say no private company would think of running a steamship service, or any other transportation service, to the north-west unless that private company was heavily subsidised by the Commonwealth or the State Government, or by both of them.

I do not intend to dwell on this subject, because we have in the Committee members who represent north-west electorates, and doubtless they will be able to speak more directly and with much more authority than I about the people of the north-west and the industries which operate in that part of the State.

Mr. Court: All Governments have been very careful about trying to keep the freight rates down. The Grants Commission has been, I consider, very tolerant. I think the last rise was made in 1957 by your Government when probably the same reasons that have caused us to make an adjustment caused you to make one.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes; what the Minister says is reasonably correct. But the present proposal, which is before us, is for an increase in freights and fares on the State ships estimated to bring in £233,000 per annum on the basis of present traffic. I would think the greater proportion of the total estimated increase would be in the freight section of the business which the ships do, as against the passenger section.

Mr. Court: Approximately £166,000 will come from the freight sector.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes. Well, the Minister has endorsed what I suggested; and much of the amount of the increase in shipping freights to the north-west will undoubtedly represent a real burden to the people there and to the industries which operate in that part of the State.

The increase in taxation charges so far proposed by the Government totals £894,000. That is getting well up towards the million pounds mark. This, undoubtedly, is a fairly heavy additional burden for the people and industries to bear. We will, of course, have every opportunity of debating some of the proposed taxes, because legislation will have to be brought here in connection with some of the items and approved in both Houses of Parliament before it will be possible for the Government to impose legally the increases in taxes and charges on the people of the State. So I will reserve any further comments I have to make on the proposed increased taxes until the amending legislation is placed before us.

**MR. WILLIAMS (Bunbury) [8.17 p.m.]:** At the outset I would like to pay tribute to the former member for Bunbury, the late Mr. George Roberts, whose place I took in this Chamber. George Roberts was an extremely likeable fellow and a man who was respected by members in both Houses of Parliament and by all the people in his electorate. He handled the problem of the Bunbury electorate with vigour and enthusiasm, and he had the courage of his convictions. I believe all members will agree with me that the late George Roberts worked hard for the advancement of Bunbury, the south-west, and the State generally.

I realise the magnitude of the task that lies before me, and I shall give capable and effective representation for all the electors of Bunbury. My confidence in this respect is supported by the assistance that has been extended to me by all members of this Parliament, and I take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to all those members on both sides of the House who have assisted me. My thanks are also extended to the staff, who have been most co-operative and helpful. They have always been ready to give assistance and advice when asked.

Turning to the Estimates, I would like firstly to deal with the growth of the south-west, and I shall quote a few figures concerning its development and growth that I hope will not bore the members of the Committee. In 1954 the population of the south-west was 68,553. Judging by the general trend it is considered that the present population would probably be in the vicinity of 83,000 or 84,000. Since 1954 to date, this would be an increase of approximately 19 per cent. Between 1954 and 1961 the population of Bunbury itself has increased by one-third to an estimated population of 14,000. The growth of that town is due, in the main, to harbour development and industrial growth and activity.

During the past few years positive steps have been taken towards decentralisation of industry and population and this no doubt accounts for the greater number of people living in the Bunbury area. Decentralisation of shipping in the port of Bunbury, and the spread of industry, commerce, public utilities, and population have been responsible for the growth of the Bunbury district. However, when the population of any centre increases to such a degree several problems must follow in its wake, as members of the Committee are no doubt well aware, particularly when this population increase has occurred within a short period of seven years.

For example, one of the problems that has arisen is the acute housing shortage. I will quote some figures to give members an idea of the rapid growth of Bunbury so far as the erection of houses and business establishments is concerned. In 1958,

124 permits to construct homes were issued amounting in value to a total of £339,873. Those permits were granted within the period of the 1st November, 1958, to the 31st October, 1959—only 12 months. Thirty-two permits for commercial construction were issued to the total value of £90,255, and alterations and additions to buildings were carried out, valued at £54,189. This made a grand total of £484,327 for building construction. From the 1st November, 1961, to the 30th June, 1962—a period of only seven months—86 permits for dwellings were issued to a total value of £290,332; permits for commercial construction numbered 19, representing a total value of £57,038; and 143 permits were issued for additions and alterations, amounting in value to £42,990; making a total value of £390,350 spent on building construction.

From those figures it can be realised that from the 30th June, 1962, to the 31st October, 1962, there will be a further substantial increase; but, at the moment, of course, the amount of such increase is not available.

Also, the figures that have been issued for shipping and trade have been increased considerably. In June, 1957, imports into this State at the port of Bunbury totalled 55,257 tons; but in June, 1961, 132,078 tons were imported, an increase of 140 per cent. At the 30th June, 1957, exports from the State through the port of Bunbury totalled 243,858 tons; and at the 30th June, 1961, exports through the port of Bunbury totalled 421,926 tons, an increase of 75 per cent. Naturally, in view of the increased trade, the number of vessels berthing at the port of Bunbury showed a great increase. In 1957 the total was 80, but in 1961, the number of vessels visiting Bunbury was 127; an increase of 55 per cent.

The first land-backed berth is, of course, under construction, and this should expedite the turn-around of ships and also the handling of cargo. It should considerably assist Bunbury as a port in the handling of its cargo, and it will thus enhance its name as a port with a speedy turn-around of ships. Therefore this should mean a great boon not only for Bunbury itself, but for its hinterland up to a radius of 70 miles around. After the first land-backed berth is completed, with the resultant increase in shipping which we feel must come to the port of Bunbury, we will look forward to the construction of the second land-backed berth, and even still more.

Another beneficial feature about the land-backed berth is that the greater ease in handling of shipping will in turn enable the port of Bunbury to handle with greater facility produce which is not at the moment shipped through Bunbury.

Associated with the development of the harbour is the fishing industry. This industry has grown considerably in Bunbury

over the past seven or eight years. Not only has the number of local fishermen increased but also the number of fishermen who use the port of Bunbury. Further, as the area grows and the population of the town increases, a larger number of pleasure craft will be moored in the harbour and in and around the estuaries. I would therefore like to bring this fact to the attention of the Minister concerned so that he might give some thought—if he has not already done so—to the selection of a suitable site for a slipway.

I suggest that this slipway, if agreed to, should be of sufficient size to accommodate a craft of 60 or 70 tons. At the moment there are several fishing craft—not in the local fleet but belonging to fishermen who make Bunbury their headquarters for a season—of this size using the port; and if a slipway were constructed at Bunbury it could give service to the visiting fishermen in the area, to the local fishermen, and to those people who navigate pleasure craft over the local waters.

The commencement of the Laporte industry, I feel, will be the beginning of an industrial era in Bunbury and surrounding districts. No doubt, through the influence of Laporte, industries allied to Laporte itself will in the next few years be springing up in and around the area.

As every member knows, progress in the industrial field brings in train many problems other than housing. One of the problems which is being faced by the people at Bunbury at the moment is the smog and ash which has been created by the power station. This station has become a source of annoyance to some people in the Bunbury electorate, and I am quite sure the matter is receiving attention from the Minister concerned and the officers of his department. We look forward to some relief for those people very shortly.

With new industries and increased population in the town the problem of adequate water supplies is accentuated. This question of an effective water supply for Bunbury is fairly well known, because many members have visited that centre only recently and they know full well that the appearance of the water supplied to the people of Bunbury is not very good.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister for Water Supplies that, in view of the growth of industry in the area and the growth of the town generally, if the present source of the Bunbury water supply cannot cope with the needs of the town the Minister might look into the possibility of piping water from the Wellington Dam which, in a direct line from Bunbury, would be a distance of only about 20 miles. This source of water could be used to augment the town supply. It would overcome the immediate problem, and could possibly in time, replace the Bunbury supply.

Towards the end of this year, or early next year, a commencement will be made on the construction of the Bunbury regional hospital. The people of the district have been looking forward to this move for a year or so because such a hospital will prove to be a great boon to the people of Bunbury generally. Not only will the townspeople be served by this hospital; but, as its name implies, it will be used by the people living in many outlying districts whose medical needs will be better served by this modern hospital.

As soon as the new regional hospital is occupied, the old building will become vacant, and I would like to suggest at this stage a possible use for it. At the moment we have a geriatric ward, accommodated in an old house which has been converted for its present purpose. Internally this old house is quite suitable for use as a geriatric ward because interior decorations and renovations have been effected; but the biggest handicap is that only a few aged people can be housed in it. When the existing hospital is evacuated I should like to see this old building renovated and altered so that it may be used for an old people's home; not to accommodate the aged people of Bunbury itself, but the aged people of Collie and possibly as far back as the centres of Harvey and Waroona.

I know of five people who, in the last twelve months, wanted to enter a home for the aged. The nearest centre to Bunbury where they could do so was Perth. Once they enter a home in Perth they will leave behind their friends and relatives. In many cases they will leave a district in which they were born, or where they established themselves in their early days. These people have their friends and social contacts in the Bunbury area, and in many cases the community has received great service from them. They should not be expected to leave their community in their old age, especially after they have rendered great service to it.

The old hospital there will make an ideal home for the aged and an ideal geriatric ward. The problem of having to use staircases would not have to be solved, because there are lifts in the old hospital building, and these can be used to transfer the old people from one floor to another. I leave my comment on this matter with the Minister concerned, and I ask him to give it some consideration in the near future.

Another matter to which I wish to make reference concerns the Preston River. The area from which this river derives its water is fairly large. It extends to the Preston Valley on the other side of Donnybrook, and includes sections of the hills. At certain times in the winter the Preston River shows a great tendency to flood. In years gone by, where the river

empties its water into the estuary, the depth of water was about 15 to 20 feet, but nowadays the depth has been reduced to somewhere around 10 feet.

Levees on the river are being built year by year. On several occasions I have been called out to attend to these levees in the afternoons and evenings. At the end of August last the employees of the local authority were called out in the early hours of the morning to attend to the levee banks, which were breaking away at several points. I realise this is quite a problem, but it can be overcome in two ways: firstly, by dredging the mouth of the river to make it deeper; and, secondly, by combining a dragline with the deepening of the river bed. At the present time the bed of the Preston River is silting up and the levees are becoming higher and higher. Likewise, I leave this matter to be dealt with by those concerned.

Although what I have been saying might be considered parochial, I shall not carry on in this vein because my thoughts go much further than Bunbury. While I am a member of this House it is my intention to take the affairs of Bunbury, the south-west, and the whole State, to heart. I hope that in some small way I can make a contribution to benefit those three centres—the electorate of Bunbury, the south-west as a whole, and Western Australia.

**MR. H. MAY** (Collie) [8.37 p.m.]: First of all I offer my congratulations to the member for Bunbury on his initial speech in this House. We look forward to more comments from him in regard to Bunbury, the south-west, and the State in general.

I have made a diligent search through the Annual Estimates; but, either because my eyesight is bad, or I am in need of spectacles, I have been unable to see a spark of hope for the town of Collie. I doubt if there is another town in Western Australia which has been treated in the same manner as Collie.

On top of the devastating action which has been taken in the coalmining industry, the town of Collie and the surrounding district has suffered other disadvantages. Firstly, about 70 per cent. of the land within the Collie Shire Council is held by the Forests Department, from which the council does not receive rates or payments in any shape or form.

My friend from Bunbury made reference to the Wellington Dam. I hope that in time Bunbury will be served by that dam. I can assure him that the water which comes from that dam is pure, and it will prove to be a blessing to the people of Bunbury who, at the present time, are objecting very strongly to the quality of water which is provided.

Wellington Dam has proved to be a complete success, and at present it is the only dam in this State which is overflowing.

The fact that Collie is in the centre of the water catchment area for Wellington Dam has prevented land settlement in Collie and surrounding districts—land which might have been released by the Forests Department. As a consequence Collie has suffered.

Since the last general election the figures on the electoral roll for Collie have decreased. Before the redistribution of seats took place, and before alterations were made in the coal industry, the Collie district retained a sufficient quota of electors. To give members some idea of what has taken place since then, I want to point out that the whole of the shire council of West Arthur has been included in the Collie electorate, in order to make up the loss in numbers. At least 50 per cent. of the people in Collie have had to leave the town, as a result of the treatment they received at the hands of this Government through its action over the coal orders. As a result, the population of Collie has been reduced by about 50 per cent.

The Government expects to save £500,000 a year from the coal tenders. This saving has been offset by the number of people who have left the district, as a result of which many houses belonging to the State Housing Commission have become empty. The commission has lost rents, and the capital value of the houses has been depreciated considerably. It will be seen that the Government has, in effect, saved very little on the new coal tenders.

The firm of John Allan Ltd. which had opened a large branch in Collie had to close it down. There is something very wrong if any firm of that magnitude cannot make a success in Collie. The business people are feeling the pinch, and the town is suffering. To give members some idea of what has taken place in Collie, I refer to a report of the Collie Shire Council. The following extract is revealing:—

The estimates provide for a diminished works programme in connection with both roads and reserves, as a result of depleted revenue unless some form of government aid is forthcoming.

Sight is being lost of the fact that there is so much Forest land unrateable causing a greater burden to be shouldered by a depopulated town area, and small part time farming community mostly. With so much non-rateable Crown land and depleted coal industry, the effect on the community's spending power from every point of view is obvious, this reflects itself in the valuation and rating power of the town and district.

Unless there is a change in the ensuing 12 months, either by introduction of industry, or some form of

tangible government aid the town cannot continue to progress as formerly.

Of great assistance to this could be industries of some form or other, and so far as the local authority is concerned its programme of works of which there are many that cannot be entertained, could be stepped up if only it received a fair proportion of matching moneys.

The amount received this year indicates clearly the unfairness of the present formula, for distribution of Commonwealth Funds from the Central Road Trust Fund, based on the traffic license fees received in the base year. Council received only £24 this year as against £1,650 last year.

Any town fortunate enough to be popular with the Government in power, and including the expanding metropolitan area must profit handsomely, and on the contrary, vice versa.

The amount of matching moneys distributed to the metropolitan local authorities for the years 1959-60, 1960-61 and 1961-62, compared with the total amounts distributed to country local authorities for those years, should indicate the proportion of distribution of Central Road Trust Funds throughout the State.

In the absence of a change of formula, the answer appears to be some form of Government aid to offset the dead loss sustained.

Sanitation: On the question of health services there are now 1,862 rubbish removals per week.

Sanitary services have fallen to 716 removals per week from 910 in 1960.

Waste Water Services hours have fallen to 437 working hours per annum and this figure is expected to fall further still within the next 12 months.

I read that extract because it emphasises the situation which exists in Collie.

I refer to the question of water supplies, and I am sorry the Minister is not in his seat. No doubt he will read my comments. When a person goes into a shop to purchase a loaf of bread or a pound of butter, he expects to receive the article if he pays for it. I cannot say the same for the people living in the country; they are not getting a fair amount of water for the charges they are paying. I say quite candidly that, in my opinion, the Water Supply Department is taking money from those people under false pretences. If any outside company, person, or body did the same sort of thing, prosecution would immediately follow. The charges being

made are terrific. People in the metropolitan area are squealing about theirs but they are nothing compared with the country water charges.

Mr. Oldfield: We are not squealing; just complaining.

Mr. J. Hegney: Mt. Lawley is squealing.

Mr. H. MAY: I know several others are too—and they have a perfect right to grizzle, if ever a Government department was taking money under false pretences the Metropolitan Water Supply Department in this State is.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. H. MAY: If the department sold me 60,000 gallons of water a year, I would expect to pay for them; but I do not expect to pay for 60,000 gallons when I use only 20,000 gallons. If that is not daylight robbery I would like to know what is. Yet nothing is being done to relieve the situation for country people, about whom I am most concerned. Metropolitan people can look after themselves.

Mr. Oldfield: They are better represented, that is why.

Mr. H. MAY: If this were being done by a private company, the first to take action against it would be the State Government. It would not allow it to do such a thing. Therefore, why does it do such a thing itself? It is a shocking state of affairs when we realise what is going on. I do not live on my property for half the year, because I am down here. When my wife and I do live in Collie, we use very little water. But year after year the bill is £23 8s., whether or not we use a drop of water.

Mr. Heal: I thought this Government was going to institute a pay-as-you-use system.

Mr. Oldfield: Yes.

Mr. H. MAY: I think the policy of the present Government is charge-as-you-please, not pay-as-you-use. I want to say a few words on a matter discussed at the last fruitgrowers' conference in Perth. The following is an article that appeared in the local Collie paper on the 4th October, 1962, and it is headed "Orchards in Catchment Area"—referring, of course, to the Collie area:—

In his opinion the planting of orchards, with suitable cover crops, in the Collie water catchment area would not increase salinity in the area.

I have been advocating that for years. To continue—

Government Geologist J. Lord said this in reply to a question by Collie delegate V. C. Davis at the W.A. Fruit Growers' Annual conference in Perth.

Mr. Lord gave an address at the conference on research for underground water supplies with particular reference to the fruit growing areas.

Afterwards he was asked by Mr. Davis if he thought it would be detrimental to clear forest land in the Collie catchment area to make way for commercial orchards and cover crops.

Mr. Davis wanted to know if this would increase salinity in the catchment area. He explained that agricultural development had been retarded at Collie because of uncertainty about the application of water purity regulations.

Mr. Davis said today that the apple growing industry could be greatly expanded at Collie if potential growers could be assured that land clearing in the catchment area would not be restricted.

There were, in the district, big areas admirably suited for apple growing. A good living could be obtained from 10 acres of orchard. The development of the apple industry could materially benefit Collie.

Yet the Minister concerned has never said a word about it. I have been on this year after year in this Chamber; and here is the Government Geologist agreeing that an apple industry at Collie would not affect the salinity of the water running into Wellington Weir. The article continues—

"The local branch of the Fruit Growers' Association is convinced that, given the opportunity, Collie could become a big apple growing centre," Mr. Davis said. "It's got the land and the climate necessary for successful apple growing."

There is plenty of land surrounding Collie at present held by private people. However, an edict has been issued by the Water Supply Department to the effect that landowners cannot do anything further in connection with their land because it is considered that the water which runs into Wellington Dam would be affected. Ninety per cent. of that land could be used for apple growing and prove of considerable benefit to Collie and to Bunbury.

Mr. J. Hegney: What does the Minister for Agriculture say about it?

Mr. H. MAY: The Government Geologist says there is no earthly reason why these orchards could not be planted provided a cover plot was grown at the same time.

I hope some notice will be taken of this. The Minister is not in his seat at present, and I know he is attending another conference on behalf of the Premier. However, I have asked a question and I want an answer tomorrow as to whether the Agricultural Department agrees with the Government Geologist. It it does not, then I want to know why, because it would mean a big thing to all of those people to be able to plant apples to increase the production from their holdings. It would not

affect the Wellington Weir, and there is no earthly reason why they should not be allowed to do so.

On many occasions in this Chamber I have talked about my electorate; and, in particular, the town of Collie. I do not intend tonight to reiterate those remarks. I have one or two matters on which I desire to speak, however, and I was hoping the member for South Perth would be in his seat because I know he would be really interested in some of that which I have to say.

Mr. J. Hegney: He will read it later.

Mr. H. MAY: I wanted to get his reactions to it in this Chamber.

Mr. J. Hegney: He is not allowed to interject.

Mr. H. MAY: The Government's full speed ahead policy which is being so much advertised by *The West Australian* needs a little analysing.

Mr. Norton: You can say that again!

Mr. H. MAY: I am going to say a little about this. In a letter addressed to *The West Australian*, the secretary of the Western Australian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (Inc.) had the following to say:—

The fact that "The West Australian" in 1953 proposed such a system—

He is referring to petrol stations and the sale of petrol—

—makes it difficult to now reconcile its recent opposition, however all West Australians are well used to your management's stand (as self appointed spokesman for the public) which is critical of most of us. For instance, apart from your criticism of our industry we note your paper didn't want bank employees to enjoy a five day week, nor allow the baker a similar privilege. Airline pilots shouldn't fight for better conditions, neither should coal miners or many others in the work force. Hotels should trade longer, let butchers, hardware merchants, grocers, etc. spend more hours gaining their living and then obligate the larger city retailers to open extended hours in competition. That most of these proposals are opposed by the employer and employee, your newspaper overrules in favour of "we the public."

Would you advise after deleting those you have often criticised in their fight for better conditions who remains as "we the public"?

Mr. J. Hegney: Is that a Labor paper you are quoting from?

Mr. H. MAY: No; it is not.

Mr. J. Hegney: I thought it was.

Mr. H. MAY: It just shows what is going on in regard to the activities of *The West Australian* in this State. I have some more to say in that connection, and possibly it would interest the member for South Perth. The document from which I am going to quote is headed "The Press and the Double Standard." It reads:—

In recent times public attention has been focussed on the question of drugs.

People have become alarmed because they have been made aware of the dangers to their physical health.

Demands are being made that action should be taken by the Government to ensure greater protection in the form of closer control of the manufacture of drugs and greater supervision in their sale to the public.

The other side of the story:

But what thought is being given to the drugging of the mind by the Australian press, particularly in this State by the monopoly controlled by West Australian Newspapers, and what action is being demanded?

The function of a newspaper is to render a service to the community by the supply of news based on—as nearly as humanly possible—fact.

The newspaper is entitled to its own attitude towards questions of public importance. It may quite legitimately express this attitude through its editorial columns.

The cold, hard facts, however, are that the West Australian Newspapers Ltd. has prostituted these functions and has quite blatantly set its policy in the direction of making sure that the image of the Australian Labor Party in the public mind is a most unfavourable one.

The Bunbury by-election revealed *The West Australian* and *Daily News* as being controlled by people who are without a sense of fair play.

It revealed them as people with a double standard—one for the Labor Party and one for the Brand Government on a question of paramount importance, namely that of the communist smear.

They have shown an eagerness to rake in the political gutter of the D.L.P. which is the close ally of the Liberal Party, much to the disgust of many true Liberals.

For political advantage, leaders of the Liberal Party have put to one side basic beliefs of philosophy which run completely counter to those held by the leaders of the D.L.P., and in this they have been joined by those who control the policies of *The West Australian* and the *Daily News*.

Mr. H. MAY: I will indicate that later. I want members to listen to it carefully first because there are some good home truths in it. To continue—

It should not be forgotten that these people, too, share privately with their Liberal Party friends a strong repugnance to the fundamental philosophical beliefs of the D.L.P.

But this is not as strong as their hatred for the Labor Party.

Let us examine the substance of these submissions.

For years the daily press has lent its columns in a most alarming manner to assist in the smearing of the A.L.P. and its leaders in connection with communism.

Never has its official voice been raised in an editorial to defend members of this Party against the palpably outrageous statements made by those whose one mission in life is to malign.

Indeed there is an abundance of evidence to show that, in addition to its eagerness to permit its columns to be used for this purpose, its editorials have been directed towards substantiating them.

Let us look now at the handling of the "Williams case" by the press.

Never before has there been such a press campaign to defend a political personality against the charge made that he had been a member of the Communist Party.

What a wonderful thing it would be if we could have all come to the conclusion that here at last was *The West Australian* and its allies of the press determined to put into effect the real purpose of a newspaper; that it was aware of the need to foster and protect public morality; that it would not stand idly by and allow a citizen to be pilloried because at some time he had been a member of the Communist Party.

But, alas, there is no such high idealism in the minds of the controllers of the press.

The campaign was undertaken for one reason and one reason only. The person concerned was not a member of the Labor Party. He was, fortunately for him, a member of the Liberal Party.

Not only did the press use its editorial columns and news space to establish sympathy for Williams, it even brought in Rigby and Ward. But even more significant was the use made of the syndicated columnist Douglas Wilkie.

Wilkie's article was called "Communism and Commonsense." It was a splendid article. The principles enunciated were those that should be accepted as an integral feature of a Parliamentary democracy.

Mr. O'Connor: Who wrote that rot?

It revealed the dangers to our way of life, which are inherent in McCarthyism and smearing of people with communism.

The Labor Party subscribes to every word uttered by Wilkie in his article.

But what we naturally want to know is why such an article has not been written by him in the long years that have produced smear after smear against members of the Labor Party?

We also want to know how he was persuaded by *The Daily News* to write it on the one occasion when a member of the Liberal Party was involved.

We particularly want to know why Labor members can be smeared and unprotected by the Press when there is, in fact, no substance, but when a member of the Liberal Party is attacked on the basis of a statutory declaration he receives the full protection of the Press, even to the point where the situation is then used for the purpose of further discrediting the Labor Party.

We feel sure that all decent minded people—people with a sense of Australian fairplay—will watch with more than passing interest the future policies of the Liberal Party, the Press and the D.L.P. on the question of smearing people who play their part in the political life of our community.

Now I will answer the interjection from the member for Mt. Lawley. It was written by Mr. F. E. Chamberlain; and I will say it is a credit to him because it points out very deliberately and very truthfully what happened during the Bunbury by-election.

Mr. O'Connor: It is typical of the trash he writes.

Mr. H. MAY: I now want to read an extract from the Senate proceedings. It is a corollary of the previous letter although it is not connected in any way. I want to show members that a person's head does not always follow his heart. These words were spoken in the Federal Senate by a man who was the leader of the D.L.P. in Australia, and they can be found on page 1536 of the Senate *Hansard* of the 17th of May, 1962. The man I am speaking of is ex-Senator McManus, and he said—

Because of the unusual circumstances of my entry into the Senate, I have at times clashed with members of the Opposition and some reference has been made to Communism.

I leave this Senate with this thought.

I am sure that not one member on this side of the Chamber has the slightest time for Communism.

He was referring to the side on which the Labor Party sat in the Senate Chamber. To continue—

I am sure that all members of the Labor Party are good Australians.

These words came from a man who was—and still is—Leader of the D.L.P. in Australia. He went on to say—

They may have disagreed with me on occasions, but that is their privilege.

I have always admired the contributions made to debate by the Leader of the Opposition (Senator McKenna). I have also admired the contributions by some of his colleagues.

Now that is an excerpt taken from the speech of Senator McManus on the eve of his departure from the Senate. As most members know, his term expired on the 30th June this year. He spoke those words, and that is why I say a man's head does not always follow the lead that is set by his own convictions; and obviously this man, in his dying hours as a member of the Senate, wanted to say that although he differed from the Labor Party, of which he originally was a member, he still realised that they were true Australians and not connected with Communism in any shape or form.

I admire a man who can say a thing like that. I feel that the time is not far distant when ex-Senator McManus and all his colleagues who follow him will realise the disservice they are doing to the Labor Party of Australia by continuing to support a party that is far distant from Labor ideology; a party that has no sympathy in any shape or form for the working class of Australia. After reading a statement like that I feel that there is some hidden feeling amongst those people who are at present following a disrupted course in so far as the great Labor Party of Australia is concerned, and eventually they will realise their mistake and become members of that party which is the only one in this country that will ever give justice to the people working on the lower range of wages.

A member interjected.

Mr. H. MAY: I did not hear that interjection but I would like to know what it was so that I can answer it.

Mr. Bovell: I did not interject.

Mr. H. MAY: I am not blaming any particular member. If the cap does not fit do not wear it!

Mr. Bovell: I was addressing the Minister for Transport.

Mr. H. MAY: If the honourable member would repeat the interjection I will give him the answer he deserves.

Mr. J. Hegney: All come in!

Mr. H. MAY: I read those excerpts with the idea of trying to instill some system or some degree of fair play even though



we may be in politics. Without a shadow of doubt *The West Australian* will not publish the extracts I have read. *The Sunday Times* was asked to publish the circular which I read; but, even though it was offered payment for doing so, it would not publish it.

A member: Try *The West Australian*!

Mr. Toms: They did, with the same result.

Mr. Guthrie: That is because it was just trash.

Mr. H. MAY: Does the member for Subiaco think it was trash?

Mr. Guthrie: Yes.

Mr. H. MAY: I would say that statement from the member for Subiaco is typical of the Liberal Party of this State.

Mr. Guthrie: I have seen Joe Chamberlain in action and I know his style.

Mr. H. MAY: You have it on my authority that *The Sunday Times* was asked to publish this statement, and you have it on my authority that it was going to be paid for doing so.

Mr. Guthrie: That was their judgment. They thought it was trash. You are biased and won't accept the judgment of the people. You think Chamberlain is God and you are under his thumb and you know it.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order! We will have one speech at a time. The member for Collie may proceed.

Mr. H. MAY: Obviously, I have rubbed the member for Subiaco on the raw.

Mr. Guthrie: No you haven't! I have rubbed you.

Mr. H. MAY: I have rubbed him on the raw; and I want to say this: that the interjection of the member for Subiaco will not be forgotten by the people when the right time comes.

Mr. Guthrie: You tried smear tactics at Subiaco last election but you dropped back further.

Mr. H. MAY: That is typical of the attitude of members of the Liberal Party in this State against the workers, very typical! At least, I am glad that the member for Subiaco had the guts to express his opinion as he did.

Mr. Guthrie: Thank you!

Mr. H. MAY: I do not appreciate the opinion he has, but I do appreciate the fact that he had the nerve—

Mr. Toms: Or foolhardiness.

Mr. H. MAY: —or foolhardiness, as the member for Bayswater has said, to express himself so in this Chamber. But I do not want to draw him any more because I think he has done enough damage to himself. I have always regarded the member for Subiaco as a friend, and I am sorry I forced him into saying what he did.

Mr. Guthrie: You don't have to crawlfish out of it.

Mr. H. MAY: I am not trying to crawlfish. I am trying to make it as light as I possibly can for the future of the honourable member. I think what was written in that statement which I have read is typical. Does any member sitting behind the Government support *The West Australian*, *The Daily News* and *The Sunday Times* in the attitude they adopted regarding the Bunbury by-election? I think it is a shocking state of affairs when the public Press of this State can do what it is doing and so malign a section of the community of the State. We have never supported Communism and we never will.

Mr. Court: What about unity tickets?

Mr. H. MAY: What has that to do with it?

Mr. Guthrie: What did Dr. Evatt do during the referendum on communism?

Mr. H. MAY: It will never come up to the situation created in this State by the public Press.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order! The member for Collie may proceed.

Mr. H. MAY: I am sorry I have rubbed the members of the Government up the wrong way.

Mr. Court: We are just trying to be helpful.

Mr. H. MAY: I believe that tonight I have shown the utterly ridiculous position in which the newspapers of this State have placed themselves. I anticipate, and I hope I am right, that action will be taken to tell the public of this State individually, because we cannot get anything into the Press. But they are going to be told individually what is taking place in this State. The Press will not publish anything about what I have said tonight. Not a line will appear in the newspapers. They would not publish this circular. I would like to see it published; but they know they dare not print it.

However, we will take all care to ensure that the majority of the people of this State know what happened during the Bunbury by-election where the Press, with its editorial—and it even brought Rigby and Ward into it—tried to vilify the party which stands for the people's welfare in this State. People tell us that they never see anything in the papers about what is being done by the Labor Party.

Mr. Guthrie: That is because you do not do anything.

Mr. H. MAY: The people will not see anything either until the Labor Party develops a Press of its own so that the people can be told both sides of the story, and it will not be a smear; it will be actual fact. It will not be in the shandygaff form

being used today to brain-wash the people of this State that the Labor Party is sympathetic towards Communism.

Mr. Court: They have never suggested that.

Mr. H. MAY: Yes they have! The Minister cannot alter the fact.

Mr. Oldfield: I heard the Minister say it himself on the public platform.

Mr. Court: I think what you are worried about is that the Press is telling the people the true position.

Mr. H. MAY: I can remember one occasion when the member for South Perth was speaking, when he was sitting over on the other side of the Chamber, and he claimed that every member on this side was a Communist. I said to the member who was sitting next to me—I think it was the member for Merredin-Yilgarn—"I am going to make him apologise; and I think every member of the Opposition should make him apologise"; and we did. The Speaker had to admit that there was no proof at all that any member on this side was a Communist, or belonged to the Communist Party.

The only political party in Australia that has ever taken action against the Communists, by expelling them from the party, has been the Labor Party. But do not tell me that there are not people with Communist sympathies in the Liberal Party! Of course there are! But no effort has been made to uncover them or expel them from the party as the Labor Party has done. I think that speaks for itself.

I am not suggesting that any member on the other side is a Communist. It would sound too silly for me to say it; but it is just as silly to imply that there are members of the Labor Party who are adherents of the Communist Party. That is why I was hoping the member for South Perth would be in his seat tonight when I read the circular. I would have enjoyed listening to his interjections in connection with it; and I would have reminded him of the time when in this Chamber he accused every member on this side of being connected with the Communist Party. Neither I nor any member of the Labor Party in this Chamber has ever been connected with the Communist Party; and I challenge anyone here or anywhere else to prove anything different.

I do not want to reiterate what has taken place in Collie; and the upset there has been in the coalmining industry. It has been a bitter pill to swallow, and I want to remind the Government that actually we have not swallowed it yet. It is nearly two years now since the present Government promised us that it would establish at Collie, or in the surrounding district, an industry which would take up the unemployment caused by the Government's action in connection with the coal

industry. So far no other industry has been established. Having regard for the geographical position of Collie, and the present Government being a strict adherent of private enterprise, it cannot and will not say to any private enterprise, "You are going to start on industry near Collie, or in Collie." Private enterprise would say, "You can go to Hell! We will start where we like."

It is only under the administration of a Labor Government, when it sees a section of the public is being wrongfully treated, that an industry will be started to take care of those who might become unemployed. Private enterprise will certainly not do it; and therefore the only chance Collie will have to re-establish itself will be by the introduction of some heavy industry in that part of the State under the administration of a Labor Government.

Vote put and passed.

This concluded the general debate.

Other Votes and items dealt with as follows:—

Votes: Legislative Assembly, £18,402; Joint House Committee, £32,609; Joint Printing Committee, £29,158; Joint Library Committee, £700; Premier's Department, £97,035; Treasury, £142,000; Governor's Establishment, £24,897; Executive Council, £5; London Agency, £42,350; Public Service Commissioner, £36,317; Government Motor Car Service, £17,125; Audit, £95,370; Compassionate Allowances, £313; Government Stores, £175,333; Taxation, £125,000; Superannuation Board, £18,764; Government Printer, £627,000—put and passed.

#### *Progress*

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. O'Neil.

### **BILLS (4): RETURNED**

1. Public Trustee Act Amendment Bill.
2. Criminal Code Amendment Bill.
3. Prisons Act Amendment Bill.
4. Education Act Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

### **CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)**

#### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr. Craig (Minister for Transport), read a first time.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Council's Message*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendment made by the Assembly.

*House adjourned at 9.28 p.m.*