

electorate enjoys—and I would like to mention two matters in this connection. Obviously, when an electorate is developing as rapidly as the Canning electorate is developing, one finds many problems; however, as time does not permit me to mention all of them, I will refer to two only. They are, on the one hand, the recent rezoning of a large tract of land in Canning Vale for light industry; and, on the other hand, the vicious rates squeeze being experienced by many Canning people.

In respect of the rezoning, I realise the area concerned has a great deal to recommend it. It is close to the standard gauge railway line and is serviced by gas, water, electricity, and sewerage. It is surrounded and crossed by made roads; it is very close to the Port of Fremantle; and it is within eight miles of the City of Perth.

Quite obviously it has a lot to recommend it. Nevertheless, above and beyond these obvious advantages, one must give a lot of consideration to the human element involved when rezoning land of this type from one category to another, because many of the people concerned in this development or rezoning are elderly.

Many of them have lived in the area all their lives; many have raised families there, and many made their living from that land. Under the circumstances one can readily understand why these people are a little upset at having to leave their homes and their familiar surroundings. Of course, this is very distressing to them.

So, I ask respectfully that when the final decision is made, the rezoning is completed at Canning Vale, and the people concerned are required to leave the area, very special consideration be given to assist them to re-establish themselves in areas of their own choice.

The other matter to which I wish to refer is somewhat similar. It is one dealing with people who have been caught up willy-nilly in the march of progress. The introduction of the Cannington-Armadale corridor four years ago by the previous Government vastly increased, by almost fourfold, the value of rural properties reclassified as urban land.

Unfortunately this did not bring about a similar increase to the incomes of the small farmers—the orchardists, the poultry farmers, and the like—along the Canning River. Because of the financial trouble these small farmers found themselves in, the previous Government introduced legislation which granted them a 50 per cent. rebate on their rates. No doubt members in this Chamber are familiar with the conditions that prevailed at that time.

However, in the succeeding four years land values have risen again so sharply that these urban small farmers now find

themselves back at square one. Their rebate at the present time is quite ineffective.

I refer to a very hard-working and worthy section of the community which supplies the metropolitan market with a considerable portion of its fruit, vegetables, eggs, and other small-farm products; and it would be a great pity for local consumers, and also a great injustice to the people concerned, if they were forced to the financial wall by circumstances over which they have no control.

May I respectfully commend this situation to the generous consideration of all members, in the hope that early action may relieve these urban farmers of this unwarranted burden and anxiety.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion might I urge both the Government and the Opposition to work conscientiously towards the lasting prosperity and security of the people of Western Australia. These are the people who elected us to Parliament, and to whose needs our first thoughts are pledged.

MR. BURKE (Perth) [8.52 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Leader of the Opposition).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [8.53 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 20th March.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.54 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 20th March, 1973

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Officers; Changes in Positions

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): I wish to advise members of the following changes affecting officers of the House which I have approved, and which became effective from the 12th March, 1973—

Mr. L. A. Hoft has been appointed to a new position of Second Clerk Assistant.

Mr. I. L. Allnutt has been transferred from the Legislative Assembly, and has been promoted to Clerk of the Records and Accounts.

Mr. D. J. Stephens has been designated Clerk of Papers.

As Second Clerk Assistant, Mr. Hoft will relieve at the Table of the House, and will assist members with material for the notice paper. Details of this aspect will be circulated.

QUESTIONS (24): ON NOTICE

1. ECONOMY OF W.A.

Effect of Federal Deficit

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is the State Government in any way concerned at the reports which indicate that the Federal Government is likely to face a record budget deficit of \$958 million?
- (2) If so, what is the basis for this consternation?
- (3) Bearing in mind the present state of the economy in Australia, what, in the opinion of the State Government, are the general and financial prospects for the immediate future?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The prospects are encouraging.

2. MOTOR VEHICLES

Seat Belts

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the National Safety Council is currently carrying out a feasibility study into the possibility of extending the compulsory use of seat belts to cars manufactured prior to 1969?
- (2) Should the Council's findings be such that it makes a recommendation to the Government that the regulations be amended to include cars manufactured prior to 1969, can the House be assured that every consideration will be given to the proposal bearing in mind the Minister's persistent contention that it is not possible to fit seat belts to cars manufactured prior to 1969?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. When present regulations were introduced, it was on the basis of experience and recommendation from the Eastern States. If results of the feasibility study by the National Safety

Council introduce any new matter which could influence the possibility of extending the compulsory use of seat belts prior to 1969, every consideration will be given to the proposal.

3. ILMENITE AND MINERAL SANDS

Transport to Bunbury

The Hon. N. McNeill for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) What are the present plans proposed by the Government for the cartage of ilmenite and other so-called black sands products to the Bunbury Wharf for export?
- (2) If it is proposed that such cartage should be by rail, where will the locomotives and rolling stock be serviced?
- (3) How many private road transport operators is it believed will become redundant if rail cartage is to be used?
- (4) If rail use is proposed, when will it be instituted?
- (5) In the event of rail cartage—
 - (a) who will be expected to pay for the special facilities needed at the mine end; and
 - (b) who will be responsible for the alterations necessary at the wharf end?
- (6) Will spur lines be constructed by the Government to those mines not already connected to rail?
- (7) What special facilities will be needed to handle ilmenite which has been separated by the "wet" process?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) The Railway Department is working to establish whether there is an economic case to handle these products by rail on an industry basis.
- (2) Almost all servicing will be in Bunbury.
- (3) to (7) The study referred to in answer to question (1) is still in progress; several firms are involved and a number of alternative strategies for operating have to be evaluated by the Railway Department and the firms concerned. Answers will be given as soon as this is completed.

4. WATER SUPPLIES

Dandalup Dam

The Hon. N. McNEILL, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is it correct that—
 - (a) the construction of the South Dandalup Metropolitan Water Supply dam; and

(b) the North Dandalup pipehead dam;

have caused a restriction of the amount of water available for settlers downstream from these dams?

- (2) If so, what is the basis upon which water is released from those dams for the use of farmers through whose properties these rivers flow?
- (3) What restriction, if any, is placed upon the use of water so released for—
 - (a) domestic use;
 - (b) stock water;
 - (c) commercial use, including irrigation?
- (4) How many complaints have been received from farmers on the basis of—
 - (a) insufficiency of flow; and/or
 - (b) potability of the water?
- (5) How many farmers in the areas referred to have been forced to construct artificial water catchments or reservoirs as an alternative to river water previously available?
- (6) What has been the expenditure incurred by farmers on such construction?
- (7) Is any compensation or concession allowed by the Government to farmers so affected?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The taking of water from these rivers is controlled by the Public Works Department under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act.
Water is released from the dams to meet the demand and the Department is guided in this respect by an Advisory Committee with two farmer representatives.
- (3) (a) Nil.
(b) Nil.
(c) Commercial use including irrigation is restricted to that being undertaken prior to construction of the same.
- (4) Only one or two complaints have been received as a result of teething troubles in regulating the releases.
- (5) to (7) From the answers already provided it will be appreciated that the Government, subject to advice from an Advisory Committee, is releasing sufficient water to maintain activities which existed prior to the dams being constructed. There has been no coercion on the part

of the Government for settlers to develop alternative sources of supply. If any farmer has built artificial water catchments or reservoirs, it is presumed his decision has been based on a commercial assessment of the potential of his property.

5.

WATER SUPPLIES

Metropolitan Area: Availability

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Leader of the House:

In view of the water consumption in the metropolitan area which shows an increase of 46.3% every five years, and the known availability of water from dams and reservoirs for the metropolitan area will only cope with further expansion until the year 1990, will the Minister advise:

- (a) the Government's plan to meet the fresh water needs of the metropolitan area after the year 1990;
- (b) is it wise to plan industrial complexes requiring enormous amounts of water close to Perth;
- (c) if the answer to (b) is "Yes"—
 - (i) where is the water source for the planned complex;
 - (ii) what is the maximum drawing rate in millions of gallons per day;
 - (iii) what is the salinity quantum and the expected annual increase in salinity at the maximum drawing rate;
- (d) is the Government planning to decentralise industry to areas where the raw materials are being mined and where water is available in large quantities;
- (e) is the Government planning to use the waters from the Ord dam for industry in view of the Ord dam capacity being 6.6 times the total dam capacities in the rest of the State;
- (f) has the Minister considered the usage of water in a small steel mill of only 1,000,000 tons per annum production which will use 3,000,000 gallons of water per day;
- (g) when can I expect a formal reply to my letter on this vital subject dated the 2nd February, 1973, and addressed to the Minister for Works and Water Supplies?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

(a) It is estimated that available fresh water sources will allow a threefold increase in present consumption. Beyond this point it is projected that desalination processes for brackish and perhaps sea water and ground water recharge of treated waste water will be used to an increasing degree depending upon technological development.

(b) The planning process includes a realistic consideration of the availability and cost of water as a vital factor in the overall study.

(c) (i) Rather than view water sources individually, the total water resources of the metropolitan area must be regarded in the context of a system. The present sources of the system are the surface storages, pipehead supplies, artesian ground water supplies and supplies from unconfined ground water sources.

(ii) The maximum daily consumption in the metropolitan area to date was 212 million gallons on 3rd February, 1972.

(iii) The salinity quantum varies by water sources. Generally the Metropolitan Water Board aims to deliver water with a total dissolved solids content less than 500 parts per million.

(d) Yes.

(e) At the present time there are no specific plans for using Ord water for industry.

(f) The Minister is aware that the demand for water for a steel plant to produce 1,000,000 tons of steel per annum depends upon the steel process selected, but that the demand is usually between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 gallons per day.

(g) A reply has been forwarded to you today.

6. CORRIDOR PLAN

M.R.P.A. Report on Royal Commission Recommendations

The Hon. F. R. WHITE, to the Leader of the House:

(1) Has the Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority prepared a report upon the report of the

Honorary Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Corridor Plan for Perth?

(2) If so—

(a) has the M.R.P.A. report been presented to the Government; and

(b) will the Government Table the M.R.P.A. report in each House of Parliament?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

7. MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

Official Visits

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Leader of the House:

Further to my question on Wednesday, the 22nd November, 1972, in which I asked for—

(a) the dates;

(b) the purpose; and

(c) the Ministers concerned;

who have officially visited the South East Metropolitan Province since this Government assumed office, would the Minister advise—

(a) whether the list is of such magnitude that it is still incomplete after nearly four months, even though I was assured at the time that I would receive the answer within a few days;

(b) if the delay has not been caused by the magnitude of it, what is the reason that I have not yet received the list;

(c) if it is the Government's intention to provide me with the information, when can I expect to receive same?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

I regret the delay in supplying the information to the Honourable Member. Details are:—

Date; Purpose; Minister.

30/4/71; Netherlands Reception, South Perth; Premier.

2/6/71; Open James Hardie Plant, Welshpool; Premier.

14/7/71; Japanese Reception, South Perth; Premier.

27/7/71; Open C.W.A. Conference, South Perth; Premier.

18/8/71; Council Dinner at W.A.I.T.; Premier.

28/9/71; Institute of Cartography Dinner, South Perth; Premier.

1/10/71; Engineers' Dinner, South Perth; Premier.

- 15/10/71; Science Talent Search, W.A.I.T.; Premier.
- 8/11/71; Local Government Dinner, South Perth; Premier.
- 7/2/72; New Zealand Reception, South Perth; Premier.
- 2/3/72; Cabinet Consular Reception, South Perth; Premier.
- 13/3/72; Lindy Dinner, South Perth; Premier.
- 29/4/72; Japanese Reception, South Perth; Premier.
- 5/8/72; Italian Businessmen's Ball, South Perth; Premier.
- 8/8/72; C.W.A. Conference, South Perth; Premier.
- 19/8/72; Indonesian Cultural Show, W.A.I.T.; Premier.
- 18/10/72; Crowning of Miss W.A., South Perth; Premier.
- 17/11/72; Nurserymen's Assocn. Dinner, South Perth; Premier.
- 6/2/73; New Zealand Reception, South Perth; Premier.
- 17/2/73; Open Lions' Convention, South Perth; Premier.
- 9/3/73; Chamberlain's Apprenticeship Night, Welshpool; Premier.
- 22/5/72; Open "Wacon 72"; Development.
- 8/9/72; Address Railway Officers' Seminar; Development.
- 5/10/72; Open Litter Pollution Seminar; Development.
- 9/10/72; Open "Drill 72" Convention; Development.
- 4/12/71; Wesley College Speech Night; Education.
- 19/5/72; W.A.I.T. Awards Night; Education.
- 20/9/72; Canning Swimming Pool Conference; Education.
- 17/11/72; Open Commerce Building, W.A.I.T.; Education.
- 15/2/72; Open Zoo Aviary; Lands.
- 26/3/72; Open Architectural Wing, W.A.I.T.; Lands.
- 2/5/71; Opening Administrative Offices, Cannington; Local Government.
- 4/7/71; Inspection of Gosnells District; Local Government.
- 25/10/71; Opening Municipal Administration Meeting; Local Government.
- 23/10/72; Opening Municipal Administration Meeting; Local Government.

The electorate of the Hon. D. May (Clontarf) is in the South East Metropolitan Province, and he almost daily attends to official matters within his area.

As this Province is the same as that of Hon. Mr. Dolan, M.L.C., the official visits to the area are too numerous to record.

Other Ministers submitted Nil returns.

8.

IRRIGATION

License Fees: Carnarvon

The Hon. G. W. BERRY, to the Leader of the House:

Referring to the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act, 1914-1971, Regulation 10A, published in the *Government Gazette* on the 2nd February, 1973—

- (a) how many properties are affected in the Carnarvon area;
- (b) how much will the Government collect in license fees?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (a) 152.
- (b) \$4,560.

9.

LAMB MARKETING BOARD

Operations

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Leader of the House:

Will the Minister make a statement to the House indicating his Government's impressions and reactions to the operation to date of the Lamb Marketing Board?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

The main areas of criticism of the Board have been in relation to grading, prices paid to producers, the 14 days nomination period and prices of skins from country abattoirs sold by auction.

The Australian Export Grading System was introduced since it was the only system operating in the Commonwealth and the only practical method of ensuring that grading at export and non-export works was standardised. Producers who have complained have invariably had no prior experience of direct weight and grade consignment marketing. The Board has encouraged producers to be present whilst their lambs are being processed.

The system of schedule prices varied as to weight and grade of the carcase was designed so as to indicate to producers the forward value of their lambs in direct relation to quality. The schedule prices for producers have been increased steadily until February 19 in respect to the market situation.

The Board has experienced major problems in the areas of unreliable nominations and cancellations of lambs nominated for slaughter. Administration and inspection difficulties have also occurred at non-export country abattoirs.

The Board has attempted to meet criticisms in a positive manner and is overcoming problems as these are encountered so as to ensure that an orderly lamb marketing system of long term benefit to the farming community is established.

The Government supports the operations of the Board and believes that it is meeting its responsibilities in the face of difficult seasonal conditions as well as high wool and mutton prices.

10. MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

Veterinary Faculty

The Hon. J. HEITMAN, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) When will enrolments of students commence for the Veterinary Faculty at the Murdoch University?
- (2) What is the maximum number of students who will be admitted to the faculty?
- (3) Of this number what percentage will be allocated to students from—
 - (a) Western Australia;
 - (b) other States;
 - (c) Commonwealth countries;
 - (d) Asia?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) 1975.
- (2) Facilities will be available to graduate forty students per year. The intake into first year will depend on anticipated wastage during the course and on decision as to how and at what point any necessary quota restrictions should be applied.
- (3) Decisions have not yet been made on this matter. There is a commitment to accept a proportion of students from South Australia and Tasmania where there are no veterinary schools.

11. EDUCATION

New High School: Kalamunda

The Hon. F. R. WHITE, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is it proposed to construct a new high school, ready for occupation by the commencement of the 1975 school year, within the Shire of Kalamunda?

- (2) If so, where is the proposed site for the high school?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No firm decision has as yet been made with regard to the high school site which is anticipated to be in the area bounded by Forrestfield, Maida Vale and High Wycombe.

12. KWINANA-MANDURAH ROAD

Upgrading

The Hon. N. McNEILL, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) What was the average daily traffic density on the Kwinana to Mandurah road during the 1972 and 1973 Australia Day long weekends?
- (2) Does the Government consider that with the present condition of that road, particularly in relation to—
 - (a) pavement width; and
 - (b) low visibility due to frequent curves and hills;
 that an undue traffic hazard exists particularly during such holiday periods?
- (3) If so, what steps are being taken by the Government to bring the road to a standard necessary to minimise such hazards?
- (4) If steps are being taken, when is it anticipated that the programme of upgrading will be completed?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) 1972—no traffic count taken. 1973—average daily traffic: 14,310.
- (2) While the present road capacity is over-taxed at peak holiday periods, no undue traffic hazard exists.
- (3) It is proposed to increase the capacity of the road by constructing a dual carriageway on selected sections of this road on a staged basis.
- (4) The rate at which this can be achieved will depend on the allotment of funds by the Commonwealth under the 1974 C.A.R. legislation.

13. POLICE STATION

Laverton

The Hon. G. W. BERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has any work been effected at the police station or lock-up at Laverton since my question on the 17th August, 1972?
- (2) If not, what is the latest position regarding this matter?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

(1) Since 17th August, 1972, the following work has been carried out at the Police Station and Lockup at Laverton—

- (a) Screen placed around toilet in lockup,
- (b) New stainless steel pedestal pan installed in lockup,
- (c) Leach drains from septic tanks renewed,
- (d) Purlins timber supporting roof sheeting in lockup replaced.

(2) Answered by (1).

14. **BUNBURY TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

Refusal of Admissions

The Hon. N. McNeill for the Hon. G. C. MacKINNON, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that students from the Cathedral Grammar School and the Marist Brothers College, Bunbury, both purchased text books and actually attended one lesson in technical subjects at the Bunbury Technical School before being informed that they could not be so taught this year?
- (2) In view of the obvious grave disadvantage incurred by students of these schools, does the Government intend to review the matter in order to make arrangements for the proposed studies to proceed as originally arranged?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government was aware of the situation concerning students of the Cathedral Grammar School and the Marist Brothers' College, Bunbury, and action was taken to resolve the matter. From the week commencing Monday, 18th March special classes in woodwork, metalwork and food and nutrition will be conducted for these students by the Technical School. The headmasters of both schools have expressed their complete satisfaction with the arrangements.

15. **STRATA TITLES ACT**

Amendment

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Leader of the House:

Is it the Government's intention during this session of Parliament to amend the Strata Titles Act in the manner recommended by me in December, 1971, to ensure that the rights of individual owners are not negated due to investment

companies or developers obtaining more than 50% control in a block of home units?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

It is the intention to consider amendments to the Strata Titles Act and this matter is included in those to be considered.

16. **MANJIMUP CANNING CO-OPERATIVE**

Finance

The Hon. F. D. Willmott for The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

In July, 1972, the Government guaranteed additional borrowings of \$420,000 to the Manjimup Canning Co-operative, and in answer to a question asked by me in this House on the 2nd August, 1972, regarding financial assistance to the cannery, the Government expressed the view that there would be no further need for guarantees for long term finance; in answer to a further question asked by me on this matter on the 15th November, 1972, the Government reaffirmed its opinion that there would not be need for further Government guarantees for long term finance—how does the Government now equate its approval for a further loan of \$275,000 to the cannery as announced last month?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

The additional guarantee of \$275,000, issued in February this year, was necessitated by the need for an additional boiler to provide steam for an increased throughput, the need to comply with certain unexpected fire control requirements, the need to purchase certain items of equipment, the hire of which was found to be uneconomical, a general increase in material and labour costs and operating costs up to the commencement of the present season. In the interests of Manjimup, the region, the fruitgrowers and the economy of the State, the Government is taking all steps necessary in order to ensure success of the venture.

17. **FIRE BRIGADES ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

Reference to Judicial Authority

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Leader of the House:

With reference to the debate during the final stages of the passage of the Fire Brigades Act Amendment Bill 1972 and the

Message transmitted to the Legislative Assembly to the effect that without prejudice to its constitutional rights and privileges, the Legislative Council was prepared to give its concurrence to the subject Bill provided the Legislative Assembly would, with a view to avoiding similar disagreements of a constitutional nature in the future, agree with the Legislative Council to refer to a judicial authority, agreed to between the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, the determination of the matter the subject of the dispute, being the competence of the Legislative Council to amend the subject Bill in the manner proposed by the Council at the time—what action has the Government taken in the matter?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

The Parliamentary Counsel (Mr. Viney) has discussed the matter with the Solicitor-General, with the result that the Government has been advised by Mr. Wilson that, although the terms of the motion refer to a "judicial inquiry", the subject matter is not one that could reasonably, or should be referred to a judge for an opinion.

It is suggested that the problem could best be referred to an academic lawyer, who is well versed in constitutional law, with particular reference to parliamentary conventions and institutions.

It is proposed to introduce a motion seeking to set up a Committee representative of all parties in both Houses for the purpose of deciding on the most desirable action to be taken.

18. CENSORSHIP

"R" Certificate Films

The Hon. G. W. BERRY, to the Chief Secretary:

Since the passing of legislation in respect to "R" Certificate films, how many—

- "R" Certificate;
 - mature audience;
 - N.R.C.; and
 - General Exhibition;
- films have been shown in Perth?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS replied:

This information is not available, and no records are kept in the Chief Secretary's Department.

19.

HOUSING

Metropolitan Area: Applicants and Completions

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Leader of the House:

- What is the total number of outstanding applicants currently registered with the State Housing Commission in the metropolitan area under the following categories—
 - purchase homes;
 - rental homes;
 - single unit homes for—
 - aged women; and
 - working women?
- What were the corresponding figures in each category at the same date in 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971?
- How many units of accommodation in each category were completed by the Commission in each of the financial years ended the 30th June, 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971?
- What is the estimated total number of completed units of housing in each of the above categories that will be completed by the 30th June, 1973?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- Outstanding Applications—28th February, 1973—

Purchase	.....	5,643
Rental	.....	5,513
Single Unit Pensioners (Women)	.....	1,301
Single Unit Working Women	.....	121

(2) —

Outstanding Applications	Purchase	Rental	S/U Pens. (Women)	S/U Working Women
February 1968	6,453	8,331	*	*
February 1969	7,077	3,833	722	87
February 1970	6,775	8,407	1,250	125
February 1971	7,143	6,142	1,127	123
February 1972	6,551	5,146	1,119	130

* No breakup—Included in Rental figure.

(3) Units Completed—

	Purchase	Rental	Single Units	Total
1967/68	336	296	12
1968/69	488	435	32
1969/70	718	781	60
1970/71	557	1,345	119
1971/72	886	933	102

(4) Estimated Completions—1972-73—

Purchase	Rental	Single Units	Total
1,000	1,095	105	2,200

20.

TRAFFIC

Fatal Accidents

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN, to the Leader of the House:

- How many fatal accidents have occurred in each of the Local Authorities since the Police have taken over traffic control?

- (2) How many fatal accidents occurred in each of these Local Authorities in the same period of time prior to Police takeover?
- (3) How many country fatal accidents involved metropolitan drivers?
- (4) Taking into consideration the time and place of the fatal accidents in the country, under what circumstances would Police control have prevented such accidents?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) 64.
- (2) 79.
- (3) 13—39 fatal accidents are recorded with insufficient information readily available to establish whether city or country drivers were involved.
- (4) Uniform control by the Police throughout the State lends itself to the practicability of being able to deploy staff from a centre or area to any other area where remedial action is deemed necessary, or where a potential danger may exist, from which it is reasonable to assume that there would be a substantial reduction in fatal country accidents.

21. HOUSING

Bunbury: Constructions 1968 to 1973

The Hon. F. D. Willmott for the Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) How many houses were built in Bunbury by the State Housing Commission during the financial years—
 - (a) 1968/69;
 - (b) 1969/70;
 - (c) 1970/71;
 - (d) 1971/72?
- (2) How many new houses have been programmed by the State Housing Commission for completion during the current financial year?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

(1)

	Rental	Purchase	Others	Total
1968/69	5	16	2	23
1969/70	1	30	9	20
1970/71	102	....	13	115
1971/72	103	....	18	121

- (2) No units have been programmed for completion in 1972-73.

22. CORRIDOR PLAN

Implementation of Royal Commission Recommendations

The Hon. F. R. WHITE, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Does the Government propose to implement any of the recommendations presented to it by the

Honorary Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Corridor Plan for Perth?

- (2) If so, which of the twenty-five recommendations made does the Government intend to adopt?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government has not yet considered the comments made by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority on the Honorary Royal Commission's Report, but it is to be noted that the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority is substantially in agreement with the principle of 17 of the recommendations, has qualified reservations about 7 and only directly dissents from one.

23. PEEL INLET AND HARVEY AND SERPENTINE ESTUARIES

Control of Weed Growth

The Hon. N. McNEILL, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) What is the nature and extent of the work being undertaken by the Government in endeavours to control or inhibit the weed growth in the Peel Inlet and Harvey and Serpentine Estuaries?
- (2) Is there any indication to date that the extent of the weed growth in those waters is, or has been, adversely affecting other marine life such as fish, crabs and prawns, and the bird life supported by them?
- (3) Is it yet known whether the restriction of the flow of the Serpentine, Dandalup and Harvey rivers, and lesser streams, brought about by the construction of dams and weirs, is contributing to the estuary weed problem?
- (4) If so, what action is contemplated?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) Weed clearing on an experimental basis was carried out in the shallows at Novara Beach on the western shore of the Peel Inlet on February 19, 20 and 21, 1973. The work was carried out by the Swan River Conservation Board, the Shire of Mandurah and the Department of Environmental Protection. Although the effort was of small scale, it is adequate to show that certain beaches frequented by the public can be restored to satisfactory condition providing a continuing operation is mounted.

- (2) The information available indicates that the weed growth in those waters has not had an adverse effect on other marine life such as fish, crabs and prawns and the bird life supported by them.
- (3) No.
- (4) Amongst other studies, a request has been made to the Public Works Department for advice as to the feasibility and assessment of providing greater interchange of water between the ocean and the inlet. In addition, a sampling programme at 15 points in the rivers, inlet and estuary was instituted on a quarterly basis in April, 1972.

Departmental experiments with a variety of materials have indicated that a particular chemical dust would also be suitable subject to meeting registration requirements.

(b) Dichlorvos is freely available.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SECOND DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 15th March, on the following motion by The Hon. R. F. Cloughton—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency—

May it please Your Excellency—

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

24.

POTATOES

Control of Tuber Moth

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) In respect to the control of potato tuber moth in bagged potatoes in storage situations, is it correct that D.D.T. 2% dust is not permitted for use on stored tubers intended for eating purposes?
- (2) (a) Is Derris dust the only alternative product to D.D.T. dust that can be recommended; and
(b) if so, are sufficient quantities of Derris dust available to meet the requirements of the potato industry in this State?
- (3) If Derris dust is in short supply, can an indication be given as to when supplies will be available to meet local needs?
- (4) Are there any other suitable products available for assisting in the control of potato moths in storage situations?
- (5) (a) If so, what are the names of the products; and
(b) are the products freely available in this State?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) The Department no longer recommends the use of D.D.T. on harvested potatoes in accordance with Commonwealth policy to phase out D.D.T. usage.
- (2) (a) No.
(b) Stocks of Derris dust are available and further supplies can be obtained if required.
- (3) Answered by (2) (b).
- (4) Yes.
- (5) (a) Dichlorvos applied as a mist spray to potatoes in store is also recommended.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.15 p.m.]: This is the first sitting day after our opening last Thursday and I suppose it would not be out of place to say, "Here we are again." On many occasions it has been said that the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply affords members an opportunity not only to express their loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen, but to address themselves—during the first opportunity provided in a new session—on many matters of importance of their own choosing.

Before I proceed any further with my comments on the motion, I want to say very sincerely that I am extremely sorry that certain events which should have caused the retirement from the Ministry—and from Parliament next year—of The Hon. W. F. Willesee. With this portion of Mr. Cloughton's remarks I heartily agree. Mr. Willesee had the good will of every member in this House. He did an excellent job as a Minister and he had that nice, friendly ability to present his legislation and, as Mr. Cloughton said, to get it through the House.

I think the Labor Party will find it extremely difficult to replace Mr. Willesee, but I make that comment with no intention of being impolite to the Ministers who now sit on the front bench. I hope Mr. Willesee's health will improve; and I think the Government and the members in this House should be very grateful to him for the contribution he made both to his Government and to the portfolios he held while he led the House.

In the same breath I want to congratulate Mr. Dolan upon the fact that he has now become the Leader of the Government

in the Legislative Council. I feel sure he will accept my offer, as Leader of the Opposition in the House, of the same co-operation extended to his predecessor.

I congratulate Mr. Ron Thompson upon his becoming a Minister of the Crown. I wish him well in his portfolio which is a difficult one to say the least and one which he inherited from Mr. Willesee.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I agree with you.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I can do nothing else but wish him well in his endeavour as a Minister in the Government.

As I said when I commenced my speech, this is the first sitting day after our formal meeting on Thursday evening. With some misgivings I read the Government's announcement that the opening would be held at night, but then I concluded—and experience has proved it to be so—that if a session of Parliament has to be held in March—and I see very little merit in sitting in the middle of March—it is sensible to have the opening in the evening. I am sure it was more pleasant for members sitting in the House and for those who attended the opening.

I also observed by reading *The West Australian* that the Government intended to herald the opening of Parliament with a display of fireworks. In my humble opinion that was the most senseless action the Government has taken, and whatever the fireworks display cost could have been expended in a more worthy cause. Apparently the Government desired to illustrate to the people of the State that Parliament would be opened and that it should be done by a display of fireworks across the river. I can find no merit whatever in the idea and I repeat that whatever cost was involved would have been better expended in some worthy cause.

The Press suggested that fireworks would occur inside Parliament whether or not a display was held outside Parliament on opening night. Well, that will depend on the circumstances. Whether or not fireworks are encountered inside Parliament, I imagine we will certainly have to spend a great deal of time here in order to deal with the formidable list of legislation the Government has foreshadowed.

I would like to make some comments upon the speech of the mover of the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. It is customary to congratulate the member concerned on his speech, and I do so. However, as I sat and listened to Mr. Cloughton who had the advantage of a microphone in front of him for, I understand the benefit of the gallery, I wondered whether the proceedings of Parliament were being effectually carried out, because while the people could hear Mr. Cloughton, as he was able to use the microphone, and while they no doubt heard His Excellency's speech because he had a microphone, the

public in the gallery would I think have been cut off from the rest of the proceedings at least in respect of the words spoken by those members whose voices did not carry throughout the Chamber.

Nevertheless, I am inclined to the thought that the acoustics in this Chamber are such that no member should really need a microphone; although I have been reminded that on one occasion when I sat on the ministerial bench a microphone was placed in front of me for some purpose. I merely suggest that if some of the proceedings are to have the advantage of the use of a microphone, then perhaps all the proceedings should be so amplified in order that the public might not miss any part of what is being said. However, I do not want to come down on the side of amplification of the whole proceedings because I believe that the acoustics in the Chamber are such that no member should require a microphone to make himself heard, and no Minister on the front bench should require a microphone when giving his answers to questions.

Another thought which occurred to me was that if movers of motions for the adoption of Addresses-in-Reply are to make provocative statements then I would have to consider my own position—and I am sure other members in the Chamber would also have to consider their positions—in that event. It is traditional in the Chamber that on opening day the speech by the mover of the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply is not interrupted by interjections, but I can tell members now that when I listened to Mr. Cloughton the other night I had difficulty in controlling myself in this regard.

I heard Mr. Cloughton say that members of the Labor Party are justifiably proud of the Government's record during its short period in office. As I proceed with my remarks I will point out to him that not all members of the Labor Party share that particular view. Mr. Cloughton also said—

The State has been fortunate to have John Tonkin as its Premier to steer it through this period. I doubt whether any other member in our Parliament today could have provided the qualities of experience, ability, and leadership—which the situation demanded—in the measure these qualities are possessed by our Premier.

I do not wish to reflect in any way on the Premier, but I certainly point out to Mr. Cloughton that he has said not only have his own parliamentary colleagues no replacement for Mr. Tonkin, but no other man in Parliament could do the job the Premier is doing at the present time. Of course, in my humble opinion that is nonsense. I am glad to say that many able men—from all parties—would be capable of tackling the task. It is one of

those fortunate circumstances that a new leader is available when required and sometimes his quality and ability are not known in the House or in another place until he is given the opportunity to show leadership. Consequently, I join issue with Mr. Cloughton on that particular point whilst not criticising in any way the personal ability of the Premier.

Apart from what I have said I find it very difficult to make any other comment on Mr. Cloughton's speech. I felt his were the words of a man trying desperately to point out to the gallery that the Government in office at the moment is a pretty good one, and I feel also that he was endeavouring to ingratiate himself with that Government.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Not very effectively.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: As it is customary for the mover of the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to be provided with a copy of the Governor's Speech, Mr. Cloughton knew what the Governor would say, and was thus able to comment accordingly.

I want to turn briefly to His Excellency's Speech. With the greatest respect to His Excellency, although I know he prepared only some of the Speech, I found it one of the poorest I have heard in this House. What did it do? It did four things. It placed on record our feelings in respect of the bereavement of certain members and with that expression I concur. It gave a long list of Bills the Government proposes to introduce. It recounted the couple of resignations which have occurred; one in the seat of Blackwood and the other in the seat of Bunbury, and it named the successful candidate for the seat of Blackwood. It did not name the successful candidate for the seat of Bunbury, because that by-election has not been held. On page 1, in a very cursory way, the Speech reported—

The \$5,077,000 deficit anticipated by the 1972-73 Budget has been enlarged subsequently by increased costs.

As I have said, the Speech contained that most cursory statement. On opening day I gave notice of my intention to ask the Leader of the House a question in relation to the economy of the country. My question is as follows—

- (1) Is the State Government in any way concerned at the reports which indicate that the Federal Government is likely to face a record budget deficit of \$958,000,000?
- (2) If so, what is the basis for this consternation?
- (3) Bearing in mind the present state of the economy in Australia, what, in the opinion of the State Government, are the general and financial prospects for the immediate future?

The answer given today by the Minister is as follows—

(1) No.

(2) Answered by (1).

(3) The prospects are encouraging.

The State Government does not give a continental hoot that the Commonwealth Government is entering into a record deficit of nearly \$1,000,000,000. Instead the Government cursorily mentions that the anticipated deficit of \$5,000,000 for 1972-73 will be greatly increased. As an aside—and I do not know who chose the wording—the Government states—

Nevertheless, a substantial recovery and advance by the economy is expected during this year, and the Government is experiencing considerable success in attracting investment.

I am interested in the last few words to the effect that the Government is having success in attracting investment. Of course the State Government must run the gauntlet to the Federal Government when attracting investment.

The Hon. N. McNeill: I wonder what Mr. Crean will think of that?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The Federal Government is dampening the enthusiasm of investors who may wish to invest in Western Australia. There is a great need to encourage investment in this State. The State Government will obviously be at loggerheads with its Federal counterpart.

On turning to page 2 of the Governor's Speech we find the following enlightening words—

Later in this session, the Revenue Budget and the Loan Estimates will refer in detail, to the State's economy, prospects and employment situation, and to current and projected works programmes.

Traditionally the Governor's Speech advises the people of Western Australia what is happening in the State, what the situation is financially, and gives some detail of what is anticipated for the future. We have not been given any of this information. In considering the Governor's Speech it seems the Government may have decided on the policy, "Keep it as short as we can, because the least said, the soonest mended. Let us point out that we will introduce a long list of social legislation of benefit to the people of Western Australia."

It will be most interesting to see what sort of Budget is presented to the people of Western Australia for the current financial year. We must bear in mind that last year the Government seemed to be careful not to increase taxes, at least not by legislative action. Taxes were increased considerably by administrative processes, but few taxing measures actually came before the Parliament. Consequently, it will be interesting to see what happens this year when the Budget is prepared.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Is the Leader of the Opposition talking of taxes or charges?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am talking of both. It does not matter whether we call something a tax or a charge, because the person who must pay something out of his pocket rarely discriminates between the two. The people of the country are affected when the cost of services or the level of taxation is increased.

I wish to comment on that part of His Excellency's Speech which indicated to us his own personal feelings and those of his wife (Lady Kendrew). I commend the Government's gesture in giving His Excellency the opportunity to express his feelings in a speech to the Parliament. Sir Douglas Kendrew will, as we well know, be leaving Western Australia later this year after 10 years here.

Personally, I consider Sir Douglas and Lady Kendrew have done an excellent job in Western Australia and have earned the respect of the people of the State. I thank them for the contribution they have made. After their return to the Old Country I hope that one day they may see fit to return to Western Australia. Ever since His Excellency's arrival in Western Australia he has shown a deep outward sympathy and has given support for everything which has happened in Western Australia. I wish him well and thank him for the task which he has so successfully undertaken on behalf of Her Majesty.

I would like to refer to some remarks I made when speaking on the 24th November, 1972 to the Appropriation Bill (Consolidated Revenue Fund). My words are recorded at page 5815 of *Hansard* No. 34. I concluded my speech by saying—

I do not think the Government can be very proud of its achievements. It is now heading into the second half of its term of office—it has been in office 18 or 19 months. It has approximately another 18 months to go. The Government will have to give a better account of itself in the next 18 months. In my concluding remarks on this debate I will go so far as to say that if the Government were to face an election at the present time it would not be here for the rest of its term of office.

The Minister for Police obviously did not agree with me because, by way of interjection he said, "That is only a matter of opinion." Of course it was a matter of opinion. However, I must assume from the Minister's interjection that he was quite satisfied with the progress his Government was making and felt at the time that he should tell me so.

As events have proven, I was not the only one to entertain those thoughts. As a matter of fact it is recorded in the Press that certain members of the Labor Party agreed with me. We all know the Federal election was held on the 2nd December,

1972. I shall be charitable in my comments by saying that the Labor Party in Western Australia did not make as good a showing as its counterparts in some of the other States. The voting figures for the Federal election indicate this quite clearly.

On the 8th December, 1972 an article appeared in *The West Australian* under the headline, "Unrest in State Government over poll". The article reads—

The Federal election result in W.A. has caused growing unrest in the State Government—including an offer by a Cabinet Minister to resign.

A special meeting of the State Labor caucus has been called for January to review the election result, in which Labor's share of the vote dropped by about 4 per cent to 46.4 per cent.

On the 22nd January, 1973 the *Daily News* carried an article under the heading, "Backbenchers will have their say". The article reads—

Some Labor backbenchers are expected to press today for ways to improve the State Government's image as a lead-up to the 1974 State election.

The party's 36 State MPs are meeting at a caucus which will primarily give backbenchers the chance of putting their views and grievances to the Government.

One of the chief complaints in recent months has been that caucus meetings have been dominated by ministerial and legislative business and not enough on back benchers' problems.

According to one MP, moves would be made for a more vigorous approach to "selling" the achievements of the past two years—in setting up an ombudsman office, a Consumer Protection Bureau and similar legislation.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: It is pretty difficult when you have nothing to sell.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The article continues—

Friction within the party led last month to the Minister for Labour, Mr. Taylor, offering his resignation to the Premier because he was said to be annoyed with the criticism of some backbench members.

This followed Labor's reduced vote in W.A. at the December 2 Federal election.

Today's meeting is expected to see party leaders trying to smooth over any ruffled feathers in the interests of unity for a pre-election year.

So it continues! An article appeared in *The West Australian* on the 23rd January, 1973 under the heading, "1974 Poll—State Government optimistic". It reads in part—

A State Cabinet sub-committee is optimistic about the Government's chances of re-election next year.

I will not bother to read the balance of the article. On the last day of the last session the Minister for Police thought everything was rosy. Apparently Mr. Claughton, when he made his speech on Thursday last, thought that we might forget the articles which have appeared in the papers. He, too, said that everything is rosy. I do not think that everything is rosy at all.

An article appeared on the 28th January, 1973 in the *Sunday Times* under the heading, "Labor to test its prestige: Consultant to be hired". The article reads—

The State Government will hire a consultant to test its image in marginal seats.

This is the first shot in the 1974 election campaign in which the Government hopes to increase its present one-seat majority in the Legislative Assembly.

The decision on the consultant was made this week at a specially convened meeting to discuss backbench grievances.

Like all caucus decisions, it is binding on the Government.

Under the consultant's terms of reference an investigation will be made of Government and Opposition marginal seats.

These will include Boulder-Dundas (held by Mr. Tom Hartrey, A.L.P.)—

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is how much notice we can take of the paper!

The Hon. J. Dolan: I imagine the member for Boulder-Dundas is shaking in his shoes.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The article continues—

—Mirrabooka (Mr. Arthur Tonkin, ALP), Merredin-Yilgarn (Mr. James Brown, ALP), Perth (Mr. T. Burke, ALP), Karrinyup (Mr. S. Lapham, ALP), Toodyay (Mr. James Moiler, ALP), Bunbury (Mr. M. Williams, Lib), Darling Range (Mr. I. Thompson, Lib)—

In fact, as I read the article I feel like helping to pay this fellow's fee.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: What fellow is this?

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: It would be interesting to know if he is still employed.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The list continues—

—Murchison-Eyre (Mr. P. Coyne, Lib), Subiaco (Dr. G. T. Dadour, Lib) and Moore (Mr. E. Lewis, CP).

These are the doubtful seats upon which the Government apparently is concentrating its attention. The article continues—

The backbenchers at the caucus meeting were reported concerned at the Government's image, the perfor-

mance of some ministers, and Labor's poor showing in WA in the December 2 Federal election.

Although the expected storm did not break at the caucus meeting, backbenchers are understood to have forced Cabinet to accept some organisational changes.

A major Cabinet reshuffle seems certain after Tuesday's caucus meeting to elect a replacement for Mr. W. Willesee, who resigned this week as Minister for Community Welfare and Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council.

The Premier, Mr. Tonkin, said yesterday the meeting could result in changes.

I realise the Minister for Police is busily taking notes and will deny everything I have said.

The Hon. R. Thompson: He should.

The Hon. J. Dolan: The Leader of the Opposition is looking into the crystal ball.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: With the possible exception of Boulder-Dundas, the Minister may agree that these are the seats which are considered by the Government to be marginal. I do not think that Boulder-Dundas is a marginal seat.

The Hon. J. Dolan: It is good news to hear that you think that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If the Minister does not think these are marginal seats, let me point out that nobody has contradicted the statement which appeared in the newspaper on the 28th January, 1973. If, tomorrow, the Minister decides he ought to contradict the statement, it will be purely a matter of convenience, because I have raised this matter.

The articles continue and, on the 3rd February, 1973, one appeared in the *Weekend News* under the heading, "Unions chief lashes Government". Government members are making light of this. The new Leader of the House must think that the easiest answer is to laugh.

The Hon. J. Dolan: We are all laughing.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The Leader of the House knows my comments are not silly. When I raised this question last year I did not know the Labor Government's standing in the community of Western Australia. The Leader of the House is now aware that the Government's standing is not as good as he thought it was. It is not as good as Mr. Claughton thought it was as late as Thursday evening.

The Hon. L. D. Elliott: Mr. Coleman repudiated that statement.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will not read it.

The Hon. L. D. Elliott: Good.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Is it good that I will not read it? The article simply says that Mr. Chamberlain lashed out.

I would like to point out that I was not very far wrong last year when I said that the Government would have to make a better showing than it has made if it hopes to be the Government after 1974. The electors in Western Australia are starting to buck. Probably the electors are not only reacting against the State Government but also against the Federal Government.

I have spoken to many people—not all of whom support the Liberal Party—and I feel that the electors are beginning to wonder just where our country is heading. The electors are seeing changes in Government administration they would not have thought possible. The Federal Government has turned away some of our allies by shutting the door in their faces. Over the years we had learnt to depend upon many of these people.

Already many of the actions taken by the new Federal Government have given rise for concern, and the electors are also aware of the atmosphere in the State Labor Party. We have seen Government back-benchers blaming their Ministers, and the Ministers then blaming the back-benchers. I have never been invited to a Caucus meeting of the Labor Party, but I would have liked to be a fly on the wall to witness the punching ball expertise which must be practised these days.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You would find a Caucus meeting very entertaining. The meetings are conducted with decorum and are always peaceful.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am sure they are.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The report you read describes events which did not take place.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I see. The whole Press report is wrong! The Minister did not offer to resign and the back-bencher did not criticise the Government. Is that what the new Minister is saying?

The Hon. R. Thompson: I said that you would enjoy our meetings; they are very educational.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I would have liked to attend the meeting at which Mr. Williams resigned from your party.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Does the honourable member suggest that there was anything wrong with Mr. Williams' resignation?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I said I would very much have liked to be at the meeting; just as you said you would like to be a fly on the wall at a Caucus meeting.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not really know that I would like that.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: For what reason would you like to be a fly on the wall?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Perhaps Mr. Dans will tell me later in private why he would have liked to attend our meeting.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I may even do that!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I feel I am getting a slight indication of the honourable member's meaning.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I do not think you should speculate about what I mean.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Speculation is not bad. The honourable member is speculating. I must inform the honourable member that the Government can make nothing out of the resignation of Mr. Williams. He has stated the reason for his resignation quite clearly.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: And likewise you would get nothing by being a fly on the wall in the Caucus room.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I prepared many of my notes some time ago to make this speech, and my final note was to mention the Government's new approach which included such statements as, "Labor lifts its prestige; it is optimistic for the State poll" and "Back-benchers are going to have one or two things to say." I asked myself what line the Government would take, and it did not take me very long to work that out. The Government will present Parliament with a formidable list of legislation with the idea that some of it will be rejected by the Legislative Council. The Government can then say that the Legislative Council is to blame for its failure to produce results. Of course, this has been going on for a long time. Even on the opening night of Parliament I was told a pamphlet was issued in the Legislative Assembly sponsoring the abolition of the Legislative Council.

The Hon. J. M. Thomson: Was that the pamphlet by Mr. Arthur Tonkin?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not know whether that gentleman had anything to do with it. I saw a copy of the pamphlet and I noted that it was authorised by a Mr. Hawkes. I wonder whether the Leader of the House knew that this pamphlet was handed out.

The Hon. J. Dolan: I have not seen a copy of it as yet.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The Leader of the House should see the pamphlet. I am sure he will agree it was plain cheek to hand out such a pamphlet in another place. The Speaker should stop such practices. I am sure you, Mr. President, would act quickly on similar action being taken in this Chamber. It is all part of a plan to blame this House for the Government's failure. The Premier of the State is using

this as a platform in the Bunbury by-election. I would add that at the time my speech was prepared I did not know Mr. Williams intended to resign.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: On a more serious note, I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will agree that a cartoon in *The West Australian* went too far. It depicted a person with a Molotov cocktail outside Parliament House.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That was outside the Federal Parliament.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: No, it was outside our Parliament.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I did not see the cartoon, but if what the honourable member says is true, I would agree with him. Such a cartoon is designed to incite.

I have here an article headed, "A lesson if Labor wins—Tonkin." It reads as follows—

A Labor win in the by-election for Bunbury would serve as a lesson to the Legislative Council, the Premier, Mr. Tonkin, said tonight.

Such a win would reaffirm public support for the policies that Labor presented at the last State election. I do not blame the Labor Party for the line it is taking in the by-election. It has no other policy to put forward. However, I do not propose to enter into a discourse on the merits and demerits of the Bunbury by-election. I simply point out to members that the Government is taking this line, and intends to take it further. A Bill to amend the Electoral Act was introduced in another place. I do not know whether the Government will seek to reintroduce this Bill.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The Government could not get a constitutional majority.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The Bill to which I refer provided for first-past-the-post voting and did not require a constitutional majority. Did the Leader of the House expect this Chamber to pass such a Bill?

The Hon. J. Dolan: Why should I give you my opinion?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Why not? The Leader of the House must take up the debate.

The Hon. J. Dolan: I will refer to the point in my speech.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In the meantime the Leader of the House is bucking the question. Of course no-one would expect such legislation to be passed in this House. I will speak about this Bill at greater length in the future, but if the Leader of the House expects the Bill to be passed in this House he is as blind today as he was on the last day of the previous sitting. At that stage he thought everything was in order.

The Hon. J. Dolan: I am wondering about your use of the expression "blind".

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: There is no possible chance of members misunderstanding my meaning. It has been stated time and time again that the Legislative Council is an integral part of the bicameral system of Government in Western Australia. When we are considering legislation in this House, I will always take notice of strong representations made to me by people who will be affected by the legislation, despite the innuendoes made by Mr. Cloughton on opening night. He commented on people wishing to serve their own ends. People are entitled to approach me and state their case, and when I feel their views have substance I will act accordingly. Many people made representations to members of the Liberal Party as well as to members of the Country Party about traffic control and since the last sitting of Parliament I have consulted these people again to determine their present feelings. Members in this House are entitled to oppose Government legislation.

Many members in this Chamber were elected on the same day as the Government was elected with the very narrow majority of one vote. In my opinion the Government should get on with the business of administering the State. It should not look for excuses for its own failure as it has in the past. The Government bewails the fact that it has not been permitted to carry out its election policies for one reason or another. It will gain more respect from the community if it gets down to work.

Amendment to Motion

In concluding my remarks, I would like to move an amendment—

That the following words be added to the motion—

However, this House is of the opinion that the best interests of the State and the people would be better served if the Government were to concentrate on improving its administration of the affairs of the State, instead of endeavouring to denigrate the Legislative Council (an integral part of the bicameral system of Government in this State) in an effort to cover up its own shortcomings.

THE HON. J. HEITMAN (Upper West) [5.58 p.m.]: I formally second the amendment.

Debate (on amendment) adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan (Leader of the House).

House adjourned at 6.00 p.m.