

# Legislative Council

Tuesday, 4th September, 1956.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

## ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor and Administrator received and read notifying assent to the Rents and Tenancies Emergency Provisions Act Continuance Bill.

## CONDOLENCE, LETTERS IN REPLY.

(a) *Late Hon. H. Hearn, M.L.C.*

The PRESIDENT: I have received a letter from Mrs. E. Nellie Hearn which reads as follows:—

46 Ord St., West Perth.

The Hon. A. L. Loton, M.L.C.,

Dear Mr. Loton,

I thank you most sincerely for your letter of 8th August. Will you please convey to the Legislative Council members my deep appreciation of the motion passed in reference of my late husband's passing.

I counted it a great honour for him to be a member of the Legislative Council of Western Australia.

Yours sincerely,

E. Nellie Hearn.

(b) *Late Hon. D. Barker, M.L.C.*

The PRESIDENT: I have also received a letter from Mrs. Muriel M. Barker which reads as follows:—

41 Preston St., Como.

Hon. A. L. Loton, M.L.C.,  
President, Legislative Council,  
Parliament House, Perth.

Dear Sir,

Please extend to all members and officers of the Legislative Council my thanks for their sympathy and floral tributes in my recent sad loss.

Don's heart was in the North and the North claimed him in the end.

I cannot express in words how I feel but I am sure everyone will understand.

Yours truly,

Muriel M Barker.

## BILL—RENTS AND TENANCIES EMERGENCY PROVISIONS ACT CONTINUANCE.

### Assembly's Message.

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

*Sitting suspended from 4.35 p.m. to  
4.50 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS.

### MARSHALLING YARDS.

#### Design, Location and Compensation.

Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) When will the design and location plan for the Welshpool-South Belmont marshalling yards be completed?

(2) Does he appreciate the apprehension of the people in the area who are likely to be displaced?

(3) Will he take every possible opportunity of hastening the completion of the plan in order that people who are to be affected will be informed with a minimum delay?

(4) When can people who are to be displaced expect to be paid compensation?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The preliminary design is now in hand and the overall design should be finalised within six months.

(2) Yes.

(3) Yes.

(4) As soon as possible after resumption or acquisition has been effected.

### WANNEROO SCHOOL.

#### Funds and Plans for New Classrooms.

Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Chief Secretary:

As the building of new schoolrooms at Wanneroo is a top priority, can he inform the House—

(1) Has an allocation of funds been made for the building of new schoolrooms?

(2) Have any plans been drafted for them, or are they being drafted?

(3) If the answer to questions Nos. (1) and (2) is "No," when does he anticipate an allocation of funds will be made, and drafting of plans put in hand?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

- (1) No. This is receiving consideration.
- (2) Sketches have been prepared for the whole of the completed scheme.
- (3) Answered by Nos. (1) and (2).

#### ELECTORAL.

##### *Cost of Elections.*

Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH asked the Chief Secretary:

What was the total cost of the Legislative Assembly elections, and the Legislative Council biennial elections for the following dates:—

- (a) Legislative Assembly, the 25th March, 1950;
- (b) Legislative Council, the 6th May, 1950;
- (c) Legislative Council, the 3rd May, 1952;
- (d) Legislative Assembly, the 14th February, 1953;
- (e) Legislative Council, the 8th May, 1954;
- (f) Combined Legislative Assembly, and Legislative Council biennial elections—the 7th April, 1956?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

- (a) £7,730 14s.
- (b) £3,367 17s. 6d.
- (c) £3,895 13s. 10d.
- (d) £9,721 9s. 11d.
- (e) £3,367 7s. 7d.
- (f) £19,172 12s. 10d.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

##### *Sixth Day.*

Debate resumed from the 22nd August.

HON. J. D. TEAHAN (North-East) [4.58]: Firstly, I wish to congratulate the newly-elected members and those who were re-elected, and to join with others in expressing regret at the death of Hon. Don Barker and Hon. Harry Hearn. Both were similar in character, inasmuch as they were devoted to their particular job and sincere in carrying out the task they had undertaken to perform for their electors. They were both sociable and affable in nature.

Some of our Governments departments have come under fire, and one that received much attention was the Railway Department. In travelling on the railways between Kalgoorlie and Perth each week, I have found the service to be quite good and the officers of the department courteous, efficient, and anxious to please. Recently I met a number of people who had travelled to Kalgoorlie, second class, for the annual Kalgoorlie round. Without prompting, they were loud in their

praise of the second-class service, and particularly the courtesy that they had received from railway officers.

However, I think I could comment on one aspect of railway administration, and that concerns the three commissioners, who have come under fire in several speeches of members in this House. I thought at the time, when the legislation covering the appointment of three commissioners in lieu of one was being discussed, that partnerships are seldom successful. Even a family partnership has its troubles; and from what we hear, and from what we know of this partnership in the railway administration, it is having its troubles, too.

Each commissioner likes to have a watertight department, and seems anxious that his department should be considered the important one. It is not unlike military administration in this respect: each commissioner is anxious that the greatest number should be within his administration. I have heard it said, on several occasions, that the railways are over-administered; and that there seem to be inspectors and superintendents everywhere. I think there is a good deal of truth in that, and today we seem to have more administrators than employees.

There is one direction in which one of these commissioner's departments could do a good job, and that is by ensuring that the time-tables of the various sections of the railways are adhered to. I suppose the traffic section is desirous of having the time-tables maintained; but another watertight department is anxious about bridges and roads—in fact perhaps over-anxious—because we see notice boards here, there and everywhere. I am sure that a large number of them are not necessary; and while I agree that safety is the principal concern, I think that signs which indicate "12 miles an hour" and "10 miles an hour" are a little over-done, and if all these signs are followed, it will be impossible to adhere to a set-down time-table. I think the trouble is that each section is concerned only with its own problems and is not taking into account any other section of the department.

Now I wish to deal with the Mines Department in regard to which, fortunately, I think a better story can be told. The department is particularly fortunate because the under secretary has a good knowledge of the job. This is borne out by the fact that he has selected men under him who are well suited to the tasks allotted to them. In this regard I would like to mention the Superintendent of State Batteries. He is a man who has a wonderful knowledge of his job, and who endeavours to impart that knowledge to all the men under his control; and they, in turn, do their best to pass that knowledge on to the people in the mining industry.

The managers of the State Batteries enjoy a happy relationship with the prospectors, and that has done much to improve the results in the mining world. I have attended a number of prospectors' meetings, and they have told me that they feel the battery managers are working with them and are anxious to get the best results for them. They are anxious, also, to pass on their knowledge and help the prospector in his job of seeking gold, and to give him the best results in his crushings. That happy relationship has done a lot for goldmining in this State, and I am certain it will continue to do so.

Research which the department is encouraging is having results, as can be seen if one reads what has happened at Day Dawn. The deep drilling there has produced most satisfactory results. The help that has been given by the department at such places as Marvel Loch, Bullfinch and Mt. Magnet has done much to help mining and has given those places greater prospects for the future. Particularly is this so at Bullfinch where, originally, it was said that the horizon for gold was at 500 ft. Later it was said to be at 1,000 ft.; and now, at 1,500 ft., the mining people say they are nowhere near the bottom of proved results. By this research, the Mines Department has brought at least two of these mines into greater production than would otherwise have been the case. This greater productivity has meant employment for 1,000 men; and that, in turn, has brought families to those goldfields.

Hon. G. Bennetts: And the assistance given by the Western Mining Corporation.

Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: As Mr. Bennetts says, the Western Mining Corporation also deserves credit for what it has done in the mining world in Western Australia. It must give pleasure to all those who have the welfare of Western Australia at heart to see the beautiful building being erected in St. George's Terrace for the State Insurance Office. We can view it with pride because we know that that office has not had the advantages enjoyed by the other insurance companies; in fact, in its early stages, its field of insurance was severely limited. But it undertook risks that other companies were not anxious to take; and now, with all these limitations, it is able to erect a beautiful new building on the terrace. I can only hope that one day members will see fit to widen the field of the activities of the State Insurance Office.

I now wish to discuss some of the main roads of the State. A few months ago I visited Meekatharra, and I was there for several days. Before I went there, I thought I realised how important Meekatharra was to Western Australia; but after staying there, I found it more important than I had imagined. There is a road, known as the North-rd., which runs from Meekatharra to Port Hedland, a distance of

over 600 miles. That road is to the centre of the north part of Western Australia what the State Shipping Service is to the coastal ports of the North-West. Each day, while I was there, heavy trucks were travelling backwards and forwards over that road carrying manganese, chromate, wool, livestock and merchandise for the stations.

These trucks are doing an excellent job, using Meekatharra as the railhead. They are helping to open up the North-West and assisting our railway system by transporting large quantities of goods to the rail depot at Meekatharra. These goods are then transported to the ports at Geraldton and Fremantle. Because of the importance of that road, I sincerely hope that the Government and Main Roads Department will give it all the attention and finance it deserves, and that one day the department will see fit to bituminise it so that the trucks will be able to carry greater loads and so help further to open up that part of the country.

Only last year an excellent hospital was built at Meekatharra; and if other country centres were able to have similar hospitals built in their towns it would do a great deal to open up the remote areas of the State, because if a centre has a good hospital and good medical facilities, people are given a sense of security which goes a long way towards helping them to decide whether they will live in the country or stay in the larger towns. The hospital at Meekatharra is a beautiful building and serves all those districts north of the town.

In regard to the North-rd., the Commonwealth Government gave notice that it intended to close the post office at Mundiwindi. To most members it might seem an insignificant place, and they might think that the employees in the office do little work. But when the Federal authorities were advised of the importance of the road and of having telephone and telegraphic communications, they acceded, I am pleased to say, to the request to allow the post office to remain open. The office there is rendering to the people of those districts, and folk travelling along the road a good service, and I am glad to be able to say that the Commonwealth authorities have agreed to the requests put to them.

I would now like to discuss the north-eastern goldfields, where there is a road from Kalgoorlie to Menzies, Leonora and then north to Wiluna. The road as far as Broad Arrow has been bituminised, and I hope the time is not too far distant when the Main Roads Department will bituminise the rest of it. This road is worthy of more attention than has been paid to it so far, and I hope that the department will do something in this direction. The country around there is proved pastoral land, and there is no doubt about its capacity to

carry stock. In addition, the mining industry is still quite active at such places as Mt. Ida and Gwalla.

There is another section of the community which has received a good deal of attention and publicity recently, and that is the aged people of this State. Most of us are pleased to know that in the near future Perth will have a welfare centre; and we on the Goldfields can be proud in the knowledge that we more or less led the way. As far back as 1944, which is 12 years ago, I was mayor of Boulder, and we established a rest centre for the aged in that city. It was done with the help of a number of good people and now we can say that "big trees from little acorns grow." If the Perth centre does as much for the aged as Kalgoorlie and Boulder have done, it will be rendering an excellent service. I feel sure that it will render this service, and that it will be able to pattern many of its activities on what has already been done on the Goldfields.

At Boulder and Kalgoorlie we cater for the pensioners two or three days a week by giving them free meals; if they are not free, then only a nominal charge of 6d. is made, the idea being to give the pensioners a feeling of independence in that they are not getting something for nothing. We have also provided such amenities as cheap wood, free blankets, free clothing, holidays at the coast, and many other services. I feel certain that because of what has been done for the old people on the Goldfields, the young people there have a greater feeling of sympathy towards them. Frequently one sees young people of 18, 19 or 20 standing aside for the old folk; and this, in turn, creates an atmosphere in which others want to help the aged.

Another very pleasing aspect about the help that has been given to the aged could well be noted in other places. I refer to the fact that the aged people themselves, who have benefited, have been most grateful; indeed they have been so grateful that many of them have given quite a lot of honorary service themselves. In Kalgoorlie we have one elderly gentleman who has appointed himself librarian. He feels it is his job to look after the library, to repair the books, and to do other work. He does it willingly, and is pleased to be in a position to help.

There is another man who takes upon himself the task of keeping the rooms clean and preparing fires, and doing other menial jobs. I have also noticed this feeling among the women. I have in mind particularly two or three very elderly women whose fingers are never idle: they are either sewing, knitting, painting or doing something else for somebody. They do this for others who are less fortunate than they, and engage in producing goods that can be sold in order that the proceeds may be used to help others.

The help given to the aged people has created a particularly good feeling among the younger ones as well, and it has encouraged self-help among the elderly members of the community. How necessary this is will be known to those who are engaged in the work. We have all heard that hospitals are overcrowded; and that, of course, is quite true. The Government hospitals on the Goldfields have been particularly good to old folk. On many occasions they have taken them in when they were not exactly sick, but when they felt they needed some attention and perhaps assistance in serving their meals, and so on.

However, these hospitals have arrived at saturation point; in fact they did so many years ago. The stage was reached where we had a man aged 88 years who, having met with an accident, was removed to his camp—a very lonely camp—and left to lie on a bed that was anything but comfortable. He was allowed to linger on. He received medical attention and the doctor was implored to find a bed for him in the hospital. Despite his age, and his plight, no bed could be found in the hospital, and he had to be left in that camp. It was at this stage that we saw how good people in the community could be. Both the young and the old visited him, helped to make him comfortable, prepared his meals, and provided what other services; it was possible for them to carry out. Nevertheless, it was unfortunate that we should have reached that stage.

However, on the Goldfields we now feel that we will very shortly be able to open a welfare home for the aged. It will accept those people who are not really sick, but who are not well enough to prepare their own meals. The home we are to build and administer will house perhaps 20 or 30 of that type of person. I am certain it will be a success, and that it will prove an example for other districts to follow.

While I am on the question of the aged I would like to point out that we have had established on the Goldfields recently something that the metropolitan area has had for a long time. I refer to the Silver Chain Nursing Scheme under which these good nurses visit the sick in their homes and relieve the medical profession of tasks that are not so difficult. They do an excellent job and provide comforts for those who require them. I am pleased, therefore, that the community has seen fit to introduce the scheme to the Goldfields.

There is another amenity which we badly want and should have, and must aim to get, and that is what are called mobile clinics; for dental and optical services at least. It is true that the older one grows the more one needs optical and dental services; and members can imagine how many weeks of stinting and scraping would be required to save enough

money to provide a lower or upper set of dentures that might cost upwards of £30. Members may well imagine also the saving that would be necessary to provide spectacles costing five or six guineas. Accordingly we will not be satisfied until we see the day when mobile clinics are established to provide those services in order to enable the pensioners to obtain their spectacles and dentures at a very nominal charge, if not free.

There is another aspect of community life which is exercising our minds a great deal, namely, inflation. The community generally, and Governments throughout Australia, are disturbed by rising costs. I feel that if there is any one factor which has caused costs to rise more than another it is the continued growth of combines. Somebody might say that combines should be instrumental in reducing prices. But are they? Once they have become established, combines are responsible for service becoming a secondary consideration.

Those that have observed the matter, know that in the meat industry—particularly the retailing of meat—there is a tendency to combine so that prices rise and the service provided is not good. We see it in various suburbs. Small stores are being crushed and squeezed out. Some people may say that combines do not do a great deal of harm provided they afford a better service. But it is inevitable that very soon one or two will assume complete control, at which point we will revert to the old order—which, of course, means dearer goods. Accordingly, I hope steps will be taken to stamp out the growth of combines.

With the matter of combines can be linked, I think, one or two troubles on the Goldfields. The one to which I would particularly like to refer is the delivery of bread. In the metropolitan area it is possible to have bread delivered to almost any suburb. On the Goldfields we pride ourselves that our services are the best, and in the past they have been. Yet we are denied that simple amenity, which is most desirable to all of us, and it is not possible to have bread delivered to one's house.

In my case it does not matter quite so much, as I live in the centre of the town; but, unfortunately, it is not possible for everyone to live in the centre of the town, and those who live on the outskirts—more often the older and poorer section of the community—are feeling the pinch quite a lot. These people have to walk a quarter of a mile, or half a mile, in all sorts of weather to obtain their bread. It is quite possible that they feel sick; but yet it is necessary for them to walk this distance before they can get their bread. Accordingly, I hope that the Government will be able to do something to restore the delivery of bread to those places so that the people will get the simple amenity to which they are entitled.

I would now like to pass on to housing. The matter of housing people in the cities seems to have improved a great deal over the last seven years. It would not do the Government any harm, therefore, to spread its wings a little wider to cover the out-back areas, particularly, say, Mt. Magnet. That town is making rapid strides; and on each visit I have made, it has been pointed out that the limitation suffered by its residents is the lack of houses.

Mine managers have told me that they are badly in need of draughtsmen, fitters and turners and the like, but that they must have reasonable homes to offer these men if they are to lure them from the city.

The homes that are established are in many cases very often substandard. Mt. Magnet is 50 years old and one only has to see the houses to realise their age. So I ask that the Government gives some attention to this matter of building houses at Mt. Magnet for the people who are anxious to leave the city. This will help decentralisation and that will be a great thing. I support the motion.

**HON. J. G. HISLOP** (Metropolitan)

[5.36]: At the outset, I would like to pay a tribute to the late Hon. Don Barker who sat behind me for so long. I know that during this session we are going to miss that strident voice telling us all about the North-West. He was a very likable personality and one I got to know quite well in this House. I always felt that he had a heart of real gold, and I know we are going to miss him very much.

I would like to congratulate the newcomers to this Chamber, and comment on the favourable impression that these hon. gentlemen made in their maiden speeches. I think they will be a great credit to us, and I am certain that in time we will learn to rely on their advice, as we so often do when people have made their presence felt and are an influence in this House.

Those of us who have been here a long time will appreciate the economic and financial changes that have taken place in Australia, and must realise that this country is once more passing through an historic turning point in its economy akin in some ways to the depression nearly 30 years ago. It is a point fraught with grave problems of great intensity and probably more difficult because of the increasing complexity of life within Australia today, and because of the vast increase that we have seen in our population since those early days.

There are many factors that can be discussed in relation to this matter, but it does not appear that anyone has any real solution to offer to the problems that lie ahead of us. It will take a great deal of thought among those men who are gifted in the economic field, and farseeing men of business, to present to the Government from time to time sound advice as to the

advances it should make in meeting these problems. This brings me to the point of emphasising the need for leadership in Australia. This country of ours has tended so very often to develop within itself citizens with an individualistic outlook rather than with a national outlook. I feel the time is coming when Australia and Australians must learn to submerge their own desires with the object of attaining prosperity for the nation as a whole.

Recently, an interesting statement was made by a Mr. Crick, general manager of one of the English banks, that it did appear one of the troubles might be that there are too many politicians too close to the people. That phrase in itself calls for a good deal of thought, because it is possible that we are still bringing into our legislative halls a parochial outlook which would be lessened considerably were each member to represent a wider interest. In fact it might be even better if we had a greater number of States in Australia, and men could work with their local interests instead of taking them to a distant spot for consideration. Then one might find launched multiplicity of interest, and parochial outlook would disappear in the face of national need.

I do not think that any restrictive action on the part of Governments will make for progress in Australia. I do not believe price control will do what those who believe in it think it will do, and I do not believe import restrictions will do what the Commonwealth Government think they will do. I do not believe any restrictions will help in a land that is not well-developed, because development will call for imports, especially in a nation that is attempting to provide for its people a higher standard of living. The answer probably lies in teaching the people the need for exports.

There are many aspects one could criticise in regard to the export trade of our country, but it would take a good deal of time to give them consideration. However, I stress that both trade organisations and primary industry organisations should be looking towards those points which will lead to further exports. I will mention two problems to which consideration could be given.

Recently, a member of the British House of Commons dined with us in Perth, not once but a number of times; and on most of those occasions when he decided to have some wine of the country, he was given a locally-produced white Burgundy. He said it was one that would sell on the English market as rapidly as any French wine. He regarded it as one of the best white wines he had tasted in Australia. However, here again we are faced with the problem of export, which he pointed out. We might find ourselves not being in a position to guarantee a standard quality and continuous supply.

I indicate that as one instance of the need, that when we have an article that could be accepted for export, some real effort should be made to expand it. I understand that this particular product owes its being to the ability more or less of one man; and yet I feel quite certain if some consideration were given to ensuring that the product was produced in large quantities for export, it could be done and that man would be willing to assist. This member of the British House of Commons emphasised what seemed to face Australian goods. In London when he found an article made in Australia, or some produce from Australia, that was really first-class, and recommended it to his friends, they found that there was not a continuous supply. That is one of the great difficulties.

I instance the same difficulty in regard to the canning of fruit in this State. At one stage a well-known producer offered to plant the trees which would grow the right type of fruit for canning and to take the whole of the year's crop from those trees, because he said it was impossible within this State to obtain the correct fruit for canning. If that be so, and we realise the value of export of canned fruits, does it not behove some organisation or Government to get behind this problem and see if it is possible to convert our orchards into the right type of tree which will produce the right type of fruit? It interested me to pass through the South-West recently and to have pointed out the number of places where orchards had previously been, which had been given up because of the lack of labour supply and other difficulties which now face the fruit-growing industry.

Just recently I learned that there was a need for canned milk which would keep fresh for months and that there was a market for the product, particularly to our north; and last night I learned of a difficulty this industry is facing: our milk is so much dearer on the overseas market than that of other countries. I understand that milk in the United States is being canned without pasteurisation in some cases where the grade of such milk is of a very high standard. But the canning of pasteurised milk has reached a considerable proportion.

We should give consideration to increasing the exports from this State and Australia in order to meet our economic difficulties. I feel that if we could balance our trade by working and really getting down to it and producing goods rather than try to find the comforts of a higher standard of living, this country could reach a stage of progress that nothing could stop. But at the moment our progress is lagging, and we are restricted in many ways. This can only be rectified by real effort on the part of every Australian and a realisation that he must develop a national rather than an individualistic outlook.

Recently I was distressed to read a statement by a headmaster of a Victorian public school that in his time that school had failed to provide the leadership in the community which could be expected of it. One has only to look at the parliaments of Australia to find how few men of public school and university education do offer their services in the legislatures of Australia. There is no doubt whatever that these men do lead within their own communities. There is no doubt whatever that they are either chairmen, members, or secretaries of various organisations that form the cultural side of Australian life. They are engaged in community work in no small measure; but I think that we should look to these schools to provide the leaders for Australia.

Just recently one of our own headmasters, whom everybody respects, pointed out to the public that it might do harm in many cases if the school-leaving age were raised. But put that statement alongside the call of automation and it cannot be understood. In an article which recently appeared in "The Rotarian" magazine—it would be either July or August—it was stated that an American firm which employs 150,000 employees, at present takes 330 of what we would call university graduates into its employment. The president of that organisation intimated that after automation had been installed into its works 7,000 college graduates would be required annually. In other words, automation is going to demand of everyone a higher standard of education if he is going to do more than just stand by; and it is bringing us to this stage, even in this State, that we should be giving thought to the technicians skilled in teaching who will be required in the very near future to instil the knowledge required by automation into the students coming along year by year.

I wonder what steps we have taken. There are technical schools that are preparing for this work; but are we really looking to the stage when our university and technical schools will have to produce technicians with a scientific knowledge of a character of which we have been informed? If I were an educationist, I would view the situation with considerable interest, and I consider that the Education Department in this State should feel the need for tackling this problem, because I honestly believe that unless we do now start to train the teachers who will train the students, we will find ourselves lagging when the new industrial revolution comes this way.

During his speech on the Address-in-reply, Mr. Jones asked whether I could explain to him the difficulties that beset an aged pensioner who desires to have treatment for his eyes at the Royal Perth Hospital. The position that occurred was an unfortunate one, but it is explainable when we realise the growing need for ophthalmological work within the hospital and for the general public, and the strain which is placed upon the specialist in eye work.

The difficulty started in Perth when one of the ophthalmologists felt it his duty to go abroad in order to further his studies, which is a very laudable thing, and something which all of us hope to do from time to time. His departure increased the work that had been carried out by the others. Then one man who had done over 20 years of honorary service at the Royal Perth Hospital found his health in such a condition with the added strain that he felt he could carry the burden no longer, and he resigned his position from the hospital. Another was ill for a period, with the result that at one stage the hospital was left with one honorary ophthalmologist. Steps were taken to overcome the problem, and fortunately we were assisted by a married doctor giving her services in that department, in which she was skilled.

The position has rapidly been restored as the ophthalmologist who went to England on post-graduate work has returned, and another position has been filled as a result of applications being called by the hospital for part-time services. A man from England has accepted the post. There has been a need for eye specialists in this town for some time because, although there may be eight or nine in full practice, they are still so heavily engaged that at times it is almost impossible to get an appointment with one under three weeks. All of us realise the need to increase the ophthalmological service, and efforts are being made in that direction in various parts.

I can assure the House that the Royal Perth Hospital is still being reserved for the treatment of pensioners; it is still doing what it was originally intended that it should do, namely, look after the indigent poor. It is interesting to give the House the percentage figures relating to the occupancy of beds. At present, 30 per cent. of the total beds in the Royal Perth Hospital are occupied by pensioners, and 30 per cent. are occupied by those with broken limbs or fractures, including fractured skulls.

Taking into account the motor accident cases, plus fractures—and the majority of fractures come from motor accidents—over 35 per cent. of the Royal Perth Hospital beds are occupied by those accidents and fractures, leaving about 30 per cent. for what I shall call general medical and surgical sickness. So members can see that the hospital, which has cost the State in the neighbourhood of £4,000,000, is being used as to 60 per cent. of its space for the treatment of pensioners and motorcar accident cases.

The present trend of medical services has quite considerably altered the manner in which the hospital is used. With the advent of the national health service scheme, which pays a large proportion of the doctor's bills, particularly surgical fees, and which pays, to a certain extent, the hospital bills, the amount of general

surgery done in the Royal Perth Hospital has diminished considerably. Had it not been for that scheme, there might have been some difficulty in finding beds to continue the service that had been rendered in the past.

On the other hand, it is extraordinary to relate that the pensioners, with the increase of the pensioner medical service under which they now receive medical treatment to a much larger extent than they ever did previously, are learning to care for themselves and to ask for greater care than they previously did. Also, they are coming to the ophthalmological department of the hospital for their glasses, whereas we feel quite certain that previously many pensioners would buy their glasses by going to a store or shop which sold them. They would purchase the glasses by trying them on to see whether they suited.

Hon. G. Bennetts: At half a dollar a pair.

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Yes; but with the increased knowledge that has been brought with the extension of the medical services, they are coming to the hospital for this eye service and for the provision of glasses. The result is that those cases to which Mr. Jones was referring are still further held up.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that one of the great difficulties at the Royal Perth Hospital at the moment is that the pensioner cases are very slow in their movement through the hospital. Whereas the ordinary general and medical surgical cases are, after treatment, ready to go to their own homes, many of the pensioners are not fit to return to the dwellings from which they came. As a result, housing must be found for them before they can be discharged from the hospital.

We have failed lamentably to provide any service of that type for the aged people. I think I am being pretty accurate when I say that there are something like 1,400 women waiting for entrance to the Mt. Henry home; and I also think I am pretty right in saying that if one of us had reached the age of 75 years and had lost some of his mental faculties so that he needed to be cared for rather than being able to potter about by himself, and he required entrance into that particular ward in the Old Men's Home, he could not obtain it under 18 months to two years. So members can see that this building we have erected at a cost of £4,000,000 is not fully carrying out the services that it should for the public. What we need for the aged are more homes of the type described by Mr. Teahan, and the provision of places where these people can go and live a reasonable life, such as would please them, after they have been sick.

What one must realise is that many of these pensioners have lived in pretty sordid circumstances, particularly the men. The women can get by pretty well, as they can cook their own meals. But the men are not good cooks; they are not good housewives; they are not carers for themselves; and it is extremely difficult to find somewhere for them to go. Once they have left the poor circumstances in which they were living and have learnt to live at the hospital, and to be cared for and to meet smiling faces each day, it is very difficult for them to return to the loneliness of the habitation from which they came. So they present a problem which we have not faced.

There is another problem which we must face, and that is, that a number of these pensioners, and a number of the patients that are at present admitted to the Royal Perth Hospital do not require the services that go with such a modern and up-to-date hospital. If the Government is looking for means of increasing work in the building trade, it should give urgent consideration to adopting the principle of perimeter hospitals so that minor illnesses—those not requiring the armamentarium of a major hospital—can be housed nearer their homes and treated by the general practitioner; and many of the pensioners themselves could be treated in these perimeter hospitals rather than be sent to the Royal Perth Hospital. There is an urgent necessity for such hospitals because of the lack of space and because the private hospitals are a thing of the past. Private hospitals just cannot be run at a profit. Therefore some steps will have to be taken by the community to provide perimeter hospitals of possibly 50 beds and upwards.

Hon. Sir Charles Latham: Does what you say about private hospitals apply to maternity hospitals?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Yes.

Hon. Sir Charles Latham: Do you think they are not run at a profit?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Very few private hospitals of any sort are run at a profit.

Hon. Sir Charles Latham: Including maternity hospitals?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Yes, including maternity hospitals. They are not good business. When we have these perimeter hospitals, we will be able to treat people closer to their own homes and preserve the Royal Perth Hospital for the particular type of medical and surgical cases that should be sent to it. I feel that is where the future lies rather than in allowing the hospital to be filled, as it is, with a number of patients who do not need the services that the hospital provides, and then our having to start off and build another big hospital somewhere else when what is really needed is to keep this hospital as



the central core of the medical and surgical work, and build a number of perimeter hospitals around it.

These perimeter hospitals could well have maternity wings attached to them, and they could make provision for the treatment of a certain number of aged people, because such people are better treated when mixed with other cases. Also those hospitals could possibly have a wing attached to them, where pensioners could be housed afterwards, nearer to their homes and relatives, should they need extra hospital care.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: How many beds do you suggest?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: A survey of the community's needs must always be carried out before such hospitals are built, because what may be required in one suburb may not be needed in another. It might be necessary for the hospitals in the Fremantle area to be considerably larger than, say, the hospitals in Mt. Lawley.

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Do you think they will have to be subsidised?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: They probably will. They will probably have to be taken over by the department or by a hospitals commission. The need for building them is apparent. Whether they are then subsidised and run by persons, or a body of persons, is a matter for future discussion; but at the present time these area or perimeter hospitals are needed in our various communities. When they are built, they should be built by people who have made a study of hospital architecture. We can see very nicely designed hospitals which have been built, but they fail always in certain respects. One hospital, which I do not want to criticise publicly, has a very fine facade, but inside it calls for a tremendous amount of walking on the part of the nursing staff because it just is not designed according to modern nursing standards. That sort of thing can lead to a considerable amount of waste. If we build these perimeter hospitals, then some architect, whether he be in the Government or outside, should devote himself to the study of hospital architecture, as so many do abroad, to see that the money that is spent is spent wisely.

Whilst I am on this problem of pensioners, I would like to congratulate Mr. Mattiske on his remarks in regard to a drive for funds for a centre for the aged which is now being conducted by the Perth City Council. I wish the council well in its efforts; I hope it raises all the money it requires, and a lot more. One word, however, is used which makes me hesitate; and I therefore offer, if I can, some constructive criticism to Mr. Mattiske and Mr. Teahan, who both said that the building of a centre was contemplated, whilst I have read of others saying that centres will be built. Again, in the newspaper

appears the word "centre"; and in the original publicity, if I remember correctly, there was a design for a centre.

Again, I do not know whether any survey has been made of the number of pensioners living in the various districts. I am told that the Committee for Home Aid—if that is its correct name—has obtained certain figures; but I would suggest that whilst the public may subscribe heavily to this scheme, the committee should give considerable thought to various factors that could arise in regard to this provision for the aged people.

Firstly, if a centre is to be built in the city, the cost of the ground—unless it is built on an "A" class reserve—will be very high indeed, and this will absorb a considerable sum of money. The criticism that I offer is that I do not believe that aged people like to travel very far from where they live, because they are not able, in many instances, to journey great distances. I think that we and the committee would do well to consider not only the establishment of a central office for administration, but also a number of smaller places spread throughout the community based on a survey of where these pensioners live.

Many aged people come to see me for medical advice, and they all stress the disabilities of travelling to the centre of the city. They make it quite clear that they have no desire to come to the centre of the city. If they can, they prefer to be treated in their own districts. The pensioners' medical service has proved this to be a fact, because they now no longer attend Royal Perth Hospital, which is in the centre of the city, and spend long hours there, because they can be treated by their own medical man in their own suburbs, and they appreciate this facility very greatly.

The places that I have seen in Victoria—one is at Essendon on the bank of the Maribyrnong River, and is a small and very comfortable place—are small enough to be kept warm in winter and cool in summer. It is to that sort of place that the pensioners desire to go. Inside, they can have their own newspaper room and their own library; and, what is more, they take a personal interest in their own place. Further, it creates an incentive for the people living in these smaller areas to give some of their time—even if it is only once a week—to prepare a midday meal for the pensioners. So for the people within that small area, the home becomes a civic responsibility rather than a financial burden.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: When you say a small place, do you mean a cottage?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I mean a place about the size of an ordinary house in which the pensioners have sufficient room to talk to each other. The most important need for aged persons is to be able to keep warm. Cold affects them greatly.

If the centre were to be designed as Dr. Sheldon suggested—as a place to which they could go to have their eyes tested, their glasses provided for them, their feet attended to, and their hearing aids either provided or maintained—it would be an absolute godsend to them. If that centre were established along those lines, and smaller homes—which should not be too elaborate because they need only have a few people in them at a time—were scattered around the whole of the city, I think we would do a very great deal for the aged people of this State.

If the centre is to be regarded as a place to which the aged of the suburban areas will come, I doubt very much whether it will succeed in its objective. I trust, therefore, that thought will be given to making it a centre to which the aged people can go for the provision of the particular needs which I have stressed, while their attendance is retained in the smaller homes scattered throughout the metropolitan area.

I will now speak on a matter in which I have been considerably interested for many years. I refer to the method of compensating those people suffering from silicosis. On many occasions I have wondered how I could, with honesty, completely fill in the form that was supplied to me. I often wondered how I could make my conscience fit with it, or how I could make my knowledge of human ill-health fit into the questions I was asked to answer on that form, because I was asked what percentage of inability to work was due to silicosis and what percentage was due to non-industrial diseases. Our Act is such that only silicosis can be claimed for and compensated. I think we must move forward in combination with world thought on industrial hygiene and drop this idea of silicosis and non-industrial ill-health in a man who has been working in a mine or other area where he has been exposed to chest disabilities.

Let me give members one or two examples of what I mean. If a man is known to have silicosis and to have died of some other condition, irrespective of whether I believe that other condition contributed to his death, the only claim that that man has is on account of his silicosis; not on the consequence of his silicosis or the consequence of working in that mine. His claim is limited to silicosis only.

I intend to read to the House some of the more enlightened legislation which, in the last year or two has been adopted in South Africa and Canada. Under the conditions set out, the fact that a man has silicosis, high blood pressure, a large heart or emphysema enables one to establish for oneself the relationship between the various conditions; but in this State it is not possible to say that the emphysema, that is, the bulging of the chest in full inspiration—which has been forced upon him by his work, is due to silicosis.

If one finds a man with a large heart, it is something that he has acquired quite apart from his silicosis. It has always appeared to me a glorious piece of nonsense, because it is not possible to divide the two in justice to the individual. I hope I shall not bore the House by reading some comments on the South African legislation as follows:—

The main point about this legislative innovation is the legal definition which was introduced and which reads as follows (Act 63 of 1952, Paragraph 2, Subsection (3)):

“Pulmonary disability” means an impairment of the cardio-respiratory functions of a person which, in the opinion of the Bureau—

(A) has substantially and permanently diminished the capacity for manual work of the person in question; and

(B) resulted from the performance, by the person in question, of work in a dusty occupation;

but does not include silicosis or tuberculosis; and for the purposes of this Act a person shall be deemed to be, or to have been suffering—

(i) from pulmonary disability in the first stage, when the Bureau has found him to be, or to have been suffering from pulmonary disability which, in the opinion of the Bureau, does not, or did not, incapacitate him from performing manual work more strenuous than moderate manual work;

(ii) from pulmonary disability in the second stage, when the Bureau has found him to be, or to have been, suffering from pulmonary disability which in the opinion of the Bureau, permanently incapacitates or incapacitated him from performing manual work more strenuous than light manual work.

In other words, this was a man who was regarded as having a pulmonary disability and who could earn his living in another way if he adopted another occupation. Continuing with the quote—

As this new legal definition excludes both tuberculosis and silicosis, its full significance can be made clear only after the legal definitions for these concepts have also been quoted. They are as follows (Act 47 of 1946, Chapter 1, Section 1, Subsection (1)):

“Silicosis” means any form of pneumoconiosis due to the inhalation of mineral dust; and for

the purposes of this Act a person shall be deemed to be or to have been suffering—

(A) from silicosis in the first stage (which corresponds with the ante-primary stage under the 1925 Act) when the Bureau has found that the earliest specific signs of silicosis, detected by any means whatsoever, are or were present in the lungs of the person in question, irrespective of whether his capacity for work has or has not been impaired by the said disease; or

(B) from silicosis in the second stage (which corresponds with the primary stage under the 1925 Act) when the Bureau has found that moderately marked specific signs of silicosis are or were present in the lungs of the person in question and that the said disease has not incapacitated him from performing moderate manual work; or

(C) from silicosis in the third stage (which corresponds with the secondary stage under the 1925 Act) when the Bureau has found that marked specific signs of silicosis are or were present in the lungs of the person in question and that the said disease has incapacitated him from performing moderate manual work.

The article goes on to outline other disabilities as well. What I am trying to emphasise through that quotation, is this: Not only is a man now compensable if he suffers from silicosis, but also silicosis and tuberculosis are the only form of diseases which occur in the case of an occupation which may be in a mine or other difficult surroundings. To make it clearer, let me explain that from a radiological point of view there are two forms of silicosis. One has a micro-nodular form and the other has a macro-nodular form; in other words, a small nodule and a big nodule. They cause different types of conditions. Quoting from the article again—and I have seen this myself—

There are men who show micro-nodular infiltration in their illness and yet present no real evidence—

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

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Before the tea suspension I was saying that there were cases of silicosis, presenting an x-ray picture of the large nodule type which might not

possess any great pulmonary disability; but on the other hand a person might be a recent entry into the mines and only show a very small amount of the small type of nodular silicosis on the x-ray, and yet might have developed a considerable degree of pulmonary disability. On the interpretation of the Act, the first person could be granted quite a considerable amount of compensation, and the other granted a very small amount. The reverse should apply. We shall never give real justice to these cases until we introduce into the Act some of the legislation from South Africa which I have just quoted and which includes pulmonary disability.

One other interesting feature is that quite a number of these men have developed a large heart. For a long time I have been interested in the number of enlarged hearts found among these men either by x-ray or by clinical examination. Yet they had to be dissociated from the silicotic claim. Recently, in the results of the South African investigations, a case was recorded where this particular finding of a large heart by a type of electrical tracing recording occurred, and which is one of the commonest findings in pulmonary disability.

There are men in this State who have presented similar conditions. However, because of the existing Act, they are regarded as eligible for silicotic compensation, but for no other disability. In its earlier stages silicosis does not cause any great disability; yet once its presence by x-ray is determined, it must be recognised, and the individual is classed as silicotic. But under our Act, he is allowed to continue working in the mines.

Hon. W. R. Hall: Is not silicosis in the early stages merely dust in the lungs?

Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It is the same thing. The silicosis comes from the dust. As more dust accumulates in the lungs, the second or third stage develops. Quite a number of research workers in this sphere believe that silicosis itself is not a cause of disability, and the following paragraph from the Journal of Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Medicine, going as far back as six years, states—

America's outstanding worker in this field, Dr. U. LeRoy Gardner, after his many years of intimate investigation of silicosis and diseases of the lung, strongly maintained to the very last that there is no such thing as partial disability in silicosis and that men did not become disabled as the result of simple silicosis.

In other words, it is the pulmonary disability which follows silicosis which should be the basis of the claim. The Government should realise that there are men who are entitled to compensation but who do not receive it. It should institute a full inquiry into the silicotic portion of

the Workers' Compensation Act in relation to the legislation I referred to which has been introduced in South Africa and Canada.

It is interesting to realise that the Commonwealth Government looks after the tuberculous side of the story. If a person develops tuberculosis, he gets a pension from the Commonwealth Government; but if he has silicosis as well, then he has to claim in regard to that complaint. But they all have so much of a bearing together that one cannot dissociate the disease in that particular manner by dividing the responsibility between the Commonwealth and the State. For example, Andrew Riddell of Toronto, Canada, states—

In our experience tuberculosis should always be suspected as a factor in cases that develop quickly after short exposures or in those in which the pulmonary fibrosis continues to progress long after exposure has ceased.

When there is a combination of these conditions it is difficult to dissociate the two so far as compensation is concerned. It seems to me that a very much better way is to regard pulmonary disability as the claim and base our legislation on that fact. There is criticism in quite a lot of research work on the division between silicosis and tuberculosis.

It seems that silicosis is one method of developing pulmonary disability, and tuberculosis is another, as also are working in dusty, confined atmospheres such as in front of a hot furnace with a poor oxygen supply, and working in conditions which lead to frequent infection or respiratory attacks on the part of the individual. Those are all methods contributing to pulmonary disability, and such disability is evidenced by various conditions, which I need not describe, but of which the two most common are emphysema and enlargement of the heart.

A renewed approach to the whole problem of compensation should be made, because there are men to whom compensation is justly due but who do not receive an adequate amount because of the wording of the Act. There we can leave the story of silicosis, hoping that someone will pursue further what I have said and institute an inquiry into the best method of bringing our Act up to date. I do make an appeal on behalf of persons who have suffered pulmonary disability with either minor or greater degrees of silicosis, because they have received compensation only for the silicosis and not for its consequences.

I have reached the end of what I want to convey to the House. I would summarise briefly the matters to which I have referred. Let me go back to the Perth hospital for a moment, and say again that I wonder how many people realise how often we have been spared the tremendous difficulties of accommodating our

sick by the fact that the Commonwealth Government has built the Hollywood hospital, because today that hospital is looking after a very considerable portion of general sickness among our people.

Many of those who served in the armed forces, and their relatives, are admitted into Hollywood Hospital, and that hospital treats a large portion of the young people in this State. Had it not been for the accommodation provided by the Hollywood hospital, something would have to be done to move at a faster rate, patients who do not require treatment in the Perth Hospital, or even not to admit them at all, but treat them at perimeter or area hospitals. I am certain that the reason why our difficulties are comparatively small at present is because of the added accommodation provided by the Hollywood hospital.

I would reiterate what I said last year. It seems to me most extraordinary that the Commonwealth Government can decide what we require in the way of a tuberculosis or chest hospital and spend £1,000,000 without any real discussion with the State as to its needs. If there is money in Australia to be spent on health, surely it should be spent in co-operation with the State and Commonwealth Health Departments! We really need a further £1,000,000 to devote to the building of perimeter hospitals. If that should happen, then it would be classed as a State requirement merely because it was not something to which the Commonwealth had given its attention. It is about time that this division of decision between the various Commonwealth and State Departments ceased.

Again, I would like to reiterate my view on the approach to the problem for the aged. They need a place from which they can be supplied with the requirements that I have outlined, and the places which are to be regarded as centres should be smaller and located close to the living quarters of the aged. To have a central unit to which they can go for their pleasures is not likely to produce the results that some people hope. Finally, so far as silicosis is concerned, a survey of all the modern literature on methods of compensating men affected should be made, and the defects in our Act rectified. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

**HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland) [7.46]:** I desire to associate myself with those members who have expressed sympathy with the families and friends of the late Hon. Harry Hearn and the late Hon. Don Barker. Much has been said of the ability of those gentlemen, and about the love which all members of this House had for them. I had a lot to do with Mr. Hearn, because we were associated so much in connection with workers' compensation matters, and I can assure the House that his knowledge in that department will be very hard to replace, not only from the point of view of the employers but also

from that of the employees. We know that the North has lost a great stalwart in the passing of Mr. Barker. We may anticipate that he will be replaced by somebody with just as much knowledge of the North, but no member likes to have replacements made on that basis.

I would like to congratulate the three new members on their election and also on their maiden speeches. First of all we had Mr. Jeffery, who spoke on the opening day; and as one who knows what an ordeal it is to face a crowded gallery and a crowded floor, I consider that he did a very good job. Mr. Mattiske and Mr. MacKinnon had a little more time in which to gather their thoughts, and I am sure that all members will agree their contributions were well worth while.

Much has been said about the economic situation; and probably the word "inflation" has been bandied about more than any other word in the dictionary, until the last few weeks, when the situation regarding the Suez Canal has taken precedence. Concerning the economic situation and the inflationary spiral, it is necessary for us to get down to the basic cause before we start looking for a remedy; and it appears to me that an attempt is being made to discover a remedy without ascertaining the basic cause. Dr. Hislop knows that if he wants to treat a patient he must diagnose the cause of the illness first of all, and it seems to me that insufficient attention has been paid to diagnosing the cause of our economic complaints.

During the Address-in-reply debate in the last two sessions, I attempted to inform members what the position would be this year. While I am very happy to say it is not as bad as I anticipated it would be, it is not as good as it could be, and some of the events I prophesied have come to pass. The main trouble with Australia today—and I do not think anybody can argue the point about this—is that the country is geared to and its economy is based on the income of 1951 and not that of 1956. There is a vast difference between the two. All our costs in Australia today are based on the 1951 income; and when it is realised that in that year wool went to 144d. per pound—that was not the average, but the price reached that figure—and that today the highest price is 104½d., some idea of the difference in the income in those two years can be gained.

The point I want to press is this—and I think that history will record that what I am saying is correct—that whenever the purchasing power of the primary producer is reduced, the country always strikes hard times and there is always some unemployment. That is exactly the position today. From 1951 to 1954 and up to part of 1955, the producer was still spending the money he had earned in 1951-52, and so the whole nation prospered. Today the producer has not the ready cash, so he is

not spending; and the result is that we have reached an economic position which, although it is not as bad as a lot of people try to make out, does at least call for a little thought.

It should not be difficult, therefore, to get down to the basic cause of the situation in which we find ourselves. Although I am not going to attempt a solution, because I am not educated enough for that, I think it is obvious that we must put spending power back in the hands of the primary producer; and if we do that, the majority of our troubles will be over. That is what the economists must endeavour to do—put purchasing power back in the hands of the producer, and everyone will prosper.

Another basic flaw in our economy, in my opinion, is the entry of the banks into hire purchase. The hire-purchase companies, in which the banks hold quite a large percentage of the stock, instead of allowing money out at usual bank rates, restrict credit so as to force people who want credit to obtain it from hire purchase. When people obtain goods on hire purchase and pay to the extent of up to 31½ per cent., is it any wonder that inflationary trends begin to appear? Had the banks maintained their proper function, quite a lot of our troubles would not have arisen.

I know we have always had money lenders and small companies prepared to lend money, but the amounts lent have been small in comparison with the colossal sums involved in hire purchase today, and it is made so easy by expert salesmen. One can buy almost anything without a deposit; but, believe me, by the time it has been paid for, payment has been made well and truly.

So one of the main reasons for the increase in costs is that money has been diverted from avenues in which it should be spent to expenditure on luxury lines, and costs to everybody have been increased. I know that many a farmer has been refused credit from his bank, and the same bank has offered money to clubs for extensions to their buildings. That has happened, while at the same time a producer who wanted £1,000 to help him produce goods, the production of which would help the country, has been unable to obtain it. So I am quite prepared to say that the banks are falling down on their job.

Hon. H. K. Watson: When you refer to banks, you are pretty general, are you not?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Maybe. But quite a lot of banks are interested in hire purchase. I think the hon. member must agree with that.

Hon. H. K. Watson: There are several large banks which are not.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am not too sure about that. I know several large ones which are, and I know exactly what they are doing in that respect. If finance that should be used to help increase production and export is allowed to be used instead for luxury lines that provide a quicker turnover and a greater profit, the economy of the country must suffer; it cannot be otherwise.

Probably another factor that has led to the present position is that this country has developed more in the last 10 years than at any other period of its history. It must be expected that when a country grows to such an extent and so fast, there must be an effect on the economy somewhere. Our great development has caused a greater demand for commodities, and that has increased the secondary industries in Australia. It might be thought that such an increase would enable those industries to export and so assist the primary producer to export, which is what this country relies upon. But, unfortunately, just the opposite has taken place.

The building up of secondary industries demanded more imports, and the more secondary industries we established the more imports there had to be. The result has been that, with a decline in the prices of primary produce, we have finished up with an adverse trade balance. Provided we can keep our costs on a comparable basis, I think that will be rectified eventually. In the meantime, however, we have an adverse trade balance which has led to a restriction of imports. If a family spends more than it receives, it goes broke; and if a nation acts in the same way, the same position must arise.

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It is because of the bad managers.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I would not say that.

Hon. A. F. Griffith: The hon. member was referring to the State Government, of course.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I believe we are going through such a phase in our history that it would not matter who was managing our affairs: We would still find ourselves in the same economic position. Another point is that this development, and particularly in a State like Western Australia, has created an increased demand for public works, and there is a cry for still more public works. We live in an enlightened age when everybody knows what is going on. Every member of Parliament knows the extra pressure put on him today compared with that of a few years ago.

Because of the better distribution of newspapers, and because of broadcasting, better transport services, and everything else, people everywhere are able to keep up with the times and know what is going on. So there is an increased pressure for more public works. Quite a large percentage of the labour force has been kept in employment because of such works. But there

comes a time when there is a lull in the erection of buildings, and so there is unemployment. No State can avoid such a situation. But I do not think there is any need to panic about it. It is a position that will and must right itself.

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It will get worse.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It probably will. Until such time as we start more public works, and until such time as we increase the spending power of the producer, it will get worse still. Let us face the facts.

Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you think the Treasurer of this State feels very happy at the moment?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am not too certain that the Treasurer is doing all that could be done. I have not seen any real activity taking place to overcome the position.

Hon. A. F. Griffith: There is a lot of talk about how the Federal Government treats him.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That might be so, too. I am not altogether happy about the attitude of the Chief Secretary and the Minister for Works. If one could be sure that the newspaper report was correct in regard to the meeting of unemployed at Fremantle, which the Chief Secretary and the Minister for Works attended and at which they castigated the Federal Government, particularly Sir Arthur Fadden and the "little Budget" that was introduced, one could have plenty to say about it. This was not reported in the Press; but did either of the Ministers try to tell the unemployed that this Government rode to victory on the back of that "little Budget"?

Hon. A. F. Griffith: Hear, hear!

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is your opinion.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Did either of the Ministers tell them that? That "little Budget" was introduced for one purpose—to bring money back to the States so that there would not be any unemployment. But what a hue and cry there was when it was presented!

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: When Labour was in power there was full employment, but with your Government in power that has been taken away.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I do not think the Chief Secretary or the Minister for Works was quite fair, because both of them let the opportunity pass without informing the men of what had happened.

The Chief Secretary: Who said that I castigated the Federal Government?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The paper.

The Chief Secretary: Oh!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: As I said, when I first started on this subject, if one could believe what the paper said—

The Chief Secretary: That is it; you cannot do that.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If either Minister gave the full facts to the meeting, and told the men the full story, I would apologise.

Hon. A. F. Griffith: Misreported again!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: But if they had done that, I think the paper would have reported it.

The Chief Secretary: We merely told them what had happened between the State and Federal Governments.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: In regard to costs, let us look at the history of the present State Government. Ministers growl about increased costs in regard to the running of the railways, and they talk about the inflationary spiral. But what costs has this Government increased over the last three years? These are only a few of them—wharfage dues, hospital charges, water charges, railway freights, tram fares, bus fares, ferry fares, land tax, entertainment tax, drainage and irrigation charges, and third party insurance. They are only a few of the increased charges levied under this Government.

The Chief Secretary: And salaries of members of Parliament.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes, members' salaries.

Hon. A. R. Jones: This Government was going to put value back into the £.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Those are some of the increased costs which industries have to bear, and they have all helped the inflationary spiral. But that is not all; we have been told that car licences are to be increased; there is to be another increase in railway freights; a further increase in probate duty, and parking meters are to be introduced—another iniquitous tax on the poor old motorist.

The Minister for Railways: You do not have to park.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You do not have to breathe, either!

Hon. A. R. Jones: And an increase in the betting tax.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Then there are all these stop signs and new number plates. Maybe that is a way of overcoming the unemployment problem, for all the good either of them has done.

Hon. A. R. Jones: Surely some of these stop signs will have to be pulled down!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: So when we are dealing with all these worries of ours, let us be fair and sum things up as they should be summed up and do not let us put the blame all on to one side. Getting back to railway freights, I would like to use an argument which I used when I first started—the spending power of the producer. Immediately railway freights are increased, the spending power of the producer is reduced.

The Minister for Railways: Does he spend all this money you talk about?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Of course he spends it! Who else would spend it?

The Minister for Railways: Or does he bank it?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: He spends it.

The Minister for Railways: Every penny?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Very often he spends too much. If he does not keep the country going, I wonder who does?

Hon. N. E. Baxter: The working man.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: As I have already pointed out, it is largely because of the drop in the spending power of the producer that we have unemployment today. If we build up that spending power we will reduce our unemployment.

The Minister for Railways: You buy a pound of chops in the city and see who keeps the farmer going!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That is one minute item.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: You do not have to eat!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I had a nice piece of steak this evening—one of the nicest pieces I have had for a long time.

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Many did not have any.

Hon. A. R. Jones: Mrs. Hutchison will not pay enough for it; that is her trouble.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: In dealing with inflation, Mr. Teahan spoke about combines and the profit motive. He said that we could blame the combines for most of our economic troubles and the inflationary spiral. That is rather a sweeping statement and one which, of course, is untrue and is certainly not based on facts. As for the profit motive—well, who has not the profit motive? Every member of the working community in Australia has the profit motive.

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You have to under the system of the present Federal Government. But that does not make it right.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If it were not for the profit motive of some of our companies I would hate to think what our unemployment position would be today. Do we hear of General Motors Holdens Ltd. putting men off? Is that company causing unemployment? Of course it is not! That is one company which has made a profit and has put that profit back into expanding its production and creating employment. Is Chamberlain Industries Ltd. putting men on? No, of course not! That is one company that will put men off. When we are talking of employment, let us look at the true facts.

The Chief Secretary: Is that because the farmers buy machines from outside this State?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Mr. Logan is making the speech.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Let us get down to the true value of profit, and we may realise where we are going. Whilst it might be said that one or two companies have made a little more profit than others, and a little more than they are supposed to make, I am glad that we have companies which are making sufficient profit to be able to put it back into their industries and thus create employment. This State would not have any unemployment problems if we had a few of these bigger industries operating here and making all this profit which they could plough back into those industries.

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Boom or bust!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It could be put down to bust and then boom. If the hon. member had her way she would bust all the manufacturers and then where would the boom be?

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: We want decent planning.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I suppose the hon. member would like a really planned economy.

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I certainly would.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: With a man's day planned for him from the time he gets out of bed in the morning until he gets back into bed at night.

Hon. A. F. Griffith: Why does it stop there?

The Chief Secretary: That is planned, too.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I think I have said enough about inflation and the economic problem facing us today. But let me repeat that when our planners got to work, and got down to the basis of everything, they would find that if the spending power were put back into the hands of the producers this country would be cured of most of its economic ills.

The Minister for Railways: When did they lose it?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Dealing with a planned economy and control, I know that the Government intends to introduce a Bill to control prices. But let me mention the price of bread and the method of controlling that price. About 12 to 18 months ago, because a Bill dealing with price control was defeated in this House, the Government in its wisdom said to Mr. Mathea, who is the chairman of the Wheat Prices Fixation Committee, "Reduce the price of bread." And so the price of bread was reduced by  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the city and 1d. in the country. But that committee did not have one figure or one piece of evidence from

any baker in the country upon which to justify its findings and a reduction of 1d. in the price of a country loaf. Yet Mr. Teahan wonders why the people in Kalgoorlie do not get their bread delivered! That is the reason why—because some civil servant down here interfered.

Hon. A. F. Griffith: On the instruction of the Government.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: A few weeks ago, the price of bread in the country was increased by  $\frac{1}{4}$ d., but the country bakers are still receiving  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. less than they were before the original reduction was made. Despite repeated attempts by country bakers to discuss the matter with Mr. Mathea, he will not talk to them. He said, "You have your answer." They asked on what figures he based his findings and he said, "I take the figures for 22 bakers throughout the State, work out their railway freights, lump them together and divide the total by 22." That was his answer to the country bakers. What a way to work out the cost of an article! That is what happens when we have a planned economy. It just will not work.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: Neither a plan nor economy.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That is so. I wish to be a little parochial now. But before doing so, I would like to have something to say about the Lands Department and the Fisheries Department and the flora and fauna reserves. It seems to me the officers in these departments just pick out an area in the country and declare it a flora and fauna reserve. But the stupidity of it all is that once it is declared a flora and fauna reserve it is handed over to the control of the Fisheries Department. Fauna consists of all the different types of vermin such as dingoes, rabbits, kangaroos and emus.

Hon. A. R. Jones: And snakes?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If the hon. member likes.

The Chief Secretary: "The West Australian" said that I control them.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: As soon as an area is declared a flora and fauna reserve it comes under the control of the Fisheries Department. And that was done by our own Government. Despite all my attempts to have it altered, this silly position still remains. In dealing with these flora and fauna reserves which were gazetted on either side of the Murchison, I would like to refer to a letter which I wrote to the Minister for Fisheries in reply to one that he had written to the Northampton Road Board, and which had reference to an article published in "The Farmers' Weekly". In that letter I drew attention to the following statement by the Minister:—

the central situation of sheltered pools and water holes of the Murchison River, should provide ample water,



food and shelter for native fauna, including kangaroos and emus, well away from settled areas . . . . .

That is what the Minister said. What I want to know is: When have emus and kangaroos ever been subjected to the boundary of a reserve? The Minister, however, apparently thought they would be and that is what he said, namely, that because food and water were in the centre of the reserve they would never leave it. It is still a flora and fauna reserve today, and it is also still a breeding ground for dingoes, foxes and kangaroos. The Minister says they can be dealt with. They may not have reached very great proportions as vermin, but once these areas are declared reserves they become sanctuaries, and these creatures reach plague proportions. It is not till then that anything is done about them; and then of course it is too late. I fail to understand why in the name of good Government any pest such as the kangaroo should be allowed to roam.

In this connection I asked a question the other day and it was as follows:—

Are there any road board areas where kangaroos are shot with or without a permit where royalty is not payable on the skins?

The Minister replied—

Yes. Royalty is payable only on grey skins shot in the South-West Land Division except where declared vermin.

In the northern part of the State we have 23 road board areas, and there are 127 road boards in the entire State. There are eight road boards—namely: Wagin, Dumbleyung, Moora, Lake Grace, Wongan-Ballidu, Mingenew, Mt. Marshall, and Kondinin where grey kangaroos can be shot without a permit. So there are still 90 odd road board areas where it is necessary to obtain a permit; and having obtained one, if we wish to sell the skin it is necessary to pay a royalty—and that on an animal that is causing a considerable amount of damage throughout these areas.

The cost of ammunition being what it is, and the fact that one has to obtain a permit and pay royalty do not make it very attractive to anybody to go out hunting these creatures. Surely if the grey kangaroo is a vermin and a pest in Mingenew it must also be a vermin and a pest in the area alongside. Yet we have to put up with this stupid idea of having to obtain a permit and pay a royalty on these verminous creatures. It is time the department woke up to itself.

When school resumes after the holidays we will have in Northampton a consolidated junior high school. Three small country centres have been closed and two

new classrooms have been erected on the site of the old school at Northampton. This is built on an outcrop of rock, and there are absolutely no playground facilities. When we asked for playground facilities in that area, which was bought a number of years ago right alongside the old school, we were told that there was no money available.

If it is good enough to provide a junior high school, surely we should have the facilities for sport provided at the same time. If this is not done, it cannot possibly reach the standard of a junior high school. I would ask the Minister, therefore, to give considerable thought to these problems when dealing with some of them in Cabinet. What should have happened was that the old school should have been removed, before the new buildings were erected, to an area where playing facilities could have been provided. But it is not possible to provide these facilities on a rocky outcrop.

I also asked questions about the courthouse at Northampton. At the moment it consists of a room 14ft. x 12ft., and it is used for everything. It accommodates two policemen when they are there, and it is used for the registration of marriages, births and deaths; magistrates and justices of the peace hear their cases there; and the Mining Registrar also uses the room. So it is almost time that something was done to improve the position.

The Chief Secretary: You must have been to Northampton recently.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am there very frequently, but the Address-in-reply is the only opportunity we have to talk about these matters. Another matter that is exercising my mind is an attempt by Vernon's Football Pools to get a foothold in Western Australia. A number of letters have been sent to people in the State asking them to fill in certain forms. I am concerned about this, because if we have money going into Vernon's Pools it will mean less money going into our own State lotteries. This State is not big enough to afford both. Accordingly I hope every attempt will be made to keep Vernon's Football Pools out of this State.

We should realise the value of our charities consultations to Western Australia. If we taxed people to the extent that this commission provides money for charities there would be a tremendous hue and cry. People enjoy a small gamble in these consultations, and the State reaps the benefit from it. I hope every attempt will be made to keep Vernon's Football Pools out of this State. Since the Minister has twitted me about Northampton, he might like me to make a few remarks about Geraldton.

The Chief Secretary: We would like a trip around your electorate.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I would like to read a newspaper cutting dated August, 1951. It reads as follows:—

Another step in the slow process of providing adequate and up-to-date hospitalisation for the district is reported by the Hon. L. A. Logan, M.L.C., who has been advised by the Minister for Health (Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver) that the rough plan for the Geraldton Regional Hospital is now complete. This plan has been in the "rough" for a lengthy period, but it is apparent that plans for similar facilities in the south-western portion of the State have been advanced beyond that stage, the member for Bunbury (Mr. F. Guthrie, M.L.A.), having advised his constituents last week that tenders for a new regional hospital at Bunbury to cost £750,000 were to be called early next year. Maybe by that time the plans for the Geraldton Regional Hospital will have been advanced beyond the "rough" stage.

This plan has been in the rough stage for a long time.

Hon. J. McI. Thomson: Like the Albany regional hospital.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I do not know whether tenders were called for Bunbury, but they still have not got a hospital. In 1953, promises were made on the hustings that the regional hospital would be started in three years, but we have still not got past the rough plans. One does not expect a Government to build three hospitals at once; it is more than one can expect of any Government. But at least something should be set aside and some nucleus formed on which this work can be carried out. I suggest that £100,000 be spent every year in each of the ports mentioned and at the end of ten years completed hospitals should be the result.

The casualty ward of the Geraldton hospital is a closed-in verandah. It may be 16ft. long, but it is only 7ft. wide. I had occasion to use it, and it is a disgrace. By the time two nurses and a doctor are accommodated, there is no room for anything else. I thought I would mention the promises made in 1951 to let the people know what was going on. I hope I will not have to read out the same thing again in 1967.

Dealing with the Geraldton harbour: I spoke at some length on this subject on the Supply Bill. Since then we have had a deputation and certain works have been promised. Knowing the Minister for Railways as I do, I am sure that those promises will be honoured. I am afraid, however, that they have not gone far enough. We have had a great deal of adverse publicity in relation to our harbour, and I would not like to say that it is unsafe, but that is the case at certain times. The pulling up of the old jetty and viaduct, which is almost complete, will in my opinion increase the hazard. The only alternative

is to build another breakwater and I hope the Minister for Railways will do his utmost to ensure that is carried out.

I would also like to mention the question of the very poor facilities for the men who work on the wharf. There are actually no facilities at all. At Fremantle we find that a fork lift, towage trucks and mobile cranes are available. At Geraldton wharf there is an old-time hand-barrow to shift cargo from one part of the wharf to another. We do not expect men to work under conditions like those that existed in the olden days. We have grown up and become modern, but the equipment on the wharf at Geraldton has not; it has got worse. Accordingly I would ask the Minister to consider the provision of a fork lift, a towage truck, and a mobile crane. These are three pieces of machinery that are very necessary to handle goods on the Geraldton wharf.

The other day I asked questions about coke. I am very perturbed about the supply of coke in Western Australia. The Minister answered my question, but I do not think it was a full answer. Irrespective of whether the Fremantle Gas Co. can make coke or not, it cannot be bought, and that position worries people who have coke stoves throughout the country. I believe that one of the main reasons for this is that a hot water system using coke was installed in the Royal Perth Hospital and all the country supplies have now gone to that institution. With the increased demand for coke and the present unemployment problem, some action should be taken to supply this commodity.

Within two months Geraldton will lose its gas supply, the gas works will be closing down, and there will then be three alternatives. One will be to use electricity, which is rather expensive; another will be to use coke stoves, but we cannot get the fuel; and the third will be to put in butane gas. Butane gas, would be the answer to many of the problems, but it is costly to install, about £110 being required to put in a stove and equip it with two cylinders of gas on which one has to pay a deposit of £15 a cylinder and 1s. 4d. per lb for gas, each cylinder containing 100lb. However, once installed it would be cheaper than electricity provided one paid more than 3d. per unit in electricity.

At the moment in Geraldton we are paying approximately 9d. for light and approximately 5d. for power. So in the long run butane gas may be the cheapest proposition. But it is not the answer to those people who have spent a lot of money buying expensive coke stoves and find they cannot get correct fuel.

The Chief Secretary: Are you suggesting the Government should start a fresh department to make coke?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: No; it already makes it and should extend the unit, which I consider would be profitable. I am not averse to the Government making it, particularly as nobody else will.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What about Collie coal?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Mr. MacKinnon gave us a very good talk about Collie coal and its problems. I do not pretend to know anything about the position except this: I think the people of Collie must start to reorientate their thoughts. They have got to remember that they cannot hold the same power in regard to coal as they did in the past. They can never hope to continue to supply all industries with coal because there is so much fuel of other descriptions being used today, and the market for Collie coal has gone; and once gone it will never be recovered. The people of Collie must realise that it will be necessary for some to shift. That is the first thing that will have to happen at Collie. It is not easy to have to shift from one area to another, but it is something which does happen to many people.

I never heard one voice raised within Western Australia, not even from the decentralisation committees throughout the country, in an endeavour to get the new tobacco firm of Rothmans to go down to Collie. That would have helped to decentralise the industry in the tobacco areas; but there was not one voice from anywhere, even though it was advertised enough. I could not ask them to go to Geraldton, because we have not sufficient water for this purpose and also have no tobacco.

It is best to put industries where their product is grown, and the people of Collie missed an opportunity of decentralisation. If it were necessary to give the firm some rebate in freights for the first two or three years—this is done in other parts of the world—this concession should have been granted to start it off. Instead, we have an octopus growing in one spot, spreading out its tentacles.

I would like to say a word or two about motorists keeping to the left. Men are being fined nearly every day for drunken driving because their cars weave in and out of traffic. However, on our highways today one can get behind a man doing 30 to 35 miles an hour and, obeying the law, he weaves in and out of traffic. That man is a greater menace than the driver who keeps to the middle of the road doing 35 miles an hour. I would ask the Minister to use a little bit of commonsense in this respect. I have watched the position over the last few days and frankly do not like it.

Hon. A. F. Griffith: If you keep to the left you have to weave.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If one drives at more than 35 miles an hour one breaks the law to pass him, so there is nothing wrong in a man doing 35 miles an hour and driving in the middle of the road. Therefore I think the Minister should look into the position before it goes too far.

I would like to say a word or two in regard to racing clubs and s.p. turnover. I think that if the racing clubs realised the true position they would find that s.p. shops are not the cause of their troubles. There is no s.p. licence in Melbourne; but if one looks at the figures one will find that the turnover for the Victorian Racing Club in 1954-55 was £11,000, as compared with £17,000 for 1946-47 and £35,000 back in 1945 and those are the figures for only one club. The country clubs in this State have no s.p. shops to contend with, yet they cannot hold meetings because the people will not attend them. If they did hold meetings they would lose money; and it is simply a sign of the times.

The Chief Secretary: It is happening this year for the first time in their history.

Hon. G. Bennetts: At Kalgoorlie the turnover has been £500 less this year than last.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The West Australian Turf Club—and I think I am correct in saying this—tries to control three race courses, and I think its activities should be curtailed to at least two. In regard to the increase in turnover tax, I believe that some increase is justified, but I do not believe it is justified to the extent some people make out. If we go into the figures I think we will find that money in a bookmaker's shop turns over four times during an afternoon; so when 1½ per cent. tax is taken out, the actual taxation on that money is 5 per cent. Money is turned over more or less four times, depending on how much is won on the first race. So 1½ per cent. becomes 5 per cent., and those who talk about 5 per cent. or 6 per cent. are getting too high—country bookmakers particularly cannot stand that increase.

In small towns like Northampton and Mingenew they just make a living and cannot stand more, but a person like Godwin or Healy could stand plenty. Therefore all this growling about s.p. shops is not based on sound argument. I voted with the Government on this measure when it was introduced, and would do so if the same Bill were introduced again, if the conditions then existing existed now. We are almost 100 per cent. better off than we were before, and it has not increased betting in Geraldton.

Hon. A. F. Griffith: They used to pay a lot of money in fines in Geraldton.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: We paid a lot. It is not my habit to leave things untold and that is why the Minister has heard about it. By the time bookmakers pay their turnover tax, licence fees, stamp tax and taxation I would say they are paying much more than they did previously.

One other issue is that of the one-armed bandits. If ever any department fell down on its job, it was the Licensing Court, and also the Police Department, in the early part of last year. A representative of the

firm which manufactures these machines in the Eastern States was here on a visit, and I met him in Parliament House. He came to Western Australia to canvass the State, and machines were sent across and put into various clubs here. Immediately they were received, the police walked in and said to the club officials, "Do not use those machines until we give you the O.K."

They were put in back rooms while the Licensing Court made up its mind. A month later the Licensing Court said, "Go ahead and use them," and the police said, "Go ahead and use them." Now the Licensing Court wants to stop them. Why did it not adopt that attitude before when it had the opportunity? Now it is going to take a lot to stop them. If there was ever anything more inhuman, I do not know what it was.

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: They are an absolute disgrace.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: On this occasion I am on the same side of the fence as the hon. member.

Hon. G. Bennetts: Would you be in favour of legalising them?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I would not; I would toss them out. I do not go around with my eyes closed. I have been in clubs where these machines operate, and I have seen many men, who cannot afford to lose the money, put large sums through these machines.

Hon. G. Bennetts: Surely they have a will of their own.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It is all very well to say that; but they have not, and that is the trouble.

Hon. G. Bennetts: That will teach them.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Unfortunately it is not only they who suffer, but their wives and children. The other day a fellow went in and put the whole of his wages through one of these machines. He then turned round and said to his cobbler, "Lend me a quid." His mate said, "What for?" He said, "It is Saturday morning. I have to take some meat home for the week-end, otherwise there will be a heck of a row." That is not an isolated instance. It goes on all the time.

I know two fellows who walked from the railway yards with their pay in their hands, and within an hour they did not have any pay left. It is all very well to say that they have a mind of their own, and that they are 21; but on some occasions it is necessary for someone to look after them. I would say that this House would be well advised to make sure that these machines are never legalised in this State.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: Would not that man have got rid of it in some other way?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: No; because if the machine had not been there, he would have had one or two beers and gone home and given all his pay to his wife.

Hon. J. G. Hislop: I do not know about that.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I do; I know these fellows.

Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: On the same argument, you should close the betting shops.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: No.

Hon. G. Bennetts: And the pubs, too.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: There is a lot of difference in the two forms of gambling. One is absolutely inherent. It can be played all night, while the bar is open. But on a race day there are six races in Melbourne and six here, so that there are 12 races and a man has to wait a long time between each race, and there may be a week before the next lot of races, but he does not have to wait for the one-armed bandit. All he has to do is to take his turn in the queue. I have seen queues of 20 or so line up waiting to play the machine. They have a mind of their own, and they are 21! There would be more merit in a swy game than in these one-armed bandits.

Getting back to the s.p. betting: When I supported the measure two years ago, I said that if it had been a measure to reduce betting I would have supported it also, but no one who opposed the Bill or who objected to it at the time raised the issue of trying to stop s.p. betting. I think I remember speaking in this House previously, and I said that if we stopped the broadcasting of racing and prevented the terrific amount of publicity that is given through the Press, we would reduce betting to a minimum. When the s.p. men refused to pay the broadcast fees to the "B" class stations, those stations did not give their usual coverage, and in the first week the turnover of the s.p. operators dropped from an average of £140,000 to £77,000.

If that is not proof that the stopping of broadcasting and the preventing of information going out through the Press will bring betting down to a reasonable level, then I do not know what is. That is the way the problem should have been tackled, and I would have been quite happy to support such a proposition; but no such suggestion was put forward at the time, and I took the only way out of it that I could. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

On motion by Hon. R. F. Hutchison, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 8.51 p.m.*