

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 19th August, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (40): ON NOTICE

1. HOSPITAL

Rossmoyne

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have there been any further studies by the Public Health Department on the need for a hospital in the Rossmoyne area to cope with the rapid development taking place in this vicinity?
- (2) If so, what are the results of these studies?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2). The need for a hospital in this locality has already been established and the department is continuing in its efforts with regard to the site.

2. HOUSING

Lynwood

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) When will the Housing Commission commence development in the Lynwood area?
- (2) Has Margaret Feilman submitted a plan for this area at the request of the commission?
- (3) If "Yes", was it accepted?
- (4) Does the commission intend to develop other land owned in the Canning Vale area?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) It is anticipated that sewerage works will be available in 1970 and the State Housing Commission will arrange development accordingly.
- (2) and (3). Miss Feilman has submitted a plan which is subject to approval of the Town Planning Board and the local authority. Discussions are being arranged.
- (4) The State Housing Commission's holdings in the Canning Vale area are zoned "Rural" and there are no immediate plans for development.

3. EDUCATION

Demountable Classrooms

Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Are there any demountable classrooms available at present for immediate installation?
- (2) Has a demountable classroom contract been let and for how many units?

- (3) When will these classrooms be available?
- (4) Will demountable classrooms from this contract be made available to Safety Bay, Bungaree, and Kingsley primary schools?
- (5) If "Yes", when is it expected these classrooms will be installed?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The existing contract, under which all classrooms have been delivered, has been further extended by an order for 25 units.
- (3) The first of the units will be available in two to three weeks.
- (4) and (5). It is expected that one room will be erected at both the Safety Bay and Kingsley Primary Schools for the beginning of third term.
Pupils from Bungaree will be housed in empty classrooms at Rockingham.

4.

HOSPITAL

Northam Regional

Mr. McIVER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) When is it contemplated the Northam Regional Hospital will be completed?
- (2) When will it become operational?
- (3) How will the present hospital building be utilised?
- (4) How many extra staff, professional and maintenance, will be needed for the new hospital?
- (5) Will the Medical Department be providing homes for the extra staff?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) March, 1970.
- (2) June to July, 1970.
- (3) It is intended that the present hospital building, after some modification, will become a unit for long stay cases.
- (4) A full assessment of staff requirement is being made at the present time. Some key appointments have already been made for the new hospital.
- (5) The department does not provide houses for all members of the staff. Many are recruited locally from persons already living in the town. Houses are supplied to some key personnel; for example, a house was recently purchased by the department for the new hospital engineer.

5.

ROADS

Midland-Northam

Mr. McIVER asked the Minister for Works:

Would he detail the road programme that is envisaged between

Midland and Northam this financial year?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Work planned by the Main Roads Department on Great Eastern Highway this financial year is the construction and sealing of 2.7 miles of a second carriageway between 18.3 and 21-mile pegs.

6. POLICE Kelmscott

Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Will additional staff for the Kelmscott police station be provided in the near future?
- (2) How many persons resided in the area serviced by Kelmscott police station as at the 30th June, 1964 and 1969?
- (3) When was the Kelmscott police station opened?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The 30th June, 1964—approximately 3,500.
The 30th June, 1969—approximately 5,186.
- (3) The 1st August, 1897.

7. BUILDING TRADESMEN Allowances

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Labour:

What amounts respectively constitute—

- (a) lost time allowance;
 - (b) tool allowance;
 - (c) travelling allowance,
- in the weekly wages of building tradesmen?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

The Building Trades Award, 1968, No. 31 of 1966, provides as follows—

- (a) Lost time allowance for:
Bricklayers, stone workers,
carpenters, joiners, painters,

glaziers, signwriters, plasterers, plumbers and stonemasons—\$4.72 per week.

(b) Tool allowance per week:

- | | | |
|--|-------|---------|
| (a) Bricklayers and stone workers | ..... | \$ 0.55 |
| (b) Plasterers | ..... | 0.60 |
| (c) Carpenters and joiners— | | |
| joiner's shop | ..... | 0.85 |
| elsewhere | ..... | 0.95 |
| (d) Plumbers | ..... | 0.75 |
| (e) Painters and signwriters | ..... | 0.25 |
| (f) Glaziers | ..... | 0.25 |
| (g) Stonemasons (where required to supply own tools) | ..... | 0.40 |

- (c) Travelling allowance is not included in the weekly wage of building tradesmen. The award provides separately for fares and travelling time (clause 15) and distant work (clause 26). The payment of fares and of travelling allowances is governed by each particular circumstance.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT Local Authority Grants

Mr. STEWART asked the Minister for Works:

What are the total grants (both from legislation and the main roads programmes) to the following local government authorities for each of the last three years including 1969-70—

Coolgardie,
Yilgarn,
Westonia,
Merredin,
Narembeen,
Kondinin,
Kulin?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Main Roads Department
Grants (from Legislation and Departmental Programmes) to Various Local Authorities

Shire	1967-68			1968-69			1969-70		
	From Central Road Trust Fund + 75% Base Year	M.R.D. Programme Allocations	Total	From Central Road Trust Fund + 75% Base Year	M.R.D. Programme Allocations	Total	Government Grant	M.R.D. Programme Allocations	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Coolgardie	10,465	25,040	35,505	27,227	25,120	52,347	29,134	24,450	53,584
Yilgarn	61,912	27,070	88,982	60,708	28,440	89,148	65,601	36,000	101,601
Westonia	27,352	25,360	52,712	24,046	23,210	47,256	27,499	34,850	62,349
Merredin	96,017	35,360	134,397	91,481	39,220	130,701	100,312	44,850	145,162
Narembeen	40,392	30,820	77,212	45,164	35,530	80,694	48,325	37,600	85,925
Kondinin	43,728	55,030	98,758	41,224	52,750	93,974	45,450	61,300	106,750
Kulin	39,554	47,620	87,174	36,285	50,410	86,695	40,573	54,950	95,523

9.

**FREMANTLE PORT
AUTHORITY***Staff and Management*

Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Between the beginning of 1965 and the end of 1968 how many engineers terminated their employment with the Fremantle Port Authority?
- (2) During the same period how many changes occurred in the clerical staff in that part of the authority's establishment which is generally regarded as the top administrative section?
- (3) Did the divisional manager, operations, travel to Melbourne on the 21st June and return on the 23rd June?
- (4) If "Yes", what was the purpose of the visit?
- (5) Was the visit made with the knowledge and approval of the commissioners?
- (6) At whose expense was the visit made?
- (7) Was it known to the commissioners at the time that there was a possibility that following the visit the divisional manager would resign his position with the Fremantle Port Authority?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Six.
- (2) Five, viz:—
21/8/65—

The assistant general-manager, Mr. H. C. Rudderham, appointed general-manager upon the retirement of Mr. F. W. E. Tydeman.

13/4/66—

Mr. J. R. Lawrence appointed senior wharf superintendent upon the retirement of Mr. A. B. Williamson.

18/11/68—

Following re-organisation of top administrative section:

Mr. H. F. Sanderson appointed divisional-manager—operations;

Mr. C. A. Faulds appointed divisional-manager—administration;

Mr. L. W. Robertson appointed personnel and industrial relations officer.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) To have discussions with the chief engineer of the Melbourne Harbour Trust on roll-on/roll-off facilities.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Fremantle Port Authority.
- (7) No.

10.

EDUCATION*Arts Degree*

Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Monash University is the only one in Australia where the cost to the student taking a course leading to an Arts degree is greater than the cost at the University of Western Australia?
- (2) If "Yes", will he explain how such a bad situation has developed?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) No. La Trobe also charges a much higher fee than the University of Western Australia which incidentally is the same as that charged by the University of Queensland.
- (2) Answered by (1).

11.

HEALTH*Interns: Approved Hospitals*

Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) For the purpose of the provisions of the Medical Act requiring medical graduates with degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery to serve in an approved hospital for 12 months before obtaining full registration permitting private practice, will consideration be given to including as approved hospitals certain regional country hospitals such as Kalgoorlie, Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton, Northam?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) These hospitals lack the teaching facilities required to continue the training of the new graduate.

**12. WORKERS' COMPENSATION
ACT***Amendment*

Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Labour:

When is legislation to amend the Workers' Compensation Act expected to be introduced?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

The recommendation of the committee to enquire into matters relating to the Workers' Compensation Act are currently being examined. If it is decided to introduce legislation the normal procedures of the House will indicate when.

13.

BARRACKS ARCHWAY*Restoration*

Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has all the rebuilding, restoration and beautification of the "Barracks Arch" now been completed?

- (2) If so, what was the overall cost of retaining, rebuilding, restoring, and beautifying this building?
- (3) Now that this building has been reconstructed, for what purpose is the internal structure to be used?
- (4) Has the Government had any requests for the use of this building; if so, by whom?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Other than floodlighting, yes.
- (2) \$33,900.
- (3) and (4). No decisions have been made on how the Barracks Arch should be used. However, I have had informal discussions with two members of the Historical Society and have suggested that representations from that body or from the National Trust would be carefully considered. So far no requests have been made.

14. **TOTALISATOR AGENCY
BOARD
Pools**

Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What were the respective percentages of the Totalisator Agency Board pools—
 - (a) returned to punters;
 - (b) retained by the T.A.B.;
 - (c) paid to consolidated revenue;
 - (d) paid to racing and trotting interests,
 during the Totalisator Agency Board year ended the 31st July, 1968?
- (2) Is there likely to be any great variation to these percentages for the year ended the 31st July, 1969?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) 83.71 percent.
(b) 7.07 per cent.
(c) 5.50 per cent.
(d) 3.72 per cent.
- (2) No.

15. **PORTS**

Bunbury Harbour Project

Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is there a scale model available of the new Bunbury harbour project?
- (2) If "Yes", would he make this model available to be placed in a suitable position where the public can view and study same?
- (3) If "No", will he have a detailed scale model prepared as soon as possible and implement the request in (2)?
- (4) Approximately when would this model be available?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

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

- (3) A considerable amount of the detail of this project such as road and rail access is still in the design stages and hence it is thought premature at this stage to produce a model for public display. It is estimated that at least a further six months will be required to complete the design work.

- (4) Answered by (3).

16.

PORTS

Dredging at Bunbury

Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) While there is a suitable dredge in Bunbury—Dredging Industries' unit—would he give consideration to negotiate with the company to dredge the estuary waters west of the proposed harbour development to the "Plug"?
- (2) At what stage of the new port development would consideration be given to the removal of the "Plug"?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No consideration in detail has been given to improving the water areas adjacent to the town by dredging and reclamation. Before any proposal can be studied in detail a substantial amount of ground information will have to be obtained.
- (2) Removal of the "Plug" is not contemplated in the current new inner harbour proposal.

17.

HOSPITAL

Parkfield

Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is his department making the necessary arrangements to transfer the Parkfield Hospital to the Bunbury Town Council?
- (2) Does he anticipate that all details will be finalised to hand this property over on or about the 30th June, 1970?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The Medical Department has advised the Department of Lands and Surveys of the arrangements desired to transfer the Parkfield Hospital and surrounding land to the Bunbury Town Council and also has asked that department to deal directly with the town council in completing this matter. The department is aware that the transaction is progressing satisfactorily.
- (2) The details of the land transfer should be finalised by the date mentioned by the honourable member, but as to whether the Parkfield Hospital itself can then

be handed over to the council depends upon the availability of other accommodation to which patients can be transferred. Information in connection with this matter was conveyed to the town council in a letter dated May, 1967.

18. **AGED PERSONS HOMES**

Geriatric Annexe, Bunbury

Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) When will tenders be called for a new geriatric annexe in Bunbury?
- (2) Is he able to give general details of this proposed building, e.g., number of patients, general design, position, etc?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) It is expected that tenders will be called by the end of this financial year.
- (2) The site comprises approximately 5 acres immediately north of Clarke Street and fronting the Bunbury Regional Hospital. The design will provide for a low level building of approximately 40 beds, including all necessary facilities for a unit of this nature.

19. **GOVERNMENT CHEMICAL LABORATORIES**

Staff

Mr. JONES asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is Mr. Paul Donnelly of the Government Chemical Laboratories retiring?
- (2) If "Yes", at what date will he retire and who will replace him?
- (3) If it is not intended to appoint another person to his position, will he advise the reasons?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) Mr. Donnelly retires on the 29th August, 1969, and consideration is being given, in consultation with the Public Service Commissioner, to a re-organisation of the duties within fuel technology division.

20. **TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD**

Collie

Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Totalisator Agency Board to build its own premises in Collie?
- (2) If "Yes", where will the building be situated and when is it anticipated that the building will be constructed?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) The building will be located at 43 Forrest Street, Collie, and construction should be completed about July or August, 1970.

21. **ELECTRICITY**

Bunbury Power Station: Output

Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Electricity:

In view of the reduced output from the Bunbury power house in recent months, will he advise the future planning for this station?

Mr. NALDER replied:

Plans for the output of the Bunbury generating station depend on a number of factors, one of which is the price of coal relative to the cost of other likely fuels. Contracts for coal are now being negotiated.

22. **COAL**

Government Contracts

Mr. JONES asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What tonnages were allocated to Griffin Coal Mining Company and Western Collieries Ltd. under the terms of the existing Government coal contracts on an annual basis?
- (2) Did the Griffin company's contract provide for an increased order during the three-year term of the contract?
- (3) If "Yes", what was the tonnage involved and were the terms of the contract met?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) At beginning of contract—
Griffin Coal Mining Company Limited—552,250 tons p.a.
Western Collieries Limited—454,000 tons p.a. under contract.
30,000 tons p.a. by separate arrangement.
- (2) Yes—at option of purchasers.
- (3) 23,500 tons per annum. Yes.

23. **EDUCATION**

Denmark Agricultural Junior High School

Mr. H. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the anticipated increase of first year students for 1970 over the 1969 level at the Denmark Agricultural Junior High School?
- (2) Will this increase necessitate the establishment of a further post primary class in 1970?
- (3) Is it intended to construct any additional classrooms at the abovementioned school in readiness for the 1970 school year?
- (4) If so, how many?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No increase is anticipated.

- (2) Answered by (1).
 (3) and (4) Two rooms are listed for erection subject to the availability of finance.

24. ACTS

Proposed Legislation

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Labour:

Is it proposed to introduce Bills to amend the following Acts during the current session—

- (a) Workers' Compensation Act;
 (b) Factories and Shops Act?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (a) The recommendations of the committee to enquire into matters relating to the Workers' Compensation Act are currently being examined.
 (b) Not known at this time.

25. RESERVES

Flora and Fauna

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has the committee formed to consider the setting up of reservations for flora and fauna reported on its activities?
 (2) What is the current position with regard to the area off the Tood-yay road embracing Emu Brook Falls to Bald Hill?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) The Reserves Advisory Council has met on 5 occasions. Progressive reports are being submitted.
 (2) Under active consideration.

26. EDUCATION

Sales Techniques

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Are students in—
 (a) primary schools;
 (b) secondary schools,
 given specific education to enable them to cope with sales techniques including deceptive and now sensual advertising to which they are being and will continue to be subjected to incessantly?
 (2) If "Yes", since when, and will he identify the precise text books and syllabuses, if any, used for this purpose?
 (3) Will he table details of said syllabuses for information of members?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) (a) Not specifically.
 (b) Yes.
 (2) At the secondary level the following syllabuses have specific sections devoted to sales techniques—

- (a) Commerce—Public Examinations Board Syllabus, page 104. Syllabus introduced 1965.
 (b) Consumer Education Syllabus—Syllabus introduced 1969.
 (c) Elementary Economics—pages 6-7. Syllabus introduced 1969.
 (d) High School Certificate Social Studies Syllabus, pages 15-17. Syllabus introduced 1965.
 (e) Retail Trade—pages 40-52. Syllabus introduced 1966. Revised 1968.
 (f) A consumer Education course has been prepared as an elective unit for the New Achievement Certificate courses in 1970. The books used are—
 (i) Social Studies in Commerce—P. J. Smith.
 (ii) Consumer Education—Magnus.
 (iii) The Informed Consumer—Dellar.
 (iv) Social Studies for Australian Schools.
 (g) Health Education for Secondary Schools, Unit 3 Topic 23, pages 16-21. Syllabus and text introduced 1966.

(3) Yes.

The papers were tabled.

27.

HEALTH

Drugs: Medical Treatment

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

How many teenagers of respective sexes in each of the last five statistical years have received medical treatment as a consequence of the taking of drugs procured by them otherwise than by way of proper prescription?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:
 Information not available in my department.

28.

POLICE

Drugs: Complaints

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister for Police:

In each of the last five statistical years how many complaints have been received by the police of drugs being administered whether by food, drink, or other means to third parties without the prior knowledge and approval of such third party?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- 1964-65—Nil.
 1965-66—Nil.
 1966-67—Nil.
 1967-68—Nil.
 1968-69—1.

29.

HEALTH*Cigarette Smoking; Hazards*

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Referring to his answer on the 13th August, 1969, will he identify each and every of the many people said by him to make allegations about the effects of cigarette smoking in practically every country of the world whose allegations he accepts as being authoritative?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

No.

In the 12 years preceding the 1964 report of the Advisory Committee on Smoking to the U.S. Surgeon General there were some 3,000 articles published on smoking research. There were 2,000 additional studies before the 1967 report was prepared. These reports, along with other material, are available in the Public Health Department library if the honourable member wishes to consult them.

30.

HEALTH*Home Care for the Aged*

Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

(1) As a result of the announcement by the Federal Minister for Health in February of this year regarding a "Home Care for the Aged" programme, what amounts of money are to be made available by the Commonwealth Government to this State for—

- (a) senior citizens' centres;
- (b) home nursing;
- (c) home help services;
- (d) paramedical services, or any other section likely to benefit?

(2) How will the sums received be disbursed?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Amounts provided for by the Commonwealth are set out as follows—

- (a) (i) An amount to be appropriated each year, being half of the State and Local Government expenditure on the construction of Senior Citizens' Centres. The Commonwealth assistance is not to exceed one-third of the approved cost of each centre.

(ii) Half the salary of one welfare officer at each Senior Citizens' Centre.

No specific amount has been stated.

(b) State Grants (Nursing Homes) Act. A maximum of \$381,000 over five years to the 30th June, 1974.

(c) \$38,000 per annum.

(d) \$19,000 per annum, plus other amounts as may be appropriated, being half the State expenditure on the provision of approved chiropody, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy and associated social work services to aged persons in their homes.

(2) The intention is that the grants involved will be disbursed by the Commonwealth to the State department, which will process all applications by various bodies for submission to the Commonwealth.

31.

EDUCATION*South Kalgoorlie School*

Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Has his department any plans to extend the accommodation at the South Kalgoorlie School?

(2) If so, will he give details of the proposed additions and when they are expected to commence and be completed?

(3) In view of the considerable home building activity both completed and proposed, is it planned to build an additional school in this area?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) and (2). The Public Works Department has been asked to prepare a complete redevelopment plan for the South Kalgoorlie Primary School so that a start can be made on the new building in the 1970-71 financial year. In the meantime additional students will be housed in demountable classrooms.

(3) No.

32.

RAILWAYS*Eastern States Coal*

Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Is Eastern States coal being used in railway locomotives?

(2) If so, how many tons of Eastern States coal have been used in the last four years?

(3) How many tons of local coal have been used in the last four years?

(4) What are the future requirements of Eastern States coal?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No. The use of Eastern States coal was discontinued in January, 1969.

- (2) Eastern States coal has been used as follows—

Year ended				Tons
30th June				
1966	....	....	....	4,237
1967	....	....	....	3,236
1968	....	....	....	2,331
1969	....	....	....	1,730
Total				11,534

- (3) Local coal has been used as follows—

Year ended				Tons
30th June				
1966	....	....	....	188,461
1967	....	....	....	187,290
1968	....	....	....	169,453
1969	....	....	....	128,824
Total				674,028

- (4) Nil.

33. HOUSING

State Housing Commission: Financial Operations

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

What are the reasons for the delay in ascertaining the financial result of the State Housing Commission's trading for the year ended the 30th June, 1969?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

Cash statements from the Treasury are not received until approximately 14th July and allocation of administration charges between State Housing, Commonwealth-State, War Service Funds, etc., must be completed before it is possible to ascertain the result of the year's trading.

It is usual for the information to be available each year approximately at the end of August and it is expected that this will be the case this year.

34. WATER SUPPLIES

Eastern Goldfields

Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

What steps have been taken to cope with the increased demand for water both domestic and industrial requirements in the eastern goldfields area?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

A comprehensive programme involving the electrification and enlargement of existing pumping

stations, the provision of new booster pump stations, major improvements to the main conduit system, and the provision of additional storage reservoirs is currently in course.

Investigations into a number of alternatives for augmenting the supply at Mundaring Weir have reached an advanced stage.

35.

RAILWAYS

Wool Freight Revenue

Mr. YOUNG asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What revenue is derived from the transport of wool on the railway system?
(2) What percentage of the annual revenue does this represent?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) For the year ended the 30th June, 1969, the amount was \$2,063,007.
(2) 4.8 per cent. of the total goods and livestock revenue.

36.

HUMAN RIGHTS

State Legislation

Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) On what dates did the Government reply to the last approach before, and first approach during the International Year for Human Rights, 1968, from the Commonwealth Government concerning State legislation deemed necessary to enable Australia to ratify—
(a) the convention for the suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others and final protocol opened for signature at the United Nations on the 21st March, 1950;
(b) the convention on the political rights of women opened for signature on the 31st March, 1953;
(c) the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination opened for signature on the 7th March, 1966;
(d) the international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights opened for signature on the 19th December, 1966; and
(e) the international covenant on civil and political rights and optional protocol opened for signature on the 19th December, 1966?
(2) What was the nature of each of the replies referred to above?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

(1) and (2). The information requested is as follows:—

Name of Convention	"A" Date of reply to last Commonwealth approach before 1968	"B" Date of reply to first Commonwealth approach during 1968	Nature of Reply
Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others	27/10/1965	21/6/1968	("A") Information to Commonwealth that our Commissioner of Police had advised that, so far as he was aware, the practice of procuring males to be prostitutes to females was unknown in this State. ("B") This was a verbal reply made by the Minister for Justice at a meeting of the Standing Committee of State and Commonwealth Attorneys-General. It was to the effect that we would investigate the possibility of bringing State legislation into line with the requirements of the Convention. This was done by the Police Act Amendment Act, 1968, which had the effect of making it an offence for a female to live on the earnings of prostitution. The reply of August 1967 gave particulars of relevant rules in this State. It also referred to the State's general attitude to the Human Rights Conventions as expressed in the reply which had been sent earlier with regard to the Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights. (See later.)
The Convention on the Political Rights of Women	8/8/1967	No approach was made by the Commonwealth during 1968	("A") Indicating serious misgivings about certain particular provisions of the Convention and expressing the view that it was likely to result in serious misunderstanding if accepted in its then form. At the same time, the reply stated the Commonwealth's problem with regard to the international "image" was appreciated and that this State would do what it reasonably could to see that the requirements of the Convention were met. ("B") This was a verbal reply made by the Minister for Justice at a meeting of the Standing Committee of State and Commonwealth Attorneys-General. He undertook to discuss with the Minister for Native Welfare certain relevant matters.
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	19/9/1966	21/6/1968	The reply of August, 1967, was to the effect that no objection was raised to the Commonwealth's accession to either Covenant. However, the reply also contained this statement: "This State's consent to the present covenants, and to the other 'human rights' covenants should not be taken as any more than an approval of the principles on which those covenants are based. Certainly such consent is not meant to convey that the State thereby binds itself to legislate, at any definite point in time, to assure any particular right that may be mentioned in such a covenant; nor should such consent be taken to convey that the State thereby consents to the Commonwealth legislating to such purpose. This is not to say that it is intended that the undertakings given in the covenant are to be ignored, but simply that the timing and form of the necessary legislation—at least insofar as it concerns matters which are essentially the concern of the State—are to be decided at our discretion."
Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	8/8/1967	No approach was made by the Commonwealth during 1968	

37. *This question was postponed.*

38. **INDUSTRIAL LAND**
Metropolitan Area

Mr. BURKE asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) What is the total area of vacant industrial land in the metropolitan area?
- (2) Is the Government considering the rezoning, within the next two years, of further land to "industrial", or is the land at present available for that purpose considered sufficient to meet demands during that period?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The recent industrial survey conducted by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority stated that there is a total area of 10,055 acres of vacant industrially zoned land in the metropolitan area.

Much of this land is not, as far as the Department of Industrial Development is concerned, suitable or available for the establishment of industry.

Factors preventing its use for industry include private ownership and ownership by specific Government departments requiring the land for their own particular use.

- (2) I am not prepared to comment at this juncture on the possibility of additional land being zoned industrial within the next two years.

39. **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**
General Motors Holden

Mr. BURKE asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has he had any further negotiations with General Motors Holden regarding the establishment of a plant?
- (2) Has the company been advised of possible sites for its development in Western Australia?
- (3) If "Yes", where are the sites referred to and under what conditions were they to be made available to General Motors Holden?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) The general question of possible components of the motor industry being established here is always under consideration and not only in respect of General Motors Holden.

There have been no recent discussions with General Motors Holden. From time to time potential sites have been advised to the company but the exact locations and conditions are hardly the sort of information one would be expected to give at this particular time.

40. **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Santa Maria Downs

Mr. BURKE asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has he any knowledge of negotiations between General Motors Holden and the Bond Corporation for the establishment of a plant on land set aside for industrial purposes on a proposed development of land held by that company and known as Santa Maria Downs?
- (2) Has he seen proposals for the overall development of the area referred to?
- (3) Has he or any officer of the Department of Industrial Development been involved in an advisory capacity in the preparation of draft plans for the area?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No.

QUESTIONS (4): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. **HOT ROD MEETINGS**

Insurance Cover

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Is it a fact that the State Government Insurance Office has declined to cover the W.A. Hot Rod Association's meetings at Forrestfield for public risk?
- (2) If "Yes", when and for what reasons was the cover sought declined?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) I heard just before the House sat today that the honourable member had made this inquiry through my office. From information I have been able to obtain from the State Government Insurance Office, there appears to be no record of any written request by the Hot Rod Association for cover, nor is there any evidence of any oral request having been made.

2. **HELICOPTER**

Landings in Corrigin Shire

Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the movement of a strange and allegedly unmarked helicopter which is making frequent landings in farmers' paddocks in the Corrigin and surrounding shires?
- (2) Is he aware that this unheralded and unwelcome guest is causing grave concern to the farmers in

whose paddocks it is landing and causing disquiet to sheep and alarm to cattle; and I might add that in one case it nearly caused a serious accident?

- (3) Could he inform the House if such transgression of farming land is allowable under law, and if not would he use his influence to have this practice ceased?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) to (3) There is a lot of detail involved in the question that I certainly do not know about. I would say that I have not heard about this helicopter flying in the Corrigin area. If the honourable member will put the question on the notice paper I will seek a reply to it.

3. DROUGHT

Water Drilling, and Formation of Committee

Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the Minister in a position to supply the House with any more detail concerning the proposal for water drilling to be carried out in the drought and near-drought areas?
- (2) If so, could he supply any details concerning the formation of a committee if one is to be formed, and who are likely to be the members of such a committee, and when the committee is likely to make its deliberations?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) and (2) I could give the House a comprehensive cover of the situation right now. However, I feel it would be better if the honourable member directed the question to me on the notice paper, and I will try to give a concise answer.

4. DROUGHT

Use of Helicopter

Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Agriculture:

As the Minister has been very closely connected with the committee in connection with drought relief, could he advise the House whether he knows if in fact a helicopter is being employed by that committee to ascertain the extent of water difficulties or other matters in connection with the committee's research into the drought?

Mr. NALDER replied:

No, not that I am aware of.

BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Wheat Marketing Act Continuance Bill.
2. Metropolitan Market Act Amendment Bill.
3. Soil Fertility Research Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.

4. Water Boards Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Water Supplies), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SEVENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 14th August, on the following motion by Mr. McPharlin:—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to:—

May it please Your Excellency: We the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MR. DUNN (Darling Range) [5.2 p.m.]: In addressing myself to this debate I would like, on behalf of the constituents I have the honour to represent, to place on record our congratulations to Sir Paul and Lady Hasluck on being appointed to their high office. It is very pleasing for all of us to know that a Western Australian has been selected to the office of Governor-General.

I would also like to place on record our congratulations to our leader (Sir David Brand) for the honour bestowed upon him and Lady Brand. We all wish to congratulate him on having achieved a record as Premier of Western Australia. We are very proud indeed of his effort and I am sure I speak not only for myself but for all the constituents of Darling Range.

It is my intention now to cover a few matters which particularly concern the electorate of Darling Range and, if time permits, to deal with matters which I feel should be discussed in this Chamber to indicate to the Government, and to the members of the House generally, how the constituents whom I have the honour to represent feel on these particular subjects.

The first question with which I wish to deal is the establishment of a Darling Range conservation authority. Last year most members, I understand, received a brochure setting out certain details which were discussed at a meeting on the 24th

October, 1968; a meeting which was called for the purpose of canvassing the desirability and practicability of establishing such an authority.

I did not have the opportunity to attend that meeting, but I have since had the chance to discuss this question with some of those responsible for the formation of the committee. Those responsible are to be commended for their interest, for their foresight, and for their willingness to devote their time and energy toward a matter which, if it is not of immediate importance, will surely grow in importance as time goes on and as the rapid development of this State continues.

I think it is fairly obvious to all of us that we cannot have tremendous expansion in industrial and mineral development without also having a rapid growth in population. I think we all acknowledge and appreciate this fact. We must, however, be mindful of the problems of growth, not only as they affect the ordinary everyday matters of schooling, hospitals, water supplies, and so on, but also as they affect planning; and we should ensure that our natural heritage is developed and directed with proper consideration and with particular emphasis on its being retained in its natural state.

We have on our doorstep probably one of the greatest assets a growing city could have. I refer to our hills area which is commonly called the Darling Range. When one talks about the Darling Range one must remember that it covers a tremendous expanse of country, an area from Bunbury to half way to Geraldton. The portion of this area which immediately concerns us is that which is close to the city and the metropolitan area.

It is all too easy to proceed with planning and development with a natural exuberance, but those who wish to get the work done can usually only see their particular problem; they cannot visualise the final effect of what they are doing or the impact it might have on achieving the picture they have in mind of the area being developed. For example, care must be exercised in regard to reticulation and other services, particularly electric light services. We all appreciate that it is necessary to cut great swathes of country, and we do not deny that this must be done, but a proper direction must be given to those responsible for carrying out the work.

If members would like the perfect example of the point I am endeavouring to make, I would refer them to the Swan River Conservation Board, which was set up to control the development and use of the Swan River. Some of us will remember the trip we took down the river at the invitation of the Minister for Works.

Mr. Graham: You mean up the river?

Mr. DUNN: It depends on which way one is going.

Mr. Graham: It is up the river from Perth.

Mr. DUNN: Suffice it to say we were afforded an opportunity by the Minister for Works to have a look at the work being carried out by the Swan River Conservation Board, and we all appreciated the effect of the proper direction and the proper use of facilities. Nobody will deny that this board has proved to be very worth while indeed, both in its work and purpose.

I would like to see this idea and the same type of planning extended into the hills area, because not only do we have the natural advantages of flora and fauna but we also have the advantage of good clean air. I would be very pleased to act as host to anyone who cares to visit the area to test the air. If we are to ensure that these wonderful natural attributes are retained, an authority should be set up to keep a watchful eye on things in order to maintain for posterity those facilities that are being enjoyed by the people today. The authority to which I refer could act in an advisory capacity—it certainly should not be bureaucratic.

There will be those, of course, who will say that what I have suggested is being done at the moment, but I hasten to say that I can take such people into the hills area and show them where complete and utter devastation has taken place; where trees have been wantonly destroyed; and where, after the error has been discovered trees have again been planted.

Without infringing upon the people's rights, the authority to which I have referred could advise on the proper utilisation of land for the sake of the people and which could be preserved for posterity, both for its beauty and for its natural flora and fauna.

At the moment the areas along the escarpment are zoned as urban by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority and it should be noticed that according to the committee's plan these are the areas which permit of access to the whole of the Darling Range. Accordingly, it is important as a first step to preserve native bushland and so on.

With your permission, Sir, I would now like, briefly, to place on record some of the thoughts engendered by those responsible for the appointment of the committee to which I have referred, which is endeavouring to investigate matters generally in order that it might come up with something practical.

Could I say at this juncture that I hope any remarks which I make will not be construed as an indication that I, on the people on whose behalf I am putting forward these matters, am unmindful that the local authorities and the people who hold some responsibility in local government in these areas are fully conscious

of their duties. In the main they comprise people who render their services voluntarily, but I am quite sure they would be the first to accept the guidance of a properly constituted authority set up for the purposes I have mentioned.

What we must attune ourselves to is this: it is all so easy at the present time to transfer urban country into barren waste land. This might sound a little melodramatic, but it does not alter the fact that what I have said describes the point I am trying to illustrate. Unless extreme care is taken, we will find that the rapidly-growing metropolitan area will be denuded of the advantages to be gained from the native flora of which we are so proud. I do not have to remind the House of the importance of wildflowers to the State, and we proudly display on our vehicle registration plates the caption that Western Australia is the wildflower State.

I would like to see all the different varieties of, for instance, lechenaultia preserved, because in some areas where these varieties did exist much devastation has taken place and this has resulted in the complete destruction of this plant. I instance lechenaultia only because it comes readily to mind. I do not profess to be an authority on lechenaultia, but those who are authorities on wildflowers have advised me that what I have said is a fact; and I am of the firm belief that what they have told me is correct.

Western Australia is a comparatively new State, and the city is being renovated and older parts are disappearing rapidly. It is not considered desirable for a community to exist without areas of a rural nature to compensate for high-density living. Throughout the world the trend is to concentrate on this mode of living; but I do not want to enter into a discussion on the pros and cons of this question, except to say that it is an accepted mode throughout the world. We do not have to look very far in Western Australia to realise that high-density living has already been introduced.

With the development of automation and the possibility of a reduction in working hours, people will spend less and less time in their place of living, and more and more time in travelling per medium of caravans, motorcars, and boats to recreation areas. It seems to me that it is highly important that we ensure that regions relatively close to the metropolitan area are preserved for those who cannot make long trips to the outer areas which are being prepared to accommodate visitors.

One of the points raised by the committee is the aims for the future. These aims—public utilities, roads, and privately-owned land—are of direct concern

to it. The committee believes that some form or direction—I use the word “direction” rather than the word “control”—should be given in respect of the development of privately-owned land so as to ensure the preservation of our natural heritage.

At the present time it is quite common for Government instrumentalities—I am not speaking in a derogative manner about any of these—such as the State Electricity Commission and the P.M.G., to cut a swathe through the bush to establish a line. I sometimes wonder when I have looked at the swathes cut through the bush whether the work was done with any direction, guidance or thought, other than the aim of getting the job done. As I have pointed out before, with the use of modern equipment and methods of clearing it is very easy to desecrate completely an area of land; but it will require a great deal of expense and time to restore such land.

We in Western Australia are just beginning to feel the pulse of our rapid growth and development, and now is the time when very careful planning should be adopted. I say again that the members of the committee which is concerned with the formation of the proposed Darling Range conservation authority are very conscious of these facts. They are prepared and, indeed, delighted to give their services voluntarily and without payment to assist in the formation of the authority.

Every effort should be made to ensure that the roads established in the area are designed to enhance its beauty. We should ensure that private owners of land in this area are given guidance in any plans for the clearing of land, even if the clearing is only for the building of a house. From my experience, many of these people will be prepared to accept advice and guidance on these matters. I suppose that even at this juncture a voluntary committee could be formed to implement the suggestion I have put forward.

I feel it would be remiss of me, as the member for Darling Range, if I did not draw the attention of the House to the way in which the people of the district are thinking; or if I did not give support to what I honestly believe to be a genuine—and I would hope a fruitful—approach, by those responsible, to preserve these areas for the people of today and for posterity, because I feel sure that we in this State are yet to feel the full impact of the progress which the State will experience in the years ahead.

The State is just beginning to make great strides; and if we are not careful when the whole process and machinery of progress gets under way it will be too late to ensure that our natural heritage is maintained to the best possible degree, commensurate with the desirability and

the necessity of development. Could I suggest that the Government should in due course, when the people who are now discussing these matters in a private capacity come forward with suggestions, give favourable consideration to them? From my experience of this Government, I firmly believe that any such suggestions will be received favourably.

I now want to deal briefly with a subject which I have discussed in this House ever since I have been a member; I refer to pockets of land around the metropolitan area which are still without the necessary services. I am talking about electricity and water supplies. With the passing of time there have been changes in policy and in statutory regulations, but these changes have resulted in some pockets of land not being provided with the ordinary, everyday requirements. A reading of the debates in *Hansard* will show that I have spoken on this matter previously, and I have tried everything possible to ensure that the people in these areas are provided with essential services. However, up to this point of time they have not been serviced.

There are homes within 11 miles of this Chamber where the children have to do their homework without electric light; and there are other homes which are subjected to severe water restrictions despite the fact that the people concerned have installed their own water supply. I am referring to the people living in Wattle Grove who obtain water from Crystal Brook. In the past they have been able to use this water for domestic purposes, but with the development that has taken place in the hills above these properties, the water in the brook has become contaminated. The local health inspector has told them not to use the water, other than for watering their stock or gardens. These people feel they are just as entitled to a water supply as are the people in the metropolitan area.

Sir David Brand: Are these pockets of land which are unserved being gradually reduced in number?

Mr. DUNN: I can only speak for my electorate. The number is not being reduced. Up to now I have not achieved any success in having the blocks serviced.

Sir David Brand: Has any reason been given by the department for not servicing these blocks? If it has, is the reason the same as the one that has always been given?

Mr. DUNN: This is a difficult matter for the department, because, with the development and zoning of land, in order to connect such pockets to a water main, the supply has to traverse considerable stretches of public open space from which the department does not receive any revenue. I know that the department has looked into this matter very closely, and it has indicated it is only too willing to help wherever possible; but, in view of

the amount of capital involved in establishing water mains, the department is not prepared to outlay the money because of the great overall demands which are made throughout the metropolitan area for water supplies. The position is such that the department is finding it more and more difficult to cope with requests.

The difficulty arises because a water main which was established, say, 10 years ago, and which was considered to be adequate to service the areas, is inadequate today. A huge amount of capital is involved in repacing such mains with larger mains. I know that it was necessary in Kalamunda to put in an 18-in. main to rejuvenate the Victoria Reservoir, and also to install another 1,500,000 gallon tank.

I am not being critical of the Water Board. I feel it has done quite a tremendous amount to reticulate the water in my area. What I want to know is whether some means could be found to overcome the problem of these small pockets, which will require capital expenditure which will be dead money. I think that is the problem. I thought I would take this opportunity during the Address-in-Reply debate to draw attention once again to this matter. Although it is a problem, I am sure it will be overcome.

One other question, not relating to the Darling Range electorate, has been exercising my mind; that is, the general movement of traffic throughout the city and the metropolitan area. I do not profess to have approached this subject from an engineering point of view, because I do not have the knowledge to do so. However, I have discussed the matter with people who are interested; and, also, close to this House evidence is available indicating that what I am going to suggest could be practicable. I am referring to the use of Bailey bridges to relieve traffic congestion and take the stress from one area and spread it over another. I am wondering whether it would be practicable for a study to be made of the metropolitan area generally to ascertain whether it would be possible to use these Bailey bridges in areas of very high-density traffic problems at peak hours.

One of the places I have in mind where such a bridge could be used is between the markets and William Street across the railway line, linking the north of the city with the south. Obviously, this would only be of a temporary nature; but day by day the problem of travelling under the West Perth subway is becoming such an intense struggle it is a wonder to me far more accidents do not occur. However apart from the accident aspect, people must experience nervous tension and strain in getting in and out of the city and the situation is not improving, and it will not improve until the full Mitchell Freeway plan is in operation.

I was wondering whether some practical use of a Bailey bridge could be made so that there could be some alleviation at the pressure points at peak hours and the traffic flow within the city itself could be helped by spreading the traffic which now travels over the Horseshoe Bridge, the Barrack Street Bridge, the subway at West Perth, and the Lord Street crossing. As we all know it is time-consuming to cross the railway line at Lord Street because of the rail traffic.

With my suggestion I could quite easily be telling my grandmother to suck eggs, but I have promised certain constituents that I would raise the matter. If it is practicable it would be of tremendous benefit to the development and control of traffic in the city.

I want to touch upon one other matter, and that is the necessity for a hospital in Kalamunda. I have approached the Minister on several occasions on this matter and he has been very sympathetic. He has given cogent reasons for the actions of the Medical Department, but I cannot help feeling that a growing necessity exists for the establishment of a hospital in my area. I know that such a hospital would not be able to give all the best possible treatment, because it would not have all the best possible equipment. However, it would, I hope, serve to alleviate the position in regard the everyday illnesses and complaints of the people who live in that area.

One of the arguments submitted concerning the undesirability of such a project was the question of staffing. I want to record here that the Lesmurdie Hospital—an "A"-class hospital—has never experienced any staffing problems whatever, and I feel certain that with the establishment of a hospital at Kalamunda, suitable for the size of the district, which is growing very rapidly, adequate staff from the local populace would be readily available.

To give an indication of the necessity for a hospital in the area, I would point out that there are three chemists in Kalamunda all doing a thriving business, and about nine doctors, and also two doctors who, I understand, visit the area each week. Although this hospital may not be a project for immediate development, I hope serious consideration will be given to its establishment. As I have pointed out to the Minister in discussions with him, I believe that if it were possible, there would be people willing and able to provide a considerable amount of finance to get the project off the ground on a private basis, and subsequently it could possibly be taken over by the Government.

I want to say that on every approach I have made to the Minister on this subject I have received a favourable hearing. I want also to say that the reasons he and his department have submitted for

the non-establishment of a hospital are sound and reasonable ones. However, I do believe the time will come when a hospital will have to be established in Kalamunda, and I hope the Government will be able to assist, in some way or another, to get such a project off the ground. I support the motion.

MR. TOMS (Ascot) [5.38 p.m.]: There are a few matters on which I would like to take up the time of the House, and the first one is housing. I could possibly speak for quite a long time on the lack of housing, but the point with which I wish to deal concerns the time lag. In this day and age we have often, and for a long time, heard talk of "the State on the move" and "the great leap forward," but I find it most difficult to tee up these statements with information with which I am supplied by the State Housing Commission. I have here three letters from the commission and the first one is dated the 31st December, 1969.

Mr. Bovell: Did you say 1969? We haven't reached December yet.

Mr. TOMS: I meant December, 1968, but I do not think it makes very much difference. I do not think that very many more people will be housed by December, 1969.

The date on the first letter is the 31st December, 1968, and I want to draw attention to the discrepancies found in letters sent from time to time to members by Government departments. In this first letter I am advised—

At this point in time the Commission is dealing with applications lodged to August, 1965 . . .

That was in December, 1968. On the 21st March this year in another letter I am advised—

At this point in time, rental applications recorded to June 1965 . . . are being dealt with.

The commission has slipped back from August to June between December last and the 21st March this year. On the 1st May, 1969 I am advised in another letter—

At this point in time, rental applications recorded to May 1965 and purchase applications recorded to July 1965 are being dealt with . . .

How can we, as members of Parliament, deal with the public when we have information like this? In December I am told the commission is dealing with applications to August, 1965, and in May this year I am told that the commission has slipped back.

Surely if in December, 1968, I am advised the commission is dealing with August applications, all applications up to that time should have been dealt with! Yet in May of this year I am told the

commission is still dealing with applications to May, 1965. Members of our electorates come to us and ask how much longer they will have to wait for a house. How can I tell my constituents what they want to know when I get information such as this from Government departments?

Mr. O'Neil: Are they all from the same area and are they the same class of housing?

Mr. TOMS: They are written from the same area.

Mr. O'Neil: Are the applications from the same area and for the same class of accommodation?

Mr. TOMS: I think so, because I have heard it stated by members on this side that they have been advised that applications have been dealt with for 1966. Therefore they are possibly in the same area because these are—

Mr. O'Neil: What I am trying to get at is whether the letters are referring to the same class of housing in the same area. Some might be for two bedrooms and some for three bedrooms; some might be for one district and some for another.

Mr. TOMS: That is possible, but there is no indication as to the type—

Mr. O'Neil: The commission in each instance is replying to a specific request. I suggest you check up to see whether the discrepancy can be explained.

Mr. TOMS: I have heard for the last 12 months that the commission has been dealing with applications around May and June, 1965. I have heard that for the last 12 months.

Mr. O'Neil: I suggest you discuss it with the P.L.O. It could be a clerical error or a typist's error. Discuss it with the P.L.O. Have you done that?

Mr. TOMS: As members of Parliament, we should not have to run around—

Mr. O'Neil: No; you want to bring up the matter here without taking the trouble to make inquiries.

Mr. TOMS: I make inquiries all right. If the State Housing Commission was anywhere near fulfilling its function, half my work would be chopped out. I spend half my time looking for housing, but when we get information—

Mr. O'Neil: If you did not try to make capital out of it, but went to the trouble—

Mr. TOMS: I am not trying to make capital out of this. I want to get the position clarified. I do not want to be running down to the commission all the time and holding up the work of the department; not that it would assist very much if I did.

Mr. O'Neil: There is a special officer to deal with queries of members of Parliament, and you very well know it.

Mr. TOMS: I have raised that point now and I will do my best to find out the situation and prove the point later, because I am satisfied these people all come within the same category as they all involve family units.

I now want to touch on a subject on which you yourself, Mr. Speaker, told me I was always harping; that is, land prices. In view of the edict you gave earlier this session, Mr. Speaker, concerning Press articles, I am not going to read all those I have here, but I have one which deals with a land sale held recently in Canberra. The article commences with the following paragraph:—

A recent homesite auction in Canberra received hardly any publicity on this side of Australia, but if Premier David Brand read or heard about it he could have got some ideas about tackling the problem of the continually rising cost of buying land and homes.

The article goes on to indicate that of 53 homesites offered in Canberra a top price of \$1,000 was received, but the average for the whole of the sale was \$538. We know that land is sold on a leasehold basis in Canberra, and whether the Government here could give some thought to such a scheme, I do not know. Possibly it would not, because it may have some effect on reducing prices and easing the demand on the commission for homes.

Mr. O'Neil: That is open bidding, of course.

Mr. TOMS: So far as the call on the State Housing Commission is concerned, I believe that the main problem in this State comes from the fact that prices of land are too high. If a young couple could get a block of land, they could arrange the finance necessary to build their home. The price of land is the factor which is causing more and more people to go to the State Housing Commission to register for homes.

Recently I asked a question in this House with regard to land which was sold in the Dianella area. Doubtless members had their eyes opened when the answer given to my question was to the effect that the land was acquired—there were 48 acres in the parcel—for \$1,200 at public auction in 1950. If members care to work it out they will see that it was acquired at \$25 an acre. After allowing for public open space and other amenities in the area 64 lots of this land were offered to the public at an average price of \$5,750.

Of course, we must take into consideration that a developmental cost of \$860 per lot is included in that figure. However, it is recognised that after allowing for public open space each broad acre of land produces three blocks. From the amount of \$25 per acre, the cost to the State Housing Commission was \$10, and the developmental cost was \$860. Yet, the

public was given the opportunity to buy these below-priced lots—we are told—at \$5,750.

For a long time now I have listened to a considerable amount of twaddle to the effect that we cannot put people who apply for State Housing Commission homes into premium areas, as it were. I just wonder when we are going to come down to earth; because we seem to be creating prestige localities all over the metropolitan area. What is the ordinary working person going to do? Will he have to finish up going to the other side of the hills and cycling to work or getting to Perth the best way he can?

If the State Housing Commission and the Government had been sincere, they could have made land available in the Woodlands and the Dianella areas for a lesser amount and still come out showing a profit. This would have given young people the opportunity to buy in the areas. I would not have complained if the State Housing Commission had let each lot go for round about the \$3,000-mark even though I believe that to be an exorbitant price for a block of land. I have indicated before in this Chamber how land could be bought at a reasonable figure in 1939 and again in 1946, just after the war.

The land which the State Housing Commission acquired for such a minimal price in 1950 is today being sold for \$5,750. This is happening despite the fact that the Government in power has been saying, for goodness knows how long, that it is going to tackle the problem; that the price of land must level out soon; and that the buyers must offer resistance. Recently the Minister for Local Government said, "Do not buy," but still the price of land is going up.

If the State Housing Commission had been sincere it could have studied the price of land. It is of no use the Government saying that it does not like the inflationary trend in the price of land when, in fact, the Government is entering into the inflationary trend and helping it along. No-one can tell me that a block of land in Dianella is cheap at \$5,750. If land is sold at that figure it only creates prices for all the land around it, which certainly does not help to stem the flow as far as inflationary prices in land are concerned.

I will now turn to another facet which I believe requires a great deal of attention. For some time I have stressed in this House that I believe the Town Planning Department and the planning in our districts are not in the best interests of the State or of the people concerned. I often wonder where we are going with all the boards and committees which have been appointed. I have in my hand a sheet which shows 93 boards and committees. Particulars are given of the members of the boards and committees and the

amount of money they are being paid for meetings, etc. I doubt very much whether we are getting value from these bodies for the work they are supposed to be doing.

I believe we are going too far so far as town planning is concerned in that there is a tendency to over-town plan. One has only to look at a map of the metropolitan area which has been put out recently to see the number of arterial and subarterial roads, so designated, for the metropolitan area. Doubtless the Minister for Works has seen this map and the spiderwebs which are shown all over the metropolitan area.

Superimposed upon this are the freeways, regional roads, and highways. It will not be very long before we reach the stage where there will be hardly room to build a house in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I think you are exaggerating.

Mr. TOMS: I am not exaggerating at all. I suggest the Minister take time to have a look at the plans for the metropolitan area. He will see the roads which it is proposed to widen and the freeways which are being designed. Not only are the freeways being designed, but I would say they are being overdesigned. I stated previously that a six-chain highway is proposed for the Beechboro-Gosnells highway. When I mentioned this previously, the member for Boulder-Dundas said, "Not six chains wide?" I replied, "Yes, six chains wide."

Since then I have taken the opportunity to speak to some of the departmental officers. They told me that the reason for the width of six chains is so that they can batter out on the hills and slope back one and a half chains on either side. With land the price it is, what is the good of having a strip of land six chains wide from Beechboro to Gosnells for the purpose of sloping it out to one and a half chains on either side when a hill is reached? Further, I am told that the extra one and a half chains all along the highway could be used for reserves. Who is going to develop it for reserves? Will the Main Roads Department develop it, or will it be left to local authorities to develop?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Posterity will do something towards these things.

Mr. TOMS: Yes, and in the meantime the residents of the area have to mark time for 20 years, when it is proposed that the highway will eventually be built. In the meantime, they have to sit on their land, pay rates and taxes, and wait until the Government is prepared to do something about it.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I disagree with most of what you are saying on planning.

Mr. Tonkin: It is right, though.

Mr. Brady: The member for Ascot could not be more right.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I do not think so.

Mr. TOMS: The Minister would probably be in a position to disagree with what I am saying with regard to planning, because I do not think any of the proposed freeways or overpasses will go through Cottesloe, and consequently they will not affect the people of his electorate as they will those in my area and those in the area of the member for Belmont.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I do not work on that basis.

Mr. TOMS: Of course the Minister does not work on that basis. The people in my electorate are workers who own land which they cannot do anything with. Yet the Minister says we have to plan for posterity. We are doing a lot for posterity and the people who are living now are paying the piper. If posterity is going to benefit from all this planning, why should not posterity pay for it?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I said posterity would pay for a lot of it.

Mr. TOMS: The people who are living now are paying, too.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Who do you think is going to pay for the six-chain highway if it is not posterity?

Mr. TOMS: Has any Government the right to tell someone to sit on his land for 20 years because of a town planning scheme? I say no Government has that right. I say that in connection with any town planning which is envisaged for a period after five years from the present time, the person concerned should be able to develop his land and do as he likes with it. If the land is to be resumed after that time, let posterity pay for it through the process of resumption. A person should not have to mark time because a Government or a Town Planning Department says, "We will put a highway through there eventually."

I ask members to consider that the original project for the Beechboro-Gosnells highway consisted of a three-chain highway, and that would be sufficient. I believe that the officers of the department are now, after some discussions have taken place, giving consideration to reducing the six-chain highway. However, if it is still considered necessary to have a six-chain highway as is envisaged at the present time, I argue it would be preferable to build retaining walls on the hills and reduce the length of the bridges that have to be built. This would cut out the waste of land on either side. Surely that is a reasonable suggestion, particularly when we consider that the Kwinana Freeway is 142 feet wide overall. It has two lanes of traffic on either side now,

and there is still room for another lane of traffic, which would provide three lanes each way.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Do you think the Kwinana Freeway is too wide?

Mr. TOMS: I beg your pardon?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Do you think the Kwinana Freeway is too wide?

Mr. TOMS: No, and I will compare the Kwinana Freeway, which is 142 feet or two and a quarter chains wide, with the one proposed for the Beechboro-Gosnells highway, which is six chains wide and nearly three times the width of the Kwinana Freeway. Can the Minister tell me the justification for that?

There is no answer from the Minister and I do not wonder at his silence; because I think the width proposed for the Beechboro-Gosnells highway is one of the most unreasonable propositions to which I have ever listened. I believe the State will benefit very much as soon as the Town Planning Department settles down to some proper planning and does not take a guess and say, "We will take this width in case we need it."

Sir David Brand: Is that the answer which the Town Planning Department gave to your query?

Mr. TOMS: I have asked questions with regard to the number of people who are working on town planning and I am told that there are 21 planners.

Sir David Brand: I am talking about the proposed width of six chains. Did the department give you any reason?

Mr. TOMS: Doubtless the Premier was busy catching up on some of his work because he did not hear the reason which I gave. It seems that when a hill is reached they have to batter back one and a half chains, so the department wants the width to be extended from three chains to six chains. As I have said, it would be far better to put retaining wall on the hills and reduce the width from six chains to three chains.

I hope the Minister for Works will mention to the department some of the points I have made; because I believe that what I have suggested could be done if proper consideration was given to it.

Many people who lived along the route of the proposed three-chain highway were hurt, but many more people will be hurt if a six-chain highway is built. At the moment the people are just staying in the area; they want to get out and develop elsewhere, but they cannot. Nobody will buy their land because it has a blank cover.

Last year or the year before I mentioned a returned soldier, of Italian extraction, from the last war, who has spent 39 years in Australia. He served

for five years in the last war, and he built in the middle of what was to be a three-chain highway. He shifted from there and went half a mile down the road where he built another beautiful home. The home has wall-to-wall carpets and the 132-foot frontage is developed with lawns and gardens. Then the department decided that it would build a six-chain highway and now he is right in the middle of the proposed route. When he came to see me, he was very worried as to when he would have to leave the area in which he had worked so hard and into which he shifted to get out of the route of the original three-chain highway.

This is the kind of thing about which I am complaining. I believe that too many people are disturbed by overplanning and I have given an example of where I believe over-town planning has taken place. The member for Belmont will probably face similar problems in his area as far as the Beechboro-Gosnells highway is concerned. This is a subject I will keep flogging in this House, because I believe that people in my area are entitled to much more consideration than they have been given.

We have been able to get a couple of the families out and we have seen them settled elsewhere. However, many more people along the proposed route will have to sit on their land for many years with the threat of ultimate resumption over their heads, and they will have to pay the rates on their land.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I will have further inquiries made on this subject.

Mr. TOMS: I will be happy to discuss this matter with any officers in the Minister's department and I am prepared to go over the site with anyone. This applies particularly through the Bayswater section of the proposed Beechboro-Gosnells highway, because I have a fair knowledge of the district. I would say there are approximately three hills that might have to be cut through, but they are not real mountains; they are only bumps in the ground, as it were, 20 feet or 30 feet high at the most. Some of the filling could be used in the lower areas.

Consequently, I believe this problem could be alleviated, if it were tackled properly, and quite a lot of land on the sides could be opened up. What is causing the local authority concern is its own town planning. The council is trying to develop town planning schemes in Bayswater, and it had planned for the three-chain highway. Now that a six-chain highway is proposed, the council is planning for that.

If the Government and the Town Planning Department, in their wisdom, decide to revert to a highway three chains wide, the one and a half chains on either side of it would be useless if the local authority

had already made plans to go ahead with its town planning scheme. Therefore, it would be wise to settle this matter as soon as possible so that proper planning and development of the area can proceed.

Not so many years ago, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, when addressing a gathering in the Eastern States, remarked that industry would have to learn to live with people. I think most of us would agree with that statement. In this day and age, however, it now appears to me that the policy has been reversed, because the indications are that people must try to live with industry.

I regret that you will not allow me to quote documents from a file, Mr. Speaker, because there are many documents on the file I have before me at the moment which I would like to quote to the House. The subject of this file is not new, because it dates back to 1947. The subject has been raised in this House over many years, and the matter has now become prominent again, because of the type of industry that is involved and the problem it creates.

It is a pity I am not permitted to quote from this file, because I am sure its contents would prove enlightening to all members in the House this evening. I think even the Premier is mentioned in the file, and in the correspondence the subject has created over the years, during which time prevarication and procrastination have taken place. I point out to the House that the subject of this file is the Swan Portland cement works at Rivervale, and although they are not located within the boundaries of my electorate, they are very close to them, because they are situated in the electorate represented by the member for Victoria Park.

Members will no doubt be aware that this industry was established in 1921. The Minister for Industrial Development is ever keen to tell us that the industry was established there many years ago and that people have built around it. However, it must be appreciated that in its early stages the industry did not create any problem, and the people who lived in the vicinity were not subjected to any great hardship as a result of dust coming from the works.

However, since the terrific development of the State in the early postwar years, and particularly from 1947 onward, when there was an urgent necessity to produce great quantities of cement for building purposes, the dust nuisance has gradually increased; but nearby residents were prepared to put up with the nuisance created by the works, because they knew that increased cement production was in the interests of the State.

Since 1947, not only has the production of the works increased, but a greater number of houses have been erected in close proximity to them and, in fact,

the State Housing Commission has built up a large housing estate in the Rivervale district.

If one studied the file I have before me one would find that not once, but on a number of occasions, the cement company has indicated that it intends to obtain new plant or equipment to overcome the nuisance created by the cement dust, fumes, and smells emanating from the works. There is a minute on the file which shows that in 1956, members of Parliament and local residents held a protest meeting, and the call then was, "The industry must go." If I remember correctly that meeting was held on the 8th August, 1956, and on the 11th August of the same year an article appeared in the newspaper stating why the works could not go. The principal reason was that it would cost \$2,500,000 to shift the works from their present site.

Members may recall that in its early years the Swan Portland Cement Company dredged, from the Swan River, shell which was used as a component for the manufacture of cement. However, big brother, in the form of the Cockburn Cement Company, came on the scene, and we now know that the Swan Portland Cement Company produces 40,000 tons of cement annually and the works are subsidised by the Cockburn Cement Company, its big brother.

The problem is now not only cement dust, but also lime dust. For some time now the Swan Portland Cement Company has been producing a large quantity of lime from limestone. I am led to believe that a good deal of the lime is used to refine the nickel produced at Kambalda. Therefore it is only natural to expect that as the production of nickel from Kambalda increases, the production of lime by the cement company will, in turn, increase, and the position will be that there will be more and more dust, fumes, and smells.

In the Press recently a letter was published indicating that new plant had been purchased in an effort to overcome this dust problem. However, the residents of Rivervale continually point out—the member for South Perth pointed to this fact only the other evening—that over the years little attempt has been made, with the increased production at the cement works, to overcome the dust nuisance. On a recent Sunday morning I was called to a house in Rivervale and the owner showed me a car he had washed only an hour before. When I saw the car it was covered with lime dust. It was useless to try to wipe off the dust with a rag, because as the dust was gritty the duco would have been affected by any attempt to remove the dust with a cloth.

That is only one instance that has been brought to my attention. One of the members of the newly-formed committee which has banded itself together to protest against the dust nuisance showed me an

envelope which was half-full of lime dust. He told me he had swept up this dust over an area of 12 square feet of concrete paving outside his house. He had collected it in two six-hour periods and one eight-hour period. Therefore, the people in the district are entitled to be concerned about the dust.

The Minister for Industrial Development cannot deny that a great number of houses now surround the cement works, and although the dust nuisance in 1921, when the works were first established, was practically infinitesimal, as a result of the cement now being produced at the works, and the limestone that is being processed, the dust nuisance has reached alarming proportions.

Since the cement works were first established the plant has grown from one furnace to three wet furnaces and one dry furnace, and therefore one can readily imagine how the dust from the chimney stacks has increased. The people in Rivervale complain that the problem is worse when there is westerly wind blowing. Today I noticed that some of the dust was blowing over Perth as a result of the prevailing wind; and whenever there is a westerly wind blowing, I can, from my own home, see the dust being blown across the houses.

The people also state that during the day the dust nuisance is not as bad as it is in the evening because then, apparently, the shutters go up and the dust really comes out of the stacks. This does not happen only once, but several times a day, and that is why the complaint by the people is that little effort is being made to solve the problem.

Mr. Davies: Do you think the Government should withdraw the company's license to produce cement?

Mr. TOMS: I do not know about that, but there is some doubt about its not taking sufficient safeguards against the dust nuisance, because whilst it was producing a little cement in previous years it is now producing lime in addition. I question the foresight of the company in producing lime, because if it is obtaining it from limestone, what is its source of limestone? Surely it is being taken from Wanneroo, or somewhere in that vicinity and transported long distances to the works at Rivervale. If this is being done, the heavy haulage trucks being used must create traffic bottlenecks and haulage problems for the company itself.

I would have thought that any firm entering this type of industry would have been advised long ago to obtain some alternative industrial site so that it could remove its works from its present location at Rivervale. There will be no chance of developing Heirisson Island into a parkland or sports grounds in the future, because the lime dust that will emanate from the Rivervale cement works will affect any

grass or flowers that are grown on the island. Proof of this can be seen by the dust that lies on the foliage of any plants in the vicinity of the works. There are many trees and lawns being affected, and I have even seen the leaves of a camellia bush coated with the lime that has emanated from the chimney stacks.

I was amazed when I was told that at least 10 tons of this dust is thrown into the air from the chimney stacks each day. This means that over a year 3,650 tons of lime dust and cement dust is being deposited over surrounding areas. If an effort is being made to keep the price of cement down, why is the company allowing 3,650 tons of its product to be wasted every year, in the air? These are matters that concern the people in my electorate, and I believe they are entitled to be concerned.

Although some doctors have said that the dust does not constitute a health hazard, I am of the opinion that whilst it may not affect them physically, I am sure it must affect the nearby residents mentally, particularly the housewives. I can just imagine the feelings of any woman who lives near the cement works hanging out her washing only to find that it is covered with lime or cement dust shortly afterwards. Not all the housewives in these areas that are affected by the dust can afford to buy electric clothes dryers. They are obliged to hang their washing out on the line, and in doing so they can only hope for the best.

Therefore I believe the nerves of these women must be affected in wondering how their clothes will fare every time they hang them out on the clothes line. The menfolk must also similarly be affected, because it must be disheartening to anyone who sweeps his garden path in an endeavour to keep the place tidy only to find that shortly after it is covered with lime dust.

Apparently the dust is a material that is very penetrating. In the Press the other evening a statement appeared which indicated that someone had placed a shirt inside a cellophane bag and had placed the bag in the draw of a dressing table, and when the bag was removed from the drawer it was found that there was some dust on top of it. Members should therefore appreciate the problem that is being created in the areas affected by this lime dust.

The dust is being spread over the districts of South Perth, Victoria Park, Bayswater, Rivervale, and Belmont; and, indeed, Trinity College and Gloucester Park are now feeling the effects of it. I have no doubt that both those places would be affected by the dust whenever there was an easterly wind blowing. Despite this problem, we hear a great deal of talk about

what is being done by the clean air committee. In 1963 there was talk about forming this committee, and in 1967, four years later, the committee was eventually formed. I have some regard for the work done by the committee, but I am wondering whether it is being instructed not to take any action in regard to the Rivervale cement works, because there is certainly a dust nuisance and a problem being created by the works at present, and I believe the committee should be taking some action to solve it.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. TOMS: Before the tea—

Mr. Graham: Don't be disappointed about the front bench.

Mr. Craig: You can't see round corners.

Mr. TOMS: I hope what I have had to say has caused Ministers to contact their departmental heads in an effort to do something. As I was about to say, before the tea suspension I had spoken at some length to indicate the problems being experienced in the Rivervale and surrounding areas, and even as far away as South Perth, as a result of cement dust. I had also said that over a number of years—in fact, according to the file I have, it is since 1947—there have been promises to the people in those areas about new types of dust arresters being installed at these works to alleviate the problem.

However, according to a letter I received recently from one of the people concerned, the residents in his street in Rivervale had reached the stage where they were prepared to tear the works down. I do not want to see that happen; I do not want to see a situation where the residents take the law into their own hands. But the fact is that people in surrounding districts have had to put up with this problem over a great number of years and I am only hopeful that the clean air committee will spring to attention and see that this problem is overcome once and for all. These people have to put up with the nuisance as best they can for many years and I am hopeful that the procrastination and prevarication will cease, that something will be done, and the residents of these areas will be able to live in peace.

Finally I wish to touch on a couple of other matters which particularly concern my electorate. The first is the question of sewerage extensions. Both the Belmont and the Bayswater-Swan people are rather apprehensive that the development taking place between the outlet at Woodman Point and the Cannington-Armadale corridor, and into the Mullaloo-Hamersley area will, to a marked degree, influence the date that the deep sewerage will eventually be connected to houses in Belmont and Bayswater, and in the Swan area.

I say this because we know that in the area extending from the Woodman Point outlet there is to be big development in what is called the Cannington-Armadale corridor; and no doubt the houses to be erected under this development will be connected to the sewerage, thus extending still further the date for the connection of homes in the Belmont district. The people in my area are afraid that the development at Cannington and Mullaloo will spread still further, thus extending the time at which their homes will be serviced.

We know that Hamersley and other parts north of the city are being developed, and we also realise that sewerage extensions are largely a matter of economics. I am hopeful, however, that the Government, when releasing land along the proposed route for the outlet at Mullaloo, will provide for corridor development rather than block development near the beaches.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. TOMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is hardly long enough, but I will have to make it do. The people in my electorate are afraid that the development taking place at Hamersley, and in other areas, and the possible opening up of other land in between districts already developed, will once again delay the connection of sewerage to homes in the Bayswater, Swan, and Midland areas.

The people in these districts have paid their rates and taxes over many years and they have helped to pay for the sewerage connections on the western side of Perth, which is now almost fully sewered. Yet in the area in which I live, which is only four miles from Perth, only 25 per cent., approximately, of the shire is sewered. That is why I said I am hopeful the Minister will give consideration to corridor development along the sewerage lines to which I have referred so that people who have been waiting for many years for their homes to be connected to the deep sewerage will be provided with this necessary amenity.

While talking about sewerage connections, let me say that in my view the various services provided for the public by the Government should be allocated on a priority basis. For example, in Bayswater the gas mains are being extended but the people in the district already have one form of fuel which they can use—I refer to electricity. In my view it would have been better, and probably more economical, had only one means of heating been used—electric power—instead of extending the gas mains. Thus, instead of having a dual service the money used for the extension of the gas mains could have been used for sewerage extensions.

During my speech I have covered quite a few problems confronting my area. I have spoken of them generally, as I have done for a number of years now. Previously I have not found it necessary to speak so harshly about the problem of cement dust in my electorate, but we are fast reaching the stage where something will have to be done about it; and I am hopeful that the Government will take notice of what I have said in this regard.

As I mentioned, too, town planning seems to be getting out of hand. We seem to be adopting the American method of using bypass roads, overways, and freeways which, in many cases in America, have proved to be things of the past—they are not working as effectively as the engineers or planners thought they would. Those engineers and planners now seem to have shifted from America to Australia and are putting into operation the same ideas they had when they were in America some years ago. I hope I will not have to go on for a number of years more referring to the requirements of my district before some notice is taken of what I am saying or before some relief is given to the people concerned.

MR. BURKE (Perth) [7.40 p.m.]: It is just over 12 months since I first rose to speak in this Chamber after having been elected to my first term in the Parliament of Western Australia. At that time I drew the attention of the House to the fact that the Opposition would draw the Government's attention to problems which face the State and I was hoping to encourage the Government to undertake projects which we felt were in the interests of the people; that is, of all the people of Western Australia.

I indicated that it was our bounden duty to promote the welfare of all Western Australians, and I regret that there are still sections of our community, and areas in our community, where families are still living in very poor conditions and circumstances, and under a stress to which they should not be subjected in this so-called affluent society.

I made reference to the heart of Perth and I have continued to refer to it at every opportunity since. I would like to feel that at least in some degree I have played a part in forcing the Government to switch its course from giving this land away freehold to half a dozen American investors—

Mr. O'Connor: What land is this?

Mr. BURKE: This is in the heart of the city—railway land.

Mr. O'Connor: Did you say we were giving it away?

Mr. BURKE: Giving it away freehold to half a dozen American investors—at this stage giving them a leasehold interest in

it. I hope—and I feel quietly confident at this stage—that we will not get even that far and I am sure that when received on the 31st of this month the proposals of the W.A.D.C. will be completely rejected.

Mr. O'Connor: You have done all you can to damage it.

Mr. BURKE: I have done everything to retain the heart of the city for this generation, and for posterity. In my view we have to look at this proposition in the long term. That is the only way in which we can consider this proposal. A lot of things were said by the Minister—

Mr. O'Connor: You are talking a lot of rubbish.

Mr. Graham: No he is not. He is right on the ball.

Mr. BURKE: He and the Government have tried to hoodwink the people into believing that this proposal is in their interests; but I am firmly of the opinion—and I will have more to say about this in a moment—that it is not. I believe that we are here to serve the interests of the people generally. We are not here in the interests of any minority—certainly not in the interests of half a dozen American investors.

Mr. O'Connor: It has over a two-thirds Australian shareholding.

Mr. BURKE: I am afraid that if the Government had its way—

Mr. Bertram: How many of them are Australians?

Mr. BURKE: —as is evidenced by some of its other dealings, this very valuable property—probably the most valuable piece of real estate available in Western Australia today—would be given—literally given—to the W.A.D.C..

Mr. O'Connor: It is not being given to anyone.

Mr. BURKE: I referred to the traffic problem just prior to my election. In a broadcast over the A.B.C. I made reference to the fact that the only action taken by the Government in regard to our traffic problem was a reference to another inquiry. In the short 12 months since my election, from my observations—and it is generally admitted—it is obvious that the problem is as bad as, if not worse than, it has ever been. The latest move by the Government, of course, is to appoint "Mr. Transport" in its attempts to sidestep the issue.

Mr. O'Connor: You are being politically dishonest, and you know it.

Mr. Graham: I think the Minister should learn to control himself more.

Mr. O'Connor: Like you do sometimes.

Mr. Graham: Like I intend to do tonight.

Mr. O'Connor: At least I am being honest.

Mr. BURKE: Also, when I spoke on the Address-in-Reply debate last year, I referred to the problems of young married people, and there are many of these people living in my electorate. I would say that many of them moved there four or five years ago not expecting to be there for very long. However, while they are there I will do my best to promote their interests and look after their welfare. As I maintained 12 months ago, they are the hardest hit by the present critical housing situation. Many of them are having to live in what virtually amounts to a 20th century cave. Many of the buildings have been erected for some years but none compare with the pokey little flats going up all over my electorate.

This is not advantageous to their health, physically or mentally. In my opinion it will cause social problems. As I have said in the past, these problems are the cause of an increasing incidence of post-natal depression in young mothers. I have spoken to doctors and have referred their opinions, together with my own, to gynaecologists. I have also referred this matter to officers of the Mental Health Services and they have confirmed my view.

I made reference to immigration and to our senior citizens who are acutely hit because of their minimal incomes. They are being pushed hither and thither by landlords who are demanding the maximum rent for their properties. I made reference to native welfare and, at this point, I would like to compliment the department for providing homes for aboriginal families and for the good job it has done over the past 12 months. I said at the time that there must be as much give as take on our part; I encourage the Department of Native Welfare to keep up the good work.

During the year I made reference to the crisis in housing and the prices which are being paid for land. Of all members, I am probably subject to most appeals for housing assistance. There is not a day of the week on which I do not receive several appeals in regard to housing. In my opinion, the appeals made to me are genuine and, in 95 per cent. of cases, should be considered emergent. Of course, the incidence of my successes has been in the region of 5 per cent!

Over the past 12 months I have taken the opportunity to learn as much as I can. It is an onerous task to represent one's people properly and to make a contribution. However, I can honestly say that I have made every effort to represent my people and to play at least a small part—or as much as expected of me—in regard to legislation.

One of the methods of deriving information in the House is to ask questions. I am afraid that I have been most frustrated in this regard as it is extremely difficult to get reasonable replies to questions.

Mr. Craig: Ask sensible questions and you will get sensible answers.

Mr. BURKE: I raised this matter in an informal way with two members on the opposite side of the House and they shared my sentiments. In fact, they said they had reached the stage, because of their years, of giving up the ghost, but they said there was some hope for me because of my youth.

I feel I must make reference to the housing difficulties that are continuing. As I have already suggested, I do not wish to belt the Minister for Housing any further, as I do not think he is totally responsible for the present position. I think it is the Government that must take the blame in regard to housing, generally, as I am still not convinced that it has an attitude to the problem. I do not think it is completely convinced that we have a housing problem at this stage.

In 1968, in reference to single units, we had something like 1,700 applications, but only 32 units were built. I made reference earlier to the fact that young married people, in many cases, are being forced to live for years in small flats. I also mentioned the effect this has on their families. I would also like to make reference to high-density living, which is O.K. by me. However, every family needs a certain amount of privacy. By that I mean every family needs a small area to call its own in which it can find seclusion.

The Minister for Housing has indicated that the State Housing Commission is giving quite a deal of attention to the matter of selecting neighbours so that the incidence of social problems will not increase. On that point, I think it is pertinent that I should read a letter from one of my constituents, as I do not know that the State Housing Commission is equipped to judge the position. This letter is worth quoting to the House and reads as follows:—

I am somewhat disturbed at the bureaucratic structure which has been created so that "File Technicians" read off the needs and problems of people from incidents and letters going back to antiquity. There is no trained Social Worker, or even a good qualified Welfare Worker on the staff, and therefore no one is really qualified to look at the situation from the individual's point of view. It appears to me that a Department which is dealing with case histories in the lower strata of society needs to be better equipped in its staffing than mere clerks, and so called inspectors.

I would be quick to add that I am not knocking the public servants who are employed in the State Housing Commission. The parliamentary liaison officer is to be complemented for the manner in which he handles the problems confronting him and for the manner in which he deals with members' problems. Enough said, at this point of time, in regard to housing.

I feel I should make reference to education. This subject was raised when an amendment was moved to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply during which debate, the Minister, when speaking, mentioned the need for priorities and made reference to the fact that the Minister for Child Welfare and the Minister for Police needed funds for rehabilitation and for child welfare. But I would point out that this Government has been in office for over 10 years, during which time it should have got its priorities straight. Had it maintained the housing programme of the Labor Government—it gave housing top priority—there would not now be the need for extra money for child welfare and rehabilitation in connection with the Police Department.

The Minister for Education seemed content with an increase in the number of married women in the work force; but I would point out that the bulk of these women do not work because they want to, but because pressure is brought to bear on them as a result of this Government having its priorities mixed. It neglects things like health, housing, education, and social welfare, and forces these people to go out to work.

We have achievements in industrial development. I would not deny this, but, at the same time, I would say the Government was not completely responsible for this. At the other end, there are insufficient houses, there is chaos in education, there are not enough hospital beds, prisons are over-crowded, and there is an increasing incidence of crime.

On the subject of law, the other day I asked a question as to when a public defender was to be appointed, and I was surprised to hear the Minister say that such an appointment had not been considered. Legal aid in Western Australia is close to non-existent, especially at the present time when the legal profession is overworked and—without going into the criteria for the giving of legal aid—would rather avoid giving legal aid if at all possible.

In Western Australia I would like to see a system of public defence whereby leading practitioners were retained by the Government to assist persons who needed legal aid. From my understanding the best possible system for legal aid in common law countries is that which applies in the United Kingdom where a presiding justice examines the prosecution and questions the defendant to assess his case.

and his means. He then decides on the merits of the case, whether legal aid is warranted, and, if it is, he issues a certificate. This method is quite viable and could easily be implemented. It is a system that is most worthy of investigation.

Our prisons are overcrowded—and this is something that is admitted. In relation to the need for a public defender or system of public defence, I would say that in many cases, especially with first offenders who are undefended, convicted, and committed, the people concerned will use everything at their disposal to defend their actions. Such people have only to convince themselves that the system is weighted against them to mitigate in their own minds the seriousness of their actual offences.

Further, in mitigation of a sentence, if a young man—I am dealing with first offenders, but this does not necessarily apply only to first offenders—had the assistance of a legally qualified man to put forward his case in mitigation, I suggest that in many cases the sentence would not be quite as great. Again, dealing with first offenders, I think there is a thin line between the point at which a man takes advantage of his mistakes and reforms, and when he becomes an habitual criminal. I think this is something that would be worth while investigating to ensure a case in mitigation of sentence is properly put.

I am putting this forward from the point of view of the rights of the individual and the need for equality before the law, but if this does not appeal to the Government, then I remind it of the cost each year of keeping men and women incarcerated; and when it gets down to considering its priorities, I ask it to consider the cost of replacing penal institutions. On that point I would remind members opposite that in the Fremantle Gaol we have men and women, human beings.

I would mention that during the recess I visited the Fremantle Gaol and I must admit that it is clean and well run. Its staff is very philosophical and realises that it cannot do much about the overcrowding. I found it interesting to note that there were about 300 prisoners in the woodyard, and about five axes. If one were serving a three months' sentence, one might have a chance of using an axe. Getting back to the point I was making previously, the Government has been obtaining legal aid on the cheap for far too long.

As I gleaned from an answer to a question the other day an extension of the present legal aid system is proposed; but we have to go further than that if only to ensure that the man in the dock has a fair trial regardless of his financial circumstances.

I proceed now to speak on what has become my hobbyhorse in the last few months; that is, the heart of Perth. I am interested in maintaining the beauty of my area and in achieving the sort of environment that was referred to by the member for Darling Range, in relation to his electorate, earlier this evening. The ideal, of course, is to lower the railway line and retain the area of 37 acres in the centre of our city, which will become the heart of the city, for the people.

In my opinion this is for the present generation and for future generations. How do we achieve it? By sinking the railway at the expense of the Government. The Minister has supplied me with a couple of quotes. The first quote was for \$10,000,000, and then last week the second quote was for \$10,100,000.

Mr. O'Connor: How about being honest about these things for a change?

Mr. BURKE: Well, the Minister for Railways confirmed a statement he made to a ratepayers' meeting some time last year when I asked him whether he had, in fact, said that the cost of sinking the railway line was estimated to be \$10,000,000.

Mr. O'Connor: Approximately.

Mr. BURKE: Approximately; the Minister confirmed it was. Last week, in reply to a question I asked, the Minister said he had referred the matter to valuers and the estimate was \$10,100,000.

Mr. O'Connor: That is right; the valuers stated that figure.

Mr. BURKE: The quote has ranged from \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000, and has now gone to the premium of \$10,100,000. In my opinion the Government could, over a period, meet the cost of lowering the railway line. The Commonwealth grant for roads this year placed the accent on urban roads, and at least part of the development will deal with roads and bridges. Surely part of the cost of this work could be met from the grant for roads.

Public amenities will be provided and, over a period of years, could be paid for. In fact, some of them would be paying propositions. I do not think the Minister, or anyone else, would argue the need for areas of recreation. We are all aware that the areas which are available are, in fact, diminishing. The projects being undertaken by this Government are consuming recreational areas and although the demand may not be great at this point of time it will not diminish. Increases in population will increase the demand for recreational areas.

Referring to a question on valuation which I asked the Minister some months ago, I requested some further information on the figure of \$10,000,000. I asked the

Minister who valued the land. The Minister told me that the preliminary valuation was done by the Town Planning Department in 1966, and the value was \$7,000,000 for 37½ acres of land, approximately.

Mr. O'Connor: That was in May.

Mr. BURKE: Yes, the 1st May. Then, secondly, the Public Works Department valued the area at \$8,500,000 for 24.6 acres, which was the area of the project.

Mr. O'Connor: That would have been just before the final valuation.

Mr. BURKE: The latest figure was supplied by Justin Seward & Co. and Mr. Dudley. The value was \$7,625,000 for 24.6 acres. On Thursday last I asked the Minister whether, in fact, the railway trench of approximately 65 chains in length by one chain to one and a half chains wide was included in the valuation. At that time he indicated he would ask the valuers and advise me. I received a letter today in which it is indicated that the area of the railway trench—with a surface area of 8.4 acres and valued on a *pro rata* basis at \$2,600,000—is not included in the valuation.

So we look at the valuations again. The first one came from the Town Planning Department and was supplied by De Leuw Cather & Co. That valuation was \$7,000,000 for 37½ acres of land. The second valuation was supplied by the Public Works Department. That figure was \$8,500,000. Add to that figure \$2,600,000 for the area of the trench and the valuation is \$11,100,000.

Mr. O'Connor: That also includes land which is not going to be used.

Mr. BURKE: I am referring to the surface area of the land. Taking the value estimated by Justin Seward & Co., and Mr. Dudley—\$7,650,000—and add \$2,600,000 we have the valuation of \$10,250,000, which is near the figure of \$10,100,000 quoted by the Minister. I think we are getting close to the figure of the minimum value placed on the land.

There is another point involved here. Everyone agrees that the existence of the railway line at its present site inhibits the natural development of the city to the north. It is interesting to hear the Government mention this point because the Government is responsible for plonking the Mitchell Freeway in its present position and limiting the natural development of the city to the west. However, that is the argument used.

In my opinion buildings would, in fact, prove a greater barrier—or more of a barrier—to the natural development to the north than would a park. It is a lot easier to go across a park—the maximum width of which would be no greater than the length of Forrest Place—than to go around a building.

Another factor is that at the present time there is enough land, in the central city area, capable of development, to satisfy commerce and industry until the year 2000, approximately.

Mr. O'Connor: On whose assumption is this?

Mr. BURKE: Approximately.

Mr. Graham: It is well-known public knowledge.

Mr. BURKE: The development available for commerce will, in fact, satisfy all demands in advance. By allowing the development of commercial enterprise on this area of land, the demand would be more than satisfied and, on top of that, the building would inhibit development to the north because there would be no need for that development.

We agree that there is a need for recreational areas. I spent some time in trying to arrive at an estimate of how much land would be left for recreation after the company had taken advantage of the situation to invest its money. I asked consecutive questions of the Minister for Railways as to what area would be allocated for open space, but I received no replies. We can glean that an area of 24.6 acres was the basis of the plan. By the lowering of the rail, an additional 13½ acres would be released for parks, roads, and open space. So there would be an area of 24.6 acres plus 13½ acres for parks, roads, and open space. Subsequent questions revealed about the same amount of information.

As a consequence of the questions I asked last Thursday, and from the information contained in the letter I have received, the surface area of the railway trench which is 65 chains by one chain to one and a half chains is 8.4 acres. If the project is based on 24.6 acres, and the Railways Department requires 8.4 acres, that is a total of 33 acres, which leaves 4.5 acres for open space.

Out of the 4.5 acres, allowance must be made for the widening of Roe Street and Wellington Street, which leaves precious little for open space.

Mr. O'Connor: I ask, do you agree with the proposal?

Mr. BURKE: I ask the Minister to put that question on the notice paper. My general attitude is that we should learn from other people's mistakes.

In Melbourne the authorities have recently purchased a large area of land to provide open space in the centre of the city. The situation here, of course, is not as complicated as in cities like Melbourne and Sydney, but we will be faced with a similar problem. We have to look at this and approach it realistically and form a long-term plan for the future. Although it could be argued that the demand for open space is not as great, or

not as obvious as it possibly could be. I can assure members opposite that there will be demands for open space. This can be proved by reference to other cities within Australia, and to cities overseas.

We should take advantage of the foresight shown by the forefathers of some of the leading cities overseas. With reference to this matter, and with your indulgence, Sir, I will refer to Central Park in New York and quote from the *National Geographic Magazine* of December, 1960. At page 792 appears the following:—

There it lies—840 verdant acres, a maharaja could not buy.

Asphalt-jaded New Yorkers flee to this area for renewal. To continue—

Around it roars the busiest, richest, maddest, gayest city the world has ever known. On all sides, wreckers tear New York apart and builders put it together again, reaching ever higher with brick and stone, steel and glass.

Unruffled by all this noisy hustle and bustle, the park goes the way it has gone for about a century. Serenely it offers harassed millions its one great gift—room to breath, refuge from the pressures and tensions of big-city living.

That is the basis on which I develop my argument for the retention of the centre of the City of Perth for this generation and for succeeding generations.

Mr. Dunn: Do you agree with the council plan?

Mr. BURKE: I have not seen it. I think that this Government has the opportunity to give to the citizens of Western Australia—and succeeding generations—probably the finest city centre in Australia. Perhaps, with ensuing development, it will be the finest city centre in the world.

It is incumbent on the Government to consider the project in relation to the interests of all Western Australians, and not in the interests of a few foreign investors who cannot get land in the centres of cities in their own countries. Those investors come here to try to take advantage of what could, in fact, amount to naivety on the part of some people.

In conclusion, looking at the past year I think we can fairly say that it has been a bad year for farmers; a bad year for teachers; a bad year for policemen; a bad year for young marrieds—forced to live in flats because they cannot secure a home of their own; and a bad year for young and old in general.

It has been a very good year, of course, for land speculators and a good year for private developers of spec homes and flats. It has been a good year for unscrupulous landlords and for foreign investors. In 1967 the extent of foreign investment—or ownership—in our mineral resources was in the region of 63 per cent. I can imagine

that in the year 1969 it will be in the region of 70 per cent., a large part of that contribution having been made by Western Australia.

I can see no relief at this point of time, for, as I have said in the past, I do not think the Government has a genuine attitude to social welfare. Many words pass, but there is precious little action. Of course, I think what we have to remember here is that the Government is looking after its own. This boils down to the point—and I make it my final point—that the fact of the matter is that democracy in Western Australia in 1969 is Government by the privileged for the privileged to the advantage of few—those few who least need it—and to the great disadvantage of many.

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [8.16 p.m.]: Whilst we welcome back the Premier after his sojourn overseas, we nevertheless remind him that he returns to a Government which is run down and which ever-increasingly gives examples of its having lost touch with reality. One might almost liken members of the Government to being Rip van Winkles, as I propose to demonstrate shortly. Suffice to say at this stage that it is not my intention during my remarks to lavish praise upon the Government, because I have been unable to discern actions on its part which would deserve words of commendation from me.

It is, of course, fresh in the minds of all members that only a fortnight ago tonight the Leader of the Opposition drew attention to a lack of Governmental interest by virtue of the fact that not one single word appeared in the Governor's Speech during the opening of Parliament in relation to the farming community and the problems besetting it. When the word "drought" was used, my leader was chided by the Acting Premier and was accused of seeking to create panic. Miraculously within 24 hours, and ever since, it has been a subject which is on the tongues of almost all members of Parliament and the great bulk of the community, because we are conscious of the situation. So the Leader of the Government considers all is well when in point of fact the farmers in the eastern and south-eastern wheatbelt and grazing areas are faced with dire peril.

The Minister for Housing, as we are all aware, says there is no housing crisis; there are only "pressures". But the housing situation is in a critical condition and is getting worse. I propose later in my remarks to demonstrate how serious is the situation and how complacent is the Government notwithstanding that fact.

We had assurances from the Minister for Education that there was no crisis in education; that everything was under control; that it was in hand. However, we are

also aware that within recent weeks a position developed in Western Australia in regard to teachers and teaching generally which was more serious than at any time in the last 50 years; because 50 years ago the teachers went on strike and it appeared they were not very far from taking that action on this occasion.

The Minister for Town Planning has employed honeyed words, particularly in the *Daily News* last Thursday, assuring everybody that there is plenty of land, that the public should be tut-tutted for daring to want to buy land upon which to provide homes for themselves, and that they, the naughty public, were responsible for the spiral of inflation in the real estate sector of the economy. There is unprecedented price inflation, and yet we have the Minister quite unconcerned about it—there is nothing to be perturbed about whatsoever! And then, indulging in a little by-play, the Minister said that politicians are perpetuating the myth that there is a shortage of land.

There is land available at a price; there are remedial steps which can be taken in the interests of the public; but this Government will not move because of the possibility of offending some of its friends and financial supporters. The remedies are obvious; they have been pointed out in this Parliament, just as they have been pointed out by competent authorities in reports submitted to the Government. However, the Government suffers from inertia; the investor—the speculator—has the first priority, and the public finish nowhere.

So as to ensure that there is no hope for the future the Minister for Town Planning stated that “no consideration need yet be given to the extension of urban land beyond the measures already announced.” The Minister is complacent and satisfied. We have the greatest scandal that has taken place in Western Australia in respect of land upon which citizens desire to provide homes for themselves, and the Minister folds his arms and tells us all is well.

This Government has a predilection for acting too late and usually as a consequence of promptings and urgings from the Opposition and, invariably, when a problem which, had it been tackled earlier, would have been comparatively simple, has attained crisis proportions. I well remember in this place pointing out the travesty with regard to the Westfield estate in Kelmscott. All that was required was a signature from the Minister or some officer under his control, and there was a concern prepared to spend \$12,000,000 of its money to provide 1,000 homes, and it did not want a cracker from the Government. Belatedly, some two years afterwards, action was taken.

Last year I gave full particulars of those who were prepared to carry out development in the Mullaloo locality. I do not know what has happened to that proposition now. I am not promoting any particular concern or company but, again belatedly, the Government has taken action in respect of certain areas—not including the one about which I spoke, but adjoining and immediately south of it. So we continue our pressures and agitations in the hope that eventually—probably later rather than sooner—the Government will move in certain directions.

A further example of this Rip van Winkle approach concerns the Minister for Works introducing his road funds Bill. It was only after the Leader of the Opposition and agitated local authorities got to work and analysed the features of the legislation that the Government decided to have second thoughts; and so we had a special sitting of Parliament. But the Government was unable to analyse the situation for itself.

Then, of course, we have the Minister for Industrial Development—the Minister who regards the State of Western Australia as being a piece of real estate to be chopped into portions and parcels and handed out with reckless abandon, preferably to overseas millionaire investors.

Mr. Court: The same old story.

Mr. GRAHAM: Directly, and indirectly by inference, the Minister seeks to claim the proud position of being responsible for all of the industrial development which takes place in Western Australia. There is scarcely a company or a concern which can commence business in Western Australia without there being a public announcement by the Minister for Industrial Development. Others are unable to make any extensions or alterations to their business activities without they must come to, and be approved, and a public statement issued, by the Minister for Industrial Development.

He is the one, of course, who talks about the boom, the break-through, the progress, and the prosperity; and this at a time when, as all members are aware, there is discontent amongst the teachers, the police, the railway workers, the nurses, the public servants, and the workers generally. This Government and its Ministers have spoken *ad nauseum* with regard to this prosperity and this boom, and it seems to be rubbing off everywhere with the exception of the ordinary members of the community, unless they are prepared to sacrifice their principles and undertake jobs in which there is overtime available and where a second job can be obtained on weekends, and where, unfortunately, it is so often necessary to send the wife out to work as well.

There is an abundance of work in this State; nobody denies that. But in the course of an ordinary week's work in the ordinary way, it is impossible for the worker to survive. However, by contrast the people who are patronised by the Minister for Industrial Development have it all their own way. They are riding on the bandwagon enjoying this boom.

It came as no surprise to us when we saw in the Press the other day that the amount of time lost through strikes and stoppages in Western Australia was, if my memory serves me right, more than twice as much as it was in the previous year. Surely these things are the real proof; and those words, those adjectives and adverbs, going to excess as they do, do not mark the true position.

Whilst all this is going on and more and more of Western Australia is being lost to Western Australians, we find that Country Party members and others bemoan the fact that there are certain wage adjustments and salary adjustments in order to try to keep pace with the unbridled inflation which is the order of the day. But there is strange silence from the other side of the House in respect of record profits which were record profits over previous all-time record profits.

The fact is that this process is in operation and has been going on for a great number of years and has been mentioned here previously; and all that members have to do is to refer to the financial pages of *The West Australian*, the *Daily News*, or *The Sunday Times*. I do not intend to give examples, because members will be able to find references to the record profits the public, the workers, the farmers, and the rest, are going to make, to the extent of some hundreds of millions of dollars a year. But if some luckless workers receive a few cents increase, that calls for condemnation and caustic comment from those who occupy seats on the other side of the House.

This sort of thing is common to Liberal-Country Party Governments. If we turn away from the local scene just for a moment, we find that the Commonwealth Liberal Government is riding roughshod over the interests of the people in Bougainville. It has no respect or consideration whatsoever for those people. All that matters is that a tremendously wealthy company shall be allowed to exploit the natural resources of the area, and in return for the desecration of their land, these semi-civilised people are to be handed bundles of paper upon which there are certain figurations. Of course, this action brings little credit to Australia.

We find the same sort of thing happening at Gove Peninsula in the Northern Territory. Goodness knows what the situation will be in Western Australia with regard to Weebo Station, a sacred site of

the Australian aborigines in Western Australia. The Government called for a report months ago and it has received that report but for some unaccountable reason it seems afraid to divulge its contents. We find that mining leases are being taken out at this place.

Does not a reserve mean anything any more? Are developers, investors, and speculators, to be allowed to come in with their explosives and their bulldozers, and the rest of it, and desecrate something which means a lot to the coloured people of Western Australia as well as the white, and more civilised, section of the community?

None of these things is any longer sacred; they are to be preyed upon by wealthy investors.

Mr. Court: Did not the Government do something about Weebo?

Mr. GRAHAM: It appointed a committee. I have already remarked that we have all been waiting to discover the outcome of the report.

Mr. Court: What mining is taking place at Weebo?

Mr. GRAHAM: None, of course; but I am protesting that something should be done. There is a large flora and fauna reserve of approximately 500,000 acres and we find that notwithstanding all the protests that were made the mining warden granted the right for mining operations to be carried out on this new and unique area.

It is true the matter is still in the hands of the Government—in the hands of the Minister for Mines—but if I know the Minister for Industrial Development nothing will interfere with the interests of the investing companies; in this case the interests of the mining companies.

Mr. Court: Did not the warden lay down certain conditions?

Mr. GRAHAM: No, he did not.

Mr. Court: I must have read a different paper.

Mr. GRAHAM: Perhaps the Minister did. We find that there are parts of the Swan River and areas around the picturesque lakes down south—Lake Preston and Lake Clifton—about which people are concerned because they fear something anti-social is likely to occur.

I am asking and pleading with the members of the Government—not with the Minister for Industrial Development but with the other Ministers and members supporting the Government—that they should at some time in their political lives have regard for the interests of the people; that they should not, like the Minister for Industrial Development, regard the State of Western Australia as being a piece of real estate, the possession of which will continually bring smiles of satisfaction to wealthy overseas investors.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That is not fair.

Mr. GRAHAM: The Government's only priority is investment opportunity and it does not matter how much of the State is desecrated as long as the Government pays tribute to those interests.

Mr. Court: The same old song.

Mr. GRAHAM: And it will continue to be so until the Government does something about the matter. The member for Perth has spoken with regard to the heart of Perth and I again plead with the Government in connection with this matter. I for one was very pleased to notice in *The West Australian* of the 16th August an article which reads as follows:—

The Premier, Sir David Brand, returned from his overseas tour yesterday convinced of the need to preserve open space for the city and metropolitan area.

He said it was clear that even more land than had been thought necessary must be reserved for open space. I hope and trust our knighted Premier will bring pressure to bear on the Minister for Railways and the Minister for Industrial Development in order to see that some practical effect is given to the words in the article, because, in connection with this railway land in the heart of the city, it is not just the chance of a lifetime but a chance for all time.

If we allow steel and concrete multi-storey structures to be erected in that area, then the sites on which those buildings will be established will be lost to the people forever. This is a heaven-sent opportunity. If it were possible for Lord Forrest to set aside 1,000 acres when there were not very many more people in Western Australia—and I am now using poetic license when I say that—surely the Premier of Western Australia in 1969 can play a part—and I will be the first to support him—and do something for the people of the State in connection with 37½ acres of land, which is already Crown land, and which already belongs to the people. We should not allow the eyes to be picked out of this land in order that multi-storey commercial structures might be erected on it.

Mr. Rushton: What about—

Mr. GRAHAM: I have not time to have words with the honourable member who has just tried to interject. I now want to say a word about the Beamish case, which has been featured recently. Apparently the Government has a concept of infallibility in respect of itself and in respect of certain other instrumentalities of the State—in other words, the Establishment.

It is possible for a mistake to be made and I should say that everybody in Western Australia—perhaps excluding the

Ministry—has some doubt and some reservation in respect of the guilt of Darryl Beamish. Some people have just a shadow of a doubt whilst others are convinced utterly and completely that the man is innocent.

This Government, however, refuses an inquiry by somebody completely outside the political and judicial system of Western Australia; it refuses a full investigation because it is fearful that the result of the inquiry may rock or shake the people's faith in our judicial system. The Government is afraid that the inquiry might raise some doubt regarding the police investigations and procedures, and it is fearful lest the reputation of certain Crown Law officers might suffer.

The Government is also afraid lest it, as a Government, gets some backwash over the fact that it has, virtually, said and done nothing in respect of the matter. The Government cares little or nothing for the fact that there is a young Western Australian languishing in prison at the moment with a death penalty which was placed on his head; it is not concerned with the fact that he is likely to remain there for goodness knows how long.

If the Government was sincere it would ensure that action was taken to clear up this matter once and for all. There are Governments, greater than this in concept and outlook, which have not been afraid to move and admit a mistake where subsequent action has shown that a grievous error was made in the first place.

Mr. Court: It's just political hypocrisy.

Mr. GRAHAM: All I say is that Darryl Beamish will have a full and impartial inquiry, because whenever the day is that a Labor Government is returned to office that inquiry will be undertaken. So the present Government can make up its mind in regard to that aspect. The only difference will be that if this Government continues to refuse, there will be an additional lapse of time in which that young man stays in gaol, where he is incarcerated at the moment, while everybody has their doubt, great or small, as to whether he did or did not commit the offence of which he was found guilty. So I say to the Government: Why not institute an inquiry now, since, in any event, it is going to happen some time in the future?

I now turn to the subject of housing, and the provision of low-cost accommodation for people of moderate means. It has already been well and truly said that the private sector of the building industry—that is the developers—has broken all records and that accommodation is being provided aplenty.

But in respect of those people on the lower rungs of the economic ladder; the position is completely hopeless and, under this Government, the situation continues

to deteriorate. I can describe the present situation as being in a complete and utter mess so far as the State Housing Commission is concerned. I will establish that fact beyond any argument or shadow of a doubt by quoting official figures on which I have spent a considerable time in recent weeks.

First of all I want to make my point particularly clear that I am not condemning the State Housing Commission, whose officers are as loyal as those in any Government department. I daresay they are also self-conscious of the fact that they are deprived of funds and would welcome a few million dollars to do something to alleviate the present distress. The Government, however, is indifferent and half-hearted; never has it attempted to make a showing with regard to the activities of the State Housing Commission. There have been brave words from time to time but any action on its part has been completely inconspicuous.

The Government, of course, tries to make a virtue of necessity by suggesting that on account of the progress, the boom, the advancement, and the expansion of the State it is only to be expected that there would be a housing situation with some attendant problems. That, however, is the easy way out; it is the coward's way out.

There is a problem at the present moment, because the Government has wilfully neglected to measure up to its responsibilities in respect of housing. I am not inviting interjections now, because if any member interjects he will have to eat his words, as I will produce facts and figures to show a progressive deterioration in the housing position and, notwithstanding this, the Government has more and more applied pressure on the brake and steaded up, instead of speeding up. The whole approach of the Government is wrong.

When the State Housing Commission was established in 1946 by a Labor Government there was a commission of five of whom three were public servants answerable to the Ministry, one representative of the builders, and one of the building trades union. In 1947 a Liberal Government tried to curry favour in some directions and appointed another couple of outsiders. We then go a step forward and now we have a commission spending millions of dollars—though not nearly as much as it should—which is comprised of seven people, five of whom are from outside. In other words, the State Housing Commission has been taken away from the Government and given to outside interests, which to my mind is quite wrong. It indicates a wrong approach and wrong thinking on the part of the Government.

What is the magnitude of the problem with which we are confronted? Here I intend to give a few figures. In June, 1959,

which is shortly after the Labor Government departed office, the outstanding applications at the State Housing Commission were 5,904; by June, 1964, they had grown to 6,433, and in June, 1965, they had increased to 7,114. A year later, in 1966, the figure increased further, to 10,530, with a further increase in June, 1967, to 14,546.

Mr. Rushton: What was the population?

Mr. GRAHAM: In June, 1968, the number of outstanding applications had risen to 17,300, and in August, 1969, they stood at 18,967. The number of outstanding applications trebled in the last five years. What sign of stirring or activity have we had on the part of the Government? None whatever.

The figure of 18,967 outstanding applications probably represents 70,000 to 75,000 people who were clamouring at the doors of the State Housing Commission in search of homes.

Mr. O'Neil: I told you the result of the survey.

Mr. GRAHAM: I know a little about that also. The Minister uses the easy device of sending a couple of letters to applicants and if there is no reply forthcoming the applicant's name is struck off the waiting list. I would like to point out to the Minister that in the past few months the Joint House Committee sent a circular to members of Parliament in respect of a particular matter and only 50 per cent. of members replied "yes" or "no" to the circular. I mention that not to disparage the members of Parliament in any way but to show that there is nothing unusual for persons, particularly those who are kicked from pillar to post, either not to receive correspondence or perhaps not to answer such correspondence when they do receive it. The device used by the Minister keeps his figures a little lower than would otherwise be the case.

Mr. O'Neil: What utter rubbish!

Mr. GRAHAM: Let us have a little more of the utter rubbish mentioned by the Minister, and this is taken from the Minister's own figures. In respect of rental homes of three bedrooms in the Perth metropolitan area, we find that in August, 1965, there was a waiting period of 12 months; in August, 1966, of 24 months; in August, 1967, of 33 months; in August, 1968, of 38 months; and in August, 1969, of 51 months. The waiting period is still increasing.

In respect of purchase homes in the same area the waiting period increased year by year from 14 months to 23 months, 31 months, 39 months, and 48 months; that is, the waiting period between the date of application and the allocation of a home. Perhaps I should correct myself. What I actually meant is that at the present moment the Housing Commission is allocating homes to persons who applied

48 or 51 months ago. At the rate the waiting period is increasing, in every 12 months the commission is slipping back another six to nine months; therefore the people who applied last month will have to wait 10 to 15 years for a house, under the present Government.

There has been a progressive deterioration. These are the facts of the situation and they are there for all to see. The Minister for Housing is aware of them. What has this Government done? How can it claim any credit for meeting the situation which exists? Why is this situation with us? I will give the reason.

First of all, let me give credit where credit is due. For six years, from 1947 to 1953, the McLarty-Watts Government was in office. Notwithstanding the shortage of materials, the import of the Austrian pre-cut houses, the import of cement from Japan, the import of asbestos from Italy, and so on, the McLarty-Watts Government built on the average 1,841 houses a year.

Then the Hawke Labor Government came into office, and for each year of its six-year term, it built on an average 2,854 houses a year. Yet the present Government, with all the resources available to it, and with the increase in population and the rest, has built on an average only 1,905 houses a year; but if we subtract from the grand total of the houses it constructed over the 10 years it has been in office, the 642 home units that were built for charitable organisations—these have nothing to do with the total number built by the Housing Commission—then we find that coincidentally its annual average is 1,841, or exactly the same number as the McLarty-Watts Government built. In the McLarty-Watts Government we had a Liberal Government which had a little more heart and conscience than the present Government. Notwithstanding all the difficulties it faced and the smaller population of the State at that time, the McLarty-Watts Government, 20 years ago, was able to produce as many houses as the present, much vaunted Government.

It is therefore obvious that the present Government has fallen down. If the Brand Government had continued at the average rate of construction of the Hawke Labor Government it would have built another 1,000 houses a year; or in its 10 years of office an additional 10,000 homes would have been built by the Housing Commission. If the Government had done that, irrespective of the way we look at the figures, there would be no crisis or housing shortage of any proportions to affect the people in the low income bracket at the present time.

This situation has arisen as a result of the wilful and the deliberate neglect of this Government. It has chosen to use funds in other directions. It could not care less about the little people of the

community in very many respects, and the provision of housing is one of them.

Mr. Court: It must hurt you to know that a record number of houses have been built by this Government.

Mr. GRAHAM: Let us not be misled by the Minister for Industrial Development.

Mr. Court: This happens to be true.

Mr. GRAHAM: These include houses that are far beyond the means of the people to whom I am referring. I give full credit to the private sector, but at the present time I pass the utmost condemnation on the Government for its neglect in its sphere. We have heard a whole spate of words from the Government, but we have not seen any action. I hope that an analysis of the situation will stir the Government into action, so that the Minister for Housing will be allocated a little larger slice of the cake and the Minister for Industrial Development a little smaller slice.

Mr. Court: The Minister for Industrial Development gets the smallest vote of all the Ministers. You had better look at the Estimates.

Mr. GRAHAM: I was referring to what the Minister for Industrial Development was getting when he was also the Minister for Railways. We heard brave words from the Premier, after the rejection of the application for \$5,000,000 by the Prime Minister. Somehow mysteriously the Premier was able to find an additional \$5,000,000 or thereabouts; and he said with this money his Government would be able to step up the house-building programme by 50 per cent. The total number of houses built under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement for the year ended the 30th June, 1968, was 1,214; so a 50 per cent. increase would be an increase of 607 houses. In point of fact, only 261 additional houses were built, therefore this aim of a 50 per cent. increase was less than 50 per cent. achieved.

Mr. O'Neil: Do you not know the difference between commencements and completions?

Mr. GRAHAM: The only house I recognise is a completed house. I notice from the figures that the numbers of houses commenced and of approvals are shown, but the house I recognise is one that is completed and ready for occupation.

Mr. O'Neil: We have let contracts for \$6,700,000 for houses in the last three weeks.

Mr. GRAHAM: So what! The present Government has been in office for 10 years, and the housing situation has never been as bad as it is at present. Even when the McLarty-Watts Government was defeated there were not as many applicants on the waiting list as there are now.

Mr. O'Neil: There were many applicants who left the State when your Government was in office.

Mr. GRAHAM: When the present Government can produce 4,000 houses a year, as the Hawke Labor Government did, instead of less than 2,000 houses a year, then the Minister will be in a position to speak. I suggest for the present he channel his efforts into producing more houses—something he should have done in the last three years—instead of trying to confound us with statements and bright words around the place. The Government is doing everything but produce houses. I do not know what is going on at the Housing Commission—

Mr. O'Neil: You do not know anything—period!

Mr. GRAHAM: —since this Government has been in office. The Minister refuses to give a calculated guess as to the profit for the last 12 months under this Government. The State Housing Commission has made a profit of \$12,458,742—I repeat—excluding this year; and this year the total could be a pretty fair one, because last year it was over \$5,000,000. I point out that in all of the previous years of the existence of the State Housing Commission, the total profit was in the vicinity of \$1,000,000, yet it has made a profit of almost \$12,500,000 during nine years under this Government.

Mr. Court: Does this not go back into houses—no-one takes it out?

Mr. O'Neil: Of course, it does.

Mr. GRAHAM: Let us look into that a little bit. Three years ago the Minister for Housing increased rentals, which he confessed would return to the Housing Commission an additional \$600,000. Surely there is no sense in stepping up the rents paid by those in the lowest-income group of the community. They have to be in that group, because that is the only way they can obtain a rental home from the State Housing Commission. That is what the Government did. It is using the lowest people—incomewise—in the community to impose upon them a special levy to give it additional funds for the purpose of building houses. But what do we find in another section? There is a place called Dianella, also Yokine, where, from memory, 126 blocks—according to the Minister—were being sold for \$1,400 less than the market prices.

I noticed that some people in real estate said that the land was worth considerably more—between \$2,000 and \$3,000 more—and this was indicated by a sale held only 10 days ago when blocks—some of which are only a quarter of a mile away—which the Minister was disposing of at upset prices ranging from \$5,510 to \$6,670, brought an average of over \$9,000; and, in one case, over \$11,000 was paid.

The Government gets extremely generous and gives discounts to people; and it does not matter what their income is or what their positions are, so long as they have disposed of their land in the metropolitan area. They can own half of Western Australia and half of the shares of all concerns in Western Australia and provided the right marble comes out, they can obtain State Housing Commission land at bargain basement prices; but when it happens to be workers in humble cottages, the Government hops in and takes \$600,000 per year by way of increased weekly rental. This even-handed justice of this Government!

Arising from this—and the case smells to high heaven—the only person of those whose names were successfully drawn in the ballot who was subject to public opinion and pressure was the member for Mirrabooka, who ran for cover and ducked out of the proposition. He did this to sacrifice several thousand dollars—because he was getting the land at a bargain price—and because of public reaction; and the Government stands condemned for the sort of justice it dispenses in the State of Western Australia.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes.

Mr. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak for a longer period than that, but I am aware of Standing Orders. When one is dealing with the question of housing, one could speak for a very long period. I make comment now in regard to Orelia and Calista—and more will be heard of this at a later date. At those places, the Government is again making land, upon which to erect houses, available at a discount price to builders somewhere around about \$1,000 per block, according to the Minister. I would guess somewhere around about \$2,000 per block under value, but let us use the figure of \$1,000.

The builders erect houses and are allowed to sell them subject to the approval of the State Housing Commission; but the Minister told us benignly that the commission sets a tolerance of 10 per cent. In other words, if a builder erects this type of house for \$10,000, he can add \$500 to \$1,000 to the price of the house and still be within the 10 per cent. tolerance. However, because the block of land on which to build a house is available to that builder for \$1,000—or more—less than the normal price, obviously the purchaser is still getting a fair proposition. So what the Minister is doing is stuffing another \$1,000 into the pockets of such of the builders as agree to avail themselves of this procedure.

This Government goes out of its way and bends over backwards in order to cater for and pander to privileged and well-to-do people. It seems to have

completely forgotten its responsibilities to the ordinary citizens in the community. I only wish I had the time to deal generally with land matters.

For some unaccountable reason, the Minister for Town Planning has decided to insist upon larger blocks than previously, upon which duplex homes can be built. Previously, 8,000 square feet was considered to be quite a satisfactory size, but now blocks for this purpose have to comprise 9,800 square feet. What for? To make the position more difficult—to make people purchase two blocks instead of one.

This State seems to be run by a bunch of lunatics. Nearly all of the things which it is obvious should be done to hold a situation are being avoided by this Government. It goes blithely on its way and allows things to go from bad to worse. Nearly all steps taken anywhere at all have been as a consequence of suggestions and almost naggings from this side of the House.

As I stated when I commenced speaking, it is a case of too little too late. When the position gets completely out of hand, the Government indulges in a spate of fine-sounding words—adjectives and adverbs—to say it feels it has done a good job.

If you will permit me, Mr. Speaker, one last remark, the Government, when cornered, falls back on the statement that there is a shortage of building tradesmen. However, there is apparently no shortage of building tradesmen when the private builders and developers want to get on with the job; and there is no shortage whatever of materials or tradesmen when the Government decides it will spend \$4,000,000 on a Main Roads Department office building, \$3,000,000 on a Superannuation Board building, or \$1,500,000 on a Public Trust Office. All of this office accommodation can be provided by private enterprise, at least for the time being, and this money could be channelled into housing with Government guarantees, or whatever is necessary.

I hope I have already proved from the official figures that the position, year by year, has been getting worse and the Government's house-building programme has virtually stagnated, and because of this the position is far worse than it was when it assumed the reins of office. Therefore the Government has not attempted to meet the situation, and I only hope and trust that the people will remember these shortcomings of the Government and its complete disregard for the welfare of the ordinary people of the community, and will send the Government packing as it well and truly deserves.

MR. MITCHELL (Stirling) [9.1 p.m.]: I would like to contribute a few comments to the debate on this motion moved by

the member for Mt. Marshall. I am sorry to inflict myself on the House after such a frenzied effort as the one we have just heard, and I will have a few comments to make on that speech later on.

Mr. Court: It will be restful to listen to you.

Mr. MITCHELL: I was grateful for the leave of absence granted me during the autumn session when I took a trip overseas to try to see a few things for myself and perhaps, at my late stage in life, to learn a little about the rest of the world.

Mr. Jamieson: We didn't miss you.

Mr. MITCHELL: I will make a few comments on my trip later and relate a little of what I saw.

I want to pay a tribute to Sir David Brand for the recent honour bestowed upon him and for the fact that he has just completed the longest term as Premier of this State. That, of course, must be one of the reasons the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is so perturbed about this Government—that we have after all these years a man who has just completed a record term as Premier of Western Australia. It must indeed be galling to the Opposition to see that take place in this enlightened year.

Mr. Jamieson: It would be galling to any Opposition!

Mr. MITCHELL: I want to make a few comments about the farmers in the drought-affected areas. The Opposition is shedding some crocodile tears about the problems of the farmers, but over the years I have been here I have not seen too much sympathy on the part of the Opposition for farmers. It is easy to shed tears on their behalf, but we on this side of the House, because we are so closely associated with, and know the problems of, farming, are, thank goodness, getting something done about the matter.

I have drawn the attention of the Minister and the Government quite often to the fact that up until now, in order to obtain assistance for farmers in drought-stricken areas, it has been necessary for the shire councils to declare the whole of their areas drought areas. I have always contended that it should not be necessary for a whole area to be affected before this assistance could be given, because in Western Australia for some peculiar reason pockets of drought occur almost every year. In my opinion it is necessary that we should be able to declare portions of a shire as areas needing assistance.

Fortunately the Government has considered this matter and now decided to make assistance available to areas or portions of shires declared by the shire councils as being in need of such assistance. We know that for some reason many councils have not been prepared to declare

their areas as being affected by drought. However, the councils are now asking the Government to give them the assistance, and plans are being worked out to this end.

We know there will be a critical water shortage in Western Australia and plans are being stepped up to ensure that this problem is tackled.

One of the biggest problems in the drought-affected areas will be that of the new settlers meeting their financial obligations to the Development Bank. Members should bear in mind that a tremendous amount of finance from the Development Bank has been used over the last few years. These settlers are going to be in a difficult position to meet their repayments for the next couple of years, and I am hoping that provision will be made to give them aid with their capital repayments. Perhaps they could add the amount onto the end of their loan and thereby recover from the crippling situation many of them are facing, particularly in the newly settled districts.

Many of those who are feeling the effects from the financial point of view are the war service land settlers in my area. There does not appear to be the sympathy or feeling for these people I would have expected from both the bank handling their accounts and the Minister for Primary Industries, who is the Minister in charge of war service land settlement.

The high cost structure which is placed upon these farms is having a crippling effect on many of the farmers and they are finding it necessary to sell their farms in order to recover the position. This is most unfortunate. I do not believe it was ever intended, when the scheme was first instigated, that these settlers should have to sell as early as this. I must add, of course, that many of them are making a very handsome profit as a result of the sale of their assets and, because of the interest on the money they will receive they will probably be much better off without their farms. Nevertheless I am sorry that it has been necessary for these farmers to sell out, because I believe they were the backbone of the southern areas of this State. It is indeed unfortunate that this position has arisen.

The other evening the member for Narrogin mentioned Wool Exporters and the Royal Commission which inquired into its affairs. I pay tribute to the Government for appointing the Royal Commission but, as we all know, the commissioner was hamstrung by the actions of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, and he made a very scathing statement on its participation in the affair. The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney took every opportunity to ensure it was represented in order that its counsel might cross-examine witnesses and so forth; but

when it came to a question of its own officers giving evidence before the commission, it refused to allow them to do so.

I do not know whether the Government can take any action in this regard, but if it were possible, this bank should not be allowed to operate a business in a State the sovereignty of which it is not prepared to recognise. It may be possible to take some action against this bank, and, if so, I hope the Government will take it.

There is one matter, however, which was not the subject of investigation by the commissioner, because he was not asked by the Government to investigate it. I am referring to the position of war service land settlers whose wool was under a bill of sale to the Government or to the Rural and Industries Bank.

It is a well-known fact, of course, that the war service land settlement authorities—in the early days when the scheme was under the control of the Commonwealth or the War Service Land Settlement Board—took action on several occasions against settlers because they sold their wool outside the bill of sale, and retained the proceeds. In this case the wool, in my view, was under bill of sale to the Government, or to the Rural and Industries Bank, and that bill of sale was registered long before the debentures, or bill of sale of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, were registered against Wool Exporters. That wool was sold to Wool Exporters in good faith, but it was never paid for. However, the wool was seized by the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney to defray the debt.

In my view, and I think this view is supported by the Bills of Sale Act, the first bill of sale takes precedence. As the Government, or the Rural and Industries Bank, had a bill of sale over the wool I believe the Government should have stepped in immediately to see that the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney did not seize the wool against the bill of sale.

I think some action should be taken against the receiver, the bank, or its servants, for seizing wool that was already the property of the Government. I am asking that some action on this matter be taken. I have made some approaches but I have not been able to get much satisfaction. Whether it is possible to receive a satisfactory answer I do not know, but I believe some action should be taken.

Another serious problem facing us and, of course, it has been mentioned on many occasions, is that at the moment there is an oversupply of some types of meat in Western Australia. At the moment the oversupply is of mutton. The Government appointed a committee to report on this problem but the results were not very satisfactory.

I was interested in the comments of the member for Merredin-Yilgarn that there should be a worldwide campaign to promote the consumption of mutton. Such promotion could have a very beneficial effect. I have been informed, on very good authority, of a campaign which took place in America some years ago.

Prior to that campaign the Americans had decided that the only meat they could eat was first-class beef. However, a drought occurred in an area in America and it looked as though 1,000,000 head of cattle would be lost. Sales promotion experts took the situation in hand and they convinced the public that the best type of meat to eat was lean meat, and that hamburger steak had a greater food value than any other class of meat.

The result of that sales campaign was that the 1,000,000 head of cattle were sold and consumed as food. Ever since that time we in Western Australia have benefited because we have been selling our cheaper grades of meat to America. That was definite proof that sales promotion of the right kind could promote the sale of a product not previously wanted.

I believe we should tackle our meat problem in the same way. A certain amount of sales promotion is being conducted by the Australian Meat Board but this is not sufficient. There is room for an investigation into the different methods of cooking mutton and this could be carried out by the C.S.I.R.O., probably with profitable results.

I would say, without fear of contradiction, that the greatest proportion of the mutton which is placed on the tables in many homes—particularly in other parts of the world—is not cooked sufficiently. Mutton is a most unappetising meat when it is not properly cooked.

I can quote an instance on a well-conducted ship where 90 per cent. of the chops which were placed on the table went back to the kitchen because they were not properly cooked. Many people seem to think that mutton can be cooked in the same time as beef. However, this is not possible because of the different texture of the meat. I believe that the C.S.I.R.O., at the instigation of the Government, could investigate methods of cooking mutton so that it would be more palatable.

Mr. Tonkin: That is a pretty meaty argument.

Mr. O'Connor: Chop it out.

Mr. MITCHELL: To continue: a profitable market which we should develop is available in Japan. I know we are paying some attention to that market, but during a very short stay in that country I was struck by the absence of any sign of meat being offered for sale in the shops in the various towns I visited. Despite the fact that at the present time, Japan is one of

the biggest importers of meat from Western Australia, there is still a very profitable market to be had in that country. Of course, markets are also available in many other parts of the world. It is quite obvious that other countries throughout the world could never supply their populations with meat at anywhere near the quantity that is consumed in Western Australia.

On matters of general interest, I would like to make one or two comments about traffic problems as I see them in Western Australia and as I saw them in other parts of the world. Most countries have taken a tremendous interest in providing autobahns, freeways, and the like.

As I see the situation, those major roads have created traffic congestion in the cities. In many places it is possible to travel a distance of 100 miles in two hours by bus, and then take an hour to go two miles or three miles through a city or a town. I trust that we will never reach this situation in Western Australia.

Although I am a country member, I have always been of the opinion that it is no use making and improving roads in the country unless we do something about improving the road systems in the metropolitan area so that those road systems can be used.

It has always appeared to me that the main cause of accidents in the metropolitan area, or in any thickly populated area, has been traffic meeting at intersections. I would say that the system of road building in Japan would be worth serious study by the road building authority in this State.

It has been said, of course, that Japan is a country that copies everything. From what I saw of the Japanese road systems I would say that they are so far ahead of the rest of the world that the rest of the world is lost.

To my mind the best feature of Japan's road system is the traffic separation at intersections. I will give just one instance of what I think this would mean in a city such as Perth; namely, the separation of traffic at the Causeway. The situation is that six major lanes of traffic come onto the Causeway from both sides to occupy three lanes. It seems to me that if some separation by overhead bridges was put into effect at the Causeway the pattern of city traffic could be eased to some extent. We know that the Causeway is the most accident-prone place in the metropolitan area. In view of the fact that it is likely that we will have to wait some time for further bridges across the river I suggest—and appeal—that some consideration might be given to the separation of traffic at both ends of the Causeway.

We noticed that the marking of roads overseas is much different from what we have in Western Australia. For instance, in Western Australia there is a small amount of marking of roads on the outer edges of the road. In most other countries the emphasis on the marking is on the outer edges of the road so as to keep the traffic on the road. There is a problem in Western Australia, particularly in the country areas, in that there are probably more trees on the edges of our roads than there are in most other countries in the world. This means that one movement off the road is almost certain to bring about a very dangerous accident. If systems of marking and signs are successful right throughout Europe, I cannot understand why they are not used more extensively in our own State.

I also took particular notice of safety signs. One such sign shows a car passing another. If the outside car on the sign is red, one immediately realises that a red car stands for danger and consequently one should not pass at that particular point.

There is the matter of parking in the city. We have city parking signs in Western Australia, but they are written in such small figures and letters that unless one stops to have a look at them, one cannot tell what they are. The universal sign appears to be a great white "P" on a blue background. If parking is permitted, this sign is placed in the area with "30 minutes" underneath. Anybody can read it. If parking is not permitted the sign is still in the area, but there is a red line on the sign. This provides a clear indication that parking is not permitted in the area. I believe that some of our parking and road marking signs are antiquated by comparison with the standards I saw in other parts of the world.

Mr. Graham: Can you explain why members like yourselves and myself travel overseas and it is so obvious that we ought to do these things, but the authorities here refuse to move in the matter?

Mr. MITCHELL: I could not say; I am just giving an illustration—

Mr. Graham: I am very interested.

Mr. MITCHELL: —of what I have seen. The next point I wish to mention is not something that has particularly come to my notice from my visit overseas, because it is done in most other cities in Australia, too. In practically every other place which I have seen, traffic lights warn of the approach of the green in the same way as they warn of the approach of the red. The three lights are in use and I cannot see why the traffic authorities here cannot provide for red, amber, and green in the same way as they provide for green, amber, and red. This speeds

up the flow of traffic getting off the mark. We are talking about trying to speed up our traffic and if this method is good enough for every other country in the world, I cannot see why it is not good enough for Western Australia.

Mr. Graham: Change the Government.

Sir David Brand: When was that sequence started?

Mr. MITCHELL: We have some signs on the roads, but not sufficient. Some of the signs I have seen elsewhere are much more instructive than the ones in Western Australia.

Those are just a few observations I make on the problems of traffic. We must bear in mind, of course, that we in Australia unfortunately have the worst record of traffic accidents of probably any country in the world. I do not single out Western Australia particularly, as I have said "we in Australia."

In Japan, for instance, more cars are packed on the roads per square inch than anybody could ever imagine. Yet, the accident rate in that country is only about half as high as the accident rate in Australia. Of course, the streets are so narrow in some places that cars cannot be driven on them at all. However, the number of cars on roads suitable for motoring absolutely amazed me. There is a tremendous amount of traffic per square yard of road.

Mr. Lapham: What is the speed limit on rural roads?

Mr. MITCHELL: I was not on rural roads to any extent. On the matter of tourism, despite what we hear and see of overseas countries, we in Australia have nothing to be ashamed of in what we offer to tourists. In many respects our accommodation is equal to that offered anywhere else. Also, the service provided and the scenery is as good as most other places.

In view of the fact that the Premier has just returned from an overseas trip and doubtless will make some observations on what he has seen, perhaps it is *infra dig.* for me to make some comments. However, the Premier and I would have seen countries overseas from two different angles. I was an ordinary tourist travelling at probably the cheapest rate, and the Premier was travelling on official business and being conducted on an official tour.

Mr. O'Connor: You might have been better off.

Mr. MITCHELL: Nevertheless, I will make a few comments on what I saw.

Sir David Brand: I will be very interested in what you say.

Mr. MITCHELL: I suggest that we in Western Australia have nothing to be

ashamed of in what we offer tourists or in the way that we are able to receive them.

I also wish to state that, despite what I have heard tonight, Australia has not seen the start of inflation of values in any respect at all. We have a long way to go before we could reach the same stage of inflation which has been reached in most other parts of the world.

On the question of agriculture, I notice that there has been a terrific upsurge of sales of land in this country to British farmers. I do not wonder at this, because I looked at some of the farms in England and then found out how much the farmers were paying for the lease. The price of farms in Western Australia which would have a production equivalent to many places in England, I would say, would probably be less than half the cost of the farms in England.

Our agriculture is very good, but I was amazed to see the state of agriculture in many other countries in the world. The production in some of these places is almost unbelievable. Certainly there is a lot for us to learn from such areas.

Having commented on matters affecting the electors of my district and myself, I want to say again how pleased I am with the Government, because it appears to be fully alive to the problems that have been caused by the drought. We all hope, of course, that the drought will not prove to be as bad as it seems it will be at the moment; nevertheless all necessary steps must be taken to deal with its effects. Unfortunately sometimes one cannot prevail upon people to render assistance when one requires it. I have been worrying various Government departments for some years to carry out water boring in districts within my electorate, some of which at the moment are badly affected by drought. The stock answer from these departments is, "We know you cannot get water there." However, when one asks them how they know, invariably the answer is, "We think you will not"; but no-one is very sure.

Probably insufficient finance is the reason for a Government department not taking action to conduct water boring, but now that water is so badly needed for people in these drought-stricken areas, it is a pity that greater efforts were not made to discover additional water supplies.

It is a pity, too, that some people did not take a little notice of the advice given by some of those who have had long experience of farming in Western Australia. I have tried to tell some farmers that in the past we have not always enjoyed good seasons in Western Australia such as those we have enjoyed in the last few years, and that there is always the possibility that they might strike trouble should a

drought occur. It is also a pity that when problems sometimes beset the farmers some people seem to blame them for the unfortunate position in which they are placed. A real effort has been made by 99 per cent. of our farmers to contribute to the development of their properties over the past few years.

It is no fault of theirs that we are now suffering a drought, and therefore on occasions a little sympathy does a little good. Sometimes, however, that sympathy has not been forthcoming.

I now wish to comment, as I said earlier, on the frenzied approach to the Address-in-Reply debate by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. As I also said earlier, it must be galling to the Opposition to know that the Premier has just completed a record term as Premier of Western Australia. Despite what the Opposition claims, practically all our problems today have been created as a result of increased growth and development. This evening members of the Opposition, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in particular, were saying the Minister for Industrial Development could do nothing but talk, but when one realises the tremendous development that has taken place in industry, and the decentralisation of industry throughout the State in the last 10 years, we on this side of the House, at any rate, can appreciate what this Government has done for the people of Western Australia.

It is idle to make the comment that people are worse off today than ever before, because if my reading of the figures is correct Western Australia has less than the average rate of unemployment of any other State in the Commonwealth, and the highest average rate of pay of any State in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Tonkin: And the highest taxation of any State in the Commonwealth.

Sir David Brand: Is it?

Mr. Tonkin: Yes.

Mr. Brady: And the highest rate of hire-purchase agreements.

Mr. MITCHELL: Surely this must be conclusive proof that such a situation has been created by this Government in its desire to find jobs for everyone and so ensure that every citizen of this State is enjoying a reasonable standard of living. I can understand the members of the Opposition being upset about the current situation, because the only chance it will have of being returned to office is when a depression occurs and people are thrown out of work. If this does occur, and it does assume office, the only chance the Opposition will have of retaining power is to keep enough people out of work and to convince them that it is doing everything possible for them.

So it must indeed be galling to the Opposition to know that Western Australia has such a low rate of unemployment and such a prosperous work force. Whilst I cannot understand people buying land at the prices they do, it is very evident that they are doing it of their own free will and that most of them have the money to pay such prices. This has only been made possible because this Government has ensured that the people of the State are kept in full employment and so are able to earn a decent living.

In some of the countries I visited whilst overseas, the difference between affluence and poverty appalled me. I hope that we in Western Australia will never see a situation where, in some instances, it can cost one \$300 for one night's accommodation in a hotel, whilst at the same time there are thousands of beggars in the same town walking the streets. No doubt that is why we are so successful. We do not have many rich people in our community, but on the other hand we do not have many poor people. That is attributable to the efforts of this Government and that is why we heard such a frenzied speech this evening by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in trying to whip up a case against the Government, to indicate that it has not built sufficient houses, and that there is a lack of everything else imaginable.

Yet, if the basic facts are examined, it will be found that this Government has gone out of its way to provide employment. I think we can safely say that no-one ever envisaged such a rate of development in a State such as ours. The number of people absorbed and the number of jobs created in such a short time will be a record that will stand as a memorial to this Government for many years. With such a background it is no wonder we have a Premier who has just completed a record term of office. With those words I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Ridge.

House adjourned at 9.38 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 20th August, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (8): ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

2. MAIN ROADS

Sealing of Arthur River-Wagin Road

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Local Government:

Would the Minister give an indication, as to when the re-

construction work on the road between Arthur River and Wagin is likely to be completed by sealing?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

The priming of the already widened shoulder on the 124.7-137.0 mile section will be carried out in the autumn of 1970, with the sealing following during the 1970 sealing season.

3.

PUBLIC WORKS

Fencing of Butlers Swamp Sump

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Mines:

As I was advised on the 16th January, 1969, that the Butlers Swamp Sump, Cobb Street, Scarborough, would be fenced and a pumping installation provided this financial year, will the Minister confirm that this work will proceed as planned?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The advice given on the 16th January, 1969, set out the intended programme. It has not been possible to put it into effect as yet.

The sump will be fenced this financial year, but the provision of the pumping installation has been deferred so that it may be integrated with the construction of sewerage works.

4.

EDUCATION

Attendance at Country High Schools

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister advise the number of pupils attending each of the—

- (a) Senior; and
 - (b) Junior High Schools
- in the country districts?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) and (b) Enrolments in Senior High Schools, High Schools and Junior High Schools in country districts as at February, 1969—

	Secondary Enrolments
Senior High Schools—	
Albany	1,192
Bunbury	848
Busselton	552
Collie	614
Eastern Goldfields	1,040
Geraldton	1,050
Katanning	528
Manjimup	560
Merredin	469
Narrogin Agricultural	714
Northam	996
Pinjarra	499