

In conclusion, I must say I was very pleased to read Press reports concerning proposals for the lowering of the central railway line and the provision of a rapid transit system for Perth in the not-too-distant future.

I was also pleased to note that it is likely this will be provided by the Government, at great advantage to the State and the people of Western Australia. The heart of Perth which went so close to being lost to half a dozen American capitalists during the reign of the last Government will be saved for future generations.

The Press reports—which I am sure will be confirmed by this Government in due course—indicate that Perth will be provided with a modern and very much required rapid underground transport system. In time it will be seen that such a system is an absolute necessity, as was revealed to me by their existence in most major cities in the world. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Gayfer.

*House adjourned at 9.46 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 22nd March, 1972

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

### QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

#### 1. SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

##### *Easter Period*

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

For the guidance of members, I seek permission to ask the following question without notice of the Leader of the House in relation to sitting times:—

- (1) Next Friday week is Good Friday, and I anticipate the House will sit on the Thursday prior to Good Friday. The following Tuesday is a public holiday, and I presume the House will not sit on that day. Has the Leader of the House any plans for the remaining part of that week?
- (2) If the House will not be sitting during the remaining part of that week, it will then be a month since the House first sat. Are we likely to have

notice of the introduction of any legislation prior to the Easter break?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied: As far as I know we will not be meeting for a full week after the adjournment for Easter.

In the meantime, as long as it is within the capabilities of myself and my colleagues, we will give notice of any Bills we think we can submit so that they may reach the second reading stage and be adjourned at the will of the Leader of the Opposition.

### QUESTIONS (3): ON NOTICE

#### TAXES

##### *Increases*

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

- (1) With reference to the answer given to my question relating to State Taxation on Wednesday, the 15th March, 1972, wherein it was said taxes had been reduced in Western Australia, how does the Leader of the House explain the reference on Page 1 of the Governor's Speech to certain increases in the State's taxes and charges in the 1971-72 budget?
- (2) Does the Minister suggest that *The Australian* newspaper misreported the position, or that there was an unintentional mistake in His Excellency's Speech?
- (3) If *The Australian* newspaper did misreport the position, why did the Minister, whose long experience in Parliament has surely enabled him to know that questions as to whether statements in the press are accurate are inadmissible, in fact quote from a report in a newspaper?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) The reference in the Governor's Speech was factual.
- (2) No.
- (3) It was considered that the information contained in the press report would be of interest to honourable members.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is not an answer, that is an excuse.

#### 2.

#### LAND

##### *Release in Northcliffe Area*

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

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to release land in the Northcliffe area for agricultural purposes?

(2) If so—

- (a) what will be the nature of the release;
- (b) approximately how many acres will be involved; and
- (c) when will the land be released?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) and (2) A decision on the release of Crown land in the Northcliffe area will be made when the results of the current experimental programme are available.

### 3. REGIONAL PRISON

#### *North-West*

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Chief Secretary:

With reference to my question on the 16th March, 1972, concerning the North West regional prison—

- (a) as the reply to part (a) indicates that the site had not been chosen and that part (b) of the question was answered by part (a), does he agree that the answer to part (b) cannot be answered by part (a) unless the regional prison in the North West is to make the Kimberley regional prison redundant;
- (b) will the Minister advise—
  - (i) if this assumption is correct;
  - (ii) if not, is there a departmental misunderstanding between the locations of two separate regions, namely North West and Kimberley; and
  - (iii) what towns are being considered for the siting of the North West regional prison?

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

- (a) There has been no final decision made concerning the siting of the proposed North West Regional Prison, or of re-siting or the redundancy of the Kimberley prison.
- (b) (iii) The Department of Corrections on advice is considering the following locations in the Pilbara—Port Hedland, Roebourne, Karratha, Dampier.

### MINISTERIAL VISITS: FREQUENCY

#### *Statement by the Leader of the House*

**THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE** (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [4.42 p.m.]: Mr. President, yesterday I made reference to an error I made in reply to a question. When answering question on notice No. 19 in the House on

the 15th March I informed The Hon. L. A. Logan regarding ministerial visits that the figures for the Minister for Housing and Fuel were—

Overseas	Interstate	North-West
1	4	4

whereas they should have been—

Nil	1	3
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The error occurred because trips made by the Minister for Housing and Labour prior to the change in portfolios were included in the returns by both the present Minister for Housing and the present Minister for Labour.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

#### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 21st March, on the following motion by The Hon. D. K. Dans:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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

**THE HON. R. J. L. WILLIAMS** (Metropolitan) [4.43 p.m.]: Mr. President, I rise to support the motion and in so doing I would like to congratulate its mover for the fashion in which he did his work on the day appointed in somewhat humid and hot conditions, and under great pressure. I was rather sorry that he did not have time to expand his theme, because I do know that The Hon. D. K. Dans is quite a mine of information on the subject upon which he spoke.

Yesterday evening, however, I was reminded of Shakespeare's 29th sonnet—especially the first four lines—whilst I was listening to Miss Elliott speak—

When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes

I all alone beweep my outcast state,  
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,

And look upon myself, and curse my fate;

Unlike Miss Elliott, I do not cry when I go to Mr. Hoyt's office to pick up my pay cheque. I reckon I earn it; and I do not propose to enter into a discussion of the merits or demerits of the retention, abolition, or otherwise of this House. I have been elected by my electors to get on with this job, and that is what I propose to do.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Surely Miss Elliott is equally capable.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: Miss Elliott is more than equally capable, but I felt she wished to apologise for being here, whereas I do not.

I wish to speak this afternoon on a subject, which many people would like to sweep under the carpet. It is a subject about which every member of this House—including yourself, Mr. President, and myself; I want to make that clear from the outset—has some knowledge. I refer to alcoholism. There is only one member of this House who, to my knowledge, does not partake of alcoholic beverages; and that gentleman is the Minister for Police. I hope my observations are correct, Mr. Dolan. So I wish to make it quite clear that I drink alcohol.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: It is alright taken in the right spirit.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: Yes, taken in the right spirit it is good for one. When I looked at facts and figures on alcoholism I was truly amazed. I feel that we have one of the gravest problems facing this State today; and not just this State but the whole of the Commonwealth. I must ensure that I draw the attention of the House to the facts of alcoholism. In the last 20 years alcoholic consumption per head of population has more than doubled. It has risen from 12 gallons per head to 28 gallons per head.

The Hon. J. L. Hunt: Some people are getting more than their fair share.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: No doubt that is quite true. The helpful interjections I am receiving from members prove one point: that we have an ambivalent attitude towards alcohol, and this attitude has been encouraged throughout the years and the centuries. Possibly we have all known what it is to get "done up."

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Speak for yourself.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I said, "possibly." I realise that Mr. Griffiths is a member of the South Perth temperance league! However, by the same token—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Pronounce his name with an "s", thank you.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS:—we all know and accept with good nature and banter a man's illness the following morning when that little creature gets into his head with a pneumatic drill and seems to be intent upon lifting the top off his skull. However, the tragedy is that if in five or six weeks time we are at the bar and we see the same man approaching us with bloodshot eyes and trembling hands, and we have observed that same behaviour over the last week, we label him an alcoholic.

It is at this point that the man starts his downward slide, in some cases never to recover, because society turns its back

on the alcoholic. I would like to give you, Mr. President, a definition of alcoholism and alcoholics. I am dealing this afternoon specifically with alcoholism, and I would like to read the following definition:—

#### Alcoholism:

"A chronic and usually progressive disease, or a symptom of an underlying psychological or physical disorder, characterized by dependence on alcohol (manifested by 'loss of control over drinking') for relief from psychological or physical distress or for gratification from alcohol intoxication itself, and by a consumption of alcoholic beverages sufficiently great and consistent to cause physical or mental or social or economic disability. Or, a learned (or conditioned) dependence upon alcohol which irresistibly activates resort to alcohol whenever a critical internal or environmental stimulus occurs . . ."

That is a definition given by Keller and McCormick in *A Dictionary of Words About Alcohol*, at page 14.

To illustrate the difference I draw attention to the definition of an alcoholic. It is as follows:—

An alcoholic is an excessive drinker whose dependence upon alcohol has attained such a degree that it shows a noticeable mental disturbance or an interference with his bodily and mental health, his interpersonal relations, and his smooth social and economic functioning; or who shows the prodromal signs of such developments. He therefore requires treatment.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What sort of signs did you mention?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: Prodromal signs.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Can you define it?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: If the honourable member wishes me to define it now I can say that concisely prodromal means presynndrome.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I understand what that term means.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: The point I make is this: We recognise the alcoholic and he does receive treatment, but alcoholism is the factor which we do not recognise. It is a disease and it is a medical problem, but only 5 per cent. of the cases are treatable by medical science. So, 95 per cent. of them become the responsibility of the community in which we live. We are responsible for helping and creating instruments whereby these people can help themselves. I hope to illustrate that a little better as I go along.

Let us take this State as an example. A learned doctor whose name I do not know made a study of alcoholism in Victoria, and she took two years to complete this study. Her investigations led her to the figure which I will quote shortly and which is quite staggering, although I cannot substantiate it because I do not have the report. It has cost the State of Victoria \$84,000,000 per annum to treat alcoholism; I repeat the figure is \$84,000,000. On my very rough calculation, in the year 1969-70 it cost Western Australia an estimated \$34,000,000.

One might ask how I arrived at these figures, and members might care to check them. I have here some figures which have been published relating to admissions to public hospitals in Western Australia for primary diagnosis of alcoholism, and admissions to Western Australian Mental Health Service institutions for inpatient treatment for alcoholism, 1970-71. These are authenticated figures, and I have not snatched them from anywhere. I just happened to discover them. Every hospital in the State, both in the metropolitan area and in the country, where alcoholics and alcoholism are treated is listed here.

I shall not weary members by quoting individual figures, but I should point out that when we talk about extensions to hospitals and pressures on bed space we should realise that the alcoholic who should receive no longer than 28 to 35 days' treatment in a hospital has an average length of stay somewhere in the region of 183 days.

If we look at the financial burden that is placed on the Mental Health Services to provide this treatment—this is an internationally classified disease, and it is not a mental condition as such—we find it costs the State \$941,000 through the Mental Health Services to treat the short-stay patients and the long-stay patients. In the general hospitals there were 4,368 episodes each costing \$42 a day. This according to my calculations comes to \$183,456, thus giving a total of \$1,124,456 per annum that was spent in public hospitals and mental health institutions in this State in 1970-71. That is the tip of the iceberg with which we are dealing.

I know that the Minister for Police will be interested in the figures to which I am about to refer. I got them via his department which directed me to the Commonwealth Statistician. The number of traffic accidents in Western Australia in 1970-71 totalled 5,124. At a recent conference in Canberra the total cost of traffic accidents in the Commonwealth was estimated at \$880,000,000 per annum. On a *pro rata* basis the share of Western Australia would be about \$70,000,000. Of that \$70,000,000 representing the cost of accidents, the best authorities I can find indicate to me that alcoholism was the cause of anything from

33½ per cent. at the minimum of the scale up to 66½ per cent. on the maximum estimate of accidents. If we take the figure as 50 per cent. we arrive at the sum of \$35,000,000 as the cost; and if we add that sum to the \$1,000,000 we have a total of \$36,000,000.

In addition we have to ask how much money is paid out by the Child Welfare Department and in social service benefits to the dependants of alcoholics. The Chief Secretary is worried about a new prison and, to quote from a report, nearly 50 per cent. of the people in our penal institutions in this State—and that is a conservative estimate—are in there because of their outward manifestations of antisocial behaviour caused by the use of alcohol. It is no answer to alcoholism to put people in prison.

This State pioneered the way by establishing an alcoholics rehabilitation centre within the prison system at Karnet. I can say from my research into this matter that this State is the envy of the other States of the Commonwealth.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: A new one is now going up at Byford.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: It is very good to hear that. I hope that what I have to say this afternoon will help not only to consolidate those institutions but also other services.

We do find a number of people who cause us a lot of trouble; but if they cause us a lot of trouble through alcoholism, then they also cause their doctors trouble. Generally the doctor gets fed up with treating an alcoholic as best he can to achieve temporary rehabilitation. We find the welfare worker and the social worker are also fed up with having to call at homes where the base cause of the trouble is alcoholism. These people have expressed this view to me.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Can I ask how a general practitioner treats alcoholism?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: In many cases the doctor refers the patient to another authority to receive voluntary treatment; but such is the way that the treatment is handled in this State that the stigma of a person having to go to a mental institution to receive treatment is enough to prevent him from going there, as I will show later. The doctors cannot treat these patients on a short-term basis because this is a recurring problem.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Thank you. I did not mean to interrupt.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: We find there are a number of authorities on alcoholism and in this regard I refer members to the remarks of Professor Eric Saint

who delivered the Leonard Ball Oration in Melbourne on the 30th January, 1969. He had this to say—

Happy then are the Mohammedans who have no problems with alcohol.

I am not suggesting that we should rush about to change our religions. To continue—

"They will ask thee," says the Koran, "about wine and lots. Answer; in both there is a great sin, and also some things of use to men; but their sinfulness is greater than their use." But if the pleasure of drinking is denied to the Mussulman in life, rich rewards are promised him in eternity: "Those who are ever constant at their prayers, and who control their desires, and are true to these trusts, these shall dwell amid gardens. There, virgin brides await them who never age; fruit, flesh and wine at their desire, and the salutation, Peace, Peace." Perhaps this rigid abstemiousness is responsible in some measure for the aggressiveness of the Arab nations. In our own society only the more inflexible of the sects are as insistent on abstinence and certainly their idea of heaven scarcely includes ageless virgin brides and wine fiestas.

The Hon. R. Thompson: In 1960 Professor Saint lectured to us in this Parliament.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I will possibly travel over some of the same ground and repeat some of what he had to say on that occasion. What Professor Saint has had to say regarding the way we handle this problem is significant. After all is said and done, if the present Government can save half the cost of alcoholism to this State it would not have to go to the Commonwealth for financial assistance. Our Government would receive an additional \$17,500,000 a year without any trouble.

I would like to see the problem of alcoholism taken away from the Ministry of Health. I will admit it is a health problem but I would prefer to see it placed on the shoulders of the Minister for Community Welfare. It is also a community welfare problem and, having said that, I notice the Minister has promptly left the Chamber.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Do you blame him?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: He must have anticipated what I was about to say.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The honourable member will spoil his day.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: The Minister has returned, and on that note I emphasise that if I were the Premier of this State I would give to the Minister

for Community Welfare an air ticket so that he could go around the world and observe the problem in other countries. I would like the Minister to visit Skid Row in the Bowery.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: A world conference will be held shortly in Sydney and we are sending one of our officers to attend.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Please do not interject further; I am almost airborne.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I already had the Minister past the International Date Line before the Chief Secretary brought him back to earth.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Without the use of needles!

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: Returning to my theme, the situation which exists in the Bowery is a dramatic sight. However, if anyone desires to see a minor bowery he need only go to some of our parks in East Perth. He would then see the pitiful condition of some of our own people, as they clutch their bottles of metho.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Is the honourable member speaking about the Aborigines?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: Not necessarily; I am not referring to the Aborigines at all. My concern is that we have so many of these people within our community about whom we do not know. They could be living next door, or it could be someone related to oneself. If it were a relation it could be a tragedy because we, as members of Parliament, place some of our relatives in a vulnerable position by being away from home. Because of the loneliness—which is one of the causes of alcoholism—a person can become a sly-grogger in next to no time. Such a tragedy has already happened in the home of one member of this Parliament; not necessarily from this Chamber. That person was very shocked to find that the condition of alcoholism obtained in his own home.

When I went to South Australia recently I was privileged to meet Mr. Bridgeland, the ex-Lord Mayor of Adelaide. On a Friday morning, before we returned to Western Australia, Mr. Bridgeland took me to the Elura Clinic, and to St. Anthony's Hospital. These treatment centres were set up under the South Australian Alcohol and Drug Addicts (Treatment) Act, 1961-1964.

The average length of stay for an alcoholic in St. Anthony's Hospital is 28 days, as opposed to 183 days as the average stay in Western Australia. When I started to poke around and inquire into this problem Dr. Ellis, of our own Mental Health Services, arranged for me to meet Mr. Bridgeland so that I could see the Elura Clinic. The name of the clinic is an Aboriginal word meaning, "Ray of Hope." The

clinic guides patients to various places for treatment. It is a beautiful house in the suburbs of Adelaide, not more than four minutes by car from the railway station. One would not give it a second glance when passing because it is not labelled as a clinic. It merely carries the name. "Elura."

There is no doubt that we, in this State, need such a reception centre. We also need such a hospital, but we do not need a large sum of money to get it operating. We should not start with more than a 30-bed hospital because staff would have to be found for it. Also, the directors which would be required for the hospital are extremely rare persons because they have to be dedicated and prepared to work day and night.

A social working staff would need to be trained in advance and I put it to you, Mr. President, with all that is necessary to be done, tomorrow would not be too soon for a commencement to be made to combat this problem. I believe that, somewhere in the pipeline, planning is in train, but perhaps we need to shake the pipe a little. I think we would be able to acquire necessary premises.

There is nothing more degrading or disgusting than a visit to the central lock-up, from time to time, where one sees bunches of misery which have been taken off the streets in a drunken and disorderly state. The constable who is in charge of the lock-up is responsible for placing those people in cells. It is quite likely that they will vomit during the night and he has to watch to see that they do not choke on their own vomit. One admires the fortitude of the constables who do this job because in many cases it is like attending to a little baby. The victims have no control over any of their bodily functions and the sights and smells in some of the cells must be nauseating.

I would like to remove those people from the situation into which they have got themselves, and take them to a proper place—a detoxification unit. The people concerned do not know what they are doing. Prison is no cure, and a fine is no cure. Those people need help, understanding, and sympathy from the community if we are to do anything about the problem facing them.

We hear a great deal about sex education in schools. The problem of alcoholism and drug dependence has also to be pointed out in our schools very vigorously and with much more support than it now receives. The danger must be broadcast over the air, illustrated on television, and reported on in the mass media. If we want to combat this disease before it gets out of hand we must treat it in the same manner as we have treated tuberculosis: If necessary enforce compulsory screening. I know that such a

procedure would bring forth screams about the Constitution, and the liberties of the individual.

I am always jealous of the liberty of the individual, but I do not consider it liberty to allow an individual, under the influence of alcohol, to get into a lethal weapon—a motorcar—and kill somebody else on the road. I do not regard it as liberty if an officer of the law has to knock on somebody's door to convey the message that a husband, wife, brother, or sister, has just been killed by a drunken driver. That is not liberty of the individual.

I believe we should write into our law a provision that any person, having been convicted of a drunken driving offence, should not be allowed to apply for a driver's license until he has taken another blood test to ensure that he is not suffering from alcoholism. It is very hard to detect the people who are driving around our metropolitan area and around the country area and who may be alcoholics, or even suffering from alcoholism. It is extremely difficult to detect those people.

An alcoholic can sometimes go for two or three weeks without a drink and appear to be absolutely rational. He can argue sensibly and present a logical case in court. However, alcoholism is a disease which has no respect for any person.

I have attended meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and members would be surprised by the people who attend; they come from all walks of life. I have seen judges, clergymen, labourers, boilermakers, craftsmen, and housewives all attending the same meeting.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The honourable member left out politicians.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I did not see the honourable member at the last meeting but I will probably see him at the next.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I, too, have attended meetings.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I have attended the meetings in a private observational capacity, but not as an alcoholic patient.

We require a board consisting of three men, only. Such a board could co-ordinate the efforts of all the laudable voluntary organisations we can think of. I refer to Alcoholics Anonymous, the Salvation Army, the various Sisters of Charity, and the many other organisations. We would also require funds to run a detoxification unit, a reception centre, and a short-term hospital. We would also require a social organisation, and the understanding and patience of the general public to back up this scheme. We can treat this situation as being desperate, or we can just bury our heads in the sand. Too

often this problem is tackled in a piecemeal fashion, and a board such as I have suggested would co-ordinate all those efforts.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I would like the honourable member to enlarge on what he has said, because it is most interesting. Does the honourable member think we could cure an alcoholic by detoxification? What do we do with the person who has been an alcoholic for a period of 25 years?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I will draw one distinction and say that 80 per cent. of alcoholics can be cured, but you cannot cure a chronic case of the disease. The person which the Minister has just quoted would be a chronic case.

There are stages of seriousness with alcoholism but you cannot cure the chronic case. However, I am referring to the person who has recently become an alcoholic. Such a person cannot be treated without his permission, and treatment should not be attempted while he is under the influence of alcohol. That is the purpose of the detoxification unit, which is a common euphemism for "drying out". A person would then go to an assessment centre and be treated for a short time in a hospital.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I intend to try to do something. The honourable member has interested me tremendously.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I have all the information available and the Minister is welcome to it. I can see we have a problem but I have also seen evidence in South Australia that a scheme such as I have outlined will work.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: May I say, to back up what the honourable member is saying, that we are not doing enough in Western Australia.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much; that is my whole point. Whilst we know the problem is there we are not prepared to look closely into it, because there are many other matters which demand attention.

No doubt many members have heard Jim Carr of the health council on this subject from time to time.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I have heard him on a number of subjects and, my word, if ever a man deserved praise he does.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I cannot praise him enough; he is absolutely fantastic and his method of approaching the problem in question is the type of method we need within this State.

I would like now to pass on to what I consider to be another neglected section, as it were, of the health services. The midwife of the 1964 Chiropractors Act was Mr. Ross Hutchinson. For the first time in Australia we have an Act which registers

these people and controls their activities. I believe we are the first, and still the only, State in Australia to do this.

My learned friend on my left—Mr. Clive Griffiths—in 1968 stood here and gave this House a rundown on chiropractic. I have read the debate which was exhaustive. The honourable member's researches must have been extremely well done.

Unfortunately, however, the temper of the House in disallowing the regulation at that time was such that Mr. Clive Griffiths must have felt that a lot of his work had been in vain. Should anyone want to know anything about chiropractic I suggest he ask Mr. Clive Griffiths, because as far as I can see he is absolutely a full bottle on the subject.

I wish to draw the attention of members this afternoon to one or two facts about the Chiropractors Act. There are in this State at this very moment—and I have had the names and addresses supplied—four people who are practising chiropractic; who are calling themselves chiropractors and who are not registered by the board.

I do know that the persons to whom I have referred have caused some damage to certain individuals. This reflects badly on the chiropractors as a whole. I asked one lady who had been so damaged whether she would be prepared to prefer complaints. She was quite prepared to do so, but her husband was not; he did not want to have to face a long drawn-out legal case. At the moment there are those amongst us who claim to be chiropractors but who in fact are not.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Did you suggest they be reported to the board?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I did, and I was told that this had already been done and the board had taken no action. This surprised me greatly and I intend to follow the matter up.

In answer to a question I asked last week I was told that since the board has been in operation it has investigated six cases where people called themselves chiropractors without being registered. The results of their investigations were that two were not sustained, two were cautioned, and two were prosecuted and convicted.

But I am now talking about recent events. It is astonishing to think that in 1964, when this Act was first established, there were some 20 chiropractors who qualified under the grandfather clause, and five by training in other places. Now, in this day and age, there are 20 registered chiropractors qualified by training and 10 who are still qualified chiropractors under the grandfather clause.

I do not know what sort of testimony is given to a registered chiropractor, but I have two in mind. I refer to the case of a woman who spent some seven to eight

years seeking relief from migraine headaches. She had taken pills and all the tablets imaginable; she had been given injections, and that sort of thing—in fact you name it, Mr. President, and she had had it. In spite of this the migraine headaches did not improve. In desperation she eventually listened to a friend and went to see a chiropractor. The chiropractor did not say, "Well, I will see whether I can relieve some of the symptoms that you have," he said, "If you come to me regularly for a course of treatment I will cure you of the migraine."

The result was that he did cure her, and in a period of less than twelve weeks. A gentleman with whom I am well acquainted complained of severe pains in the arms and shoulders, so much so that he would wake up from a sleep at night and feel the classic symptoms of pins and needles in his arms and imagine that he was about to have a coronary.

The man in question was checked out by his doctor who gave him pills and eventually got rid of the pain in a temporary fashion. One day he too went to see a chiropractor and after three manipulations—and that is what chiropractor means; the laying on of hands—the man to whom I refer was cured and made as good as new.

It is of no use running away from the fact that these people are in the medical fraternity—and I am now talking about registered chiropractors. Last year they had 150,000 patient-visits which will give members some idea of how the scheme has grown. But these visits must have been for a privileged few, because one has to pay for this treatment with two possible exceptions. Chiropractors now deal with workers' compensation cases; they are competent radiologists, and are checked out by the board of radiology before they can operate. In some cases the chiropractors pass on their techniques of spinal x-ray to the medical profession.

There is only one place in this State where this treatment can be obtained as if it were an ordinary hospital treatment and that is in cases covered by the Eastern Goldfields Health Scheme. Those who are members of the friendly societies receive \$1 per visit up to a maximum of 14 visits a year. The Hospital Benefit Fund gives nothing at all for a visit to a chiropractor.

When these people can do so much good why in heaven's name do not the friendly societies and the Hospital Benefit Fund recognise such chiropractors? If they did they could save the country millions of dollars each year. They are not complete curers of the people about whom I am talking as laid down in the Act.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Because there is no Federal benefit.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: That is so; and that is why we must suffer. I can give an example of Federal thinking on this matter. In the case of x-rays, chiropractors charge something like \$20 for two x-rays. When the Act was first proclaimed the Commonwealth Government came to the party and allowed a patient \$15. Today, in two instalments that has been chopped down to \$5.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The chiropractor charges \$20 for two x-rays. How does that compare with the cost of an x-ray given by a medical man?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: Only recently my daughter had an x-ray taken of her skull and spine in a particular hospital and that cost me \$32. I have the bill to prove it. There were two x-rays involved so they presumably cost \$16 each.

The medical practitioner is not always competent to take a full spinal x-ray. This was pioneered by the chiropractic profession.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I would be careful about that.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I am being careful.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I would think again and hedge a little if I were you.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Do you realise that a competent chiropractor does not need an x-ray from which to work?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I would dispute that because the chiropractor has to deal with the spine, and I have never yet seen an engineer work without a blueprint; and to all intents and purposes that is what the chiropractor is doing.

There are certainly chiropractors who carry out this treatment with poultices and tennis balls, but I am not talking about them. I am referring to those who use their bare hands, and I am prepared to take the honourable member to a clinic and show him this process in operation.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I have visited half a dozen of them so you do not have to take me anywhere.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: The honourable member has seen them in action. I would now like to quote from *The Medical Journal of Australia* of the 9th December, 1967 in which the following letter appears:—

Sir: I have just read (belatedly to my shame) Dr. Bevan Cant's letter (*Journal*, July 8, 1967) in support of Dr. Gray, Dr. Livingstone and Dr. Matthews, concerning the use of manipulation in medical practice.

I first became aware of the remedial effects of manipulation when working solo in a large mining town, where back



injury was a common occurrence, particularly from incorrect lifting in confined spaces. My only means of treatment then was aspirin and rest over a 10 to 14 day period. I noticed that some of the injured presented themselves to me after two or three days, desirous of returning to work and obviously fit to do so. I began to believe that aspirin must surely be one of our "wonder drugs", until I discovered that my patients were receiving osteopathic manipulative treatment in a neighbouring but distant town. The miners' one desire was to return to work, and they had learnt that almost immediate relief was available from manipulation. I might add that those who remained loyal and stayed with me, my aspirin and rest, had a long and painful convalescence. On trying the methods of the osteopath by the directions given me by the patient, I was amazed at the results (for good!).

I will repeat that—

On trying the methods of the osteopath by the directions given me by the patient, I was amazed at the results (for good!).

All I can say is he was a lucky doctor. The letter continues—

Since then, following a series of demonstrations on the art of manipulation, together with wide and varied reading and discussion on the subject, I have performed over 6,500 separate manipulations in a busy rural practice, where farmers are anxious to return to work as soon as possible, as they are self-employed and their incomes depend entirely on their own efforts and the use of their backs.

The letter continues to say that through all his experience as a medical practitioner this one revelation was terrific and that in future he would carry out manipulations.

I wonder whether he would be transgressing the Chiropractors Act? That was written by a doctor who has signed his name and given his address as Narrogin, W.A. This was in 1967.

I would also like to quote from the report of the Lacroix inquiry in Canada into chiropractic. The report consists of pages upon pages in which Lacroix accepted the value of chiropractic vertebral manipulation as an effective means of treatment. It also quotes a medical authority in Britain (Dr. Edgar Cyriax) who says—

There is little point in dealing with the pros of manipulation. We all know its value and the unjustified disregard that it suffers today . . . But most patients who need it never get it. How can that be so? It is a large hiatus costing the Health Service millions.

Those words are applicable to the situation in this State today. Millions of dollars are being spent on the treatment of back in-

juries and associated conditions and yet we deny this young profession—young in this State—the chance to benefit these people because the health services will not come to the party.

As you know, Mr. President, and as members know, doctors recommend a patient to a chiropractor but add the words, "Do not tell him I sent you." After 70 years chiropractors are still regarded with suspicion.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I do not think anyone denies their manipulative ability. The question always has been, "What is the theory of chiropractic?" Is it the theory that all ills emanate from a misplaced vertebra in the spine?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: That could be argued interminably. I am not competent to comment.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is all that is under dispute.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: If we conducted a survey of people who had completed their treatment at chiropractic clinics in Perth and Fremantle, I am sure we would receive adequate testimony as to the chiropractors' skills.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The chiropractors' manipulative ability has never been questioned.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: How does their fee compare with the general practitioner's fee?

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I believe they charge \$5 a visit.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The best chiropractor in Western Australia is in South Fremantle and he charges \$10 for three visits.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I think they are forced to charge so much. In actual fact, if you belong to a friendly society a visit to a chiropractor will cost you \$4. If you belong to the Eastern Goldfields Medical Scheme, the visit will cost you something like 80c.

I would like to state that in my opinion the chiropractors do a good job and deserve far more publicity than they receive; although I know publicity is anathema to the medical profession. Chiropractors deserve help from a State source so that their patients may benefit. I would like to see the Act improved and perhaps the findings of the Royal Commission of 1964 implemented. At the moment people who wish to become chiropractors have to go to America, Canada, or Bournemouth in England to complete their training. This, of course, makes chiropractic training very expensive. An opportunity should be provided to open a school here.

I would like to see the board acting more vigorously in dealing with unregistered chiropractors. These men should be put out of business, if necessary

through publicity, because they are dangerous. They can damage a person's body beyond repair.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You must remember at one time they were all amateurs. It is only in the last few years that there has been any professionalism in chiropractic.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: Professional chiropractic has been in existence for 70 years. Of course, that is not so in this State. I think the people to whom the honourable member is referring do not confine themselves to chiropractic. They have arts in another field as well.

The Hon. R. Thompson: They are very talented.

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS: I do not dispute that for a second.

Finally, I wish to draw attention to the Mental Health Services in this State. It became apparent on a visit to South Australia that we are rated as one of the foremost States in our treatment of the mentally ill. I have been asked for all possible information from a member of Parliament in New South Wales. This man visited our State and assured me that we were way ahead in our aftercare treatment of some of these patients. He needed material concerning our system to implement a scheme in New South Wales.

I must point out, however, that there are one or two anomalies in our system. I would ask the Ministers in this House to point out these anomalies to the Minister for Health.

Unfortunately, there are people who have been in Claremont for many years. There are a few people who entered there at a very early age and who are now in their 70s. These people cannot do any harm; they will not get any worse. Some of the patients are mongoloid, but there is one woman who was admitted as a child suffering from tunnel vision. As she consequently became mentally retarded her parents did not want her. This lady has spent something like 49 years incarcerated behind institutional walls. Of course, when she entered the institution Claremont was an asylum.

There are now aftercare homes scattered around the metropolitan area where these people can live together. They are not locked up behind walls. I would like to pay credit to Mr. MacKinnon for the institution of this scheme during his period of office as Minister for Health. Any qualified person can open one of these homes. Members will notice I am very careful not to use the word "hospital."

The method of payment by the patients in these homes is quite simple. The mentally ill are entitled to an invalid pension of \$38.50 a fortnight and this goes straight to the home. Out of this money they are fed, clothed, treated to small luxuries such

as hairdos, and all the other necessary things. We know economies can be instituted in large-scale catering, but it was pointed out to the then Minister for Health that this was not sufficient. I would not like to keep a grown-up person on \$19.25 a week. The State came to the party and granted a subsidy of \$1 per day per person. This added \$14 per fortnight which has helped tremendously. A few extras could be added to their diet—for instance, they could have eggs. It was even possible to supply the patients with a few cigarettes.

As recovery progresses, the patient may be sent to the Industrial Rehabilitation Unit and can pick up the threads of wanting to work again. The patients are paid a nominal fee for the work they do and they use this money to buy cigarettes and amenities in the canteen at the unit. The workers are paid a maximum of \$2 a week. However, there are a few workers who gain promotion to the position of foreman and the foremen are paid a maximum of \$5 a week. Immediately these people start on the road to rehabilitation and earn this money the Commonwealth steps in and takes it from the other end of the cheque. This is despicable. It is smallminded and contemptible. The people who run these homes would not dream of saying to the patients, "You have earned \$5 but that belongs to me. Give it back." At this stage the patient's mental health is still in a precarious state. He is finding out his value and his worth. We might laugh at \$2 or \$5, but to the people concerned this is the reward for their labour. They are emerging from the dreadful fog of mental illness and are approaching stability.

It would be very difficult to keep a full-grown man on \$38.50 a fortnight. I ask the Ministers in this House to approach the Minister for Health in the nicest possible way so that he can remind the people in Canberra that in Western Australia we treat our mental patients with a little humanity; and we should ask Canberra to come to the party. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

**THE HON. V. J. FERRY** (South West) [5.40 p.m.]: I support the motion moved by Mr. Dans. In exercising my right and privilege on this occasion to speak on the subject of my choosing, I have chosen one in particular. I could have chosen any number of subjects and touched on them in any order, but I have decided to speak on an industry which affects not only the south-west but also the rest of the State. In doing so I wish to alert not only the Government of the day but also the people of Western Australia. Governments can do so much but very often the people themselves can obtain more effective results.

I refer to the hardwood timber industry of this State. We all know the importance of this industry to the south-west area. The term "south-west" can be used for a tiny corner of this State or it can

cover an area from Wanneroo to Albany. This industry affects everyone in the south-west and to a lesser extent it affects people throughout the State.

The hardwood timber industry employs many people. Apart from those who are fully dependent on the industry—those actually engaged in tree felling and milling operations in the forests—a number of farmers are also involved. It has been suggested to me that at the present time there could be as many as 300 farmers engaged in timber milling or forestry operations. This means that this particular industry is augmenting the income of what may be generally referred to as small-property farmers.

The industry is comprised of many segments. From its inception many years ago in pioneering days one of the major products of the industry has been the railway sleeper. The industry has been particularly fortunate in recent years because of the markets in the north-west of this State. I refer particularly to the new standard gauge railway lines constructed by the iron ore companies.

I well recall the criticism in recent years that the development of the north-west was of no advantage to the people in the south-west, particularly those engaged in the timber industry. Of course, the proponents of this view were completely unfair and dishonest because the timber industry benefited enormously by the need for sleepers for the railway tracks to service the mining projects. It is only now, as this market is drying up, that it has been brought back to the former critics that the development of the north-west means a great deal to the rest of Western Australia, and particularly to the south-west. The sleeper trade is a vital basic trade for the hardwood timber industry. Members will know that we have recently had competition from imported timbers. As well as this the Commonwealth Railways are now using a certain quantity of concrete sleepers and some overseas countries are turning from the traditional hardwood sleeper to concrete.

At a later stage I will refer back to that point and, in particular, I will deal with sleeper production. Sawn timber is just as important, and this applies to scantling and other timbers used in the building trade in particular.

It is interesting to note that the timber contained in the construction of a house has decreased most markedly in recent years. If 10,000 homes a year were built this could mean the use of 32,500,000 super feet of timber, or approximately 54,000 loads. For the uninitiated, who do not know what represents a load of timber, I would point out that a load comprises 600 super feet of timber. It has been estimated that the value of this to the industry would be \$6,500,000. Therefore, if we could increase

the timber content in 10,000 homes the timber industry would be \$6,500,000 better off.

I carry this example a little further to say that if we were to win back this kind of market to the sawn timber section of the timber industry, the Government alone would benefit to the tune of some \$600,000. That would be the return in royalties to the Forests Department and also rail freight revenue would be gained to the extent of something in excess of \$550,000.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That would put brickworks out of business.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: Not necessarily. Competition is a good thing with all commodities, and this is another example of how competition affects one industry or another. In the particular example I have just given, with the combination of timber royalties and rail freight revenue, the Government could benefit to the extent of \$1,150,000 which would be of direct benefit to the timber industry itself.

Some of the items used in the construction of a house and which were formerly made from hardwoods are now being manufactured with other materials such as steel, iron, and concrete.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Aluminium is quite an important one.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: Yes. Some of the items that are now manufactured in other materials would include flooring for houses, bridge timber, fencing, wharf timbers, timber for railway construction, fruit cases, and boats. Even firewood has almost gone out of use. Other items that have been made with other materials include mine guides, playground equipment, and even coffins. The list goes on to cover roadside signs—in these times these are constructed of metal more often than not—tool handles, and office furniture. A comparative innovation in recent times has been transportable homes which have had an effect on the use of timber.

I want to stress that the sawn timber industry has suffered by competition from the introduction of other building material. Briefly, I want to quote some figures, using 1960-61 as the base year on the assumption that in this year timber was used to the extent of 100 per cent. This is not strictly correct, but it is near enough for the purpose of this exercise, because what I am about to quote are estimates that have been given to me which I believe are reasonably accurate for the sake of the example. Commencing from 1960-61, and assuming that the materials I am about to mention were used 100 per cent. in home construction, I will cover a 10-year span up to 1970-71.

At the end of that 10-year period timber for fencing had decreased to only 5 per cent.; bearers used in building, 40 per cent.; joists used for flooring, 40 per cent.; door

jambes, 50 per cent.; window frames, 10 per cent.; door frames, 75 per cent.; roofing timbers, 90 per cent.; fascias, 10 per cent.; quadrants, 40 per cent.; and architraves, 50 per cent. Members will realise that the situation of 10 years ago has changed markedly now. This is borne out still further when one compares the *per capita* production of sawn timber in super feet. In 1959-60, the Australian average was 174.7 super feet and in 1968-69 it was down to 142.6 super feet; a decrease of 32.1 super feet *per capita* over a period of 10 years.

I have mentioned some of the materials that are now used in building construction and which have restricted the use of timber, and perhaps to gain a little more in carrying out this exercise, I would like to refer to house framing. There is growing competition to timber from the use of double brickwork and perforated concrete slabs in house construction. This has had a tendency to erode the use of brick veneer in house construction.

I have mentioned railway sleepers and in this category bridge and wharf timbers are also included where prestressed concrete and steel has timber under pressure. In regard to joinery, as Mr. Griffith has correctly interjected, aluminium is playing a big part in this field, and steel is also a strong competitor. The use of asbestos cement sheeting for fencing has been almost dramatic in eclipsing the use of pickets in the construction of fences. Asbestos sheeting has not completely taken over from wooden pickets, but its use has eaten into the market quite drastically.

In regard to flooring for houses, concrete rafts have, to a great extent, taken the place of wooden flooring. Approximately 50 per cent. of all houses now erected are constructed on concrete rafts. So the list goes on.

This brings me to the point that the hardwood timber industry needs to be nurtured and watched all the time not only by those on a Government level but also by those in the private sector. It is a vital factor in adding to the wealth of country areas. We all know that for a number of reasons there is a natural drift of people from country areas to the metropolitan region. In the south-west of Western Australia we are blessed with this natural source of timber. Our forests are protected under the provisions of the Forests Act, and one would expect our forests to be replenished in perpetuity by careful forest management. Therefore it is up to us to obtain the product therefrom and this, of course, means meeting the market to the fullest extent.

In respect of those engaged in the timber mills, a dramatic picture emerges if one considers the number of timber mills that have now gone out of production in recent years, and the number of employees who have left the industry. The figures I

am about to quote were given to me in good faith and I believe them to be correct. In 1968-69 there were 191 timber mills. In 1970-71 there were 150; a decrease of 41 mills. At this point I hasten to add that this might seem to be more dramatic than it really is, because as Mr. Willmott and other members will know, a number of these timber mills were very small. In the main they were sleeper timber mills established practically for the sole purpose of taking advantage of contracts obtained from the iron ore companies in the north-west and sleeper orders obtained on overseas markets. Some of the mills were established to cut out timber in lightly timbered areas to take advantage of the situation that existed at that time. Nevertheless, they were timber mills and in some districts there is still a quantity of timber available that could be cut to meet the sleeper market if such a market were offering.

Although there has been a decrease of 41 timber mills within two years the position is not as bad as it may seem. The interesting factor is that employees engaged in the sawmilling industry in 1968-69 totalled 3,233 as at the 31st December, 1968. Two years later, on the 31st December, 1970, the number of employees was 2,401; a decrease of 832 workers over a two-year period. This fact causes me greater concern than the decrease in the number of timber mills, because it has a great effect on rural communities. It also has an effect on the outlet points for timber products, rail freights, and all the rest of it.

Bearing in mind the importance of people to the communities in the timber areas, and their value to the State as a whole, I would like to mention the ports of Busselton and Bunbury in particular, both of which ports have benefited from timber exports. This applies more particularly to Bunbury because of the equipment installed at the harbour for preparing sleepers for the north-west trade. It has also affected Busselton to a lesser extent. This port has battled for years to improve its trade because of the many handicaps faced in the harbour. Therefore, if we idly stand by and allow this decrease in timber export to continue it will mean that the people in country districts will suffer still further.

A number of mergers have occurred within the timber milling industry. Some will say, of course, that this is a trend that has been occurring not only in the timber industry. I know the same trend has been going on in many industries. However, although the number of employees in the timber milling industry has decreased, the output has remained relatively stable over the last few years. This means that greater efficiency has been

shown in the industry as a result of amalgamations of timber milling companies and mechanisation which means that the same work force is not required. Nevertheless there are many milling companies—in particular, small milling companies—that still require men who are skilled in the use of timber to get the best out of their establishments. In this regard there has been a tremendous capital outlay. Other mills are not being faced with the same problem. They feel they are getting sufficient for their needs at the moment. This rather depends on the orders that are available and the production line of the mill.

I believe that those engaged in the timber industry itself need to work extremely closely with the Government of the day, both in the State and Commonwealth scenes, and that today, as a result of overseas competition and the timber that is being imported into this country at the moment, representatives of the timber industry need to view the position on a national level instead of on a parochial level. I believe the industry in this State needs to work closely with the industries in the other States of the Commonwealth. I know this is being done to a certain extent and, in reply to a request of mine, the Government has indicated that a standing committee, comprising representatives of the timber industry and various Government departments, has been set up to consider various ways in which further assistance can be given.

This is all very well, and I appreciate what has been done, but it is of no use setting up a committee unless it is intended that it shall work effectively for the benefit of the people and the State. The problem has to be tackled on a Government, departmental, and industrial level.

When I speak of the industry I am referring to the whole of the industry and not only the hardwood section. The industry includes the softwoods and the plywoods and I have never lost hope that a woodchip industry will be established in the south-west. Such an industry would revitalise the hardwood industry because at the moment a tremendous waste occurs. All the sections must work together for the benefit of the timber industry as a whole, and I would urge all sections to do just that.

I wish to refer again to the sleeper segment of the industry and, in particular, to a South African contract which was unsuccessfully tendered for by a Western Australian company. Some 400,000 sleepers were involved but, unfortunately, Western Australia missed out on the contract notwithstanding the fact that the Government in its wisdom—and I commend it for its action—offered a combined 20 per cent. concession on timber royalties and rail freights subject to the tender being

successful. Such a concession is considerable and I just wonder what more we can do in order to capture these overseas markets. Maybe further concessions should be made to the industry. I believe this must be done if we are to retain a healthy and viable hardwood industry.

I wonder what reasons motivated the order being placed elsewhere. We do not know, but can only surmise. As the country involved is South Africa, one has a lingering thought that this in itself may have some bearing on the matter because of the attitude of some people in this country against South Africa. This could well have influenced the placing of that order. I have no evidence to substantiate my conjecture, but we did lose the order and that concerns me a great deal.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Do you know who was the successful tenderer?

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: No. This information has not been ascertained as far as I know. I am endeavouring to find out, but I do know that the Western Australian tenderer was unsuccessful.

The Hon. J. Dolan: The set of circumstances you have mentioned could apply just as equally to the successful tenderer.

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: This could well be, but it is something we must know. I guess that eventually the information will be ascertained. We must continue to assist the industry by making more freight and royalty concessions.

At this point I would pay tribute to the excellent work being done—and the work which has been done for some time—by the officers of the Forests Department. Many of them are first-class officers and I commend them for their dedication and for the work they are doing. This work is not always appreciated, but it is so effective. It is easy for us at times to be critical—and I, for one, have been critical of this department on occasion—but I must give credit where it is due because the welfare and wellbeing of the industry rests very largely in the hands of the professional officers of that department. I am sure that they themselves are becoming increasingly aware that they must co-operate with those engaged in the industry.

I conclude by again urging that the industry itself leaves no stone unturned in its various segments. These segments must get together despite their differences, if they have any. I guess certain differences would arise from time to time, but these must be eliminated and the industry tackled on a basis which is beneficial to the State and the nation. Only in that way will it be possible for the industry to compete with overseas companies thus helping the citizens of the country, but more particularly those in the south-west.

Timber is a natural resource and we hope that it will remain so for all time. I referred earlier to the fact that if our State forests are protected and managed correctly the timber will be available; and I believe this will be the case.

We must not lose sight of the fact that this is an exceedingly important industry and that is why I am speaking in support of it. It is so easy for those in the metropolitan area to forget what is occurring in country areas. However, I, for one, will be very keen to note any assistance given to this industry; and I urge the Government to do even more than it has done already. I support the motion.

*Sitting suspended from 6.06 to 7.30 p.m.*

**THE HON. L. A. LOGAN** (Upper West) [7.30 p.m.]: A number of speakers to the Address-in-Reply have mentioned the discomfort experienced through the hot weather conditions on opening day and at subsequent sittings of the House. The very simple answer is not to meet in March and not to have a session in March. This is one of the reasons for our fighting so long, as a Government, against the extra session of Parliament. The simple answer is not to meet in the months of December, January, February, and March. I firmly believe we can do all the business which must be done in the other eight months of the year.

Reference has also been made to a letter received from the Australian Federation of Police Unions. I treat it as a very serious matter when a union of all policemen throughout Australia is forced to write to every member of Parliament, both Federal and State. This proves to me something very serious is wrong. Each and every member should regard this matter very seriously and perhaps some members might even look at their own consciences in this regard. One has only to read the newspapers to appreciate why the police are so concerned with law and order.

I do not know how the Government had the temerity to include the following statement in the Governor's Speech:—

A Bill will be introduced also for a Prevention of Excessive Prices Act in respect of selected goods and services.

When in Government we reduced the price of electricity four times. The S.E.C. was still making a profit when we left office but, despite this fact, the present Government saw fit to raise electricity charges by 27 per cent. If any member is sceptical I have facts to show that a small engineering firm, for example, paid \$793.39 on the old rate and now pays \$1,013.42 on the new rate. This is an increase of \$220.03, approximately 27 per cent. over all. It is nothing short of temerity for the Government to say it will introduce a Bill to prevent excessive prices when it has increased

electricity charges to this extent although, as I have said, the S.E.C. was making a profit.

**The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon:** Have you had drawn to your attention the sneaky way the Government put up electricity charges in the country?

**The Hon. L. A. LOGAN:** The industry I am referring to is on the border of the metropolitan area and almost in the country.

**The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon:** The charges have been increased right throughout the country.

**The Hon. L. A. LOGAN:** The example I have given is certainly not the only one. When it is coupled with other numerous cost increases I can imagine how some of the small industries are suffering.

Much has been said by previous speakers this session on the subject of the Legislative Council. I suppose I can be excused if I speak with a little feeling on this matter as I am the longest serving member in this Chamber. On the 12th April this year I will have served for 25 years. I have seen a complete turn-around, one might say, of the members of this Chamber. In looking through *Hansard* I have ascertained that only five of the 30 members at the time I was elected are still alive today. This is the eighth Parliament in which I have been privileged to sit. I have sat in my present seat as a back-bencher to my own Government; indeed, sometimes as a critical member of that Government. I have sat here as a back-bencher to a Labor Government. I have sat in the front benches on the opposite side of the Chamber as a Minister in the Government. I am now back in this seat as a back-bencher to a Labor Government. For these reasons I think I can speak with some authority about the operations of this Chamber during that period of time.

I maintain that if anyone took the trouble to sit down and, in an unemotional and unbiased way, check the records of this House since its inception he would come up with the answer that the Legislative Council has served the State of Western Australia very well indeed. I do not think there is any doubt about it. I do not know why we are referred to as a hostile House because, as far as I and my colleagues around me are concerned, there is no hostility whatsoever. We try to consider every measure which is brought down on the basis of plain common sense.

I entered Parliament in the days of a responsibility franchise. It was not compulsory to be on the roll; it was not compulsory to vote. It was the responsibility of every member to endeavour to get as many people as possible, preferably of his own persuasion, on the roll. It was also his responsibility to get them to go to the polls.

The Hon. J. Heitman: That was the biggest job.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It was certainly a big job. Before my time a member of my party lost his seat by only 19 votes simply because his supporters told him he had no need to worry and could win without taking any trouble. His apathy cost him his seat. Members had to overcome a great deal in an endeavour to win seats in this House. One year I sent out 750 cards prepared for the recipients to sign. I included all particulars on these cards. I took the trouble to include this information because many did not know what to put on the cards. In all, the Electoral Office received back 200 out of the 750.

I have also sat in this House when we did not have what is now termed the "Official Opposition." I am not sure whether we should ever have adopted the system of having an Official Opposition in this House. I think members would have worked much better without it. Although we have adopted such a system, I still say the Opposition—whether Labor or Liberal-Country Party—has acted very fairly when considering legislation. I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve Western Australia as a member of the Legislative Council.

Mention has been made that we should do away with the bicameral system of Parliament; in other words, do away with the Upper House. Examples have been given of other countries in the world, but nobody has yet mentioned any country—whether it be New Zealand, Finland or Sweden—which has a better Government than we have in Western Australia. Queensland, where a Country Party Government in coalition with the Liberal Party is in office, does not have an Upper House but I do not claim that State has a better Government than Western Australia. We are quite sure of one fact, however; countries which do not have a bicameral system of Parliament—more particularly those countries which have recently obtained independence—have become virtual dictatorships. I am sure we do not want this to happen as far as Western Australia, or Australia, is concerned.

A great deal has been said about voting strength and the question of one man-one vote. I wish to put forward the facts of the matter and, in doing so, I hope members may start to appreciate what such a system would really mean. The population of Western Australia is 1,050,000 of which 701,000 live in the metropolitan area and 350,000 live outside the metropolitan area. When referring to the "metropolitan area" I refer to the area defined as such by the Metropolitan Region Plan. So far as the Legislative Assembly is concerned, under a system of one man-one vote there would be 34 metropolitan seats and 17 seats

for the rest of Western Australia. To apply the same principle to the Legislative Council would mean that there would be 20 seats for an area of 2,000 square miles compared with 10 seats for the 967,000 square miles which make up the rest of Western Australia. In total there would be 54 seats in the small metropolitan area compared with 27 for the rest of Western Australia.

Perhaps I can explain my example much more effectively by referring to a map of Western Australia. I appreciate that *Hansard* will not be able to do justice to this illustration. Members will see on the map a black spot, approximately one inch long and one inch wide, of which Perth is the centre. This tiny area, which is defined by the Metropolitan Region Plan as the metropolitan area, contains 701,000 people. As I have said, 54 members would represent an area which, on the map, is only one inch wide and one inch long compared with 27 members representing the whole of the rest of Western Australia. The part representing the metropolitan area can be described in terms of one inch, but the part representing the rest of Western Australia could only be described in terms of feet.

This is what a system of one man-one vote would mean as far as Western Australia is concerned. This may be some people's idea of democracy but it is certainly not mine. Democracy deals with far more than mere numbers of people. I think every member of Parliament and every person in Western Australia should realise exactly what a system of one man-one vote would mean.

The PRESIDENT: Would the honourable member please try to depict the small piece of paper he is holding in his hand for the sake of *Hansard*?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It is a tiny piece of paper, approximately one inch long and one inch wide which covers the metropolitan area as defined by the Metropolitan Region Plan. Any member is at liberty to study the area on the map. Is it right to have 54 members representing such a small part of Western Australia and only 27 representing the rest of Western Australia? People in country areas are just as entitled, if not more so, to meet their parliamentary representatives as are people in the metropolitan area. This would be an utter physical impossibility if a system of one man-one vote were brought into being.

Let us apply the concept of one man-one vote to the whole of Australia. I have only a small map of Australia with me and I apologise for this. The map shows a line drawn between Adelaide and Brisbane. The area so marked is not a big one, but 90 per cent, of the population of Australia lives in that small section. Despite this,

we have people advocating a system of one man-one vote. I hope when they look at the practicabilities of this, as illustrated by a map, they will have second thoughts. This would not be democracy; it would be plain stupidity.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: It would be a sell-out.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: What kind of representation would there be and what kind of Government would there be if elections were conducted on this basis? The great majority of members of Parliament would represent the 90 per cent. of the population who live within the small area marked off by a line on the map of Australia and a tiny minority of members would represent the 10 per cent. who live within the vast area which constitutes the rest of Australia. I hope my illustration may convince some people of the real position.

It was mentioned last night that some people did not know what the letters "M.L.C." stood for. One day a long time ago, I went into a department, gave my name, and added, "M.L.C." The person concerned said, "Yes—Methodist Ladies' College."

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Surely that could not be applied to you!

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Of course, the college does have some male teachers or instructors.

The Hon. J. Dolan: I think it has a headmaster.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I guarantee many people do not know their Assembly members, or who is their Premier, or Prime Minister.

The Hon. J. Dolan: They change pretty quickly.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That principle can be applied to every other section of Parliament. As far as I am concerned, it is no good using that argument. I have stated facts. I do not think I need dwell on that matter. I believe I have demonstrated my point.

I hope some Ministers in this House will have second thoughts about another matter mentioned in the Governor's Speech; that is, the abolition of the Third Party Claims Tribunal. This tribunal was the subject of world-wide attention when it was set up in this State and, together with the Third Party Motor Vehicle Trust, it was regarded as the best system in the world. If it is allowed to operate correctly, it can still perform an important function. I therefore suggest the Ministers have a long look at this before abolishing a tribunal that was established to serve a very useful purpose in the community.

Another matter to which I wish to refer tonight is capital punishment. I was requested by the A.B.C. to appear on the "Today Tonight" show.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I thought you were very good.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I refused the first invitation because I thought it was a subject to which I could not do justice in the time available. However, the lady was very persuasive, and when she asked me, "Can you advise me who has some forthright views?", I said, "I have some very forthright views on this subject." She said, "Right! You are the one we want." I therefore accepted.

I have never in my life been so surprised as I have been following the number of people who have taken the trouble to write, to phone, and to walk up to me to congratulate me and agree with everything I said. I am amazed at the number of people who have gone out of their way to do so. It has firmly convinced me that I will stick to the opinions about which I was so forthright the other night. I repeat that I am amazed that of the people from all walks of life who have contacted me—Labor supporters, women, people at the bowling green, members of lodges, and so on—not one person has disagreed with what I said.

The Hon. J. L. Hunt: It would be a very small proportion of the population of the State.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Hundreds of others must be thinking the same way. Therefore, because of the reception I received, I am glad I went on the show the other night to give my forthright views. I support the motion.

**THE HON. T. O. PERRY** (Lower Central) [7.50 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion. I must congratulate Mr. Dans on his very interesting speech. Whilst I do not agree with all he said, I am quite sure he will not agree with all I say, so perhaps we can agree to disagree. However, I still congratulate him on his speech.

Several members have spoken about protocol and dress in this Chamber but no-one has mentioned the dress worn by our clerks. If consideration is given to modifying the mode of dress, I hope some thought will be given to the clerks who must wear their wigs and gowns in very hot weather.

Over the last few years we have experienced great changes in agriculture and the marketing of minerals. A few years ago many people were very critical of the Government of the day and the Minister for Industrial Development, and of the emphasis that was being placed on minerals. Looking back, I think a great deal of praise could be given to the Minister for Industrial Development of the last Government for helping to encourage and establish mineral development in this State, because during the difficult period



which has been experienced by the agricultural industries, jobs were available in the mining industry for many people who were displaced from agriculture. I think there is room for agriculture and mining to develop side by side.

When the Federal Government brought down its last Budget, the news media were very critical of the assistance given to agriculture. One could not pick up a newspaper or turn on a television or wireless set without hearing that the man in the street was subsidising the man on the land. There was a great deal of criticism of the action in budgeting \$60,000,000 for a subsidy to woolgrowers.

However, in Statement No. 9, entitled "Commonwealth Assistance to Industry," mention is made of the Federal Government's assistance to manufacturing industries in Australia. In the financial year 1970-71 the Federal Government made an incentive payment of \$54,558,000 to industry—only a few dollars less than the sum paid to the farming community or to woolgrowers. It surprises me that so much hue and cry should be made about the assistance given to woolgrowers when no mention is made of the export incentive paid to secondary industries.

Agriculture in this country has been plagued with importations. I suppose that as far as agriculture is concerned one of the worst importations into this country was the rabbit. Those who remember the days prior to the introduction of myxomatosis will remember the amount of damage done by rabbits. When one went out into the paddocks at sunrise one could see waves of rabbits. The edge of the crop would be eaten down and they would take the pick of the pasture. The fox was another undesirable importation.

However, we have had a further importation which has done a great deal of damage that has been overlooked. I refer to Dr. Schapper's farm advisers—or farm consultants, as they call themselves today.

The Hon. J. Heitman: I thought you were going to mention the blow fly.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: No. I think the farm advisers do more damage than the blow flies. I was talked into becoming a member of the first advisory service in Darkan, and the first time I met a farm adviser I found I agreed with his first statement. It is the only time I have ever agreed with any of them. I met him in a paddock on my property and he told me I would not get a very good lamb percentage out of the flock of sheep I had in the house paddock. I asked him why. He said they were too fat.

I ran an all-wether flock, and no matter how carefully I inspected the wethers I bought I often had a ewe or two and lambs often turned up in the wether flock. But I never expected a good lambing percentage, so the farm adviser and I were in

complete agreement. From that time onwards I have never agreed at all with a farm adviser.

They have advised, "Sell your beef; it does not pay to produce beef." I had established a herd on Moonyoonooka lines, and I was very proud of my beef cattle. To tell me to dispose of my beef herd was like telling me to cut off my right hand, so I did not dispose of it.

The next advice I received was to sell my hay-making equipment because it did not pay to feed one's stock. I am not here to say it pays to feed one's stock but it does not pay to starve one's stock.

The next advice I received was accompanied by a set of figures showing that I could afford to pay £7 or \$14 for a wether and £9 or \$18 for a young ewe. I explained to the farm adviser that I had done a lot of dealing in stock; sometimes I had made a lot of money and sometimes I had burnt not only my fingers but also my arm up to the shoulder. I told him unless he had a crystal ball into which he could look and predict the future he should not come around telling me what I could pay for sheep because it did not work out. I told him if he wanted to talk about cricket, racehorses, or football, he could do so, but not to talk to me about farming. I had paid my fees and that was that. He did not bother to call again.

In 1968 I attended a seminar conducted by the farm advisers or consultants—I think they changed their name to "consultants" at about that time. The seminar was held in the hall adjoining Chesterton Lodge in Mill Point Road. I have a copy of the proceedings of the seminar and among the topics discussed were the problems of adjustment and the alarming rate of change in Western Australia. A farm adviser from my district gave an interesting address on increased productivity to meet the increased costs of farming. The questions and answers which followed his address are not reported in the pamphlet but I suggested to him at that time that if wool prices fell much lower it would not be unreasonable to subsidise the woolgrowers. His reply was that it would be disastrous to subsidise the woolgrowers of Australia and that there was nothing more degrading to a woolgrower than for him to hold out his hand for a subsidy.

I remind the House that the firm of Chamberlain Industries was paid a bounty on every machine it produced but apparently it was not degrading for the manager of Chamberlain Industries to hold out his hand for the bounty, and it was not degrading for the secondary industries to receive an incentive for export, regardless of the profits they were making. The secondary industries had to qualify by exporting a certain quantity of products but the profit made did not enter into it. However,

Immediately the primary producer or wool-grower is paid a subsidy it becomes de-grading.

Many of the tariff policies and other policies adopted place a burden on primary producers which they would not otherwise have to bear. In June of last year I was listening to a talk on the breakfast session and the same farm adviser I mentioned previously said that in our area wool could be produced for 20c or less a pound.

Individual farmers have been told that they can produce wool for 18.5c per pound. Mr. President, that is complete and utter rubbish. Wool cannot be produced for 20c a pound in my district, let alone 18.5c. Ernest Lee Steere, when asked, came up with a figure of 36c as his estimate of the amount required to break even. I think with his knowledge of agriculture and wool growing he would be somewhere near the mark.

I find it amazing that many members of this farm advisory group have received rural reconstruction aid, and many have received the handout to wool growers from the Federal Government. During the time we have had the farm advisory service in Darkan I believe that wool has averaged 45c a pound. So these men who receive 2½ times more than the amount which has been suggested as the amount required to produce a pound of wool, are in a position where they can accept the handout given to wool growers. One has told me himself that a large percentage of the members of this group is beyond the point of no return, and cannot make the grade even with today's prices. So I just cannot see how one can justify that wool can be produced for 20c a pound.

When speaking on rural reconstruction Mr. Vic Ferry listed a number of requirements. They were finance, marketing, and education. Whilst I agree that education is important no matter in which field in life a person is engaged, I wonder just how one would define it. Most of the members of the farm advisory group have the benefit of a university education. I think most of them have the letters "B.A." after their names.

I am never quite sure what "B.A." means. When I was about 14 years of age I first shod a horse. The horse was one of those which, if a person picked up one foot, he would throw all his weight on that foot. After battling for some considerable time and losing much sweat I finally accomplished my objective and shod the horse. I stood back and looked at the horse and thought, "Well, at 14 years of age I have shod my first horse," and I was quite proud of myself. Unbeknown to me my father had walked up behind me and he said, "You made a 'B.A.' job of that." I might say that he said more than "B.A." So I have never been sure what "B.A." means.

Mr. President, I would like to take you to the district in which I live and show you the result of some of the advice given by our farm advisers. It has resulted in over-stocking. As a matter of fact, the R.S.P.C.A. should look into what is happening on some farms. If a person in the metropolitan area penned 1,000 chickens and starved them to death he would soon be in trouble with the R.S.P.C.A. However, in 1969 in my district one member of the farm advisory service lost 1,000 sheep. Although he may have put it down to all sorts of diseases such as white muscle disease, etc., one could only describe it as starvation. If Mr. Heitman or any other member in this Chamber with experience of farming saw what goes on in my area he would be absolutely disgusted.

One of the farmers in my district left school at an early age. His father died when he was only six years of age and his mother could not afford to continue his education. So he left school at the age of 13. However, in 1964 he mated 410 ewes and tailed 369 lambs. In 1965 he mated 390 ewes and tailed 404 lambs; in 1966 he mated 554 ewes and tailed 496 lambs. Then in 1967 he mated 708 ewes and tailed 606 lambs. He mated 784 ewes in 1968 and produced a total of 743 lambs. In the year 1969, which some people have referred to as a drought year in the West Arthur district, this man mated 704 ewes and produced 714 lambs.

Now, Mr. President, you have promised that you will come down to my area before long, and when you do I will show you the Mecca of the West—the Valley of Arcadia. The district I speak of has never in the history of the white man experienced a drought. In 1969 the spring rains cut off in many parts of the State, but not in the West Arthur district. My own son was selling hay at the time. He weighed a number of bales of hay to get his average weight, and he found that his hay crop yielded in excess of 2 tons. That was his first year of growing swan oats and his crop yielded in excess of 45 bushels. Yet some of the men of the farm advisory service spoke of that year as a drought year.

Eight or nine years ago I was in the top part of New South Wales where a real drought was experienced. However, we have never experienced a drought in the West Arthur district, unless it be a man-made drought as a result of someone placing six or seven sheep to the acre in a paddock which is capable of running only three or four sheep. So I consider that the farm advisers have not performed a service to farming in this State.

I was amazed to find that one of the clients of this service is a big businessman in this State. He owns a shop on the corner of London Court, a business in Fremantle, and another business in a new shopping complex at Waverley. He also has interests

in two businesses in Melbourne and in banks in South Australia. He applied for rural reconstruction aid. To me it is disgusting that a man with that sort of financial backing can apply for reconstruction aid. The scheme was set up to aid men who are genuine farmers with their backs to the wall—men who make their living from farming. Fortunately this man's application was refused, but this sort of thing goes on.

I would like to refer now to Collie and the situation which applies there. When we were in Government we were criticised about the length of our coal contracts. Mr. MacKinnon would know something about this because at one time he represented that area. We were criticised for building an oil-fired power station in Western Australia, and at the time the Labor Party promised that if it became the Government it would extend the term of the coal contracts, and that it would extend the Muja power station by the addition of an extra 240 megawatt generator. This was the promise made, and the people went to the polls and voted accordingly.

In the last issue of the *Collie Mail* there appeared an article written by the present Minister for Mines. I do not blame him for what he has written. He defined the present Government's policy, and he wound up the article in this way—

The present arrangement is businesslike in view of the special conditions outlined and as a result, with the present level of output, the employees have security of employment.

However, that is not what the Labor Party promised when it was in Opposition. That party promised to extend the life of the coal contracts. It also promised to expand the Muja power station, but it has not done so. In my book that is political dishonesty.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: This must be a bitter disappointment to the Miners' Union, which has been so loyal to the A.L.P.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: I am glad Mr. MacKinnon mentioned that, because the union has written to the Premier asking him to honour the promises he made. In reply Mr. May—and I have no grudge against him—outlined the Government policy, which is not to expand the Muja power station or to extend the life of the coal contracts.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Will the honourable member please quote the date of the issue of the *Collie Mail* to which he is referring?

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: This is the *Collie Mail* of Thursday, the 16th March, 1972. In view of the fact that the promises of the Labor Party have not been honoured, I challenge the Premier either to carry out his promises or to resign and tell the people the truth about what he intends to do, and fight an election on that issue.

I do not think it is good enough to make a promise to the Miners' Union in 1967 and not honour it. Since then at the last election Labor Party candidates produced propaganda about what a Labor Government if elected would do for Collie and the miners. I could show members that propaganda. However, the promise has not been fulfilled. I think the honest and decent thing for the Government to do is either to honour its promises to Collie or else to resign and tell the people the truth about its intentions. Then the people could make a decision. With those few remarks I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon.

*House adjourned at 8.11 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 22nd March, 1972

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

### QUESTIONS (50): ON NOTICE

#### 1. KELMSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

##### *Cost and Plans*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How much is the Kelmscott High School estimated to cost?
- (2) Will he let me have a ground plan of the site showing the placement of the buildings and recreational facilities for both the high and primary schools?
- (3) Will the Public Works Department day labour force be enlarged for this and other projects this year?
- (4) If "Yes" by how many?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) \$691,500.
  - (2) Plan is, with permission, hereby tabled.
  - (3) No.
  - (4) Answered by (3).
- The plan was tabled.*

#### 2. EDUCATION

##### *Bonded Teachers*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will he let me have the number of teachers under bond who have not left the department other than for sickness and like reasons and who have not been placed in teaching positions this year?
- (2) Will he break up the total as to how many who have applied for a position are unplaced from each of the five years involved?