

go, and if we are at risk of this strange exotic disease, the refuse could well pollute our underground water schemes. I do not think it would get to the aquifers, but it could pollute the water near the surface. I do not think that shire councils have the millions of dollars to throw around for this scheme.

I seem to be jumping all over the place, but I would like to mention the use of radar traps and unmarked cars by the Police Force. I am sorry that the Minister for Police is not in the House at present.

I feel the use of radar traps places many people in a humiliating situation. Luckily I have not been caught by one, but it is a sorry day when one finds grown men playing cops and robbers like little boys.

Mr Watt: The Minister for Police is here now.

Mr BATEMAN: I am glad that the Minister has returned. I believe this is the last country in the world to be using radar traps. One knows immediately that a trap is set up because car drivers flick their lights to each other. It is becoming a farce. I know many policemen are not happy about these traps, but they are paid to do a job. I am aware that the Minister for Police is dinkum in his desire to cut down the road toll, and anyone who can come up with an idea to this end would get a good hearing. Rather than have these policemen hiding behind walls and trees to catch the motorists, I believe they should be out on the road in marked vehicles.

I would like to suggest that we follow the *Vehicle Code* of the State of California. That State has abolished speed traps, and on page 544 the code reads as follows—

No evidence as to the speed of a vehicle upon a highway shall be admitted in any court upon the trial of any person for an alleged violation of this code when the evidence is based upon or obtained from or by the maintenance or use of a speed trap.

Testimony Based on Speed Trap.

In any prosecution under this code upon a charge involving the speed of a vehicle, any officer or other person shall be incompetent as a witness if the testimony is based upon or obtained from or by the maintenance or use of a speed trap.

The code then continues on about arresting officers. Policemen are paid a very good wage, and I feel as many as possible should be out on the road in marked cars. They will be doing a very useful job—the job they are paid for. I know when I see a traffic patrolman I look very smartly at my speedometer, and I am sure most people do the same.

I would like to see more patrolmen on the road, rather than hiding behind trees playing at cloak and dagger nonsense.

To conclude my speech in this debate, as I said earlier, the most important point I make is in regard to some assistance for urban farmers. They have a real problem, and I sincerely hope that the Minister for Local Government, through the committee he has formed, can come up with some useful suggestion which will assist them. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Young.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [11.18 p.m.]: Before I move the formal adjournment, could I mention something which I intended to refer to during question time; namely, to inform members that I will move a special adjournment tomorrow night in respect of Thursday. The intention is that on Thursday we will sit from 10.30 a.m. until 12.45 p.m., and from 2.00 p.m. until 3.30 p.m. This will allow us the same number of sitting hours as would normally be the case on a Thursday. Questions will be taken at a time that I will work out with you, Mr Speaker, having regard for their number on that day. With any reasonable co-operation, we will still finish at 3.30 p.m.

I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.19 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 26th March, 1975

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE

1.

PRAYER

Revised Form

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Minister for Justice:

I refer to Order of the Day No. 2 on today's notice paper in the name of Mr Heitman for the adoption of a revised form of prayer. In view of the fact that the last paragraph refers to the prayer being made in the name of

Jesus Christ and that such a prayer might not find favour with all religious persuasions, and in view of the desire of this Council to have a form of words which will find ecumenical favour, that is to say favour with all denominations, will the Minister consider giving further consideration to the form of words used in the prayer, in particular to the substitution of the words "Jesus Christ" by the words "Almighty God", so that the prayer will be made in the name of Almighty God and thus be more acceptable to persons of all religious persuasions?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

I am grateful to the honourable member for drawing this matter to my attention. I have also become aware that it has been made known to the mover of the motion and also to yourself, Mr President. In the light of the observation that has been made I think it is proper I make the suggestion or request that the Standing Orders Committee, which was responsible for the proposed form of prayer, give further consideration to the very point which Mr Medcalf has raised.

In making that suggestion or request I would likewise indicate it is not my intention to raise this matter in the orders of business for today.

2. PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION BOARD

Report on Future Role

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education:

Would the Minister inform me whether he has approached the Pre-school Education Board in respect of the report on the future role of the board? The Minister referred to this in the course of my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate yesterday.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

I think I have the purport of the question. Up till this morning I had not received any official communication from the Pre-school Education Board. I think it was about 12 o'clock noon today when a report and the copy of some minutes were delivered to my office. I have not read these and they are in my briefcase. If I have the opportunity I shall read them this afternoon. I am not sure of the reference by the honourable member to something I said yesterday.

QUESTIONS (13): ON NOTICE

1. TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Walcott-Beaufort Streets Intersection

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Traffic:

(1) Is the Minister aware that traffic lights at the intersection of Walcott and Beaufort Streets reflect in a shop window on the south side of the intersection, and drivers approaching from the Mt. Lawley subway see two sets of lights (the actual and the reflected signals)?

(2) Will the Minister have this problem examined?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) Yes. The Hon. Member will be advised of the outcome.

2. UNEMPLOYMENT

Shire of Gnowangerup

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Further to my question of the 18th March, 1975, in which I asked how many unemployed in this State had the qualifications to fill the vacancies available with the Gnowangerup Shire Council—

(1) Why is the information as to the number of people unemployed in each category not available?

(2) Are all unemployed with the wanted qualifications notified in writing of the vacancies available to their category both within the region and outside it?

(3) How long can unemployed continue to draw the dole if work is available in their category, but the worker has no desire to seek out that work but prefers to wait for similar employment to be available in the immediate vicinity of his home?

(4) Is financial support given to encourage the unemployed to travel either temporarily or permanently to where work is available?

(5) If the unemployed do not arrive at a situation which has been found for them at the appointed time, do benefits then cease?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) As the employment situation varies from day to day, it would be extremely difficult and of little value to endeavour to get this information.
- (2) Applicants are advised verbally of suitable vacancies in other areas. Under a central clearing house system, all regions are kept advised of total State-wide vacancies.
- (3) Depending on individual family circumstances and mobility, people are encouraged to move and take work of their type. The Commonwealth Employment Service is always anxious to place people in employment.
- (4) Yes—to the worker only. Financial support is also given for travel for interview and return where it is thought necessary.
- (5) All referrals are checked and if inadequate reasons are given a report is submitted to the Department of Social Security who generally terminate unemployment benefits.

3. PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS *Legislation*

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to ban the use of steel-jawed animal traps—
 - (a) throughout the State; or
 - (b) in the metropolitan area?
- (2) If so, when is it anticipated the legislation will be introduced?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) and (2) No. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture has agreed to amend the Vermin Act Regulations to restrict the use of steel jawed traps and it is understood that these are at present being drafted.

4. LAMB MARKETING BOARD *Commission to Producers*

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Agriculture:

If lambs are consigned to the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board direct, without going through a board agent (i.e. stock firm), is the producer credited with the commission otherwise given to the agent?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

The Board's current arrangements require that lambs be consigned through an agent of the Board. A commission is not incurred but agents are paid a service fee on a per-head basis for specified duties.

5. TRAFFIC LIGHTS *Angove-Charles Streets Intersection*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that motorists approaching the Angove and Charles Streets intersection from Perth are often faced with two sets of lights, one showing red and the other green?
- (2) Is he also aware that this fact is considered to have contributed to a number of accidents at the intersection?
- (3) Will the Minister advise what action, if any, is being taken to correct the problem?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) The matter will be investigated and the Hon. Member advised of the outcome.

6. STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION *Staff: Sick Leave*

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Electricity, Fuel and Energy:

Further to the answer to my question on the 19th March, 1975, concerning State Electricity staff—

- (1) What criterion is used in establishing "genuine medical need" before disclosing information to employees regarding accumulated sick-leave entitlements?
- (2) What relationship has a worker's medical needs to the question of divulging to him his *bona fide* award entitlements in this regard?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) An employee's explanation that he is needing medical treatment.
- (2) Award provisions give an employee entitlement on the grounds of personal ill health if he produces proof of his sickness to the satisfaction of his employer.

It is a responsibility of good management to prevent the abuse of award entitlements.

7. ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Meetings

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many properly constituted meetings of the Road Traffic Authority have been called so far?
- (2) Have all board members been present?
- (3) What has been the duration period of each meeting?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) Two.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) First meeting, 2½ hours; second meeting, 5½ hours.

8.

CATTLE

Tuberculosis

The PRESIDENT: In this question, to be asked of the Minister for Justice by the Hon. David Wordsworth, I do not know whether the report referred to is a Press report. If it is, I am obliged to point out it is not pertinent for members to ask a Minister to substantiate the accuracy of a Press report. I call on the Hon. David Wordsworth.

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: The report was claimed to have been made by a veterinarian residing in Singapore. My question, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Agriculture, is—

It has been reported that 17 out of 51 live cattle making up the first shipment from Fremantle to Singapore, died of tuberculosis—

- (a) Is this report correct; and
- (b) has a statement from the Western Australian Chief Veterinarian been made to prevent jeopardizing future trade?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) A Press statement by the Chief Veterinary Surgeon is in the process of being released this week.

9.

SWIMMING POOLS

Licensing

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Does the Government intend to introduce legislation to provide for the registration or licensing of private swimming pools?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "Yes" is it intended to set a registration or licence fee?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) Local Government Act Amendment Act No. 65 of 1974 amended Section 245A of the Local Government Act to allow by-laws to be made to require registration of private swimming pools and the Uniform Private Swimming Pool By-laws are in the course of amendment to require registration.
- (2) Yes.

10. ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Country Shires; Motor Vehicle Licences

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is there any question by the Road Traffic Authority that country shires may license vehicles within their shires if they so wish?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "No" what will be expected, as distinct from their previous practices, of those shires which continue to license?
- (3) What fee or proportion of licences collected are to be paid to the local authorities under question?
- (4) What security of continuity in the matter of licensing by local authorities will be given to shire councils by the Road Traffic Authority and/or the Minister?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) A daily return of vehicle license transactions is required to maintain a register of motor vehicles. Country Shires who retain vehicle licensing will be required to use standard stationery and forms.
- (3) The \$4.00 recording fee will be retained by the local authority.
- (4) Providing an agency is conducted to the satisfaction of the Authority, there should be no reason for withdrawal of delegated powers by the Road Traffic Authority.

11.

SEWERAGE

Ashfield

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a small, well-established area of houses in Ashfield—bounded by Margaret, Hardy, Mons and Pearson Streets—is not serviced with sewerage?
- (2) Will the Minister advise whether this area will be linked to the sewerage system when the Hamilton Street pumping station is completed?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) Yes. Some of the lots in the area referred to are unsewered.
- (2) Portion of the area will gravitate into the new pumping station referred to as Hamilton Street near Elder Parade and Villiers Street. The remainder of the area southwards of French Street will gravitate to a proposed neighbourhood pumping station. Neither reticulation into Hamilton Street Pumping Station nor the construction of the new pumping station has yet been programmed.

12. WATER SUPPLIES *Underground Sources*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Government has refused to make public the Fried Report on underground water supplies?
- (2) Has the City of Stirling been made aware of the contents of the report?
- (3) If the answer to (1) is "Yes", will he advise the reasons for the refusal?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

- (1) Yes, at this stage, but the Hon. Member could examine a copy on request to the General Manager of the Metropolitan Water Board.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The report is concerned with a study of the Hertha Road land fill site and is only of a preliminary nature and serves to indicate the need for further extensive studies associated with sanitary land fill. Implications of the report are still being studied by the Board and no purpose would be served in making the report available to the public at this stage.

13. BOLD PARK DEVELOPMENT *Examination*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Local Government:

Will the Minister report to the House the results of the joint Perth City Council/State Government examination of the development proposals for Bold Park?

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

The composition of the Study Group to conform to Parliament's request has been agreed with the Perth City Council. The complexity of the studies are such that a report could not be expected for many months.

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Twenty-five-year Term as Member

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West—Minister for Justice) [4.48 p.m.]: I respectfully ask leave of the House to make a statement.

The PRESIDENT: There being no dissentient voice, leave is granted.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: It has come to my attention, Mr President, that *The Western Australian Parliamentary Handbook*—a copy of which is in the possession of every member—discloses that on the 25th March, 1950, the Hon. Arthur Frederick Griffith was elected to Parliament.

That disclosure indicates that you, Sir, have served 25 years in this Parliament and that you are now commencing your next quarter century. I think it is most appropriate that I should make some acknowledgment of your service and have that acknowledgment recorded in view of your length of service, and the significance and value of that service to the State and to this Parliament throughout the past 25 years.

I would like to convey to you, Sir, my very best wishes—and I am sure I can include the best wishes of members of this Chamber—on your having achieved a quarter century in this Parliament, and also to acknowledge the services you have performed during this period.

May I also convey my very best personal wishes, and I am sure, the wishes of the Chamber, for your continued contribution to this House and the worthy office you hold.

THE HON. S. J. DELLAR (Lower North) [4.50 p.m.]: I would like to take this opportunity to join with the Minister for Justice, and in particular, on behalf of the members of the Opposition in this Chamber, to convey to you, Sir, our very best wishes and congratulations on your achieving this 25 years' service in the Parliament. We trust, of course, that you continue to serve the State as you have done.

In the short time I have been here you have demonstrated to me that you have learned a little in that time, and that you are only too willing to convey your knowledge to young and inexperienced members. My leader (the Hon. R. Thompson) has asked me to convey his best personal wishes. With those short remarks, we acknowledge your 25 years of service and wish you the very best in the future.

THE PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith): The honourable the Minister and the Hon. S. J. Dellar and members: I am obliged to admit that the Minister

caught me by surprise. I was aware that yesterday was my 25th anniversary, because someone reminded me of it. It is also the 25th anniversary of the Hon. the Speaker; he and I entered Parliament on the same day.

I had no idea of the purpose for which the Minister for Justice sought leave to make a ministerial statement. I acknowledge your kind remarks, Mr Minister, and yours, Mr Dellar, and thank you very much for remembering this important day in my life. I am not looking forward to another 25 years here. Thank you.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 25th March, on the following motion by the Hon. I. G. Pratt—

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. V. J. FERRY (South West) [4.52 p.m.]: I wish to support the motion before the House so ably moved by the Hon. Ian Pratt not many days ago. Before launching into a more personal topic I wish to bring before the House today, I would like to touch upon the progress of the debate in this House. To my reckoning the course of the debate on the traditional Address-in-Reply is following a somewhat similar pattern to that of previous years. It has been suggested during the debate so far that perhaps members have been somewhat reluctant to speak. I would remark that in my opinion this is not at all unusual.

In checking the number of speakers who have contributed so far, I find, according to my calculation, that I happen to be the seventh speaker on the main question. However, we must remember that an amendment was moved on an earlier day of the sitting to which there were some 11 speakers. Not unnaturally, of those 11 speakers to the amendment moved by the Opposition, seven were from the Opposition benches, and four were from the Government side of the House. Referring to the main question, we have had three speakers from the Government side and three speakers from the Opposition, and it appears that I will be the seventh to contribute to the debate on the main question. So I do not believe there is any real reluctance on the part of members to contribute to the traditional debate.

Other speakers will follow me, and from my own personal point of view, I request that they make their contributions early in the debate rather than perhaps run the risk of the debate folding up. I remind members that this is a traditional opportunity for members to express any views they care to on any particular subject. I am sure we all value this avenue of expression in the Chamber.

Now, Sir, I particularly want to mention today a topic which is very disturbing to me. I refer to the method by which some door-to-door salesmen operate. It has been my unfortunate experience in recent times to have had brought to my notice some very upsetting business transactions initiated by door-to-door salesmen, especially in the province which I have the privilege to represent. Of course the subject of door-to-door salesmen and transactions performed in this way is nothing new. I believe it has caused a great deal of concern to the citizens of this State, and more particularly to our legislators, over quite some time. I venture to suggest that the problem will be a continuing one.

My purpose today in raising this matter is, I hope, to alert various citizens throughout the State to some of the activities of what I consider to be very unethical operators. I will give an example of what has been going on, and I intend to name the company. I do this for a very good reason, as I believe the particular company is preying upon the frailties, in some cases of elderly people, particularly pensioners, and I am convinced in my own mind that it is also trading upon the good name of another company with a similar sounding title. I am referring to the activities of a company known as the Lux Vacuum Company. According to the business names registration which I examined at the Companies Office on the 6th March, 1975, this is a company carrying on the business of sales of vacuum cleaners, polishers, etc., and the sole person named in the registration of this company is Fergus Robin Bowerman, of 14 Clarence Street, Tuart Hill.

I understand that representatives of this particular company have been in the habit of calling on people at their homes and presenting themselves, quite correctly, as representing the Lux Vacuum Company. There is nothing wrong with that, so far as I can make out, except that when one states fairly quickly that one represents this company it does sound like Electrolux Pty. Ltd., which is a well known, and I believe, highly respected company in Australia. Accordingly the Lux Vacuum Company is endeavouring to use a similar name to cash in on the goodwill and reliability of Electrolux Pty. Ltd. In my opinion the Lux Vacuum Company is in fact operating within the law, although only just, but ethically it is very shady—and I use that word advisedly.

It has been brought to my notice that elderly people have signed contracts to purchase vacuum cleaners and have subsequently found to their horror and unhappiness that they could have purchased a similar machine at a much lower figure at their local retail store, and indeed, they could have obtained a much better trade-in price for their old machines.

I will refer to one particular example, and I will not mention the purchaser's name because I do not believe it would be fair for me to do that. However, I want to quote the type of transaction to which I refer. I will use just the one example, although I could use others. I believe this one example will suffice to illustrate to the House, and I hope, to the public of Western Australia, the type of activity to which some people are being subjected.

In this particular case, I understand a representative of the Lux Vacuum Company presented himself at a residence in the south-west and indicated he was in fact from the Lux Vacuum Company. However, the elderly person was of the opinion that he represented the Electrolux Company and accordingly allowed the salesman to gain entrance to the house. He asked to inspect the vacuum cleaner on the premises and the lady of the house thought it was probably all right, and obliged.

He proceeded to dismantle the vacuum cleaner and, during the course of his examination, he indicated that it was in a very dangerous electrical condition and could be dangerous to anyone operating it. He also claimed that the suction was not efficient and all in all said that the lady would be well advised to trade in that particular model and purchase one of his machines.

Accordingly, it came to pass that this person purchased the machine on the following basis: She was allowed a trade-in figure of \$44 on her old machine, which I understand was in very good condition and which was doing the job completely satisfactorily, and was required to pay a cash difference of \$65 for the purchase of a replacement. This meant a total book value of \$109. Of course, the trick was that the traded-in machine was working well and was not at all dangerous. So, the people handed over that machine in working order and signed a contract to pay \$65 in three instalments.

Eventually, they had second thoughts about the purchase of this particular article and made inquiries at their local retailers. To their dismay, they found that the machine they had purchased for the cash difference of \$65 in fact could have been purchased for \$52. In addition to paying \$13 more in cash for the new machine, they lost their perfectly good vacuum cleaner which they traded in. I understand that this is not illegal; there

is no ceiling price on appliances of this nature and therefore there is nothing wrong with that practice.

However, I understand there is a recommended price for these sorts of appliances and retailers can choose to nominate the price on which they wish to make a business deal. Naturally, the people who made the purchase were most upset about the matter. They were a pensioner and his wife and—too late I fear—brought it to my attention. I say, "I fear", although I am still hopeful that we will be able to retrieve the situation a little for this unfortunate couple.

I understand that the activities of the Lux Vacuum Company have been so widespread—they are operating in Mandurah, Busselton and Bunbury, and I have had reports that they have been to Kalgoorlie and Carnarvon and no doubt elsewhere—that local retailers have been prompted to comment. The situation was so grim in Bunbury that the local representative of Electrolux Pty. Ltd. saw fit to put out leaflets warning householders of the activities of the Lux Vacuum Company. The following is a pamphlet, warning residents of Bunbury, put out by Mr Laurie Biggs of 73 Stirling Street, Bunbury—

WARNING ! !

TO HOUSEHOLDERS

ESPECIALLY ELDERLY PERSONS

Currently canvassing in this area are a group of salesmen who on first contact give the impression that they represent the ELECTROLUX Company, they in fact work for the LUX VACUUM COMPANY in Perth.

They are not authorized ELECTROLUX AGENTS and any vacuum cleaner offered for sale by them will be either 2nd Hand (and in many cases 25 years old) or new machines of a different make, that can be purchased in most shops for around \$35.00. Any guarantee or service given or implied by them has NOTHING whatsoever to do with ELECTROLUX or your authorised agent—LAURIE BIGGS. ELDERLY PEOPLE ARE PRIME TARGETS

Several elderly people in the Bunbury area have been approached by these people, proper identification should be demanded from any person before any papers are signed.

In the Bunbury area your only authorized ELECTROLUX agent is LAURIE BIGGS. For service or the purchase of a new ELECTROLUX you should phone 21 2523.

LAURIE BIGGS
73 STIRLING ST,
BUNBURY

PHONE 21 2523

"WHERE SERVICE IS NOT MERELY
A WORD, BUT GIVEN"

That pamphlet illustrates the seriousness with which legitimate traders view the activities of this door-to-door sales company. To add emphasis to what I am saying, I should like to quote briefly from a letter written to me by the husband of the pensioner lady to whom I have just referred. His letter states—

I was not at home, when my wife was interviewed by a man, who claimed that he was a representative of the Lux vacuum cleaner Company, and asked my wife if he could see our Vacuum Cleaner, she naturally thought that he was from the Electra Lux Company, which we have had dealings with for years, and found them very honest in their dealings.

I arrived home and found this so called agent, with our Vacuum Cleaner taken apart. He stated to me that it was not in very good condition. He said this was wrong and something else was wrong. I thought at the time, that was very strange, because our machine was well cared for, not a blemish on, good as the day we bought it maybe only needed a drop of oil. I naturally trusted the man still thinking he was from the Electra Lux Company that he must be right.

He then introduced a new model from his van. I must admit it looked alright and was very effective, it was then my wife and I fell by the way side, we listened to his high powered sales talk, and it was not long then when he was reinforced by another high powered gent.

Well my wife being asthmatical and is allergic to dust. I thought it would be a reasonable buy.

We then signed on the dotted line, unfortunately.

The gentleman went on to relate the story which I have just told members and I do not think it is necessary to read the remainder. This illustrates, I believe, the point I am raising this afternoon. A company is deliberately taking advantage of the fact that its trading name is similar to a well-known and respected company; namely, Electrolux Pty. Ltd. I am aware that the Police Department has had the activities of this company under surveillance and I also understand that the Consumer Protection Bureau has taken a very active interest in its dealings.

As I mentioned earlier, I am not saying that this company is operating outside the law. What I am saying is that, by implication, it is associating itself with another firm with a similar sounding name. From my own inquiries, its representatives are more likely to approach elderly people, particularly pensioners, than other people. To my way of thinking, this is a scandalous way to do business. We all know that there are certain protections under the law from door-to-door sales contracts.

However, as we also realise, when a person presents himself to the door and offers something for sale, very often people forget all about the protection of the law. My plea is that if any citizen feels in any doubt whatsoever about any transaction he has had at his place of residence, he should seek the advice of, say, the Citizens Advice Bureau of WA Inc. This is a fairly accessible body which would be only too willing and able to give people the right advice and help them make a decision.

I realise of course that many business dealings are transacted at places of residence by all sorts of people and in most cases those transactions are conducted in a completely proper way and all parties are completely satisfied. I for one would not like to hamper the opportunity for salesmen to give service and for people to accept that service where they are completely satisfied. I think this is one of the aspects of our society which we hold dear.

But I do take the strongest exception to people who operate in a shady way and, in some instances, take advantage of those who, because of advancing years, decide to sign something where perhaps they would be better advised to obtain a second opinion, after which, if they are still satisfied, they can go ahead and sign.

It has been suggested to me, although unfortunately I have no proof, that on more than one occasion representatives of the Lux Vacuum Company have threatened physical violence to the purchasers of their appliances if they decide to take any legal action or enlist the aid and assistance of other people. I have been further informed that relatives of the purchasers of these appliances have also been threatened with physical violence and actions of that nature by representatives of this company. As I said, I have no proof of this except to say I am convinced in my own mind that the allegations have some substance. I just wish I could prove them.

I am quite satisfied that it is right and proper for me to mention these sorts of happenings in this House. We as representatives of the people surely have a right to speak on their behalf and offer them some glimmer of protection. I have no desire whatsoever to hinder the operations of the genuine door-to-door salesmen giving service in a genuine way. However, I feel that the people of this State would do themselves a favour if, when salesmen, particularly strangers, come to their door, they check their credibility carefully and do not sign any document whatsoever until they obtain some good and proper advice.

It is a recognised fact, of course, that with certain classes of goods sold door-to-door there is a cooling off period of seven days between the time of purchase and the time the purchaser is allowed to cancel the agreement. I have no doubt that that

option and privilege is exercised on a number of occasions. However, I am also aware that people have endeavoured to rescind contracts after the statutory period of seven days has expired without happy result.

For those who are aware of the cooling-off period, it is up to them to exercise their option. But I still come back to the point that we could well do without operators of this type in our community, particularly when they prey upon the frailties of elderly people who have worked darned hard throughout their lives to reach their advanced years. It is a shame that they are taken in by these high-powered unscrupulous dealers, for that is what they are.

I could instance another type of action where people go to places of residence in the country to sell their product or service. I mention the country area in particular because, although I am interested in all people I represent a country area and therefore have a special interest in country people. I instance the situation of the house painter who presents himself at a residence and claims he can do an excellent job of repainting the person's iron roof. He claims to use high quality paint, in some cases with an aluminium base or something of that nature, and the resident thinks that because he has all the correct apparatus and equipment, such as compressors, hoses, and the like, and looks the part, he is going to do a great job. So, they agree to have their house painted.

To their horror, they find that the paint used is of a most inferior quality and after the first shower of rain it begins to show the effects of wear. That is just another illustration of the practices to which I have referred. Here again, I have no desire to inhibit the operations of the genuine operator who gives great service.

All I want to do is to try to alert people to these activities and to say that if they are in any doubt whatsoever, particularly in regard to the signing of documents, they should seek some good advice and not sign anything until they are well satisfied that they are in fact doing the right thing by themselves. I support the motion.

THE HON. Lyla Elliott (North-East Metropolitan) [5.15 p.m.]: I support the motion. There are a number of matters I want to raise in this debate. Firstly I would like you, Mr Deputy President, and the members of this Chamber to imagine a busload of men, women, and children travelling to the Palm Sunday communion service which was held at Perry Lakes last Sunday as part of Celebration '75, to mark the beginning of Holy Week.

Let members imagine further that suddenly the bus is stopped and the passengers are dragged from the bus by men in uniform, after which they are brutally

pushed around and the men are thrown into vans for transportation to the nearest police station where they receive further brutal treatment.

I am sure the immediate reaction would be that such a thing could never happen in this State. It would appear, however, that a very similar incident did take place in this State on the 5th January this year at a place called Skull Creek just out of Laverton; the only difference being that instead of there being white people who were on their way to a Christian celebration they were Aboriginal people who were headed for a tribal celebration outside Wiluna.

Had these people been white the entire State would have been outraged at what had happened, and would have demanded justice for the injured people; but because they were Aboriginal people the State Government has refused to hold an open inquiry to establish the truth and to ensure that justice is done to the people concerned.

I have no doubt at all that there are many fine policemen throughout the State who are doing a very difficult job well and with compassion; but when serious allegations are made against the police of brutality such as that which occurred in the Skull Creek incident these allegations must be investigated thoroughly and publicly and justice must be done; otherwise how can we expect the Aboriginal people ever to develop respect for the laws of this State?

I would like you, Sir, and the members of this Chamber to listen to some of the allegations that were made in a taped interview which was conducted with some of the people involved by a reporter from the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The first interview was with a woman called Frankie Robertson, the wife of a truck driver who describes her encounter with the police who came out to meet them. This is what the women had to say on the taped interview which I have had typed—

That man twisted my arm, and I had a child in my arm, the young one, this is after they told my husband to drop the kids so that they could push him down on the ground, but instead of that he stood his ground, and they didn't like that so they just pushed him down, and I tried to get the kids off him and then the police came and I started to talk again you know telling them it was still the wrong person that they were looking for and they said "she is still talking smart" so they got me by the arm and they twisted me arm up the back, then one of the constables kned me in the back here, and they were trying to put me in jail, and one of the kids said "oh no you can't do that she's got kids let her go". They still had my arm tied up round

my back, so I said "let go of my arm," and one of the other police said "give her an uppercut for still being smart", and they put me in the car, and I told them to let me go and he wouldn't let me go so I said I am going to report all you police to the Community Welfare at Laverton, and I did and so the policeman said, if you report anything of what you've seen today, and what you've heard you are going to be a sorry woman.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: What was the name of the policeman?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: The name of the policeman is not given but the interview was conducted with one of the women who was involved in the incident. The second person interviewed was a person called Brian White, a part Aboriginal Laverton resident who was a bus driver. Incidentally I have not read the whole of the women's statement but only part of it. Brian White, a bus driver, had this to say—

I was in the gaol myself and then this was on Sunday afternoon, the police were bringing in everyone that was on the truck, and I could hear everyone shouting and screaming and the police were punching people, or it sounded as though they were inside the lockup van, and then they were marching them into the gaol one at a time, and as they were coming through, they were ripping their shirts off them and kicking them and punching them as if to brand them—anyone who came through the door.

These are the allegations that were taken on tape. I might be challenged as to whether or not they are correct, but in reply I would say that surely they are serious enough to warrant the State Government having a full and open inquiry as to what happened to the people who were gaoled; what serious charges were laid against them and what were the convictions. The fact is that the charges were dismissed because there was no evidence; but who were the people upset because they were dismissed? It was the defendants who were upset, because they wanted to tell their story in court and they were angry and bewildered because they could not do so. They demanded a full inquiry into the matter.

Mr John Huelln from the Aboriginal Legal Service who was also interviewed had this to say—

Eventually, because the police wouldn't give any date for the hearing, it was necessary to have the cases dismissed, and the police agreed on this but when we told the people they were so angry, they said they had been sold down the river by the white man's law. One man said I'm a law man, we are not going to take this,

we want to have our cases heard. We've been brutally treated and we want to be heard.

This would not appear to be the attitude of guilty people who have something to hide, but of people who felt a gross injustice had been done them.

I congratulate the Federal Government for deciding to appoint a Royal Commission to examine the Laverton incident, and I hope our State Government will accept the invitation that has been extended to it by Senator Cavanagh to be a party to a joint Federal/State Royal Commission. I notice reference is made to this aspect in tonight's *Daily News*, and I hope it will eventuate.

A further matter which concerns me and which is of great concern to the people of my electorate is a proposal contained in the Wilbur Smith report to replace the suburban railways with busways. I understand the report is being examined by a steering committee which will make recommendations to the Government on the report and I hope when the final recommendations are received and a decision is to be made, that the Government will reject any recommendation to destroy the railways.

I find it hard to understand the conclusions reached in the consortium's report because after pointing to the advantages of sinking and electrifying the railways and referring to the public comfort and environmental factors, it still recommends in favour of busways, because it will cost the State a little less. But this would be only in the short term. The plan will only take us to 1993. If the recommendations are going to take eight years to be fully operational—and this will take us to 1983—this means that the whole system will be in existence for only 10 years before there will have to be a complete re-evaluation of the transport needs of the city.

As the trends in other parts of the world seem to be towards railways one would assume that ultimately this would be the position here. There are 132 cities throughout the world that have rapid transit or underground railways in existence, under construction, or being planned.

The transport authorities in those countries must have been convinced of the great advantages of rail travel. Possibly top of the list of advantages would be passenger comfort. I do not think there is any doubt that trains are far more comfortable than buses. They are more roomy, and certainly allow for complete segregation of smokers and nonsmokers apart from which they provide a smoother ride; indeed, rail travel just about eliminates all the discomforts one finds in road travel. There can also be no comparison when one considers the ability of the railways to transport large numbers of people

One railway track can carry 300 000 persons per hour as against 2 000 persons per hour on a freeway lane.

The population growth statistics indicate that in the year 2005 we are expecting to have a population in this State of 1.89 million people, which would be approaching the proportions of the populations of the cities of Sydney and Melbourne at the moment. I am sure no-one would suggest that busways in those cities would be acceptable today.

One of the greatest concerns of the western world at the moment is the availability of fuel supplies, particularly of petroleum. An electric railway system would use local coal; it would not be dependent upon imported oil; a dependence which seems inevitable in the future and which has two disadvantages in a transport system relying on such fuel for transportation. The first disadvantage is that supplies could be cut off at the whim of the exporting country, and the second is that the price of oil could be increased sharply. Both these factors could have serious consequences on a public transport system which relied on the use of oil. Also if we are concerned with the overall conservation of fuel supplies and if we trace the energy transformation process of both systems back to their source—and I now refer to an electric passenger car as compared with a petrol car—we find that the petrol driven car requires $2\frac{1}{2}$ times more fuel than does the electric car.

Another question which concerns us more and more today is pollution of the atmosphere and noise pollution. With an electric railway, the city's air would not be polluted and if the railway were sunk or placed underground, we would eliminate noise at street level.

Unfortunately Governments in this country have allowed urban transport systems to run down so much by starving them of funds that people have been encouraged to use their own private vehicles, evidence of which we see in our own city in great numbers every day. The result, of course, is that the cities are becoming very congested and unless this trend is reversed the cities will eventually become hopelessly choked.

In Germany, 30 cities have banned private cars from the city centre, but we still encourage the use of private motor-cars.

In a recent report the Australian Department of Transport had this to say—

Per capita passenger travel on these (Australia's urban public transport systems) has declined by 35% in the 10 years to 1970/71. During that time there has been an assault on our cities by private motor vehicles which has created severe congestion and pollution problems. The 3 factors

which most influence how a person will travel are—convenience, comfort and cost. The cost differences to the user between the motor car and public transport are only marginal; but improvements for motorists compared with deterioration of public transport services has meant there is an ever widening gap in the relative comfort and convenience offered by each mode . . .

Further down the report continues—

High quality passenger trains are an essential ingredient in any plan to revitalise urban public transport . . .

So, on behalf of the thousands of people in my electorate who signed petitions supporting the suburban railways, once again I ask the Government to reject any proposals to destroy the system. If this Government wants to leave its mark with something for which future generations will thank it and applaud it, it should start now with the undergrounding, electrification, and modernisation of the suburban railways.

Since the opening of Parliament I have asked the Minister for Health a number of questions concerning the proposed women's health centre in Perth, and I must say that I was rather disappointed with the answers given by the Minister. On the 18th March I asked the Minister—

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that the Australian Government has granted \$52 985 towards a Women's Health and Community Centre to be established in Perth by the Women's Centre Action Group?

To which the reply was—

- (1) Yes, but the application to the Commonwealth Government was not made through the State Health Department.

I found that very hard to understand in view of the discussions I have had with the Women's Centre Action Group about the type of people it had consulted before it submitted its application. Part of another question on the 20th March was—

- (2) Is the Minister aware that—

- (a) the Women's Centre Action Group held discussions with the Commissioner of Public Health, the Secretary of the Public Health Department, the Director of the Health Education Council, the Director of Community Health Services, as well as other people involved in community health services, family planning, etc., concerning the submission of the application for Federal funding;

- (b) the official application was only lodged in September after consultations with, and

assistance from, officials of the Public Health Department;

The answer to both (a) and (b) was "Yes". On the 18th March I also asked the Minister—

... is the Minister aware that the centre may be lost to Perth because the Women's Centre Action Group has no other way of raising these funds?

The Minister replied—

(3) Arrangements for funding should have been considered before the Group approached the Commonwealth Government.

On the 20th March I asked the Minister whether he was aware that—

(c) the group was under the impression that it had done all things necessary in respect of the application, because it received no advice to the contrary during its discussions with these people;

The "these people" refers to the people mentioned in question (2) (a) asked on the same day.

The cost to the Government for this financial year would be only \$10 000 for the centre, representing \$7 000 for capital cost, which is 25 per cent, and \$3 000 for operating costs. I do not think this is much to ask for a project which will mean a great deal to the women of Perth and one which has received a tremendous amount of support from people involved in the medical field. I also asked the Minister on the 20th March whether he was aware that—

(f) the health services which would be provided by such a centre are badly needed in Perth;

Much to my surprise the Minister replied that he was not aware of this fact. I can assure him that such a centre is needed.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: On what grounds can you assure me?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: All the people interviewed by the group agreed that such a centre would be of great value to the women. Among the services it would provide, apart from gynaecology, would be a section to deal with women under emotional stress. Counselling and treatment would be provided for women who have problems in those areas. This is very important and it is an aspect which male doctors do not take seriously. They certainly have not taken it seriously in the past; I do not know whether they have changed their ideas recently.

It has been established that emotional disorders are serious complaints as far as women are concerned. Not so long ago a sociologist at the University of New South Wales undertook a survey and found that 83 per cent of all patients' doctors attending with emotional disorders were

housewives. In another survey which was reported in the *Medical Journal of Australia* on the 6th May, 1972, it was revealed that 14.7 per cent of women—that is, one in seven—take analgesics every day of their lives for such things as nerves, tension, headaches, and so on. The report concluded, therefore, that one in seven Australian women is an analgesic addict, which is a very serious state of affairs. This country has the highest statistics for kidney complaints in the world. The disease which people develop as a result of taking analgesics is called papillary necrosis and it has been established that we have the highest rate of the disease because of our consumption of analgesics. So it is a problem and is one which will be dealt with at the centre.

Also by way of question, I indicated that the Perth City Council had given approval for the premises to be operated as a centre, but the Minister replied that he had not received any official notification to this effect. I can assure him this is a fact, so we have reached the position where we have a Federal allocation of \$53 000, and the premises, which have been approved. All we are waiting for is \$10 000 from some source, and we hope that it will be received from the State Government.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: That is for the next few months. What follows next year?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: The amount required for the next three months for operating costs must be multiplied by four to obtain the total figure.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: That is a sizeable amount and it would set a precedent. It sounds very good.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: We are beginning to realise more and more the advantages of preventive health measures and that in the long run they are the most economical. Surely if we keep people out of hospital by getting the complaints early through the community health centres and treating people as outpatients so that they do not reach the stage where the complaint is so serious they must go into hospital—

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: But the centre will be run by whom? A lot of inexperienced people.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: This centre will be staffed by professional people.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: But under the control of a lot of inexperienced people. It is not an easy one, I can tell you.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: Why were these objections not raised by the Commissioner of Public Health and people like him with whom the Women's Centre Action Group held discussions? I am informed that the people with whom the group discussed the matter in the Public Health Department thought it an excellent idea and offered support to the group.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: I do not think they went that far. They talked to them.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: In Sir Charles Court's policy speech before the election we saw the following—

We will strongly encourage voluntary welfare agencies, providing financial aid and advice where required.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: We know what promises mean.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: When did they become a voluntary welfare agency?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: This is an ideal opportunity to honour that promise, so I appeal to the Minister for Health to prevail upon the Government to find the balance of funds necessary to enable the centre to get off the ground. This is International Women's Year and the Government would be making a contribution to that effort as well as to the welfare of the women of Perth.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: That doesn't impress me.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: In my last speech for 1974 I appealed to the Government to establish at the Community Development Centre a special section devoted entirely to educating the educators in the community on how to disseminate in the schools and in the community healthy attitudes on human sexuality and human relationships.

I subsequently received from Mr McNeill a written reply to the speech. The letter contained comments from the Minister for Health and I found them very encouraging. I do not know whether he meant what he said but I found it encouraging, because I felt he was supporting what I said about the need for such a centre. Again I want to stress the need for this centre to be established. We cannot fail to be alarmed at the increasing incidence of rape and other crimes of violence in the community and I believe that these crimes are symptoms of a society which is not very healthy mentally and one in which there is something seriously wrong with human relationships or the way human beings regard one another.

I do not believe it is good enough to utter expressions of horror and disgust and to have sympathy for the victims of rape and other crimes. What we should be doing is examining what is wrong with the society which produces the rapists and other criminals. We should be endeavouring to change the situation, but how are we to do this, unless we start with the children and the attitudes they develop which will determine the sort of citizens they become and how they will relate to other people?

I think there is an urgent need for the introduction of a total programme on subjects of human sexuality and human relationships in the education system, commencing in the primary schools. However, before this can be done, the teachers themselves must be equipped to handle the subjects. This seems to be the biggest problem at the moment and that is why I would like a comprehensive resource centre established at the Community Development Centre, which seems to be the appropriate place as it has access to all the experts who could assist in such a course, so that teachers, trainee teachers, medical students, trainee nurses, psychologists, social workers, and parents and citizens' groups and all those in the community who have a role to play in this area can receive proper professional training. I ask the Government to give this matter urgent consideration.

Since Parliament opened I have asked several questions of the Minister for Education and, to say the least, I have been very disappointed, if not insulted, by the replies I received.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: The quality of answers is very poor.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: Quite frankly, the Minister has treated my questions with contempt. He has not paid me the courtesy of properly investigating the questions I put to him. Yesterday I asked a series of questions about Western Australia's low position in the scale of expenditure by all States on building projects and claims for recurrent grants for disadvantaged schools. I really feel I got an insulting reply. It was—

(1) and (2) The figures quoted have obviously been derived from the statement tabled in Federal Parliament on Wednesday, 20th November, 1974.

That is not true. I obtained my figures from progress reports on programme administration and disadvantaged schools, published by the Schools Commission and dated the 31st December, 1974. Surely the people who advise the Minister have all these reports. They must have seen the figures I quoted in my question yesterday. Why give me this nonsense about a statement in the Federal Parliament on the 20th November? The answer continues—

The question asked refers to "The States Expenditure". It is to be pointed out, however, that the figures supplied by the Hon. Minister for Education, Mr K. E. Beazley, are on quite a different basis and the tables clearly indicate that they are for "Advances requested up to 18th November, 1974".

Where did this come from? Is the Government not aware of the table contained in the report dated the 31st December?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Had you mentioned that table we would have taken the answer from it. The only previous reference we had to that—

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: The same question—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think I put that on the Table of the House for you.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I have my own copy.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That tells a story because they are impossible to obtain in this State, yet you people can get them with the greatest of ease.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: Surely people can obtain a public document such as a report of the Schools Commission.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We had to write especially to Canberra to ask for one.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: My question referred to a report on programme administration of December, 1974. That would give the Minister an idea I was talking about figures for December, 1974, and not November. The answer then continues—

It is therefore unfortunate and quite misleading that the figures are now being used in quite a different context.

Having said that, and having criticised the Minister for not giving me credit for using up-to-date figures, I could not believe I would receive an answer like that from the Minister; so I went back to the report to check, to ensure I had not made a mistake. I found these were the figures for December, 1974. However, unfortunately—this would have to happen—there is a typographical error in the percentage for Western Australia.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is right.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: The Minister knows that?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Yes.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: It should be 27 per cent, not 17 per cent.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is right.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: However, it is still only 27 per cent. As at the 31st December the payments made or approved for building projects at disadvantaged schools in this State amounted to 27 per cent, which was the second lowest figure for all the States. Therefore my question is still valid.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It bears absolutely no relationship to the number of buildings put up.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I expected that from the Minister, but can he explain to me why the figure for Western Australia is so low? Surely we would be claiming as soon as the buildings are finished or as

soon as we can get our hands on the money. Why is this State right down to 27 per cent—the second lowest—while South Australia has claimed 90 per cent, Tasmania 58 per cent, New South Wales 42 per cent, and so on?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I daresay they have a different system of accountancy or a different Under-Treasurer. I do not make the claims.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: If this State is so concerned about its lack of funds—the Government is always grizzling that it has not enough money—it should be claiming the money if the work has been done. That is why I was trying to obtain information in my other question, which was also treated with contempt.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I treated it as a question which, at a rough estimate, would cost \$3 000 or \$4 000 to answer. I thought that was extravagant.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: Let us see some of the answers I received when trying to obtain information on the extent of the buildings which had been erected or even those which were planned. These are the answers I received—

- (1) to (4) There is ample evidence that major works are being undertaken under the Schools Commission Grants in schools widely spread throughout the State.

Big deal! What kind of an answer is that? Of course we know work is going on, but what does that answer tell me?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It tells you I am not going to spend \$3 000 or \$4 000 of the taxpayers' money on answering a question.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: The answer continues—

The Education Department has committed fully the grants available in all Schools Commission programmes.

That is a reasonable answer and the kind of information I was trying to obtain. It continues—

The essential task is to improve the conditions for students and this is being done to the satisfaction of Parents' and Citizens' Associations.

I know of a few parents and citizens' associations in my electorate which are not satisfied. The Tranby primary school has had nine demountable classrooms for 23 years and has been advised by the department that money has not been allocated to it.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is not on the list approved by the Schools Commission.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: It missed out on funds for disadvantaged schools, but what about general building grants? The general building grants are precisely

for this type of school, which is in a shocking condition. Some schools have a few demountable classrooms and the major part of their buildings are substantial buildings; but at the Tranby school the major part—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The short answer to your question is that we were left in a hell of a mess after three years of Labor administration.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: Rubbish! That is one example of a school which is not getting anything from the Schools Commission funds. That is why I asked the questions. I want to know where the money is going and which schools are getting the funds. I cannot imagine any school which is more deserving than Tranby school.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: We have some at Esperance.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: That may be so. I would like the Minister to tell me what type of work is being done. I think it is most unfair—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What percentage of the loan funds and capital works programme do you think was uncommitted when I took over the portfolio of Education?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I suppose the Minister expects me to answer off the top of my head.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Mr Dolan had committed about 95 per cent of it by the time I took over. That is the normal routine procedure. He did not do anything wrong; he was quite right.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: The final paragraph of the answer to my questions is—

To provide the detail requested would require what is regarded as unwarranted expenditure of considerable time by officers of three separate Departments to the impairment of efficiency of those Departments.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Quite right.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: In other words, the Minister is saying that as members of Parliament we are not entitled to seek this information.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think a line should be drawn.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: We are not to be given the facts, or even some of the facts. The Minister is not prepared to go even half way and give me some of the information. He gives me no information at all. I am somewhat concerned that his attitude might be to conceal from the people and the Opposition, who have a right to know, what is happening to these funds.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: At whatever expense?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I also asked the Minister—and it was completely ignored—

(2) Is the Minister aware that concern was expressed by the Schools Commission in its report on Programme Administration of December, 1974, at the direction and pace of the capital aspects of the disadvantaged schools programme in some States?

Surely the commission must have been referring to Western Australia, which is the second lowest.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is not, because that has no relationship to the building programme. It has relationship only to the claims lodged by the Under-Treasurer. If he likes to wait until the bills are paid before claiming, that is his business.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I cannot let this opportunity pass without protesting about the undemocratic, unfair, and unsatisfactory system of Parliament in this State. I refer to the bicameral system of Parliament in which both Houses are elected along party lines by people whose votes are unequal; some to the extent of 14 to one.

I am a little tired of being told this is a House of Review. When one looks at the figures it is found that is nonsense. Let us look at the amount of legislation which was defeated during the Tonkin Government's term of office. I will not deal with all the legislation which was destroyed by amendment. In 1971, four Bills were defeated in this Chamber; in 1972, seven Bills were defeated; and in 1973, in the last year of office, 12 Bills were rejected, making a total of 23 Bills.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Your party might have been quite glad to have some of those Bills defeated in the Legislative Council.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: Many other Bills were severely amended and they are not shown up in the total of those actually rejected.

In 1974, the first year of office of the present Liberal-Country Party Government, 88 Government Bills were introduced. Guess how many were passed: 88, much to our surprise.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: It was good legislation.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: No-one can tell me this is a House of Review. It is a most unsatisfactory and undemocratic set-up. I look forward to the day when the Labor Party has a majority—

The Hon. N. McNeill: How many Bills did you oppose?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: That did a lot of good when we have nine members out of 30! It does not matter how much logic we bring to bear, if we have not got the numbers we are wasting our breath.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: You would not come in on the beef Bill.

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I look forward to the day when the Labor Party has a constitutional majority in both this House and the Legislative Assembly, so that it can implement its policy of introducing into this State a unicameral Parliament—one House of Parliament to which the members are elected by people who have equal franchise, and not by the undemocratic system we have at the moment whereby one person's vote is worth 14 times the value of another person's vote. The referendum on daylight saving was the first time since 1933 that the people of this State had votes of equal value. Every person had one vote carrying equal weight. How different it was from parliamentary elections in which some votes are worth 14 times the value of others.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Would you describe a hypothetical unicameral Government which would operate?

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT: I believe it is time we introduced 20th century thinking into the electoral boundaries and the electoral rights of the citizens of this State. Until we have one vote-one value we cannot say that the members of both Chambers of this Parliament have been truly democratically elected.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: You can't describe the system.

THE HON. J. C. TOZER (North) [6.00 p.m.]: It gives me pleasure to rise to support the motion so ably moved by the Hon. I. G. Pratt. I am particularly disappointed at the criticism that has been made of the Governor's Speech when he opened Parliament on this occasion. It was my understanding that traditionally the Governor outlines the plans and performances of the Government. I believe that on this occasion he did exactly that.

The stated policy of the Court Government when it was elected to power 12 months ago was essentially an anti-centralist, resource development, and free enterprise policy. This is exactly what it is implementing; and it is not at all surprising that if in fact the Governor is to outline the plans and aspirations of the Government, clearly his Speech should reflect that point of view. Also, he must clearly reflect the frustration the Government may experience when such policies are being defeated by the actions of the Government in Canberra.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Poor old Charlie.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Quite frankly, I think the Governor's Speech was remarkably temperate.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: You couldn't say much about your performance.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: It really concerns me to hear in the debates in this House an insistence on comparing the performances of the rival parties.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: We are that far in front you can't catch up.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Although I do not wish to spend a great deal of time on this aspect, I would like to refer to three specific items introduced by the Hon. D. W. Cooley. We could make a long story of this, but I do not particularly want to do so.

Firstly, with regard to political appointments, I will outline a case which I think indicates the attitude of the Liberal Government and its Ministers. In 1972 a very well-known man in the north-west (Mr Angus Richardson) retired from the position of Chairman of the Port Hedland Port Authority through failing health. The Tonkin ALP Government promptly nominated and appointed Mr Jack Haynes, President of the Port Hedland branch of the ALP, to fill the vacancy on the authority. Mr Haynes is of sound character, but I emphasise that he was the president of the local branch of the Labor Party. He was one of many suitable persons available for the position.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: That didn't do anything for Port Hedland. I was making the point that your appointments are systematically destroying the arbitration system.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Since that time Mr Haynes was appointed to the post of Chairman of the Port Hedland Port Authority. In 1975 his position on the authority became vacant through the effluxion of time. The responsible Minister paid local members the courtesy of discussing the question with them, and the local members recommended that the man who seemed most suitable to fill the vacancy was Jack Haynes. Despite the fact that this is a most prestigious post in the community, a branch president of the ALP was appointed by the Minister for Works.

Moreover, it is generally considered in the Pilbara electorate that the same man has political aspirations. So, in fact, the three Liberal members of Parliament in the area have seen this man appointed to a very prestigious post in the community with the full knowledge that in two or five years' time they may have to contest an election with him. I believe that is a fair sort of attitude and one that is generally not departed from. If a man is suitable for the post he is appointed to it.

Sitting suspended from 6.06 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I now wish to speak of Darwin, the second item which justifies some comment. In the speech by Mr Cooley during the debate on the Address-in-Reply the other day, he praised the work of the trade unionists in Darwin and I support him in that praise. I do so because, early in January, I took the trouble to visit Darwin to see the damage caused and what was being done about it; there is no doubt that the part played by all people concerned with the reconstruction work in that town was magnificent.

I visited Darwin for the simple reason that I thought it was terribly important, in the interests of the people of the North Province, that someone should visit that town to ascertain what lessons could be learned. Strangely enough I have not heard of anyone from the Opposition side of the House or from another place who has made a similar visit to Darwin. I certainly did not see the member for Ascot there despite the fact that he styles himself as the shadow minister for the North-West, but perhaps he did not have the same interest as I did in visiting this devastated city.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Did the Minister for the North-West visit Darwin?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The electors of the North Province have been subjected to some criticism.

The Hon. R. Thompson: How many Ministers of the State Government went to Darwin if you consider it is of such importance?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: A good deal of criticism is levelled against the electors of the North Province by members such as the Hon. Don Cooley and now the Hon. Lyla Elliott. For some strange reason it seems that people assume that because an electorate or a province has a small number of electors, it naturally follows that they will return a Liberal member. However, I do not see the strange advantage that is enjoyed by a Liberal candidate because the number of electors in a province or an electorate happens to be small.

In the North Province 14 583 electors are on the roll which is a little different from the 7 000 mentioned by Mr Cooley whilst making his speech. In the Lower North Province there are 5 838 electors on the roll.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Not enough.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Does Mr Dellar feel embarrassed because he is representing this province which embraces 500 000 square miles?

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: I am proud of the fact.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I should say he would be proud of the fact, and I do not believe there is any substance in the

belief that because his province embraces such an area, the need for adequate representation is reduced.

The Boulder-Dundas electorate has 7 667 electors on the roll and it is represented by Mr Tom Hartrey. The Kalgoorlie electorate has 7 090 electors on the roll, this seat being held by Mr Tom Evans. The Pilbara electorate has well over 9 000 electors on the roll and that seat is not represented by a Labor member.

There seems to be a constant implication that some queer sort of gerrymandering is going on because the number of electors in a province or an electorate is not very great. I wonder whether Mr Claude Stubbs and Mr Ron Leeson are embarrassed over the fact that they have been elected to represent the South-East Province.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I could dispose of some 7 000 electors in my province and still win. I would like to share these people with you.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I think it is important for members such as Mr Cooley and Miss Elliott to think of the North Province and to realise that before 1968 it was represented, 100 per cent, by Labor members.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: It does not matter whether they are limited in number; the principle is the same.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: In 1968 the late Mr Jack Rhatigan represented the Kimberley electorate, but in that year he was beaten by Mr Alan Ridge, for the simple reason that the man who had occupied that particular seat had put up a poor performance. Mr Ridge has increased his majority in two subsequent elections. The electorate has not changed, but the representation has.

In 1974, Mr Arthur Bickerton, representing the Pilbara electorate, and Mr Jack Hunt, who represented the North Province in this House, were defeated. There are three simple reasons for their defeat. Firstly, it was poor representation; secondly, it was because of an inept State Labor Government, and, thirdly, they were beaten because of the disastrous policies of the Federal Government. The number of electors on the roll did not enter the question at all.

In 1971 Mr Bill Withers had the effrontery to defeat the nominee of the illustrious Hon. Frank Wise after he had retired. That candidate was defeated for the same reason.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Who beat George Brand in 1971? Was that for the same reason?

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: What was the name again? He spent a very short time in this House.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: All the seats of the North Province are held by Liberals, and these four members have been in fact, elected by a trade unionist community.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: The trade union movement has awakened to the Liberal Party.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Of the 14 500 electors in the North Province about 5 000 are members of the Australian Workers Union. There are 2 000 or 3 000 members of the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union, the Federated Engine Drivers' Union, the Electrical Trades Union, the Transport Workers Union, The Australian Society of Engineers, and other hard line unions affiliated with Trades Hall.

The Hon. R. Thompson: They are not affiliated with the Labor Party.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: As members know, the iron ore industry is a closed shop industry. In other words, the men employed in it must be members of trade unions, and at least three-quarters of this work force are trade unionists. I would be safe in saying that 85 per cent would be trade unionists, but because I do not wish to make an error, I have used 75 per cent. These are the people who tipped the ALP representatives out of this Chamber purely because they did not measure up personally or because of the policies of their party.

Before Opposition members start talking about packing this Chamber with Liberal members who represent these isolated areas, they want to assess the reasons why, in fact, Liberal members, and not ALP members are elected to this House. If the Labor Party produced competent representatives and sound policies the reverse could well be the case so far as the representative in the North Province is concerned.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Don't you think one vote, one value is equality for Australians?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I don't.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: My last word on this topic; I think the North-East Metropolitan Province has an area of approximately 50 square miles. It comprises mostly residential areas, a little industry and light industry, some small holdings on which the owners grow a few grapes, or fruit and vegetables. Some people also train race-horses there.

The 67 000 electors in the North-East Metropolitan Province live in an area that could be sunk in the harbour at Port Walcott.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You sound like a lay preacher making his first boo-boo in the pulpit. Do you know that?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He sounds good to me.

The Hon. R. Thompson: But is he making some blues, though?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The people in the North Province are involved largely in the mining industry. They are mining iron ore, tin, tantalite, manganese, copper, silver, zinc, lead, gold, antimony, and many other rarer minerals. There are people in the province who work in the pastoral industry and in the irrigated agricultural industry. Some are pearlers and some are fishermen. There are others who produce solar salt, barytes, and many other products.

The largest single secondary industrial plant in Western Australia is in the North Province at Cape Lambert. The iron ore industry has a further pellet plant at Dampier. The province has the largest port in Australia as far as tonnage handled is concerned. There are also 10 other ports in the North Province. Some are large, some are small; some are equipped with the most sophisticated handling equipment in the world. There are also eight major airports in the province. I have outlined these facts to illustrate the diversity of industry and activities in the North Province.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I can take you to Fremantle and discourse for an hour on the diversity of industry there.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: But we do not want to hear you; we want to hear what Mr Tozer has to say.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: There are over 9 000 trade unionists, working in 30 different areas, spread over one-third of a million square miles. No other region in Australia has a greater earning capacity than this province.

Therefore I find it impossible to believe that Mr Cooley is serious when he says he believes that the only factor that has to be taken into account in reasonable representation is the number of people who live in the region. I am sure he cannot be serious when he says that.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Has any of your electors ever said that their voting strength represents nine times that of my electors?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Mr Thompson should interview the trade union members and all the people who live in the North Province and try to convince them that there is any logic in the policy of one vote one value when applied to out-lying areas.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I asked you a question and you should answer it.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Don't be nasty!

The PRESIDENT: Order please! Surely when the Chair calls for order, order should be maintained. Mr Tozer.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I suggest that members of the Opposition should, in fact,

ask people in the north what they think of the idea of one man one vote, and I mean all the people including the people who may, traditionally, be aligned with the Opposition.

The Hon. R. Thompson: They would say that there should be an equal vote for everyone.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I am sorry I used that term; I meant to use the term used by Miss Elliott; that is, one vote one value.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: A silly idea!

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: What is wrong with it?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: As I have already mentioned, they are the three comments I wanted to make following the speech made by Mr Cooley the other day. I feel that Miss Elliott has introduced yet another aspect on much the same subject when she speaks of unicameral government.

I would now like to refer to two extracts from the newspapers. The first is from the leading article of *The West Australian* of the 6th October, 1972, when Mr Tonkin was Premier, which states—

The State Government's moves for a single-House Parliament and for changes in the Electoral Act are political window dressing.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: One cannot expect anything better from *The West Australian*.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: To continue with the leading article—

The Bill for an 81-seat unicameral Parliament would result in permanent political domination of country areas by the metropolitan area. Whatever the shortcomings of the Upper House have been from time to time, the Legislative Council's role as a house of review is too valuable to be discarded.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Even Queensland, with its dictator, has not found that to be so.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The leading article states further—

Neither this Bill nor the legislation to amend the Electoral Act should be entertained by Parliament.

I suggest *The West Australian* has never been biased towards country people, or those living in outlying areas.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: This is a very fair and unbiased newspaper.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I have heard you criticise it.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I would now like to refer to some comments by the previous Leader of the Opposition in this House, who is now the President. These were reported in *The West Australian* of the 16th March, 1972. The report is as follows—

Mr Griffith said it was convenient for some people to say that the Council had thwarted Government legislation, but the Council had proved itself as a safeguard for the people and played an essential part in debating legislation.

We all agree with the comments you made at the time, Mr President.

The Hon. R. Thompson: We do not all agree at all.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We all agree.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is his opinion.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He is a man who has had 25 years' experience as a member of this Parliament.

THE PRESIDENT: Mr Tozer has the floor.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The viewpoint of the Australian Labor Party has been propounded loud and clear over many years. Unfortunately one reference from which I would like to quote is not available to me now, but I think I am right in saying that the present Prime Minister (Mr Whitlam) when speaking in the Chifley Memorial Lecture in 1957 laid down a clear pattern of what was going to happen to democracy in Australia if he could influence the situation. He said firstly that the State legislatures should become unicameral; that the Commonwealth Senate should be abolished; and finally that State Parliaments should be abolished completely, so that there would be one Chamber in one Parliament located in Canberra, 2 000 miles from Perth. If this comes about in Australia it would indeed be a sad day for Western Australia, and particularly a sad day for the people of the North Province.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: And the people of the South-West Province.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The Legislative Council is a democratic necessity in guarding against errors in hastily-drafted Bills, and the corruptive influence of undivided power.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: It would be very good to adjust the powers of this Chamber along those lines.

The Hon. J. Heitman: You had the opportunity. However, the electors did not like it then and they have not liked it since.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: It is almost a year since the last election, and I think it is time to review some of the achievements of the present State Government.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: If we introduce a Bill to review the powers of this Chamber, will you support it?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Sometimes interjections and discussion between members on a subject are permitted, but normally they relate to the matter currently under discussion.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: I do not think you want to answer the question.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: It is timely for us to look at what the Court Government has done in respect of the North Province. I would like to discuss the changes that have been made since the electors in the North Province chose me to represent them.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: This will not take long to say.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: When I moved for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply on the 26th July last year I spoke on several matters, but my contribution really boiled down to the fact that I wanted the disincentives imposed on the people living in remote areas to be removed; and I wanted a close examination of the cost of basic services.

First of all I would like to refer to electricity charges. With a sympathetic and able Minister administering the portfolio of Electricity, we find that although it has been necessary to increase electricity charges twice in the metropolitan area during the period of office of the present Government, the policy of encouraging a measure of decentralisation has been implemented by the Minister. In point of fact, the increased charges for electricity have not been passed on to outlying areas.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Who started the scheme to assist the outlying areas?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The industrial and commercial rates for electricity in Port Hedland, Karratha, and similar places in the North Province are, in fact, identical with those applying in the metropolitan area; and the difference in the domestic rate is very small indeed.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Who started the scheme?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The gap is closing, and that is the objective which I, as a member representing the North Province, and the present Government of the State are seeking to achieve.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: You will not admit that it was the Tonkin Government that started the scheme.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: In respect of water rates, I am not too sure that we can claim the same success. However, the lack of success in this direction has been clearly misrepresented. The increase in water rates and charges for the metropolitan area was 30 per cent right across the board. Examining the figures that are being applied to country water supply schemes, we find that where the consumption is 150 000 gallons per year there is no increase in the rate; if the consumption is 200 000 gallons per year an additional charge of approximately 10 per cent is imposed. The next category might hurt some people, because where the consump-

tion is 250 000 gallons per year the additional charge is 45 per cent.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: That is imposed on people who waste water.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Where the consumption is 300 000 gallons per year the cost is two-thirds over and above the figure for last year. The scale was designed in an effort to discipline the people who waste water. We live in a dry country, and the Minister was forced to take punitive action to try to induce people to use water to the best advantage. In respect of more than 75 per cent of the people living in urban areas of the North Province, the gap is closing.

The unfortunate result is that a comparatively small proportion of the people, who are keen to improve the environment by growing trees and establishing lawns and gardens, are penalised. This makes me sad, but I think the situation can be corrected as time goes on. Clearly from my point of view the rate of \$2 per 1 000 gallons of water is far too great, but I believe this is a reflection on the climatic conditions in our region.

To continue with the basic services, some of these are controlled by the Commonwealth Government, and in this regard we cannot see improvements. As a matter of fact, the scales are tipping adversely against people living in outlying areas. The postal rate for a letter sent in an envelope which is not of the standard size is punitive; as are the telephone charges. Airport rentals have increased to a colossal degree. Who is paying the additional airport rentals? It is the people using the airports—the people of the North Province and other outlying areas.

The State capital works programme warrants quick reference. I do not want to set out in detail everything that has taken place, but it is interesting to examine the educational facilities which have been provided or are about to be provided. Firstly I refer to the establishment of a new primary school at South Hedland.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: When was the scheme started?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: A few months ago. That was why I made the qualification that they were nearly ready for occupancy. A new primary school is being erected at Karratha. I should have mentioned that the new school at South Hedland is being trebled in size for the next school year. A new primary school has also been established at One Arm Point.

Major extensions have been effected to the Port Hedland High School, the Karratha High School, the Derby District High School, the Paraburdoo District High School, and the Cook Point Primary School. The air-conditioning programme has been pushed along. At present air-conditioning for the schools at Port Hed-

land and Onslow is in course of installation. Advice from the Minister for Education indicates that this programme may well be completed in the next financial year as far as the North Province is affected.

In the field of medicine, a new wing is being added to the Derby Hospital, and considerable improvements are being carried out. In the last few months the North West Coastal Highway has been completed, and this is another great milestone that was originated by Sir David Brand when he was Premier and by Mr Hutchinson when he was Minister for Works. I am pleased to hear that the latter, like you Mr President, today celebrated his 25-year term as a member of this Parliament.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: You must admit that the Tonkin Government continued that programme.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The achievements in respect of urban development and housing programmes are surprising, particularly in view of the references we see in the Press which indicate the existence of a depressed situation in this regard. The spectacular tempo of development in South Hedland, Karratha, and Roebourne, undertaken by both private enterprise and the State is very welcome to those who are interested in the region.

In the mining towns we see continued growth; I refer to towns such as Newman, Goldsworthy, Shay Gap, and others. In the outlying areas we find completely new village concepts, one at Looma and another at One Arm Point, and next on the list is the one at Fitzroy Crossing.

Practical assistance has been provided to parents of school children from remote areas, and in this respect the Government has trebled the subsidy payable to hostels, or to the children residing in the hostels. At Port Hedland the subsidy has been increased from \$1.50 per week to \$6 per week for each student. In addition to that, a major cash grant has been made to the hostel at Port Hedland to offset the high operating costs. Furthermore, children from remote areas who attend high schools in central areas are now provided with three air fares per year free of charge.

Two items of legislation have relevance to the theme of decentralisation. The first is the setting of a maximum rate under an amendment to the Country Areas Water Supply Act, and the second is the relief that has been granted from pay-roll tax under the Assistance to Decentralized Industry Act.

I will return to the subject of decentralisation later with particular reference to decentralisation of Government. The Opposition is inclined to be critical of the role of our Government in the field of concern "for people". Apart from the improvements in education, medicine, hostel

subsidies, and such things, I think we can look at community health; a regional headquarters is being established at Port Hedland. Again, the State Government has committed itself to pay 25 per cent of the cost of a complete community health complex in South Hedland. Three community recreation officers have now been appointed and are stationed at Derby, Roebourne and Wyndham. A child care centre has been constructed at Derby. Open university learning and tertiary education is being implemented at Karratha, with the co-operation of Murdoch University and the Institute of Technology.

We have had a call for public participation in the study of the environment for the dam planned in the Fortescue valley. The west Pilbara water scheme serves the towns of Dampier, Karratha, Wickham, and the industries at Lambert and Dampier. Clearly, as time goes on that water supply will have to be augmented.

The Public Works Department has taken almost unprecedented action in calling on the public to take part in the environmental impact study which is being carried out. Alternative sites have been nominated at Gregory Gorge and Dogger Gorge. A document produced by the Public Works Department has been distributed and the impact of the water stored behind embankments of varying height at the alternative sites can be studied. The area affected will include the oasis-like ponds in the Millstream area. This study has been made public so that, in fact, people can make their contribution to the environmental impact study.

At present, the places I have mentioned are served by the west Pilbara water supply and they are consuming something in the order of 12.5 million cubic metres of water per year. If natural gas comes ashore and a petro-chemical complex is created the consumption will increase to over 100 million cubic metres per year by 1985. Even if the intransigence of Mr Whitlam and Mr Connor continues to deter and discourage development of the gas fields the increase in consumption will be threefold on what it is today by the year 1985 as a result of the normal growth pattern of the area.

Consumption will increase because of the existing iron ore industry, and the salt industry. Included in the iron ore industry, of course, is the processing which is now taking place in the area.

In the 1960s the Brand Government instituted a water resources study throughout the whole of the Pilbara. In 1974 the Pilbara Study Report emphasised the need for additional storage. The current study involving all engineering, hydrological, and environmental aspects must determine a favoured storage site in 1975 so that detailed study and documentation can continue to allow tenders to be called in, say, 1977. The work will then have to com-

mence after the "wet" in 1978 and to be completed by the end of 1979 in order that the dam can be filled in 1981. A programme scheduled along the lines I have just mentioned will avoid possible drastic impact on the Millstream aquifer and the physical environment of the area.

As I have already mentioned, an important factor is that the people who live in the Hamersley Ranges have been invited to state their case. I have little doubt that the Kennedy brothers of Millstream Station will have the most meaningful comments to make, but other people will be interested in coming forward and commenting particularly those living at Pannanonica, Tom Price and Paraburdoo.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: I trust the Government will take more notice of what the people have to say than they have in the case of the extension of the Kwinana freeway.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Members opposite must admit it is a tremendous record for the Government.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: It was said that the project was started in 1960, and completed in 11 months!

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I would now like to refer briefly to the Kimberley. The Government has come to grips with the study relating to the growing of sugar cane on the Ord and we hope the study will result in a major industry. It seems that over \$100 million will have to be invested in this case to provide mills and handling and loading facilities at Wyndham.

The beef cattle industry will come good and will continue to be the basic industry for the region. We were pleased with the Premier's undertaking that a temporary propping up of this industry will be made if it is at all possible.

Quite frankly, Mr President, the people of the North Province have no reason to be disconsolate about the performance of the year-old Court Government. A lot has been done but we all agree that much more has to be done. However, things seem to be pointing in the right direction.

I think I should now refer to the construction of a steelworks. This matter has been mentioned not only by His Excellency, but also by the Hon. I. G. Pratt and the Hon. R. Thompson. In this instance I find myself supporting Mr Thompson. I see the Pilbara as the obvious choice of a site for the construction of a steelworks. However, if it is proved by a feasibility study that it is premature to go to the Pilbara now, there is no doubt at all in my mind that the steelworks should be at Geraldton, Esperance, Albany, or some other country centre. Certainly, if there is a likelihood of a major steelworks being constructed, I believe we have a re-

markable lever to achieve real decentralisation and, quite frankly, I hope the choice will be the Pilbara region because that is where our resources are located.

If Mr Uren is serious when talking about growth centres and decentralised urban growth, the Commonwealth should make certain that prospects are attractive for the entrepreneurs—the people studying the establishment of a steel mill—somewhere other than in the Perth metropolitan area. The chance has never been greater than it is now.

While talking about the construction of the Fortescue Dam I mentioned the question of natural gas. Anyone who has read the Pilbara Study Report will have clearly observed the enormity of the impact on the Pilbara, on Western Australia, and on the whole of Australia, by the bringing ashore of natural gas from the fields lying out from Dampier. That gas is the linchpin of the whole industrial complex envisaged in the Pilbara study.

However, we are confronted with three main factors: Firstly, there is the Commonwealth claim to sovereignty over our submerged lands; secondly, there is the Canberra plan for the nationalised pipeline which will deprive Western Australia of gas for industry and power generation at landed price—plus a small margin, of course; and thirdly, there is the economic and financial restraints which are placed on all resource development by Mr Whitlam and his Government. It is not easy to say at this moment that we will ever see gas coming ashore and that is a sad and depressing state of affairs.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott spoke about the fact that we had an energy crisis and yet Australia is certainly not developing its natural resources of gas and oil. In fact, it is actively discouraging exploration and is sending away from this country the drilling capabilities we previously had. If ever we needed a twentieth century example of Nero fiddling while Rome burnt we only have to point to Mr Whitlam when we see these natural resources lying idle in the ground in the north of this State and just waiting for something to be done about them at a time of a worldwide fuel and energy shortage.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: I do not know how this horse keeps going, it gets flogged so much.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: This brings me to another point. I think most members in this Chamber have accepted the fact that the Hon. D. K. Dans is possibly our authority on maritime matters. However, I have to report that when he was speaking to the amendment to the Address-in-Reply recently, he misled the House on the question of the *Ocean Endeavour*, the semi-submersible oil rig now under construction.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: I hope the honourable member can prove his statement.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The rig now under construction is ideally suited for exploration and evaluation work in medium depth water—water between 400 and 700 feet deep. That depth of water encompasses fairly well all the proven prospects of our north-west shelf.

To illustrate the fact that the *Ocean Endeavour* is ideally suited for work off our coast we only have to look to the *Ocean Digger* which has been drilling in the area. It is also a semi-submersible drilling rig and has achieved outstanding results.

The *Ocean Endeavour* is a modern unit and it is self propelled. It will have a great capacity, but it will be costly to hire. Mr Dans referred to the fact that the only exploration which has been going on has been the putting down of wildcat holes which follow in the wake of seismic surveys. If the Commonwealth Government were to remove—or just relax—its deadening grasp the whole exploration and evaluation programme will spring to life again. The *Ocean Endeavour* is ideally suited for the drilling of holes relatively close together.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Holes have been put down at Dampier.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Obviously, Mr Claughton has not been listening to me because the *Ocean Endeavour* still happens to be under construction.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: The honourable member has been talking about Government policy.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Certainly, unless there is a change of Commonwealth Government policy nothing will be done. Wild cat exploration calls for the drilling of a hole at Timor, then one at Ashmore Reef, then at Angel Field off Dampier, and then, perhaps, a hole off the coast at Dongara. There are long distances between each location and usually only one hole is put down. The *Ocean Endeavour* will cost something in the order of \$65 000 per day to hire. Clearly, as it is an expensive rig it will be wasteful to have unproductive time involved while it is shifted all over the southern hemisphere. The rig is ideally suited for the step-out or evaluation holes that will be drilled as soon as the starting gun is fired. In other words, when it is stated that the *Ocean Endeavour* cannot be used on the north-west shelf, it is not because it is unsuitable but because of the Commonwealth Government policies. It is desperately needed but cannot be employed.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: What is there in the Australian Government policies that prevents it?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: It is because the Federal policies have removed every possible incentive.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Rubbish.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Today the detailed evaluation required to develop a producing oil or gas field—

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: There is nothing in its policy to prevent it.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Come on!

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I will come to decentralisation in more detail later when I wish to deal with the question of decentralised government. On the whole question of decentralisation, clearly there are some natural catalysts that will develop—natural gas is certainly one. It will have a colossal impact, and we must not forget—and I repeat what I said last July—we do not look at resource development as an end in itself, we look at it as a means to an end. It will bring the people to the area, which in turn will produce a reduced cost structure and the social amenities we all seek. Whether or not gas comes ashore quickly, the iron ore industry will boom—we will have more pellet plants, metalised agglomerate plants, and the ingot steel industry will provide raw steel to the blast furnaces of the world. It will be just so much quicker and easier if someone will let us get on with bringing the gas to the shore.

In the Kimberley we will have the rationalised beef industry associated with the irrigated areas. In the meantime there will be cash crops, and these could include sugar cane. The alumina project at the Mitchell Plateau will go.

In the long run the economic development that we seek for our north will come, even if not at the rate we may be looking for. Such development will create a climate that will make it economically satisfactory for people to come to the area and operate small businesses. This will make it a better place for people to live in. We will arrive at this situation eventually but it is a hard struggle and in the meantime we see young people come into the area seeking to settle there, but the high cost structure and economic restrictions make it impossible for them to make a go of it and they are forced to leave the region.

We can strive, and we can make small inroads with things like pay-roll tax exemption and cost of services. We can plug away at these things, but to coin a phrase, they are temporary palliatives.

When I moved the Address-in-Reply last year I made two comments. I want to read them again because I do not believe the situation has changed. Firstly, on page 8 I said—

We need to adopt a completely new philosophy towards the governing of a State covering a million square miles.

There has to be a positive and conscious desire to make decentralisation work. We must take deliberate action to remove the factors which make it unattractive for people to live in remote areas and which make it almost impossible for a small or middle sized service industry to survive.

And then on page 10 I said—

One would be excused for concluding that governments over the years had embarked on a deliberate policy to discourage people from establishing themselves in remote areas.

The requirement is quite clear—we must adopt positive measures aimed at eliminating the existing disabilities which react against the effective establishment of stable communities in isolated areas in northern Western Australia and other remote areas.

There must be a recognition that such stability is in the best interests of national development and State-wide progress.

We have fiddled along and so much has to be done.

When we discussed decentralisation legislation in November, I described the Victorian incentives for the establishment of industry away from the City of Melbourne. Quickly I will refer to the things provided by the Victorian Government: 100 per cent rebate of pay-roll tax; 100 per cent rebate on land tax; training allowances; rail freight subsidies; road transport concessions; plant transfer allowances; personnel transfer subsidies; housing finance, and 100 per cent Government support.

Last week the Hon. Bill Withers described incentives given by various countries he visited, and I sincerely thank him for providing this detailed information to the House and to me. I would like to refer to some of the incentives provided in other countries with isolated areas.

In India a tax holiday for two years is provided, and concessional rates for electricity. Pakistan provides for an accelerated depreciation for taxation purposes. We had this, too, in our mining industry, but our great Commonwealth Government removed it to the disadvantage of the small man in the industry—and to the big man as well.

In Russia we find that people who go to outlying areas are paid salary bonuses, and they receive freight concessions. In the Province of Ontario in Canada, Government-guaranteed loans are available to any commercial or industrial enterprise, at attractive interest rates, and, in point of fact, there is a five-year deferment of loan repayments.

In the Province of Manitoba capital grants are offered for the establishment

or extension of decentralised industry. These capital grants, according to Mr Withers, amount to 30 per cent of the capital cost involved. Attractive district allowances are paid.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: We've heard all this before.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: And a capital works grant is made to local authorities for approved community facilities.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is worth hearing it again.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: In the Province of Alberta, freight subsidies are provided as well as district allowances and salary incentives for private and other employees.

Alaska is orientated towards primary production and we find grants for fencing and clearing, grants for reafforestation, agricultural development subsidies, and cost-of-living grants.

In the remote areas of China, developers are classed as national heroes. Developers in the remote areas in the Philippines receive a tax holiday and a loan repayment deferment.

These are the areas in which Governments in Australia must take an interest. The Commonwealth Government must concern itself with the ideas of taxation holidays and taxation concessions generally. The question of capital grants is another area the Commonwealth Government should be looking at, and in fact, it should be underwriting the financial requirements of entrepreneurs who move to remote areas.

The State Government has to look at concessions on services, and, of course, district allowances. The private sector has a responsibility also, and indeed, we could say that it should be obliged to support local service industries. As a matter of fact, I would like to think that everyone in Australia viewed developers who go to outlying areas as national heroes, and treated them accordingly. It has to be important to develop, to do something about an empty country.

The strange part of it all is that in the long term the necessity for additional support will disappear; the need for things like taxation concessions will disappear. I believe that this time may not be as far off as we imagine in the Pilbara, although it may be a little further away in the Kimberley.

In speaking of decentralised Government, I wanted to look particularly at the Government structure that is being developed in Western Australia. In itself any action that is being taken by Government or proposed by Government will not be a sort of panacea that will cure all the ills of the regions. It has to be a collective effort of Commonwealth Government, State Government, shire councils,

and private enterprise. A complex and complicated set of circumstances has to be overcome, but it is essential for the State Government to implement the most effective structure that is practicable to try to help his process along the way.

The Liberal Party policy is quoted constantly to us by the Opposition. One particular matter that is included in the policy referred to a system of decentralised government, and included in this system would be the placing of officers in the field with the authority to make on-site decisions, to have some measure of autonomy away from head office in St. Georges' Terrace. I have criticised centralism in Canberra but for the last 12 years and I have also tended to be critical of centralisation in St. George's Terrace. I believe strongly that this is something we certainly have to depart from.

In Saturday's Press we read an advertisement inserted by the Government of Western Australia for a Regional Administrator for the Kimberley. This officer is to be based in Kununurra, and he is to have a salary of \$17 494, plus a district allowance.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: The eyes and ears of the Premier.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: In fact, this officer will come under the control of the Office of North West.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: I hope it is not another "job for the boys".

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: In this advertisement in Saturday's Press we have another step in the long, but somewhat spasmodic history of the special administrative set-ups, that have been created to cope with the peculiar circumstances existing in Western Australia's remote northern areas.

Perhaps, Mr President, you will forgive me if I outline a little of this interesting history. In 1922 Sir James Mitchell was the Premier of the Nationalist Government, and Sir Hal Colebatch was the Minister for the North-Western Territory. In 1922 a gentleman by the name of Geoffrey Drake-Brockman was appointed as Commissioner for the North-West.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Get to the point.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Geoffrey Drake-Brockman was given an executive task with a budget of £50 000 per annum. With this sum he was required to undertake all the engineering works in the northern part of the State. Up to that time the Public Works Department had not only looked after jetties, bridges, and water supplies, but also roads and associated matters. So Geoffrey Drake-Brockman was given £50 000 per annum and told that from then on the North-West Department would take over complete responsibility.

It is significant that this appointment was made by Sir James Mitchell, a

Nationalist Party Premier. In 1924 Phillip Collier led the Australian Labor Party to electoral victory. Within 12 months, Geoffrey Drake-Brockman was out of work and the North-West Department disappeared. During the campaign leading up to that election in 1924, Mr Collier had said that, if he came to office, he would dispense with that particular post, much to the chagrin of the people who lived and worked in the area.

I am not sure when the first Minister for the North-West was appointed; however, we know it was over half a century ago. Among the illustrious names that have been included in the list of Ministers for the North-West we find men who have been very well known in this Chamber such as the Hon. Frank Wise and the Hon. Harry Strickland. It was a difficult portfolio because no-one quite knew how to come to grips with the task.

In 1959, the Liberal-Country Party Government headed by Mr Brand, as he then was, came to power and Charles Court became the Minister for the North-West. For the first time we had a Minister who was prepared to grasp the nettle and see what could be done with this difficult task. One of the things he did from the administrative point of view was in the early 1960s to create the rather unusual post of Administrator of the North-West. He was a top-level officer, paid a salary equivalent to the permanent head of a department. He lived and worked in the region and had a very small staff in Derby, where he was based although his task was to travel widely throughout the region.

The Minister at the time gave him two principal directives. Firstly, there was to be no empire building; and, secondly, there was to be no encroachment on the function of any other statutory authority. The Administrator had a non-executive task; he had no executive authority whatsoever. He provided a co-ordinating factor between Government and local government; between Government and industry and between local government and industry, generally floating around somewhere in the middle, providing the co-ordination required among all facets of activity in the region.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Having tea parties.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: In making this appointment, the Minister for the North-West sought and obtained a man with a strong bias towards local government because this was the way the Administrator, in moving through this region, could get to the grass roots of what was going on in the region. The important factor was that the Administrator did in fact live in the region. He moved around regularly and not only absorbed great knowledge

but also developed an intimate "feel" for the nature of life and activity in the region.

When he went north the administrator had to establish three consultative councils, one in the Kimberley, one in the Pilbara, and one in the general Gascoyne area. These consultative councils were made up of representatives of shire councils and industry active in the region. Through these councils, the people of the region had a voice that would be taken directly to Government.

The administrator was chairman of the three consultative councils and recommendations made could be placed immediately before the Minister responsible for looking after the affairs of the north-west. This provided a direct channel of information relating to decisions and recommendations coming from the people throughout the region; similarly, Government through the Minister for the North-West could promulgate things down and outwards through the administrator to the representatives of the local authorities and industry active in the region.

It was not a perfect set-up at all; it was tailored to an era, when the north of Western Australia was almost a forgotten country. There is abundant evidence that the task done was an acceptable one; in many respects, good results were achieved.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Tell us one.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: In 1971, a change of Government occurred. Labor had returned to the Treasury benches, and the history of Geoffrey Drake-Brockman of nearly half a century before was repeated; within 12 months the axe had fallen and the administrator was out of work.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Before you go any further, we were most disappointed with your activities and the way you worked.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Although the structure which had been established was only small, as I mentioned, its impact was great; yet the entire structure was pulled down and the Department of the North-West disappeared from the map. Mr Graham became the Minister for the North-West, but for all practical purposes there was no Department of the North-West for a period of 18 months.

In 1973, Mr Bickerton, a long-term member for the Pilbara, took over this hollow north-west portfolio.

The Hon. R. Thompson: With a very hollow administrator.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I am talking of 1973, which was 18 months after the post of administrator had disappeared.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: It was a hollow administrator, all right!

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That made you feel a bit silly, did it not, Mr Thompson?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Many cynics in the North Province felt that the motivation for creating this new Office of the North-West under the control of a director was for the political gain that might come out of the move, rather than for considerations of the welfare of the people who lived in the north. If this were the case, the gambit failed because the Pilbara seat changed hands at the election in 1974.

In the new department, under a different Government, with a different set-up, the edicts that were laid down originally were not adhered to. As I have already mentioned, these edicts were, firstly, no empire building, and secondly, no encroachment on the function of any other statutory authority. What is more, the director of the department lived in the city which, personally, I feel was a fundamental error.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Do you think that was bad?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: Prior to Mr Graham becoming the Minister for the North-West he held the portfolio of Industrial Development and from these two portfolios he created the Department of Development and Decentralisation. The two posts of Director of the Department of Industrial Development and the Chairman of the North-West Planning and Co-ordinating Authority were combined to become the Co-ordinator of the Department of Development and Decentralisation. In effect, what Mr Graham did at that time was to formalise what had almost existed in an *ad hoc* manner before.

In the previous Government, the same Minister—a strong, purposeful Minister—was able to tie together the activities of the two departments. He was responsible for the Department of the North-West, the North-West Planning and Co-ordinating Authority and the Department of Industrial Development. However, Mr Graham took the action to formalise this arrangement.

I think I should mention that by this stage of time, with developments in nickel and bauxite, the prospect of mineral sands and other ventures in the south and the iron ore development in the Geraldton hinterland, the North-West Planning and Co-ordinating Authority in fact had started to evolve into a State planning and co-ordinating authority.

I am no admirer of the decisions made by Mr Graham all along the line; however, I will state that the creation of the Department of Development and Decentralisation under a co-ordinator, marrying together these functions I have described, had a great deal to commend it.

Referring back to the north, with the disappearance of the administrator, the consultative councils' activities had virtually lapsed. However, they were now resurrected under the name of zone de-

velopment committees and a sensible action was taken to marry into a State-wide system the old regional advisory committees, as they were known in the south-west, and the consultative councils. A Statewide system of zone development committees was created. Each of the chairmen of the zone development committees answered to the Co-ordinator of the Department of Development and Decentralisation and they became the general responsibility of the Minister.

I think it is interesting to look at some of the structure of the Department of Industrial Development. Decentralisation officers exist within the department usually with a specific geographic sphere of interest. One is now stationed in Geraldton and one in Albany. Unfortunately, these are relatively junior officers. I know these men personally and they are good, able, active, vigorous young men; however, they do not carry the stature that permits them to go to a shire council or a ward meeting of the Country Shire Councils' Association or to industry or anyone else and state with authority the policy of the Government.

The Hon. R. Thompson: After 12 months, has your Government not put that right?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: In fact, this is what I suggest will be occurring. In addition there are also in this department investigation officers, expert accountants, economists, and technical officers. In addition there are trained research officers who are part and parcel of this department. These people did exist in the Department of Industrial Development before 1972, they existed in the Department of Development and Decentralisation during the period of the Tonkin Government, and they still exist in the Department of Industrial Development now.

The Hon. R. Thompson: But are you going to put things right?

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: The post of Kimberley Regional Administrator is vacant and has been advertised. An appointment will be made, and what do we find? We find that this man will work under the direct control of the Director of the Office of the North-West. I have grave doubts as to whether this action is in the best interests of this State and decentralisation generally and I doubt whether it is in the best interests of regional administration in this State.

I recognise that any appointments made now will be flexible and subject to change and these changes will be made as time goes on to mould it to the most satisfactory arrangement. But I repeat: The regional administrator can have no executive authority. There no doubt that when considering irrigation channels, jetties, or water supplies, the only executive authority is vested in the Department of Public Works.

Similarly, the Main Roads Department is responsible for roads and bridges over roads. The Kimberley Regional Administrator will not be able to introduce an agricultural research programme or any educational research experimentation or a community welfare social study. Perforce, such actions must be the responsibility of the department that has that statutory function to carry them out.

I am quite sure in my own mind that the Kimberley Regional Administrator should have the responsibility for development and decentralisation under the co-ordinator. I believe that one of these able young decentralisation officers in the Superannuation building should be put on the Kimberley Regional Administrator's staff as soon as he takes up his post in Kununurra, so that he is in fact working up there and getting the feel of what industry needs. He would have a senior officer to refer to at any time so that the senior officer can speak—as the Premier has said he will—with the voice of the authority of the Government.

I suggest, perhaps not initially but as soon as time goes on, that at least one of these investigation officers will have to be moved from the Superannuation building and put up there. The time might come when a research officer has to go to Kununurra also, but this is not quite as clear-cut at this moment.

The Kimberley Regional Administrator must have the responsibility for administering the activities of the Kimberley Zone Development Committee which, as you know Sir, is made up of representation from local government and industry active in the region; and clearly this man must take note of the opinion of these people at the zone development committee meetings; therefore there is no doubt in my mind that he has to be responsible for them and be in fact their chairman.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I wonder whether your speech will make the north-west Press, because you have the distinct advantage of having emptied the Press gallery!

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: I think eventually we will have an integrated set-up throughout the State to develop this overall concept.

As I see it the real progress that is going to be made in granting autonomy in the field will be when the working departments do in fact have a senior officer in the region. What I am implying here is that there should be a regional officer in every region from every department. These are the men who, in fact, should be vested with the decision-making authority of which we hear. In many instances this will not be difficult.

For example the Main Roads Department has divisional engineers who are in fact vested with a large measure of authority. They prepare their own programme

and their own budget. This is presented to the commissioner who may amend it in some way to fit Statewide policy, but when it is approved it is thrown back to the divisional engineer and he is fully responsible for carrying it out.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley called attention to the state of the House.

Bells rung and a quorum formed.

The Hon. J. C. TOZER: As I was saying, the Main Roads Department needs no adjustment at all. Clearly the Public Works Department is a good example of where we need a regional engineer who will be senior enough to speak with the voice of authority for the activities of his department. The Police Department, of course, also has a district superintendent, and again there is little change needed; but other departments will have to plan to put a more senior officer, with regional authority, into the outlying regions.

It is the regional officers from all departments who will I believe form the regional planning and co-ordinating committee under the leadership of the Kimberley Regional Administrator. Again they will work closely with the zone development committees already in existence and, in turn, the Kimberley Regional Administrator will report directly to the co-ordinator in his role as Chairman of the State Planning and Co-ordinating Authority, so that there is integration between the activities of all regions as they are established.

In time there will be the eastern gold-fields region—which is a logical one—with Kalgoorlie as its centre, because we are seeing the nickel developments to the north as we see them to the south. This is a logical development zone we can see.

There will be other regions established such as the eastern wheatbelt, the great southern, Geraldton, the Gascoyne and, of course, the Pilbara; they will be comparable with that in the Kimberley though they cannot and will not be identical.

The important factor is that the Department of Development and Decentralisation has to become the co-ordinating body for these regional administrative groups. Centrally based to support these outlying officers, the technical officers, the research officers and the investigatory officers can be called upon when required.

If in fact it is considered necessary to provide a Kimberley Regional Administrator to override in any way any of the activities of the existing departments—which I believe is not practicable anyhow—what we should do as a Government is to ensure, in fact, that the departments are doing their respective jobs properly. I believe this concept of decentralised Government is quite essential. While what the Government has done now does not conform exactly with what I would like to see,

we are moving towards the same final objective, and thus it gets my vote.

I think it will contribute in some way to the stability of these regions and to my objective of making the whole area a better place in which to live and work, and one in which a man can run a small business at a profit. With this economic soundness, as I have mentioned so many times, will come the social recreational and cultural amenities we so badly seek.

There is one question you may ask, Sir, and that is: What becomes of the Office of the North-West? Really, once the Pilbara and Gascoyne regional administrators are appointed, it is not easy for me to see the Office of the North-West has a function. I see the scheme of things being governed by departments doing their jobs properly; the regional administrators providing leadership and co-ordination and, in addition, having the specific task of looking after things that have to be done to enhance the prospect of getting real development and decentralisation in the area.

One thing I failed to mention which clearly influences my conception of the overall structure of the Department of Industrial Development is that it has been illustrated by past experience, that the senior officer in the field needs the back-up and support of a departmental structure; he cannot function effectively if he is alone.

I believe that to continue the Office of the North-West when the three regional administrative set-ups have been established would not be in the best interests of the north-west; indeed I am inclined to think it may be counterproductive. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

THE HON. A. A. LEWIS (Lower Central) [8.55 p.m.]: I am glad to support the motion moved by the Hon. Ian Pratt, and I am also glad that the Leader of the Opposition is in the House, because this evening I would first like to dispose of some of the inaccuracies in his contribution to this debate.

The Hon. R. Thompson: In your opinion.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member cannot interject while he is walking to his seat.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: His interjection was probably better than his speech.

The PRESIDENT: Order, please.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Leader of the Opposition had the gall to talk about inexperienced Ministers, puppets, one-man bands, and so on. I had a look at the *Parliamentary Handbook*, and I find that there is one Minister on the front bench—the Minister for Education—who served as a Minister from the 16th March, 1965 until the 3rd March, 1971, and from the

8th April, 1974 until the present date; and with any luck for this State he will serve for another nine or 10 years.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Heaven forbid.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I find that the Leader of the Opposition has served as a Minister from the 7th February, 1973 to the 8th April, 1974, and he has the gall to talk about inexperience. I believe this has shown up quite clearly throughout the honourable member's speech.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I said you were a slow learner.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Leader of the Opposition talked about one-man bands, and he talked about being hard on the Minister; which I hope he will, because we on the back benches will be hard on the Minister as we expect him to do a good job.

The Leader of the Opposition talked about rank and file members—not back-benchers—and I took a fair bit of exception to that, because I did not notice the Leader of the Opposition supporting me when I opposed some of the Government's legislation in this place during the last session. He was very undecided which way he should vote.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You were supporting private investment.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: These expressions seem to represent the dogma of the Labor Party. The Leader of the Opposition also said that "Lewis, particularly, was elected on the platform of Commonwealth-State relations." Lewis was elected because the electorate thought he was the best man for the job; he was not elected on the platform of Commonwealth-State relations, but on special ability.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Don't you subscribe to the Liberal Party Policy?

The Hon. R. Thompson: Which Lewis are you talking about?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am talking about the honourable member who is on his feet in this House. I would not call the gentleman in New South Wales "Lewis"; I would call him the Premier of New South Wales; not "Lewis" as Mr Cooley did.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You would not call him what you called the Prime Minister last year.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Certainly not, because he is much more capable than the Prime Minister.

The Hon. R. Thompson: He is a lot more capable than his brother.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is a matter for my electorate and my leader to decide. I do not think that the Leader of the Opposition, or Mr Cooley, or Mr Leeson will ever attain a position where they will lead; they will always follow, like sheep.

I know something about sheep so I can recognise them when I see them.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You should.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let me say that Mr A. A. Lewis was elected on Liberal Party policies for which he stands—and stands staunchly. I am very happy to stand by them because the policies have initiative and represent private enterprise and co-operation with a Commonwealth and with a Commonwealth Government, if co-operation is in the slightest way possible; and this appears to me to be getting to the really remote stage at present because like all Labor Party dogma the policy in Canberra is instruction from Canberra and no co-operation. Day after day we see this sort of instruction come down. It is amazing to hear it or to read Press releases from Canberra and then hear members opposite parrot them within the next few days.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Can you tell us when the Liberal Party will put its policy into operation?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Another interesting comment made by the Leader of the Opposition—

The Hon. R. Thompson: They are all good and they are all very interesting.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: —was when he quoted from the Liberal Party policy and then said in his speech that the policy was designed because the Federal Government had brought out the Karmel report. His remark amazed me because the Karmel report was brought out before Sir Charles Court's Government assumed office.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I said we put the Karmel report into operation. Don't twist my words.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: This dastardly Liberal Party, according to the Leader of the Opposition, based its policy on the Karmel report. I did not know the ALP was a slow learner but the Leader of the Opposition admitted this because the ALP could not get into office in this State. With the leadership it has here and in another place it could not get a policy which took advantage of what the Commonwealth Government said. The Leader of the Opposition has admitted this in his own speech. As far as the leadership goes, I am left very nearly speechless.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Did you refer to the dastardly Liberal Party?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I was referring to the opinion of the Leader of the Opposition. If Mr Cooley would listen—and if he needs some cotton buds I can get some for him—we could get on with the debate a lot quicker. The hour is getting on and I do not want to delay the House for any undue time.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You do not want to bore us.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I want to complete my speech as quickly as possible so a member opposite can have a word to say.

We also heard the Leader of the Opposition on the subject of shortages, and I could not agree more that at certain times there are shortages. The following are some headlines which appeared in the Press—

Farmers must wait for key machines
Goods shortages hit Western Australia
Tonkin sees no acute shortages.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Can you tell us the dates?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes, I will in a moment. I have some more headings as follows—

Industries hit by shortage
Goods shortage hits all the State.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Where did you read them—in the Mookinbudin paper?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Another is, "Shortages stunting industrial growth".

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Did you write all the articles?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I have here an amendment to a motion which was moved by Mr Thompson.

The Hon. R. Thompson: A very good, constructive amendment.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Leader of the Opposition talked about shortages and said there were no shortages previously, which I understood to mean there were no shortages before the present Government came into office.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is right.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let us have a look at the dates on these Press releases. The first was, "Farmers must wait for key machines". That was published on the 30th October, 1973.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Will the honourable member please state the name of the newspaper from which he is quoting?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I think it is the *Daily News*, but I am quite prepared to table these articles.

The PRESIDENT: When quoting from Press reports the honourable member should identify them.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The article headed "Shortages stunting industrial growth" was in *The West Australian* on the 31st October, 1973.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: This was during Labor administration?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Who said this? Sandy Lewis?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Automotive Chamber of Commerce referred to the shortages stunting industrial growth. A firm called Chamberlain-Deere stated that farmers must wait for key machines.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You know what happened in that firm. It threatened to put off 1 400 employees. You know that, and that is private enterprise.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: "Shortages hit State" was again stated by Chamberlain-Deere in *The West Australian* on the 7th October, 1973. Another statement, "Industries hit by shortage: Downturn in heavy engineering work" appeared in *The Sunday Times* on the 25th November, 1973, and was said by the President of the Chamber of Manufactures.

The Hon. J. Heitman: It must have been a bad year for the Labor Government.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That "Tonkin" to which you referred meant J. T. Tonkin or A. R. Tonkin?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It was J. T. Tonkin, the ex-Premier of this State.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The best one yet.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If we refer back to the debates in *Hansard* we find that the now Premier was told by the then Premier that he knew of no shortages.

On the 25th October, 1973, the then member for Blackwood had a few words to say in another place about shortages. All I am trying to prove—

The Hon. R. Thompson: I have been waiting for this.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: —is that the Leader of the Opposition was trying to tell us that previously—I understood that to mean during the previous Administration—there were no shortages, but it was pointed out to the Government, of which he was a member, where the shortages were. The shortages at that time were far greater than they are today and he again has the gall to get up in this House—

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: Who says this?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am saying it right now.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: You do not know what you are talking about.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Yes he does.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: You would not know.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He has just quoted the proof.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The contention of the Leader of the Opposition was that previously there were no shortages. I am only debating that previously there were shortages and they were pointed out to the Government of which the Leader of the Opposition was a member. With his innocence and comparative newness to the Cabinet he may not have realised at that stage that there were shortages, but I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that there were shortages, and some of us in this House have a recollection of what happened in the Tonkin regime. It is

very easy in Opposition to slate people and tell them they are inefficient, inexperienced, and everything else.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is easy when you know the facts and are correct.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I wish when speeches are made in this House that a few facts were adhered to.

Now let me move to the Leader of the Opposition's solution for the beef industry; that is, Government guarantees.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is right.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I just wonder whether any responsible Government would make a guarantee to one particular industry when that guarantee would approximate one-third the total Budget of this State, because in my belief and that of those with far more knowledge than I have, that guarantee would have to be about one-third of the Budget of this State. I do not believe any responsible Treasurer could—

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: You are talking about the whole of Australia.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: With due deference to Mr Leeson I am talking about this State. What Mr Leeson is talking about no-one would know, but surely I am allowed to say what I believe and I believe it would cost one-third of this State's total Budget.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: It would only cost \$130 million for the whole of Australia.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: When are you going to start your speech?

The Hon. G. E. Masters: It is the best we have heard this year.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is as well I made a speech or you would not have had anything to say.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If I may continue?

The PRESIDENT: You may continue.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Thank you very much, Sir. I will move now to several new subjects, but before I do I would like to make another comment. The Leader of the Opposition talked about rural affairs. I will not knock the Federal Government just for the sake of knocking it, but it is amazing that the ALP has to have a ballet to elect its leaders. They dance around an awful lot. From our own *Rural Labor Bulletin* comes the following—

In the caucus ballet following the resignation of Mr. Lionel Murphy from the Senate, Senator Ken Wriedt, Minister for Agriculture, was elected Government Leader in the Senate.

That just about sums up what the ALP members do about everything. They dance around and never stand in one spot because they are frightened someone might grab them!

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is the most unified party in Australia.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let me now move on to a subject which everyone knows is very dear to my heart; that is, rural marketing.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: Do you know anything about it?

The Hon. R. Thompson: He does not know anything about anything.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The honourable member will have his chance to refute what I say if he wishes.

The Hon. R. Thompson: If you say anything.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I believe, as do many members in this House, that the problems besetting the rural industries at this moment are mainly due to the fact that successive Governments—and I absolve no Government from the blame on this—have never taken any direct action on marketing in this country. Unfortunately the producer is led into the situation of having boards thrust down his throat as the only alternative to the private enterprise system.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I think you would find, in all fairness, that the producers have requested the boards more times than they have had them thrust on them.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I could not agree more, but they have had no viable alternative presented to them.

The Hon. R. Thompson: They have requested them mainly.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes, by referendum mostly. I am absolving no Government from this. All successive Governments have let down our major industry in this State—the rural industry—by their approach.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is a private enterprise system we have worked under all these years, and it has failed.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If I may just comment on that interjection, I do not believe boards are a private enterprise system and if the Leader of the Opposition will hold on I will read some alternatives because I am trying to make some constructive, accurate—

The Hon. R. Thompson: I am agreeing with you.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: —contribution to this debate as I believe this is of great importance to rural industries now and in the future.

An interesting lecture was given by Keith Campbell at the University of Sydney and was printed in the *Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics* in December, 1973. I am afraid the quote is

rather long, but worth while. He talks about the changes in market structure and then says—

Some of the producer disenchantment with marketing boards, particularly overseas, seems to stem not so much from dissatisfaction with the results of or prospect of political intervention as from a questioning whether State-wide or country-wide marketing boards are likely to be satisfactory, given the structural changes which are currently going on in agricultural markets. Not only are large and efficient producers making their appearance, but there is increasing concentration in the wholesaling, processing and retailing sectors. There is a rising volume of specification buying and evidence of concerted efforts to integrate production and marketing functions by contractual arrangements and the like. Larger, more commercially-oriented producers operating individually or in concert with other like-minded people in voluntary marketing associations have demonstrated to their own satisfaction that there are premiums to be achieved by direct decentralized negotiation with marketing firms.

They claim that statutory boards through their lack of flexibility and their commitment to treat all producers alike—

This is probably one of the greatest problems of boards, that in their functions they cannot differentiate between quality and types of producer. To continue—

—can stand in the way of improvements in marketing which would be to the community's advantage.

Where a marketing board already exists or a large number of small producers are intent on establishing a board, it is difficult for a relatively few large producers to get the independence they desire. There have been substantial difficulties in the United Kingdom egg industry.

I will quote one paragraph from the conclusion—

It is evident nonetheless that most farmers generally have a poor appreciation of the limits to the market power which the producer-managed boards may exercise and the gains in prices which they may achieve. At the time of the original ballot, producers usually have no idea how the board will carry out its functions if it is brought into being. Moreover, farmers are still prone to seek relief from low-income problems by market reorganization when the problem is essentially one of structural disequilibrium in the production sector.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I worked for three years on behalf of producers to get rid of an ineffective board. It took me three years to do it but I eventually got rid of it. If those boards are inefficient, you should do the same thing.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You did it with the help of the Liberal Party.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Mr Clive Griffiths agreed with me.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I can see I will have one person on my side when we start to look at marketing and the selling of our produce.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: I would get rid of the lot of them.

The Hon. R. Thompson: So long as you are looking at the welfare of the producer I would agree with you, but if you are looking at the welfare of vested interests I would not agree with you.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I would imagine the producer has a vested interest because he has an interest in the product he is selling. We have the emphasis on vested interests again. The producer, of course, has a vested interest as the Leader of the Opposition knows, and I believe he should have a vested interest.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is quite legitimate.

The Hon. R. Thompson: They have not got a vested interest at the moment it goes onto the market floor.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Until it is sold in the market the producer has a vested interest, and I believe his job is to market his produce. But let me make one suggestion for the consideration of the House. I refer to the Canadian Wheat Board's scheme. I am not opposed to producer representatives but I have always felt the top people in any marketing board should be marketers—salesmen, if one likes. The Canadians have five administrators who are paid personnel. They have degrees in commerce, law, and what-have-you, but they are appointed to the board by the Governor-in-Council and their function is marketing. There is then an 11-man advisory committee which advises the administrators on the wishes of the producers and what the producers are doing.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Do you think the idea might have application to local government in Western Australia?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I was not thinking of selling local government. I would give it more help rather than sell it. I am thinking of grains and agricultural products, so I will get back to the Canadian Wheat Board. The advisory committee is appointed by the Minister and has its own chairman. About once a month the advisory committee meets the

commissioners. Another interesting point is that the commissioners are then responsible to the Minister. The Government sets the price.

One of the problems I have observed in grain marketing in this country is that the prices of wheat, oats, barley, lupins, and even rapeseed and other small seeds appear to be directly related to one another, as they are indirectly related to the prices of beef, wool, mutton, and lamb. I therefore believe the Canadian system, under which the commissioners make the decision in regard to an integrated price for all grains, is very sound and would be of great benefit in this country.

As I said, the initial price paid to the grower on delivery is set by the Government. The board is working to obtain the maximum profit for the producer on prices and payments to the grower for foodstuffs which have been sold. An interesting sidelight is that the board maintains offices in Tokyo, London, and Brussels. The commissioners travel the world contacting Government agencies and private traders and they allow private traders to deal for them.

The Hon. R. Thompson: How long has it been in existence?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I cannot answer that but I believe—

The Hon. R. Thompson: You can tell me privately afterwards.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It has been going for quite a time.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I would like to read those articles.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Leader of the Opposition may do so.

Information packages are available for distribution in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish. Some information is also prepared in Chinese, Dutch, and Russian. This appears to be a proper marketing organisation; it is going out to sell the product. The development of a market is more complex than a visit with a packet of information. This process will be dealt with in a later issue of the journal. The article goes on to talk about international trading, trading between private traders, and Government contractual business.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Our Wheat Board operates in a similar manner, does it not?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I do not really believe it does. I will not drag in the Australian Wheat Board because that is only one segment of marketing, in which I believe producers intermingle with marketers, Government nominees, and what-have-you, instead of the marketers being the prime and most important people in the whole set-up. If they cannot sell the product it is of no use their meeting the

producers. I have not explained it very well but I think this is the roundabout problem we have in Australia today. Marketers have not gone out and striven for markets and we then experience problems locally because we have no markets for which to produce.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: In other words, it is the same as the milk vendor being the most important person in the milk industry?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That would be a very interesting example to take. I disagree completely with the honourable member.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: They are the marketers.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The milk vendor does not market anything. He is purely a delivery man. I will be surprised if the milk vendor really goes out and markets, apart from selling to new people coming into his area.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: He is the only one who does any marketing in the milk industry.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The producer in the United States is free to market his grain as he chooses. He has a Government support scheme and if he defaults the Commodity Credit Corporation assumes all responsibility for the grain he has sold.

Great problems are being experienced in the beef industry today, and it is very interesting to read an article by Jonathan Kandell in the *New York Times* of the 28th December, 1974, about the Argentine cattle industry being in a crisis. The Government in the Argentine has set a maximum price of 21c a pound. There was such a glut of beef that cattlemen were lucky to obtain that price. Farmers maintain that the cost of fattening a steer is running at 36c a pound, and instead of waiting for the steer to reach its optimum weight cattlemen are sending large numbers of calves to the packing houses. More alarming to some is the number of fertile cows which are being sold. I believe this is happening world-wide.

In reality, the cattle industry in Australia is a very minor part of the world scene, and by the end of this year cattle prices will rise again. I am not giving members the tip to fill up their deep freezers but I believe that because of the cows and calves which have been slaughtered in America, the Argentine, and the European Economic Market, prices must rise. I believe the cattle numbers in Australia are 36 million or 37 million, compared with 57 million in Argentina, 85 million in Brazil, and 12 million in Uruguay. Australia is fairly small peanuts in the cattle-raising business. That does not offset the fact that many of our producers are in trouble, but I believe that

by the end of this year we will be in the situation that we will not be able to fill the markets available to us. This points to a long-term marketing set-up.

I go on to congratulate the Minister for Education for the job he is doing. I do not believe any of the previous five Ministers have visited so many schools. I think the present Minister has visited more schools in one year than any previous Minister visited in his term of office.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: The Labor Party did not keep its Ministers in office long enough.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Labor Government relegated education in importance year by year.

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: Do you call that flexibility?

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Lack of ability.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am very sorry the Minister had to take over the reins of a department which had been banded around so much under the previous Administration. Despite the petty attacks in this place, I think he has shown a capacity for making his major decisions after discussion with the people who matter, and always giving the welfare of the children his first priority. I believe that many of the attacks in this House have been completely unfounded and purely political rather than constructive debate.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Thank you very much, Mr Lewis.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let me now go on to refer to the pathetic comments that come from the Opposition with regard to open government. No matter what members opposite talk about they say, "Why don't you make this public?" In reality, would members opposite expect any business or any Government during the course of negotiation and weighing one opinion against another, to make all opinions public? Do members opposite really expect that?

The Hon. S. J. Dellar: It depends on what you are talking about.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Do the unions make public all their discussions?

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Some of them.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Hon. D. W. Cooley is dead right. When the unions make a decision they make it public; they do not ever make the negotiations public to all people before they make a decision. It is pathetic to hear in this House on so many occasions the yells and screams from the other side: "Why don't you make it public?" They offend one's intelligence because they go on about this in respect of all Ministers.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: What are you talking about? What have we been going on about?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will give an example. I am sorry Mr Claughton is not in the House at present, but last night he went on and on about negotiations between the Pre-School Education Board and the Minister for Education; negotiations which, if we study them in depth, we find to be confidential between the Minister for Education and a board under his control, and carried on in a reasoned, sane way. Yet if not throughout the whole of his speech, then at least two-thirds of it, Mr Claughton said, "Why don't you make it public?" Why should confidential negotiations be made public? I suppose, to take this to absurdity, the Opposition would like to look at all Cabinet minutes before a decision is made and at proposals for Liberal Party policy before the policy is made.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You are going to extremes.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is right; and that is what Mr Cooley has been doing all the time. Members opposite do not use an ounce of brain in dealing with Ministers who have so much more experience than they have. The other side of the House does not front up too well when we consider experience, length of time in this place, and ministerial experience.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Mr Baxter's negotiations with Mr Hayden.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is dead right. That is another good example.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: They should be made public because one million people are involved.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Oh, yes; Mr Cooley says they should be made public. Two members have tried to explain the Medibank scheme, but no-one has yet answered my question of why three States with a population of four million will need \$400 million for their hospitals, while the other three States with nine million people will need only \$150 million.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You are still distorting the situation. You do not understand what was explained to you the other night. You don't understand that every citizen of Australia will benefit from Medibank on the medical side.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Thank you very much. I am not talking about that. I asked how Mr Hayden—and Mr Cooley can knock him if he wishes, but I think he should do it in private because I hate to see splits in parties—could say that hospital costs for three States with three to four million people will amount to \$400 million, while the hospital costs for three States with a total of nine million people will amount to only \$150 million.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: That is right.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is right, is it? Can Mr Cooley prove that?

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: The Minister has stated it publicly.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Good Lord! Mr Cameron said he would resign if the number of unemployed reached 200 000! That is what I think of the Ministers of the Federal Government. Do not give me the claptrap that because the Minister said it, it must be right. Mr Cooley cannot substantiate his argument.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You are resorting to this type of tactic because you cannot get your point over.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I have never been able to get over a point to Mr Cooley; it is not possible.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: He is pointless.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: He will not listen to reason. He has his dogma, and he is told what to say and how to say it. Somebody up top pulls a string and he jumps and says what he is told; but he cannot reason for himself.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You are telling lies now.

The PRESIDENT: Order! That interjection is unparliamentary.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Whether or not it is unparliamentary Mr Lewis is telling lies when he says I am told what to do by someone else.

The PRESIDENT: It is unparliamentary for one member to refer to another member in those terms.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I have only one more plea to make this evening. I do not know whether I should make it, because being a rank-and-file man I suppose I am not permitted to have any ideas of my own.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You are saying that, not us.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am saying it, and I am saying it nicely because that is what the Leader of the Opposition told us. I am becoming nearly as conditioned as Mr Cooley is.

I would make a plea to the Minister for Cultural Affairs to get on with the job of looking at Her Majesty's Theatre. I believe our city does not need a festival hall such as Adelaide has, or an opera house such as Sydney has. I believe Her Majesty's Theatre would make a wonderful theatre if its insides were ripped out and proper theatre architects were given the job of renovating it. Then we would have a theatre which would serve this city for many years. I make a plea to the Minister to get on with the groundwork of making this theatre available to the community.

Before resuming my seat, may I say that I have heard three members talk about a steel works. I believe not one of them understood what he was talking about because those members do not understand the economics of steel works. Possibly I am taking a poor line here because investigations are being carried out.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Those members included the person who moved the Address-in-Reply.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes, and Mr Tozer and the Leader of the Opposition. I had something to do with steel some years ago, and it was suggested then that a Government steel works be built in the north of this State. At that time the cost was to be £52 million, and it was to have an operating loss of £1.5 million a year. I do not believe the economics of steel making under the present methods have improved much on that. New methods have been and are being devised, but I think we cannot yet approach steel in this State with any degree of certainty or with any degree of knowledge of what new processes we should be investigating.

Sir, I support the motion and commend it to the House.

THE HON. R. T. LEESON (South-East) [9.39 p.m.]: I wish to support the motion moved by the Hon. I. G. Pratt. In so doing, I do not want to get involved in a discussion of world affairs, but rather to confine my comments to a couple of problems within my electorate in the hope that perhaps some good will result. It was pleasing to hear Mr Lewis praise the Minister for Education for the number of schools he has visited in Western Australia. However, there is a school in my electorate I wish he would visit at the moment, and that is the Boulder primary school.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I have been there.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Yes, but not lately. I wish the Minister would look at it now.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The contractor there is having a little bit of trouble.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: A little, yes. The situation that prevails there at the moment is disgusting. In August of last year a contract was let to extend the school by the construction of several classrooms. At Christmas of 1974 work on the site was abandoned and to this day—it is now the 26th March—things have been at a standstill. The site reminds me of a rubbish tip.

A total of 800 children are required to attend this school and to play in an outdoor area not much larger than twice the size of this Chamber. Apparently the contractor concerned has a couple of other schools on the go at the moment. They

are the North Kalgoorlie school and the South Kalgoorlie school. Apparently he moves from one to the other and does a little here and a little there.

I feel perhaps someone in a responsible position should have a good look at the matter. I am aware it has been considered at some levels, but the condition of the school at the moment is very dangerous. Not long ago we had six inches of rain in Kalgoorlie, which is a fair amount of rain in anybody's language.

At the school there are concrete sumps four feet square by five feet deep, and after the rain they were full of water. There is no protective fencing whatsoever around the sumps. It amuses me that we come to this place and spend hours discussing requirements for swimming pools and the need for fences when at a Government school these sumps are left full of water and unprotected while children of five years of age play around them. I know the Minister is concerned about this sort of thing, but I was horrified to see the situation that prevails at the Boulder primary school.

Recess times are staggered so that not a great number of children are in the playground at the one time because a handful of teachers cannot look after 800 children. That is fair enough. However, unfortunately at lunchtime everybody has to take a break, and all the children are out on the playground with the teachers. Naturally 800 children require a great deal of supervision; even so they manage to climb all over the unfinished work.

Incidentally, I point out the work would not even be half completed, although it was supposed to be completed last February.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You know that every effort that is humanly possible has been made to get it completed.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I sincerely hope so. I think it a pity that this sort of situation has been allowed to develop. I do not know whose fault it is. As I said earlier, the contractor in question has three schools on the go at the moment and I understand he has taken a contract to build a private school as well. The people concerned with the private school are now worried about what might happen to their school after having seen what happened to the Government schools.

We seem to let these contracts to people who, while they have good intentions, just cannot carry out the amount of work handed to them.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I understand the problem is tied up with this so-called unemployment thing; he just can't get the labour despite the fact that he is offering excellent wages and conditions.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I agree that the unemployment situation would be part of the problem.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is difficult to understand.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: In Kalgoorlie we are fortunate in that there is not much unemployment, but there are a few people in Kalgoorlie who do not want to work, just as there are similar people in other parts of the State. We in Kalgoorlie do experience problems in finding men for all sorts of projects. I can well imagine the contractor whom I mentioned having problems.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The department and I are gravely concerned with this problem. I do not know how we can solve it.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I am pleased to hear that.

Sitting suspended from 9.47 to 10.20 p.m.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I believe enough has been said about the Boulder primary school, and I will leave it to the good offices of the Minister for Education to see whether he can alleviate the very serious problem that has arisen there.

There is another problem I would like to mention. I do not know whether or not it is the season on the Minister for Education, but I wish to bring another education matter to the attention of the House. I wish to refer to Kambalda; most members know where Kambalda is—36 miles south of Kalgoorlie. It is a nickel town run by Western Mining Corporation, which employs well in excess of 1 000 men.

There are some 75 trade apprentices at Kambalda. After the industry got off the ground and apprentices were taken on, the lads travelled once a week into the Eastern Goldfields Technical School on buses supplied by the Education Department. However some members will probably remember the rumpus that arose in regard to high school students travelling on these particular buses. I do not know whether or not the apprentices were in any way involved in what took place, but problems arose over the hours of travel. The apprentices worked an eight-hour day, from 8.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m., but they travelled on buses for high school children who attended from 9.00 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. This meant that the apprentices were missing out on 2½ hours a day in their training at the technical school. So it was decided that the apprentices should be allowed to travel in their own vehicles or however else they could. This situation continued for some time, but problems arose because not all the apprentices attended school for the required hours—some took part in other activities around the town. I will mention some of these. One popular place was—wait for it—the Olympic swimming pool. I was led to believe the apprentices were also attending other places, and consequently they were not getting much benefit from their technical training.

Western Mining Corporation, in consultation with the Technical Education Division of the Education Department, thought that the boys should travel to Perth *en bloc* for one fortnight a year to undertake their practical training at the Carlisle Technical School. This situation has continued for some considerable time, and the apprentices study theory at the Western Mining Corporation establishment in Kambalda, or at home in their own time. The lads do most of their theory at work, and what they cannot do there they do at home.

Some time ago the Education Department discussed with Western Mining Corporation the prospect of the apprentices again attending the Eastern Goldfields Technical School. The department thought it would be better for the boys to study every week within their immediate locality rather than travel to Perth for their practical training and undertaking theoretical training on the job by correspondence. Discussions again took place between the department and the corporation and it was decided that the boys would go to Kalgoorlie in a special bus for their training.

A fortnight before the scheme was to commence, argument arose between the corporation and the Technical Education Division about payment for the bus. I have had discussions with Western Mining Corporation which feels it has spent many millions of dollars to build a town at Kambalda, and it has provided amenities for nearly every resident there. The corporation refuses quite bluntly at present to provide a bus to transport apprentices to the technical school at Kalgoorlie. The corporation says it is the Education Department's responsibility to provide the bus.

Arguments can be advanced in regard to the best type of training for apprentices. Some people believe it is better for them to attend the Carlisle Technical School, as do many country apprentices from all over Western Australia. Others believe that where there is a technical school in the vicinity of the boys' employment, it is better to use that.

I decided to make a few inquiries, to talk to the people involved, and to try to make up my mind about what I thought was best for the boys. A few weeks ago I spent a day at the Carlisle Technical School. I talked to apprentices from all walks of life throughout Western Australia, as well as to their instructors. I asked the boys in groups about their opinion of the situation, and I also spoke to groups of instructors. About 50 per cent of the boys who came from country areas believed that travelling to Perth *en bloc* for a fortnight to do their training is better than attending on a daily basis at a local technical school. There are reasons for

this opinion. While in Perth the boys attend the school for eight hours a day, and of course, other activities take place during the other hours. I feel this fact has a great bearing on the attitude of the boys because they like to do some of the things we liked to do at their age, and one cannot blame them for that. However, I wonder whether this is best for their training.

We often refer to shortages of different things in this place, and everyone will agree that a big shortage of tradesmen exists in Western Australia, and indeed Australia, at the moment. We have a tremendous job to try to encourage boys to take up trade training. When we do get them to take up trade training, we must try to give them the best we can. From the discussions I had with the various sections of the department, the boys themselves, and the employer, I came to the conclusion that the best way to train these particular apprentices is in the immediate locality, at the Eastern Goldfields Technical School which has everything required to train them. Indeed, I attended this school almost 20 years ago when I served my apprenticeship, and since that time it has been considerably expanded and updated so far as equipment and instruction are concerned. It seems to me that the wrangling between the Education Department and Western Mining Corporation over who is to pay for a bus is somewhat petty. I know that we have had problems in the past in Collie and Bunbury; a similar set-up, because Collie and Bunbury are about the same distance apart as are Kalgoorlie and Kambalda.

The people in Collie asked for the same conditions; that is, they asked that the Education Department provide a bus. The department has always shied away from the idea because it feels it would create a precedent. Many other parts of the State might seek this service, and in years to come the people further north in the Karratha area, in the Pilbara, and possibly even later on in the Kimberley, would ask for the provision of a bus.

I do not argue against this; it could create a precedent. However, I believe it is time we grew up in respect of our conditions relating to apprenticeship training and looked at the question of providing some means whereby these boys can obtain the best training possible.

Let me get down to specifics on this question. The cost of providing a bus once a week from Kambalda to Kalgoorlie and return is about \$60 a week. A total of 75 apprentices could be accommodated on the bus, because not all of them come in every week; some come in only once a fortnight. Only one bus will be required on one day each week. It has been suggested that each Tuesday would be suitable. There will be

no requirement to run two buses some days and only one bus on others.

At present, 75 apprentices travel from Kambalda to the metropolitan area for one fortnight each year and the Education Department foots their travelling bill. The bill for 75 apprentices to travel on the *Prospector* to Perth and return would be \$2 400; the price of a bus at \$60 a week for 40 weeks, which is the total period the Eastern Goldfields Technical College operates during a year, comes to \$2 400, the same figure incidentally as the rail fare to get the boys from Kalgoorlie to Perth and return.

However, in addition to this cost the boys who travel down *en bloc* must travel from Kambalda to Kalgoorlie and return by taxi. The Education Department supplies and pays for the taxis and I understand a return trip from Kambalda to Kalgoorlie costs \$28. Of course, on some occasions, three or four boys may be accommodated in the taxi but sometimes we have the situation where only one boy travels on the taxi and it costs \$28 to get that boy from Kambalda to Kalgoorlie and return.

It seems to me that it is costing the Education Department considerably more to bring these boys to Perth *en bloc* and train them than if it were prepared to pay for a bus for one day a week and utilise the Eastern Goldfields Technical College.

It has been argued that some of the training they receive in Perth is better than it is at a day school because when a boy put in a fortnight at the Carlisle Technical School, he could start and finish a job before he returned to his country town. Others argued that it was better for the boys to attend once a week and do a different type of job each time they attended. However, this is up to the experts to determine.

As I said before, I questioned the boys on whether they preferred to travel to Perth and found that about 50 per cent were in favour and 50 per cent were opposed to the idea. So, opinion is fairly evenly divided amongst the boys. However, I believe we must do what is best for the boys. Western Mining Corporation Limited agrees with this attitude; it is not hard and fast on what the boys should do. The manager at Kambalda is not particularly forceful in wanting them to go to Carlisle or to attend the Eastern Goldfields Technical School; however, he stands firm on the question of refusing to pay for the transport costs.

Perhaps the Minister could examine the situation and have an officer of the Education Department look at the costs which have been put forward in relation to providing a bus as compared with the cost of a return rail trip to Perth. Perhaps

we can arrive at a better solution than we have at the moment.

I think anybody would agree that it is far easier to learn any sort of a trade if one has an instructor standing in front of one. Some people find it easy to learn by correspondence but many find it quite difficult. The problem is that the boys see the instructors only once a year, when they come down to Perth. They could be six months in the dark on particular aspects of their trade; in fact, this is what instructors found to be the case.

Although Western Mining has appointed an apprentice officer to try to guide the boys and although he does the best he can, I believe the men provided by the Education Department are the proper men for the job in this area. I leave it at that, but request the Minister to examine the situation. Perhaps there might be a little ill-feeling amongst officers in the department in relation to this matter. Governments are worried about creating precedents and favouring one area in relation to another.

However, as the State grows up we must have a harder look at the situation than we have had in the past. Many country areas are growing rapidly and if we are to achieve adequate trade training and get the tradesmen we need in Western Australia we must try to do the best we can for the children.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The honourable member has set out his case very lucidly and well. I promise him that it will be examined and I will write to him direct about it.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I thank the Minister. There is only one other small matter I should like to mention before I conclude. I feel I cannot allow the opportunity to pass without mentioning the increased water charges, particularly as they affect the goldfields area. I know that the Hon. J. C. Tozer mentioned this in his speech, but I should like to refer to the matter with particular emphasis on my area.

I represent an area which, I suppose, was the first town outside the metropolitan area to receive a comprehensive water supply scheme. It was provided in those days because it was a necessity, and the necessity still exists today. One cannot go anywhere in the outback without water; it is the first and the last thing one needs.

Domestic and industrial consumers in my area are finding it very difficult to cope with the increased water rates with which they have been burdened. I suppose we will find a way to pay them. However, one area in particular to which I should like to refer is the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing Club, of which I have been a member for many years.

They have a nice grass track of which they are very proud. As it is some 400 miles from the coastline, we use a considerable amount of water to maintain it. People from the metropolitan area, including members of this House, who have visited Kalgoorlie for the race round and have seen the track will acknowledge that it is a nice track. It is something of which the goldfields people can be proud.

Prior to this year, water costs to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing Club were approximately \$2 000 a year—quite an amount of money for such a club to pay. However, the club has managed to pay the charges and it does so with pride because I believe it is something of which it can be proud. But with the latest increase in charges and the dropping of concessions for nonprofit organisations the water charges for this year have increased from \$2 000 to \$3 000 a year, an increase of 400 per cent. I think this is a fairly steep increase and I do not know how the club is going to meet the demands. The club is unfortunate in that it conducts its meetings on Saturdays and the TAB does not cover the meetings as it has enough to do in other areas.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Is this scheme water?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Yes.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Pretty lucky, are you not?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Well, that goes back a long time, around the turn of the century. I suppose one could turn off the tap, but it would not go over too well. As I say, the club is battling at the moment and these steep charges are going to be crippling. The club has been in existence since the turn of the century and I should like to see it remain as long as Western Australia remains in existence.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: How long do you anticipate that is going to be?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: It should be some time, I hope.

The Hon. J. Heitman: How much per thousand gallons do you pay for it?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I do not have the latest figures in front of me.

The Hon. J. Heitman: It would be about \$1 a thousand.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Yes, that would be correct. The racing club will find it very hard to meet these payments; I hope there will not be a deterioration of the track and of the racing club generally in my area. I believe such areas should be examined closely before the Government implements such savage increases in these areas.

People in the metropolitan area do not realise the importance of an amenity of this nature and the difficulty of growing

grass and gardens in dry areas. We do not get 10 inches of rain a year in my area and we are very grateful for the water we receive. However, from now on it looks as though we will be paying through the nose for it.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The Government will put things right—up!

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: With that, I support the motion.

THE HON. M. McALEER (Upper West) [10.43 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion moved by the Hon. I. G. Pratt. I take the opportunity to mention one or two of the problems of my electorate. However, before doing so I should like to refer to the Government's pre-primary school proposals, since one aspect of the matter was discussed last night by the Hon. R. F. Clough-ton. I wish to refer to the matter as it relates to my province.

Throughout the province in the past few years it has been extremely difficult to establish and support kindergartens. Those that have been established have not been very satisfactory in the sense that they have not been able to afford suitable buildings and they have also had great difficulty in obtaining and supporting trained teachers.

Even in Geraldton, which now has a population of some 17 000, up to this time there have been only two kindergartens, both of which this year had waiting lists of 80 children. It is probable that the waiting lists would have been greater, but people give up after 80. The proposed new kindergarten which was delayed also has a long waiting list. So, I find there is very ready acceptance among parents of pre-primary school children of the Government's policy.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: In the future there will be one at Eneabba.

The Hon. M. McALEER: I find acceptance among kindergarten teachers. As we all realise, in a small kindergarten there is only one teacher. The ages of the children range from 3½ to five years, but there is a great difference in development between children of those ages. The teachers welcome the thought that when the children of four years and over are removed to pre-primary centres, they will be able to concentrate on the younger age groups.

I think it is generally realised that the places left vacant by the children who will become five years of age and attend pre-primary centres will be available in greater numbers than previously to children of a young age.

Turning to my main problems, firstly I want to say that perhaps more than half of my electorate is fortunately within the wheatgrowing area; and for those east of the Midland line, to take an arbitrary line, the previous season has been good. The further east the better has been the season, and this is very good as far as it

goes. It is just as well, since the wheat-growers need the success to keep up with escalating costs of superphosphate, machinery, and wages, and also to service their debts.

For those in the west and in the south, even within the wheatgrowing areas, the season has not been favourable. In areas dependent on stock, and particularly for farmers with light lands outside the grain areas, the prospects are gloomy, with the price of sheep and cattle at a low level and with the greatly increased cost of superphosphate. Even the lupin crop this year was not successful. Although it is too much to say that this is jeopardising the future of a promising alternative crop, I still think it has greatly slowed down its development.

Even Geraldton, which is to some extent insulated from the troubles of its rural hinterland by the industries of building, crayfishing, and now a spin-off from the mining being undertaken at Eneabba, has suffered from the closure of the Geraldton meat export abattoir. This has put more unemployed people in the town, and skilled workers have been deprived of jobs; furthermore, growers have been deprived of an outlet for their stock.

The rock lobster industry itself has been placed at a disadvantage by falling prices; the catch varies seasonally, but no-one could expect it to increase greatly. As against that, the costs of the fishermen have risen at an equally rapid rate as those of other primary producers.

The President of the Farmers' Union has mentioned a number of times this year that the annual flight from the land is somewhere around 600 to 700 farmers. He added that in the present circumstances we must expect an increase in this number. This is having serious social and economic consequences, not only for those who leave the land, but also for those who remain on the land. This applies particularly in regard to services and facilities.

It is hard for country people to understand that while they produce much of the wealth of the nation, the fewness of their numbers puts them at a great disadvantage when it comes to enjoying facilities and services. A town like Kalannie, which is the railhead and centre of a great wheatgrowing district, finds it incredible that development should be held back by a two-year lag in the State Electricity Commission operations. It is true, as Mr Tozer pointed out tonight, we have a sympathetic and able Minister in charge of the portfolio of Electricity and I hope the situation will be greatly improved in the future.

A small but well populated district, like Piawanning, places its hopes of survival on the existence of what is a comparatively small factor—the number of children attending school. In order to preserve its existence the people of the district thought

to try to have all the children in the locality conveyed by bus to the school in the district, instead of to the surrounding towns.

Perenjori, another town of greater size, is also experiencing trouble with its buses which are being encroached upon by the Morawa bus service. The people wish the buses to be centred at Perenjori, because this is the business centre of the district and they wish to preserve it. Whilst it is very well to try to rationalise services, and to make the cents stretch further, it does seem to me that Governments have an obligation to assist these small but important towns in their struggle for survival, in small as well as in large ways which are often not applicable or of any use.

In particular I feel that the Federal Government ought to be consistent at least in its attitude, especially in dealing with services such as telephones and the mail. If it believes in the growth of large regional centres and letting the smaller ones drift out of existence, then it ought to be prepared to substitute automatic and mechanical services for the services that people have supplied in the past. The country telephone service is starved of funds, and existing exchanges are overloaded. There is a very great delay in the provision of automatic exchanges. When the manual exchanges go out of commission it is impossible to replace them within a reasonable time.

I was at a meeting in Bunjil last Thursday, where 23 subscribers are faced with the closure of the manual exchange. Bunjil is a small siding. It has two buildings—a store cum post office with a house attached, and Country Women's Association rooms. However, the siding does have a one million bushel silo, and its telephone subscribers have been connected for a long time. It appears they cannot expect an automatic exchange for at least another 18 months or possibly two years—if then.

The only alleviation the PMG Department could offer them was a public telephone at the siding and three automatic telephones at strategically placed farms, to be used by all the district. The alternative, which appears to be more acceptable, is that a new manual exchange be set up in the CWA rooms and a telephonist be employed by the shire council, if one can be found. The wages of this telephonist would be subsidised by the PMG Department. Whilst the shire is willing to do this, it is an expenditure which has not been budgeted for, and the expenditure cannot be made indefinitely.

Obviously some help is needed. This has been a great blow to the people of Bunjil, but they are not the only ones who have been so affected. In addition, the people of Bunjil appear to be losing their post office.

Mail services are becoming more unsatisfactory, particularly in areas where sidings have been closed. The PMG Department disclaims any responsibility for the actual transport of mail, and cannot bring itself to subsidise or pay private contractors sufficient to make it worth their while to transport the mail. The East Chapman mail service is in existence only because it is being subsidised by the local people.

Very recently a veteran Australian Labor Party member asked me what was the wealth of the country. He answered the question himself by saying it was the people. I would have said the people were the country, and their wealth was what they could produce. It seems to me that it ought to be as contrary to Labor principles as it is certainly to Liberal principles to help to drive people off the land, and to leave such wealth as the remainder can produce in the hands of fewer and fewer people.

I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Grace Vaughan.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central—Minister for Health) [10.56 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill contains only five clauses. Three of the matters dealt with are presented at the request of the Friendly Societies Council.

The other matter which relates to the frequency of fund valuations is intended to give more flexibility to the registrar and the actuary in dealing with insurance funds operated by societies.

Clause 2 amends section 4 of the Act. The amendment seeks to insert a definition of "member" in the Act. The term is used on many occasions in the Act, and also in the rules under which each society operates.

By inserting the definition any lack of certainty as to the meaning of the term as between the Act and the rules will be eliminated.

Clause 3 re-enacts section 7 of the Act. Three changes to section 7 of the Act are sought. These are new matters which do not qualify or reduce the functions of friendly societies as they exist at present. I therefore draw attention to those parts of the clause where changes are proposed.

Section 7, subsection (1) paragraph (1): Friendly societies in other States have had the authority to establish and maintain holiday homes for some years. These facilities have benefited members and promoted interest in the movement.

Some local societies have accumulated funds which could be applied to this activity. I consider this to be a worthy step and support the request of the Friendly Societies Council that they be permitted to establish holiday homes.

It is intended that priority will be given to members and their families, but, should there be vacancies, non-members would be accommodated.

The amendment is contained in paragraph (1) of the re-enacted section as set out in clause 3.

Section 7, subsection 3: This is a new provision. The proposal is set out in subsection (3) of the re-enacted section commencing on page 4 of the Bill.

The friendly societies act in a similar manner to life assurance houses, but they are limited in the cover they can give to \$6 000. Assurance companies routinely make loans to clients against the value of their policies.

The proposal is that similar authority be given to friendly societies, but subject to the limitation that the residual value of a policy shall not be reduced below \$200.

Other States already have a similar provision in their Acts. This provides an additional benefit to members of friendly societies, and I am pleased to support the proposal.

Section 7, subsection (4): The subsection proposed would permit combinations of the various societies to pool their resources and join in establishing any of the facilities, such as holiday homes, contemplated by this Bill.

This would aid the smaller lodges which would not be in a financial position to act alone.

Clause 4 amends section 12. This is a proposal which originated in my department. The existing law requires the benefit funds of a society to be valued by an actuary each five years. The valuation is to ascertain the level of benefits which may be paid from a fund.

Several societies are handling an increasing level of endowment and life assurance. Changing circumstances can bring about a need for a valuation at intervals shorter than five years.

The amendment would permit more frequent valuations whenever required, and thereby allow contributions and rates to be adjusted when the state of the fund required that this be done.

Clause 5 amends section 14A. The amendment seeks to correct an error in the Act. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) refers to paragraph (2). The reference should be to paragraph (b) of subsection (1). The amendment provides for this adjustment.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Grace Vaughan.

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central—Minister for Health) [10.59 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This short Bill seeks to amend the Health Act in certain respects. I will give details of the reasons for the amendments, and trust that members will see fit to support the proposals put forward.

Clause 2 provides that the Bill will come into effect on the day Royal assent is given, with the exception of the amendment proposed in clause 7. This is because the clause requires certain matters to be prescribed by by-law before its purposes can be achieved.

Clause 3: Since the Health Act was first passed in 1911, local authorities have had the power to construct sewerage schemes. Ordinarily this power is not now exercised in areas where the Metropolitan Water Board, or the Minister for Works, has special jurisdiction under separate legislation, but there is much of the State which is not so covered.

Even within those areas it is occasionally desirable to invoke the authority in the Health Act under arrangements mutually agreed between the local authority and one of the bodies which I have named.

This is because local authorities at times have access to loan funds which may be employed in the construction of sewers. These funds, when added to the financial resources of the Metropolitan Water Board, and those provided under the Country Towns Sewerage Act, permit the expansion of the deep sewerage network at a faster rate than would otherwise be possible.

I have mentioned that this authority has existed in the Health Act since 1911. The means of financing maintenance of a scheme is to levy a rate on the properties served. In 1911 the maximum rate permitted was 6d in the pound on annual values or three farthings in the pound on unimproved values. In 1950 these limits were raised to their present level of three and one-third cents in the dollar on annual values and five-sixths of a cent in the dollar on unimproved values.

The wave of inflation which has descended upon us has produced a situation where these limits do not produce sufficient funds to meet inescapable maintenance costs. This means that not only is the position of existing schemes operated by local authorities in jeopardy, but no further schemes can be contemplated.

It is inescapable therefore that the limits be raised sufficiently to meet the

present position and to provide for a period of several years ahead, by which time, hopefully, economic conditions will have become stable.

The new upper limits provided in the Bill are 12c in the dollar on annual values, and 3c in the dollar on unimproved values.

These limits are regarded as necessary and reasonable, having regard to the circumstances which I have explained.

Clause 4: One of the duties of local authorities is to supervise the standards of accommodation and hygiene of lodging houses. These establishments operate under a licensing system. Inspections are carried out regularly, and not infrequently some establishments are the source of complaints which must be investigated and acted upon.

The maximum license fee permitted by section 158(3) of the Health Act is \$2. This was fixed in 1911. It is doubtful if this pays for the bookwork involved in issuing a license. The amendment sought is to permit a fee up to \$20 to be charged. This would allow a scale to be introduced related to the size of the establishment.

Clauses 5 and 6 deal with the same matter. Observation and the results of tests made in some car parks which are provided within buildings reveal that the build-up of carbon monoxide in the airspace can reach danger levels. This can be overcome by the provision of effective ventilation.

Once a maximum prescribed level is exceeded a statutory nuisance would exist. A local authority would then be empowered to require improvement to the ventilation of the car park so as to reduce the concentration of carbon monoxide to a level below the prescribed limit.

It is not proposed that this amendment should apply to private homes or to situations where not more than three motor vehicles are parked.

Clause 7: Offensive trades operate under the supervision of medical officers and health surveyors employed by local authorities.

Premises on which the offensive trade operates must be registered with the local authority. A registration fee is charged. This was limited to a maximum of \$10 per annum in 1911 and has remained unaltered.

Quite apart from the great change in money values in the last 60-odd years, there has been a marked change in the industrial scene. In 1911 the majority of offensive trades comprised piggeries, slaughterhouses, and fish shops.

The tremendous advances in industrial development which have taken place in recent years have seen the setting up of very large establishments, such as chemical works which present involved problems, such as the discharge of effluents and the

disposal of wastes. These matters require frequent and close attention by highly-trained staff.

Local authorities have, not unreasonably, pointed out that the annual registration fee for these major works falls far short of the expenditure incurred in providing supervision and advice to the industries concerned.

The Bill seeks to raise the maximum permitted fee from \$10 to \$100.

Fees would be fixed according to a graduated scale so that small works, or those which call for little service would be charged a low fee, but major establishments could be called upon to pay up to the new proposed maximum of \$100.

I am sure Mr Clive Griffiths will welcome this Bill because he has written to me in recent times concerning the cost involved to local authorities.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. Thompson (Leader of the Opposition).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Minister for Education) [11.08 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 8th April.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.09 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 26th March, 1975

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

QUESTIONS (107): ON NOTICE

1.

POLICE

Assault Charges and Convictions: Metropolitan and Country

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What have been the number of—
 - (a) aggravated assaults;
 - (b) indecent assaults;
 - (c) common assaults,
 reported to the police for the years 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, in—
 - (i) the metropolitan area;
 - (ii) the country areas?
- (2) How many charges were made for each of the above years in the two areas?

- (3) What was the total number of such people found guilty and—
 - (a) gaoled;
 - (b) fined;
 - (c) otherwise dealt with?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The answers to the questions involve a considerable amount of research and as the Police Department is in the process of preparing to move to new headquarters this presents some difficulty. The information will be forwarded to the Member as soon as it is available.

2.

POLICE

Assault Charges and Convictions: Morley

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What have been the number of—
 - (a) aggravated assaults;
 - (b) indecent assaults;
 - (c) common assaults,
 reported to the Morley police station for 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974 and so far in 1975?
- (2) How many charges have been made for each of the categories in each of the areas mentioned above?
- (3) How many convictions have been recorded as a result of those charges in each of the categories for each of the years referred to above?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The answers to the questions involve a considerable amount of research and as the Police Department is in the process of preparing to move to new headquarters this presents some difficulty. The information will be forwarded to the Member as soon as it is available.

3.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Community Use

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has he or the Local Government Department received from the Local Government Association requests for the accelerated use of school buildings for community use?
- (2) If so, what were the details of their requests and what action does the Government intend to take on the matter?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

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