

**ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.**

**THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND** (Minister for Railways—North): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.30 p.m. today.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 1.28 a.m. (Friday).*

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 4th December, 1958.

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The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

## TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).

### Message.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor and Administrator received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Mr. Brand: What a Government! A belated message!

### First Reading.

Introduced by the Hon. A. M. Moir (Chief Secretary) and read a first time.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

### FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

*The "Halimah"—Purchase, Examination, and Repairs.*

1. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Fisheries:

(1) From whom was the vessel "Halimah" purchased at a cost of £11,000?

(2) Was the vessel put on a slip for examination above and below the waterline before purchasing?

(3) Did a marine surveyor examine the vessel?

(4) If so, did he give a certificate that the vessel was in good, or reasonably repairable, order?

(5) If not, who examined the vessel and recommended its purchase?

(6) For what reasons did the estimated cost of repairs and improvements increase from £11,000 to £24,000?

(7) Were tenders called for the cost of repairs, etc., to the vessel, amounting to £24,000?

(8) If not, on what basis was the estimated cost arrived at?

(9) Has a contract been let to carry out the repairs as required?

(10) What amount of money is due to be paid for repairs to date?

(11) Is it a fact that the "Halimah" beneath the waterline is affected by terebrant or such other type of worm?

(12) Is it also a fact that the hull is affected by dry rot, and is not in a condition to repair satisfactorily for use as a fisheries vessel?

(13) Is it a fact that the vessel has been given up and in reality is to be written off?

(14) If so, has the Government any redress, or is the amount involved completely lost?

(15) Has the Department already purchased another vessel to take the place of "Halimah", and at what cost?

Mr. KELLY replied:

(1) The Sarawak Co. Ltd., of Sibuan, Sarawak, Borneo.

(2), (3), and (4) Yes.

(5) Answered by No. (3).

(6) Principally hidden defects. The provision of a new keel, additional equipment, including refrigeration, complete reorganisation of crew accommodation, provision of laboratory, and other alterations necessary adequately to fit the vessel for research purposes.

(7) No.

(8) By quotation.

(9) Yes.

(10) Approximately £4,000.

(11) and (12) Yes.

(13) Upon expert advice, and after careful analysis of the cost involved, it was deemed advisable to purchase "Limicola" and to dispose of "Halimah" to the best advantage.

(14) This aspect is being examined.

(15) Yes—cost £9,500.

### HOUSING.

*Applications for Homes and Number Built.*

2. Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) How many applicants at the present date are there for houses in the following categories:—

(a) Commonwealth-State rental;

(b) State Housing Act;

(c) War service;

(d) McNess?

(2) What is the lodgment date of applications by applicants for accommodation in each of the above categories which are being granted homes or flats at present?

(3) How many homes in each of the above categories will be built during the current financial year?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

(1) (a) 6,477 (2,591)

(b) 2,416 (966)

(c) 1,123 (449)

(d) 95 (38).

Experience has shown that duplication of applications under the above schemes and wastage approximates 60 per cent., therefore the figures shown in brackets is a more realistic figure. This indicates applications totalling 4,044 under all schemes.

(2) (a) Commonwealth-State rental—

(i) Metropolitan Area. Ranges between November, 1955, and October, 1958, depending on locality and type of accommodation.

(ii) Country. Depends on town. Each centre varies.

However, generous treatment is given to cases considered to be emergent. These cases are assisted before priority is reached.

(b) State Housing Act. June, 1956.

(c) War Service Homes.

Individual building cases may proceed immediately. Immediate assistance with group homes available in some districts.

Pre-arranged mortgages in accordance with Commonwealth direction wait 9 months after application.

Purchasers in accordance with Commonwealth direction wait 15 months after application.

(3) (a) 604 Conventional  
306 Cottage flats

910

In addition it is anticipated that 1,600 homes will be vacated during the year. Thus a total of 2,510 rental homes will be available during 1958-59.

(b) 350

(c) 510

(d) 25.

An increasing amount of Commonwealth-State Agreement money is being made available through building societies and this, with further assistance under the Housing Loan Guarantee Act, will lessen the demand for assistance through the State Housing Commission.

### STOLEN CARS.

#### Details of Offences.

3. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) How many cars were stolen from the 1st July, 1957, to the 31st December, 1957, and the 1st January, 1958, to the 30th June, 1958—

(a) in the metropolitan area;

(b) outside the metropolitan area; both periods separately?

(2) How many offenders were charged for the thefts—

(a) in the metropolitan area;

(b) outside the metropolitan area; both periods separately?

(3) Of the offenders charged, how many were under the age of 21 years in each of the two areas, both periods separately?

(4) Of these offenders, how many were fined, sent to gaol, and committed to institutions, both periods separately?

(5) Of offenders over 21 years, how many were fined and how many sent to gaol, both periods separately?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

	July 1957, to December 1957	January 1958 to June 1958
1. (a) ....	296 vehicles	282 vehicles
(b) ....	82 "	50 "
2. (a) ....	101 offenders	106 offenders
(b) ....	51 "	35 "
3. Metropolitan area	60 juveniles	66 juveniles
Outside metropolitan area	32 "	25 "
4. Fined ....	3 "	2 "
Gaoled ....	10 "	8 "
Sent to institutions	07 "	56 "
Placed on probation or dismissed	32 "	45 "
5. Fined ....	9 adults	7 adults
Gaoled ....	31 "	23 "

Note.—The figures are for offenders under and over 18 years of age and not 21 years as requested, as Police and Government Statistician figures are recorded on the 18 years basis.

### FRANKLAND RIVER SCHOOL.

#### Electrical Wiring.

4A. Mr. WATTS asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Has a request been received for electrically wiring the teachers' quarters and part of the school at Frankland River?

(2) If so, has the work been approved, and when will it be done?

(3) If it is not approved, why not?

Mr. W. HEGNEY replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The work has not been approved.

(3) There is no electricity supply concession at Frankland River, and in these circumstances departmental policy is not to wire Government property.

### ROCKY GULLY SCHOOL.

#### Source of Electric Current.

4B. Mr. WATTS asked the Minister for Education:

From what generating plant is the Rocky Gully school provided with electric current?

Mr. W. HEGNEY replied:

From a 3½ KVA plant provided by the Parents & Citizens' Association.

### SCHOOL FLOORS.

#### Type Being Installed.

5. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Education:

(1) What approximate proportions of—

(a) concrete;

(b) wood;

(c) other types

of floors are being installed in—

(a) single-storey schools;

(b) multi-storey schools?

(2) Where concrete floors are provided, what form of covering is used?

(3) If local wood is not used, what are the reasons for other materials being used?

Mr. W. HEGNEY replied:

- (1) (a) single-storey schools:
- |             |      |     |
|-------------|------|-----|
| concrete    | .... | 50% |
| wood        | .... | 50% |
| other types | .... | nil |
- (b) multi-storey schools:
- |             |      |     |
|-------------|------|-----|
| concrete    | .... | 75% |
| wood        | .... | 25% |
| other types | .... | nil |

(2) Granolithic to verandahs, balconies, cloak rooms, latrines and outbuildings. Vinyl tiles to classrooms and offices.

(3) Vinyl tiles applied directly to concrete floor are cheaper than wood block directly applied to the concrete, or T. & G. floors on battens above the concrete. They are also much quieter than T. & G. on battens.

No. 6. *This question was postponed.*

### GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

#### *Renovations Since 1952.*

7A. Mr. O'BRIEN asked the Minister for Works:

How many Government buildings in the Murchison electorate have been renovated since 1952?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

Thirty-three.

### BITUMINISING.

#### *Cost of Work at Mt. Magnet.*

7B. Mr. O'BRIEN asked the Minister for Works:

What was the cost of the bituminising work recently completed at Mt. Magnet?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

Due to inclement weather the bituminous surfacing work in Mt. Magnet has not yet been completed, and therefore final costs are not known.

For bituminous surfacing in and around Mt. Magnet, the Main Roads Department provided £24,350.

No. 8. *This question was postponed.*

### MAIDA VALE WATER SUPPLIES.

#### *Estimated Deficit on Project, etc.*

9. Mr. OWEN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

(1) Is any information available as to the estimated deficit which would be incurred if the Maida Vale water supply project were put into operation?

(2) In the event of the local road board agreeing to guarantee the amount of this deficit, would any payments made by consumers for excess water used, be offset against this deficit?

(3) If the amount of estimated deficit is guaranteed, will finance be available to carry out any work on the Maida Vale scheme during this financial year?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

(1) The estimated annual deficiency of revenue on the reticulation portion of this scheme is £844.

(2) No.

(3) No; but consideration would be given to providing finance for commencement of the work during 1959-1960.

### WEMBLEY BEACHES SCHOOLS.

#### *Details of Classrooms.*

10. Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Education:

(1) How many classrooms were occupied in the Wembley Beaches electorate prior to the 1st January, 1956?

(2) How many have been erected since that date and occupied?

(3) How many more have been approved?

(4) How many are in the course of erection?

Mr. W. HEGNEY replied:

(1) 67.

(2) 27.

(3) 22 for 1959.

(4) 22.

That means more than 100 per cent. increase in the last two and a half years.

### IMPROVEMENT OF METROPOLITAN BEACHES.

#### *Requests for Assistance from Local Authorities.*

11A. Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Works:

What local authorities have requested assistance from the Government for improving ocean beaches in the metropolitan area—

(a) For the prevention of erosion and the construction of groynes?

(b) For the general maintenance and improvement of beach areas?

(c) For the maintenance and widening of West Coast Highway and other roads providing access to ocean beaches?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

(a) Fremantle Municipality, Cottesloe Municipality.

(b) No specific requests of this nature have been received.

(c) Perth Road Board, Wanneroo Road Board.

#### *Conference of Local Authorities.*

11B. Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Works:

In view of the urgent need for some uniformity of planning, will the Government call a conference of all local authorities concerned with ocean beach areas in the metropolitan area?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

Yes.

**FIREMEN'S SHIRTS.***Place of Manufacture, Material, etc.*

12. Mr. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) Are shirts as supplied to permanent firemen, and as supplied to volunteer firemen manufactured in Western Australia?

(2) If so, what are the names of the firms manufacturing such shirts in this State?

(3) Is the material used in the manufacture of these shirts imported to this State?

(4) If so, from what States or countries was the material imported?

(5) Were quotes called from Eastern States manufacturers to supply blue material and white material used in shirt manufacture?

(6) Were quotes called from overseas manufacturers to supply blue material and white shirting material?

(7) If quotes were called from overseas firms and Eastern States firms to supply shirting material to manufacture firemen's shirts, what were the quotes received and what is the difference in the quotes?

(8) What was the period of time from date of placing order to date of delivery in Western Australia from overseas or Eastern States?

Mr. MOIR replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Volunteer firemen's white shirts—  
Roland Smith & Company, Perth.

Permanent firemen's blue shirts—  
Goode, Durrant & Murray Aust. Ltd., Perth.

(3) Volunteer firemen's white shirts—  
material provided by Roland Smith & Company, Perth.

Permanent firemen's blue shirts—  
material imported from United Kingdom.

(4) Volunteer firemen's white shirts—  
not known.

Permanent firemen's blue shirts—  
United Kingdom.

(5) No.

(6) Volunteer firemen's white shirts—  
Answered by Nos. (3) and (4) above.

Permanent firemen's blue shirts—  
Yes, through Government Stores.

(7) Volunteer firemen's white shirts—  
Answered by Nos. (3) and (4) above.

Permanent firemen's blue shirts—  
It will be necessary to obtain this information from the Agent General, London.

(8) Permanent firemen's blue shirts—  
Orders placed by the Agent-General on the 14th March, 1958.

Delivery dates in Western Australia, the 4th August, 1958, and the 29th October, 1958.

**FREMANTLE HARBOUR.***No. 10 Berth.*

13. Mr. BRAND asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What was the estimated total cost of the project when work commenced in August, 1953, on No. 10 berth in Fremantle Harbour?

(2) What was the estimated completion date when work commenced?

(3) What has been the cost to date?

(4) What further amount will be required for completion of the new berth?

(5) When will the berth be completed and available for unrestricted use?

(6) Was all the work done by day labour?

(7) Is it correct that original planning overlooked the existence of rocky outcrops on the seabed at the site of the new berth with the result that action to remove these outcrops caused a disturbance of the earth slopes under the wharf, which had to be rectified by pouring large quantities of filling material through a hole which had to be blasted for the purpose through concrete construction which had already been done?

(8) If so, what was the cost of rectifying this error?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

(1) £900,000—this figure was given in reply to a question on the 11th November, 1953.

(2) On the 11th November, 1953, the reply given was "Date of completion will be controlled largely by the availability of funds."

(3) Approximately £1,152,000. Included in this expenditure are substantial additions and new works not included in the original proposals or those existing in 1953.

(4) Approximately £10,000, which includes outstanding accounts.

(5) By the end of this month.

(6) No. A contract was let for the removal of 90,000 cubic yards of earth.

(7) No. Owing to the changing character of the ground, the driving of the concrete sheet piling at the back of the wharf structure could not be accurately controlled in all places, with the result that sand escaped from under the floor of the shed through small gaps between some of the sheet piles.

Remedial measures have been applied by sealing the gaps in the sheet piling, cutting holes in the concrete floor, and replacing the lost material in these localised areas.

(8) The cost involved in restoration work is approximately £4,000.

**PRINTING.***Expenditure on Machinery.*

14. Mr. COURT asked the Treasurer: How much of item 2, Division 19 (Printing) was, and is proposed to be expended on machinery for the—

- (a) year ended the 30th June, 1958;
- (b) year ending the 30th June, 1959?

Mr. HAWKE replied:

- (a) Bulk £26,084.
- (b) Bulk £49,480.

**BASIC WAGE AND MARGINAL ADJUSTMENTS.***Effect on Government Employees.*

15. Mr. COURT asked the Treasurer:

(1) On what basis is item 2—£315,000 estimate of basic wage and marginal adjustment increases in Division No. 20 of the 1958-59 Estimates (Miscellaneous Services)—arrived at?

(2) How much has already been absorbed by increases granted to date during this financial year—

- (a) basic wage;
- (b) margins?

Mr. HAWKE replied:

(1) The £315,000 provides for the estimated cost during 1958-59 of the variations granted to the basic wage from the 4th August, 1958, and the adjustment of margins payable to the Civil Service. The additional cost in respect of staff employed on the Revenue Fund for basic wage increases totals approximately £240,000. Marginal increases to public servants, calculated in accordance with the Public Service Agreement of 1954, are estimated to cost £75,000.

(2) The cost in this financial year to the end of November of the basic wage increases granted on the 4th August and the 27th October, 1958, and the adjustment of margins, was:—

- (a) Basic wage, £92,000;
- (b) Margins, £31,250.

**STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE.***Policies on Properties.*

16. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Labour:

(1) Does the State Government Insurance Office issue policies for a premium on—

- (a) houses to the owners of which the State Government Insurance Office has advanced money on mortgage;
- (b) properties to the owners of which the Rural and Industries Bank has advanced money on mortgage;
- (c) property of State Trading Concerns and Government property generally?

(2) If so, what is the section of the State Government Insurance Office Act in each case from which authority to issue the policies is derived?

Mr. W. HEGNEY replied:

(1) Yes. The insurance is with the State Government fire, marine and general insurance fund.

(2) Section 2.

**CHANGE OF BANKING HOURS.***A.W.U. Opposition in Queensland.*

17. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Labour:

Will he advise the House the main grounds on which the A.W.U. has opposed a change of banking hours in Queensland?

Mr. W. HEGNEY replied:

I have no information in regard to the matter.

**BOYUP BROOK SCHOOL.***Installation of Septic System.*

18. Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Education:

(1) When is it intended to install a septic system at the junior school at Boyup Brook?

(2) Has any offer of assistance been received by his department from the Upper Blackwood Road Board?

(3) If the answer to No. (2) is "Yes," what is the likely outcome of this offer?

Mr. W. HEGNEY replied:

(1) Not known.

(2) No.

(3) See answer to No. (2).

**BRIDGETOWN SCHOOL.***Ground Improvements.*

19. Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Education:

What decisions, if any, have been made as a result of negotiations between his department and the local parents and citizens' association in connection with proposed improvements to the grounds at the junior school at Bridgetown?

Mr. W. HEGNEY replied:

No decision has yet been made.

**DONNYBROOK HOSPITAL.***Negotiations on Additions.*

20. Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Health:

What stage has been reached in negotiations with the local board in connection with additions to the Donnybrook hospital?

Mr. NULSEN replied:

Sketch plans prepared by the Principal Architect were approved by the board in October, 1958, and working drawings and specifications will be prepared to permit the work to proceed as early as practicable.

No. 21. *This question was postponed.*

### COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES.

#### *Rating of Farms.*

22. Mr. WATTS asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

(1) Referring to my question of the 3rd December (No. 9), dealing with rating under the Country Areas Water Supply Act, in what circumstances is a rating zone constituted?

(2) Is a farmer ratable if he is not making use of the water; that is,

(a) is it legal to rate him; and

(b) is the power to rate him exercised?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

(1) When the department contemplates providing a water supply reticulation system from which it will be prepared to supply water to the properties adjacent thereto.

(2) (a) Yes; as from the date water becomes available in the reticulation system.

(b) Yes.

### GNOWANGERUP SWIMMING POOL.

#### *Availability of Report.*

23. Mr. WATTS asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Has the promised report on the Gnowangerup swimming pool yet been completed?

(2) If so, will a copy be made available to the road board, and when?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

(1) No.

(2) A copy of the report will be available to the road board before the 31st December, 1958.

### FEDERAL AID ROAD FUNDS.

#### *Percentage Spent North of 26th Parallel.*

24. Mr. WATTS asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What percentage of the Federal aid road funds available to this State, has been spent north of the 26th parallel of south latitude in each of the last three financial years?

(2) What sum of money does such percentage represent in each of such years?

(3) Is the petrol tax payable in respect of petrol sold north of the 26th parallel?

(4) How much has been spent in improving the road between Northampton and Carnarvon in each of the last three years, and how much is it anticipated will be required to complete such road?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

				per cent.
(1)	1955-56	....	....	13.31
	1956-57	....	....	11.04
	1957-58	....	....	11.02
				£
(2)	1955-56	....	....	695,097
	1956-57	....	....	683,809
	1957-58	....	....	809,351

In addition the following amounts were expended from funds provided by the State Grants (Encouragement of Meat Production) Act:

				£
	1955-56	....	....	159,071
	1956-57	....	....	81,493
	1957-58	....	....	nil
(3)	Yes.			£
(4)	1955-56	....	....	158,163
	1956-57	....	....	167,947
	1957-58	....	....	164,800

Inclusive of £210,000 allocated this financial year, a provisional estimate to complete the road is £875,000.

### CANTERBURY COURT PROJECT.

#### *Cost and Source of Finance.*

25. Mr. ROBERTS asked the Treasurer:

(1) What is the estimated total cost of the Canterbury Court project?

(2) (a) What amount of that total cost is to be contributed by the promoters of the scheme?

(b) What amount additional thereto is to be provided from sources to be guaranteed by the Government?

(c) From what sources are any remaining sums to come?

Mr. HAWKE replied:

(1) £284,000.

(2) (a) £9,500 (plus freehold land).

(b) A sum of £250,000 provided by an assurance company. Rural and Industries Bank funds are not involved.

(c) To be arranged by the promoters of the scheme.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

#### *Provision for Northern and Eastern Suburbs.*

26. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

As it is apparent that there is insufficient water in the Canning-Yokine conduit north of the river during peak hours to supply the northern and eastern suburbs, will he undertake to have take-off points from the Serpentine-Yokine main additional to the one at the Walter-rd. junction?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

No

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.****PRINTING.***Expenditure on Machinery.*

1. Mr. COURT asked the Premier:

Arising from the answer given to question No. 14 on today's notice paper, could he clarify the meaning of the word "bulk" given in answer to a request for details of the amount spent on machinery for the year ended the 30th June, 1958, and proposed to be expended for the year ending the 30th June, 1959?

Mr. HAWKE replied:

As I understand it—I would not ask anyone to accept this as gospel—it has to do with new machines; the total as against parts, and so on. As I said the other evening, some new machines have had to be purchased as the result of the transfer of the Government Printing Works from the city to Subiaco, to replace old machines which are either about worn out or incapable of being transferred.

**RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK.***Approach to Public Works Department.*

2. Mr. BRAND asked the Minister for Works:

As a representative or an officer of the R. & I. Bank has approached officers or employees of the Architectural Department of the Public Works Department, seeking information as to whether they have a banking account with the R. & I. Bank, would he indicate whether this facility of making representations is open to other private trading banks?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

I have no knowledge of any such approach having been made, but I shall make inquiries.

**FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.***The "Halimah"—Government's Liability.*

3. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Fisheries:

With reference to parts (9) and (10) of question No. 1 on today's notice paper, in answer to which he stated that the cost of repairs so far done on the vessel "Halimah" was £4,000, will he now inform me whether the Government would have to pay the remaining £20,000 as per contract, and what is his estimate of the money that will be received for the vessel?

Mr. KELLY replied:

There will be no further commitment in regard to the unexpired amount of that contract. It is hard to estimate what the hull of the "Halimah" would be worth. There is considerable value in the engines, equipment, instruments, and other parts

that will be for sale, apart from the hull; but I have no estimate at present. It would be subject to market conditions when the material is put up for sale.

**CANTERBURY COURT PROJECT.***Value of Freehold Land.*

4. Mr. ROBERTS asked the Premier:

Further to my question in relation to the Canterbury Court project, could he indicate the actual value of the freehold land?

Mr. HAWKE replied:

I, personally, could not estimate the value, but the land covers a wide area. It is bordered in part by James-st., Beaufort-st., and Stirling-st., and runs up the side of the local hotel, the name of which I am not familiar with, but which is probably known to the hon. member for Bunbury.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.***Abolition.*

5. Mr. BRAND asked the Premier:

Does he intend to act upon the recommendation of the State Executive of the A.L.P.—as published today—to pay a life pension to all members of the Legislative Council, in order that it might be abolished?

Mr. HAWKE replied:

This is the first I have heard of this intriguing suggestion. I think that all I would be prepared to say, before receiving official representation, would be that I am prepared to discuss the matter personally with each member of the Legislative Council to get his reaction.

**WATER SUPPLIES.***Provision for Northern and Eastern Suburbs.*

6. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

Is he aware that many people in the northern and eastern suburbs, at peak hours during the recent hot weather, were left without a supply of water for domestic purposes? If so, when can these people be assured of supplies being made available during the 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. period?

Mr. TONKIN replied:

I am aware that some difficulties have been experienced in the locality mentioned, but I am not aware that large numbers of people are involved. The position is receiving attention; and, as outlined previously, such steps as are possible will be taken in order successively to effect improvement in those areas where the reticulation system is inadequate to supply the water needed by consumers.



**CHANGE OF BANKING HOURS.***A.W.U. Opposition in Queensland.*

7. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Labour:

In view of the fact that he has no information regarding question No. 17 on today's notice paper, does he propose to get a copy of the A.W.U. evidence given in Queensland in opposition to the Saturday closing of banks; and will he make it available at his office to members who may desire to see it after the session has concluded?

Mr. W. HEGNEY replied:

The hon. member for Nedlands did not say what was meant by "A.W.U."

Mr. Brand: The Queensland People's Party!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: What does "A.W.U." mean?

Mr. Court: For the purpose of the exercise, we will call it the Australian Workers' Union represented by Mr. Bukowski.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Now that we know the full title of A.W.U., in direct reply to the question the answer is in the negative.

Mr. Court: It is time you did something about it.

**BILLS (2)—RETURNED.**

## 1, Hire-Purchase.

With amendments.

## 2, Noxious Weeds Act Amendment (No. 3).

With an amendment.

**PLANT DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).**

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. WILD (Dale) [2.45]: This Bill, and the one complementary to it, were covered very fully last evening by the hon. member for Darling Range who, as far as this House is concerned, is really the father of the fruit industry. I do not intend to cross swords with him or join issue in any of the technical matters he mentioned. I want to make only a few observations regarding things that have occurred to me over a number of years.

It seems to me that at long last the Government intends to do something about this scourge in the fruit industry. In this regard I am not particularly picking on this Government but my remarks apply to all Governments when I say that over the years successive Governments have shown a dilatory and negligent attitude towards this menace. The industry has tried to do something to assist itself but its requests for more money to carry on the work against fruit-fly have, in the main, fallen on deaf ears.

The pest has now reached the stage where it is found not only among the stone fruit but also among apples. Some 10 years ago the district in which I reside decided to institute a baiting scheme of its own, known as the South Suburban Fruit-fly Baiting Scheme. The growers made their own contributions to the fund necessary to carry out this work, and the Government of the day contributed a small sum. But when one looks around the area one cannot help but realise that the growers are fighting a losing battle.

I do not know the exact dimensions of the area concerned in the scheme, but it would be approximately 10 square miles. It is possible for a man to be living within that area, and to be subject to the compulsory contributions and having his orchard sprayed, while his next-door neighbour may be outside the ambit of the scheme and his orchard infested with fruit-fly. Naturally the fly has no respect for any particular orchard, and it is not long before other properties in that vicinity are infested. In other words, in such instances the spraying is completely nullified.

From my observations of the scheme I mentioned, most of the money has been spent on the provision of an inspector. There are five or six inspectors throughout the State, and they have big areas to cover. In recent years, with the south suburban scheme, the inspector has been a man well known in the district, where he has been born and bred. He is appointed as an inspector; and, as such, is called upon to visit people with whom he went to school. He might have to tell some of them that they are not doing the right thing; that they have to get rid of infested fruit; strip their trees; or do something like that. As hon. members can appreciate, it is a most difficult position for him.

I know that one of our recent appointees was a man who fell within that category. He is a delightful chap and has lived in the district for many years. He found himself in the difficult position of having to tell people whom he knew very well that they were not doing the right thing by the scheme. It is easy to talk about these things; but my suggestion is that where inspectors are appointed, it would be preferable to select someone who lives outside the district. I am not being critical of the man concerned in this case, because I have known him for many years; he is a very good chap. Human nature being what it is, it is not easy for anyone to go along to one's neighbour and say, "If you do not do what I tell you in regard to this, I'll put you on the whizzer".

Mr. W. Hegney: That is what you were trying to do with us.

Mr. WILD: The problem would be much easier if a stranger to the orchardists were appointed as inspector to offer them advice. In schemes such as this, one finds that in

nearly all cases the man who is earning his livelihood from industry—that is, the commercial grower—has to carry out a spraying campaign again. One has only to go to Mlawarra or to Runnymede, which is owned by Mr. Cross, and one will find that, in addition to men from the baiting organisation who have conducted spraying through the orchard many times during the season, the orchardist himself has to spray. So the expense involved is no small item.

Unfortunately, the last two seasons have been extremely bad in regard to fruit-fly infestation. From the south suburban area two years ago the number of condemned cases at the markets was kept down to a single figure. However, I know that last year one orchardist alone, whose property is at Roleystone, had 110 cases condemned.

Mr. Norton: He ought to be ashamed of himself for packing them.

Mr. WILD: That may or may not be so, but the hard cold fact is that the fruit was packed and sent to the market and 110 cases were condemned.

Mr. Norton: It may have meant that 110 districts were infested.

Mr. WILD: It is easy to criticise these people. But after all is said and done, fruitgrowing is their livelihood; and no doubt when they pack fruit for the market, they hope that they will get a reasonable price for it. I do not think any grower would deliberately pack infested fruit when he knew full well it would be condemned in the market; because, in the first place, he would lose the case. Secondly, he would only have wasted his time packing the fruit; and, thirdly, he would be debited with the market and transport charges. That is poor comment to pass on a man who is trying to do his best.

The fruit-fly menace has increased, and now we hear from Bridgetown and Donnybrook the grave news that fruit-fly is getting among the apples. As I have said, it is easy to criticise, but I think we should have taken the action that was mooted a few years ago. Quite recently, many hon. members of this House visited South Australia. One of the first questions the Premier (Mr. Playford) put to me was: "Why did you fellows want to send that last batch of fruit-fly over to us at Port Augusta?" I had not read anything about it in the Press, but as a result, he said, of Western Australia allowing infested fruit to be sent to Port Augusta, it had cost the State of South Australia £90,000 to eradicate an outbreak of fruit-fly.

So one can see that the action of the South Australian Government has been firm. There is no fruit-fly infestation in South Australia; and if it rears its ugly head in any part of the State, it is immediately suppressed. Here, however, no firm action was taken years ago. We have the menace with us today and all we seem to do is to try to stem the tide which is becoming increasingly greater year by year.

I think the hon. member for Darling Range hit the nail on the head last night when he said that the answer to this problem is to find the antidote or the lure—something that would get to the seat of the trouble. Whilst I acknowledge that the Government this year is going to grant more money in an effort to combat fruit-fly, I think the answer to this problem must be in greater and more intensive research.

If this money can be made available to permit research officers to ascertain what is best to kill fruit-fly at the source, we will have the solution to the problem. At the moment, however, it seems to me that we are just playing with it. When one considers the ease with which fruit-fly can move from place A to place B, it seems to me that we are only treating the whole matter as a joke.

I repeat that money must be found for more intensive research to discover what is causing the infestation. When this is done, we should set as our goal the eradication of fruit-fly from the State. I join with the hon. member for Darling Range in saying that I hope the £ for £ subsidy to be granted by the Government will be in addition to what it has been making available in the past. I know the Government has been receiving deputations year by year from orchardists who have had trouble with fruit-fly. The growers in my district are appreciative of the offer the Government has made this year, but it is to be earnestly hoped that the proposed £ for £ subsidy will be additional to the grant that has been made hitherto. I have pleasure in supporting the second reading.

**MR. NORTON** (Gascoyne) [2.56]: I am in agreement with the provisions contained in both these Bills before the House which seek to amend Acts dealing with plant diseases; but I consider that in the past we have only been playing with the fruit-fly problem; and are doing so even now. The only way to deal with it is on a State-wide basis; to make the whole of the State a compulsory baiting area. Why should one section of the community consider it is worth while to lay baits for fruit-fly and join others to form a group to conduct a compulsory baiting scheme while their neighbours say, "We have not got it here, and we will not bother to join any baiting scheme?" Such people are merely infecting that area because they are the means of spreading the adult fly, which travels from place to place, particularly on downwinds.

If one considers the rapid increase in the number of cases that continue to be condemned in the markets, one gets some idea of the infestation spread. I have no doubt that it is emanating now from individual cases. In 1956 only 113 cases in the Metropolitan Markets were condemned; but, in the following year, 584 cases were condemned, an increase of nearly 500 per cent.

It appears to me, from the remarks made by the hon. member for Dale a few moments ago, that one man whom he knows was responsible for one-fifth of that increase. The hon. member said that one man had 110 cases of fruit condemned in the Metropolitan Markets. This makes one wonder what the total economic loss is to the State on the fruit that becomes infected, because the Metropolitan Markets inspectors see practically none of what is lost through fruit-fly strike, because most infected fruit is destroyed by proper sanitation on the orchard itself, and therefore never reaches the markets.

In addition, many cases are overlooked by the inspector. Not every piece of fruit in a case can be seen. It often occurs that the infested fruit is on the other side of the case or in the middle, and therefore it is never seen by the inspectors in the market. So one can easily say that over and above the 584 cases that were condemned in the markets, there were many more infected cases of fruit that passed undetected through the markets and to country districts, each one carrying infestation with it. The apple-growers in this State are taking a dim view of any infested fruit being packed, particularly stone fruit, which is a common carrier of the fruit-fly, and may reach their districts. It is very hard to detect, particularly with unripe fruit. But if one is an expert, one can see the piercing in the skin, and detect it by that means. As the fruit is passing over the rollers the inspectors have no chance at all of seeing, and detecting, all the fruit that happens to have been struck by fruit-fly.

I also consider that, in our endeavour to combat the infestation of fruit-fly, we should take in all market gardeners. The vegetables they grow are just as big breeders of fruit-fly as any orchard. Some of the vegetables which are a host for fruit-fly are rockmelons, cucumbers, capscums, chilies, and egg fruit. They are all grown in market gardens, and any of them lying around in a ripe state could be struck and provide an incubator for fruit-fly. Egg fruit is very susceptible, and it is possible for infestation to be carried to clean districts, thus causing infestation in areas which have previously been free.

It is very pleasing to hear that the Government proposes to subsidise people down here on a £ for £ basis in an endeavour to control the fruit-fly. The Gascoyne district does not seem to come within the area in which levies are to be made. The Gascoyne fruit-growing area, however, has instigated its own levy of 3d. on every package of fruit or vegetables produced in the district, and this money will supply the necessary funds for the appointment of an inspector to help control fruit-fly. I believe the levy will amount to something like £18,000 to £20,000; and if the Government would subsidise us, £ for £, in our endeavour to control the fruit-fly it would be a great help.

I ask the Minister to consider the possibility of compulsory fruit-fly control being instituted right throughout the State, whether it be in orchards or market gardens, or the household garden, or anywhere else. If we make it compulsory, we will have more chance of combating the menace.

**MR. HALL (Albany) [3.3]:** I do not wish to have very much to say on this Bill. I believe the matter is far more serious than the hon. member for Darling Range seems to think. He said that the fruitgrowers in the lower Great Southern, Mt. Barker, and Upper Kalgan areas, are a little perturbed, but not sufficiently so to cause anxiety. I would say that they are very worried indeed.

When one realises an area has enjoyed freedom from the infestation of fruit-fly, and knows the effect that fruit-fly infestation could have on our overseas markets, one must be worried. Our overseas markets in fruit strengthen our economy; and if we have a recession as a result of fruit-fly infestation, we will have cause to worry a great deal, because our overseas markets will be directly affected.

The feeling in the areas mentioned is that a greater research is required, particularly as fruit-fly is becoming more prevalent. We also notice that as the menace of fruit-fly infestation increases so, in turn, does the menace of the common house-fly become more prevalent. I do not think any hon. members, or perhaps members of the agricultural research committee, could link up the two. But it is quite evident that with the increase of the fruit-fly we also have an increase in the incidence of the common house-fly.

Our baiting system should be intensified. The Americans seem to lead us in that field, and we should follow them. I believe they have experimented successfully with the spraying of fruit-fly, and that would appear to be a field which we have not explored at all. Seeing the great success that the Argentine ant squads have had in their spraying campaign, it is quite apparent that they would be the men who would be best suited to carry out the spraying for fruit-fly.

They have the experience of handling equipment together with a great knowledge of the backyards of householders where fruit-fly is prevalent. They know the habits of this pest, and they also know just where to look for it. With their experience, they would be the people best suited to handle this type of spraying. Another point is that the growers of fruit themselves are often the culprits. An article was recently published in the "Western Australian Fruitgrower" headed, "Responsibility of the Growers under the Fruitgrowing Industry Trust Fund." It reads as follows:—

The committee of the fruitgrowing industry trust fund has expressed concern once more at the number of

growers who are selling fruit privately and not remitting their share of contributions to the trust fund.

The fact that they are not making any contribution to the trust fund is bad enough; but it is worse when we consider that they are selling the fruit privately, which means that there is no policing in an endeavour to discover where the fruit is going. It might have come from a fruit-fly infested area into an area which is free from such infestation.

I believe the Department of Agriculture could have a look at that with a view to instituting road blocks at certain times of the year, particularly where fruit is being carried from a fruit-fly infested area into one in which there is no such infestation. It only needs fruit to be thrown on to the side of the road in a fruitgrowing area to ensure the complete infestation of that area by fruit-fly. The Department of Agriculture has a big job ahead of it; but how it will overcome this difficulty, I do not know.

The other point mentioned in the article is that of contributions. These people are selling fruit to travellers who are moving through the district, and they should be forced to contribute to the fund, as should the registered or backyard orchardist. The Department of Agriculture should intensify its efforts in connection with the baiting and spraying of fruit-fly.

**MR. BOVELL (Vasse)** [3.7]: For a number of years I have attended the annual conference of the Western Australian Fruitgrowers' Association. On the last occasion when the conference was held, in September of this year, I attended as the official representative of the Leader of the Opposition. That was the occasion when the Minister for Agriculture declared the conference open. The matter of fruit-fly infestation was discussed; and I feel it is most important at this particular time. My knowledge of the Western Australian Fruitgrowers' Association confirms me in the belief that it is a self-reliant organisation; it never approaches the Government unless it has a genuine request to make.

It comprises fruitgrowers who have, in the main, in co-operation with the various sections of the Department of Agriculture, conducted their own affairs, and relied on themselves for finance to expand their industry.

But this question of fruit-fly infestation has become very serious; and, whilst the hon. member for Gascoyne quoted certain figures, I have here a copy of the report of the Fruit Fly Advisory Board submitted to the conference in 1958. These, I understand, are the official figures for the number of cases of fruit that were infested with fruit-fly—

Year.	No. of Cases.
1953-54	246
1954-55	557

Year.	No. of Cases.
1955-56	113 (There was a decrease in this season.)
1956-57	548
1957-58	1,142

They are the total condemnations of cases infested with fruit-fly for fruit produced over that five-year period. The infestation of fruit on a partial basis over the five-year period was as follows:—

	Cases.
1953-54	2,220
1954-55	2,498
1955-56	1,183
1956-57	1,882
1957-58	3,211

It will be noticed that in the 1957-58 season, the number had risen to an alarming proportion. The report goes on to say—

Factors contributing to the relatively high damage during the past season were the very dry winter, particularly from July onwards and the unusually early start to the fruit season. Of the metropolitan infestations, figs were the most heavily attacked fruit with 510 infestations, followed by apricots (341) and loquats (236).

Those figures give this House some idea of the rapid growth of fruit-fly infestation. I realise that the Minister for Agriculture is fully alive to the need for urgent attention to be given to the matter. The hon. member for Darling Range dealt with the technical details in the Bill; but I wanted to point out the figures to show the rapid infestation which has taken place over the last five years, and the urgent need to arrest the spread of this pest.

As a backyard orchardist myself, I feel the department could do more for us, in making available for sale to backyard orchardists suitable fruit-fly baits. Last year I carried out a considerable amount of spraying of my fruit trees at my home in Busselton. It was the worst year of infestation ever known. Never before have I known apricots, Elberta peaches, and nectarines to be infested with fruit-fly in my district. The whole of my crop had to be destroyed. I have a few varieties of stone fruits which mature from the very beginning of the stone fruit season to the end of April. The whole crop of fruits had to be destroyed, despite the fact that I had purchased local fruit-fly baits and carried out extensive spraying.

There is an urgent need for the Agricultural Department to provide for backyard orchardists readily available supplies of fruit-fly baits. This and the following Bill are complementary, and I support the second reading of both.

**THE HON. L. F. KELLY** (Minister for Agriculture—Merredin-Yilgarn—in reply) [3.15]: I thank hon. members for their contribution to these two measures. The

main contributor to the debate was the hon. member for Darling Range, and not, as stated this afternoon, the hon. member for Dale. In regard to the consolidation of the Act, I agree that it becomes a little difficult to follow; naturally, I will look at the possibility of consolidation as early as possible.

The hon. member for Darling Range asked for some clarification in regard to the Government subsidy of £13,100, and as to whether or not it was exclusive of the amount already allocated by the Government. I can assure him that it is exclusive of the amount, and has nothing to do with the money already provided by the Government for fruit-fly eradication.

I am unable to align my thoughts with those of the hon. member when he accused the department of being too conservative. That is not the case. He said that the inspectors were reluctant to make prosecutions, and that their efforts were wasted. When there is only a small amount of expenditure for the control of pests generally—as has been the position in the past—naturally the department cannot afford to have a team of inspectors. The few that are employed by the department are stationed at the most acute spots of infestation, where outbreaks are likely to occur, or where the prevalence of fruit-fly is greatest. I can assure him there is no reluctance to prosecute. If and when breaches are discovered, the department takes remedial action as quickly as possible. There may be odd cases which go unchecked. In the huge area required to be supervised there could be such cases.

The hon. member for Darling Range said that more research was needed. I agree with him; but again there is the limitation of the financial resources. Research which has been carried out up to date has been limited by the availability of funds. The reason for the introduction of this Bill is to enable the department, in conjunction with the Fruitgrowers' Association, to intensify the amount of work to be done in this regard in the ensuing 12 months. Some of that extra work will fall into the category of research. It may enable the department to engage another entomologist. At present only one is employed. With 80,000 backyarders and 3,500 commercial orchardists in this State, it is difficult for one entomologist to effectively control the pest. We are hoping for some betterment in the position when extra finance is available.

The hon. member spoke of something more positive being given to producers. He should know, because he is a member of the executive of the Fruitgrowers' Association that, much of the work that is undertaken is accomplished in conjunction, and in co-operation with, that very same executive. As a result of experience that executive has repeatedly suggested to the department what should be the approach

for the elimination, to some extent, of the pests—not the total eradication, because the funds available would not permit a campaign of eradication to be effective. Over the years it can be said that control has been effected.

It was thought by the hon. member for Darling Range that many of the difficulties which arose this year—and to some extent last year—were seasonal. As a matter of fact, the organisation mentioned by the hon. member for Vasse a few moments ago, whose conference I opened, agreed that the position was largely seasonal.

Mr. Owen: The remedies applied have not been 100 per cent. effective.

Mr. KELLY: The effect of this over a period of years has been recognised as sufficient to keep the fruit-fly within control; and there has been very little comment from organisations. In regard to the organisation mentioned by the hon. member for Darling Range, I have checked back for quite a period of time and find that there has been very little reference to any difficulties in regard to fruit-fly: just an occasional little murmur.

Mr. Owen: The people there are used to the fly and take normal steps.

Mr. KELLY: If the growers are used to the fly, remedial action is in their own hands. It is their responsibility to do something about the fruit-fly on individual properties. The department comes in as an overriding authority in an endeavour to correlate all the efforts made. However, responsibility rests on each and every fruit-grower; and always will. The growers themselves are largely responsible for any increase in fruit-fly brought about through any reason other than a seasonal one.

The hon. member spoke of dipterex experiments carried out 12 months ago. I would inform him that the experiments have continued right through and are still being carried out, and hon. members must realise that before the department can become wholeheartedly behind an insecticide or new-fangled remedy, it must be sure of its ground; and it has taken some time to get that degree of certainty in regard to dipterex. It has only just been gazetted as being effective for the control of fruit-fly; so the department has not let any grass grow under its feet in regard to dipterex. It has been on the job right through.

The hon. member spoke of winter baiting. I understand there was a recommendation that that be done. As a matter of fact, that recommendation, in various other forms, goes back over a period of years. I think the suggestion is a worthwhile one that summer baiting should be followed up with some remedial action throughout the winter months. That is obvious. However, as I explained a moment or two ago, we have only one entomologist; and with the excessive

dampness last season, it was almost impossible for him effectively to do anything at all. This was raised by the hon. member for Gascoyne; but I would inform him that during the winter months the Government Entomologist was in Gascoyne, where he carried out extensive work.

I understand that the practice of the department, in endeavouring to overcome the existence of fruit-fly, is on all fours with that of other parts of the world. The department has access to various periodicals and journals; and many top men pass through, from whom we gain knowledge as to what activities are being carried out in other areas. That is the position as far as the department is concerned at the present time.

I have a comment here from the department to which I wish to refer. It reads as follows:—

In addition to the use of baits, biological control has been investigated by the Government Entomologist in collaboration with the C.S.I.R.O. A programme of importation of parasites has been arranged and will continue throughout the summer. The first liberation of these parasites was made in this State on the 3rd of December.

In order to gain as much information as possible on overseas work, a Queensland entomologist is now abroad at Commonwealth expense, after visiting this State to discuss local fruit-fly problems and so to be in a position to make personal investigations on our behalf in the United States of America and Hawaii. This officer, on returning, will revisit Western Australia so the benefit of his experience will be made available at the earliest possible time.

The hon. member for Dale largely agreed with the hon. member for Darling Range; and he made some comment regarding the fighting of a losing battle. Of course it will be a losing battle if eradication is going to cost £50,000 or £75,000, and only £20,000 can be made available. It cannot be otherwise.

I think the position has been accentuated in the past because of seasonal conditions; and a concerted effort will be made with the extra finance available in an endeavour to at least combat the fly in its present stage. The losing battle suggestion is quite easy to understand, particularly during 1957-58.

The hon. member referred to Government aid as being very small. However, as I said earlier, until recently there has, from the fruitgrowers, been very little mention of fruit-fly. It has been one of those little things which has gradually come to a head. Perhaps its incidence has increased slightly; but nobody has been very concerned. However, all of a

sudden, we find the incidence has spread in many districts—to a lesser degree in some than in others. Today we find that there is a fair amount of concern in a number of places.

In regard to the small contribution made by the Government, as remarked by the hon. member for Dale, I pointed out at the conference that this industry is worth £4,500,000 to the State, and the contribution for fruit-fly control from commercial growers through registration fees is worth only .06 in the £1. That is a very small contribution, in relation to the whole of the proceeds.

Mr. Owen: Many growers spend over £100 in fighting fruit-fly.

Mr. KELLY: That may be so. But I am now speaking of the amount of money expended through Government channels, and I am criticising the comment that was made in regard to a small contribution by the Government. The Government is contributing more than £ for £ to the money received from various sources under the control of the Fruitgrowers' Association.

Mr. Owen: No.

Mr. KELLY: Yes. The Government has contributed nearly £20,000 for fruit-fly control.

There are hon. members who still feel that the backyarders are the chief offenders and should be paying more; but I would point out that the registration fees collected up to the present time from the registered commercial growers amount to £2,700 per year; whereas the backyarders—some hon. members suggested that they should contribute £1 per person instead of the present 2s.—have contributed £8,800 per year. Therefore, I say that they are doing their share in the matter of endeavouring to bring these funds up to something worth while.

I think the hon. member for Dale made some comment about the necessity to discover the cause of fruit-fly. I agree with him; and I think it would be a very good thing if we could get down to the matter on a fundamental basis in order to ascertain from where the fly comes, because in that way we might be able to adopt a preventative rather than a curative method.

The hon. member for Gascoyne said we are playing with fruit-fly control. That could be said in comparison with the Argentine ant campaign, where a very large amount was made available in a very short time. There is a certain amount of playing with the problem where only about one-fifth of the amount of funds required are put into overcoming it.

With the amount that the Government has now agreed to subsidise, to which will be added collections from various channels, from the commercial fruitgrowers and the other backyarders, there will be roughly £50,000 to expend during the year; and

that should very much improve the position. I think we will achieve good results in the matter of fruit-fly control during the coming season.

The hon. member for Gascoyne spoke of the amount of money subscribed by the people in Carnarvon in regard to the growing of various foodstuffs, and he mentioned the levies they place on themselves, which run into the vicinity of £18,000. He said he would be pleased to have a contribution from the Government on a £ for £ basis.

Mr. Norton: I said, from £1,800 to £2,000.

Mr. KELLY: I thought the hon. member said £18,000. I point out that in Carnarvon there is a research station, and there are a number of officers continuously on the job. They are there for the purpose of advising the growers at every turn. Again, not only are the resident officers able to render a tremendous amount of assistance, but also, from time to time, officers go from Perth to Carnarvon to assist in the matter of research in the district. As I said a little while ago, the entomologist was there for several months this year.

The hon. member for Albany endeavoured to put the fruit-fly and the house-fly on the same level and make it appear that one was more or less dependent on the other for its increase. I do not know whether that is right or not, because there are plenty of areas where house-flies are on the increase all the time, but where there is no fruit-fly. So I do not think it is necessary for fruit-fly to associate with the ordinary house-fly in any area.

The hon. member for Vasse spoke of the necessity for the Government to do more for the backyard orchardists, by way of supplying bait. I think he mentioned free bait.

Mr. Bovell: No, I said that the people should be prepared to pay for the bait, but it should be available through the department.

Mr. KELLY: A vast number of sprayings of backyard gardens are carried out by the Department of Agriculture, and these sprayings do not return more than 50 per cent. of the Government's outlay. This is a service which has been carried on for some time, and one which I think has helped materially in keeping the incidence of fruit-fly down in backyard orchards. If it is good enough for a person to have a tree or two in his backyard, and get the resultant benefits, it should not be too much to ask him to do his share of combating a menace which could be serious to the State.

Mr. Bovell: We would do that if we could get a satisfactory bait. It is a matter of getting the right bait.

Mr. KELLY: The question of a satisfactory bait is one that is not dealt with in five minutes. Many conferences have

been held between this State and others, and much research has taken place in connection with fruit-fly. An earnest endeavour has been made to find something that is satisfactory. We get a bait that is lauded as being worth while, and then we find that the fly becomes immune to it, in the same way as the rabbits have become immune to myxomatosis.

Mr. Bovell: Last year I used luratox and fluotox.

Mr. KELLY: Some people have success with one while others will say they have success with another, and still others will say they have no success at all. I think that will be the position until we get on to something that will give a lasting result.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

*Third Reading.*

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

## PLANT DISEASES (REGISTRATION FEES) ACT AMENDMENT.

### BILL.

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 27th November.

MR. OWEN (Darling Range) [3.38]: The Bill is identical with part of the measure with which we have just dealt, and there is very little that I wish to say on it, except to mention that the increase in orchard registration fees will help to build up the fund which we now know the Government will subsidise on a £ for £ basis.

I wish to mention only one point in regard to the control of fruit-fly. In accordance with the figures given in reply to a question asked last year, the Government was contributing to the orchard registration and fruit-fly eradication fund, plus subsidies to fruit-fly baiting schemes, the sum of £10,019, which includes the salaries of certain permanent officers.

Figures which I have also show that orchardists, both backyard and commercial, by way of registration fees, contributed £10,950. In addition to the £3,300 which the Government spent in subsidising these baiting schemes, growers who came under the scheme spent many thousands of pounds to have their orchards baited. So I cannot agree that the Government is spending more on fruit-fly control than are the orchardists. Orchardists throughout the fruit-fly infested areas, in time and material, spend many thousands of pounds each year.

Mr. Kelly: And they get all the returns, too.

Mr. OWEN: We who are in what are known as the dirty areas—that is, areas where fruit-fly is known to exist—have, over the years, done our best to control the pest. There are individuals who are careless, and they are a menace not only to themselves and to other growers in the district, but also to the southern districts of the State. Those people are not looked upon with favour by the careful growers. The growers in these areas, even outside the baiting schemes, have done a reasonable job in keeping the fruit-fly down to a comparatively low level. As a practical grower, I know that there was less fruit-fly in my orchard last year than in some previous years.

For the information of the hon. member for Gascoyne, I had two cases of fruit condemned; and I do not think that is any disgrace, because when fruit is picked within a day or two of ripening, particularly with some varieties, it is impossible to tell, without the use of a microscope on each individual fruit, whether it is infested or not.

Mr. Norton: But 110 cases is a different proposition.

Mr. OWEN: I agree with that. However, that is only by the way. This measure is almost a part of the Plant Diseases Act Amendment Bill (No. 2), with which we have just dealt, and I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

#### *Third Reading.*

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.4 p.m.*

### **PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

#### *Message.*

Message from the Lieut.-Governor and Administrator received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

#### *Second Reading.*

**THE HON. A. R. G. HAWKE** (Treasurer—Northam) [4.5] in moving the second reading said: This Bill seeks to amend the Parliamentary Superannuation Act in some very important particulars. In the first place it is proposed to raise the contributions which members of Parliament pay to the fund, from £78 per annum to £130

per annum, and to increase the amount of subsidy which the State pays each year from £6,240 to £10,400.

The Bill further proposes to increase the rates of pension which will be payable after the Bill comes into operation. In order to enable hon. members generally to make a comparison between the rates which are payable at the present, and those which will become payable in the event of this Bill becoming law, it would be advisable if I were to read the existing rates as set out in Section 11A of the parent Act.

At the present time where a member of Parliament has served for not less than 13 years he is entitled to a pension at the rate of £11 per week for 10 years, and £5 10s. per week for a second period of 10 years. Where he has served less than 13 years but not less than 11 years he is entitled to a pension of £9 10s. per week for the first 10 years, and £4 15s. per week for the second 10 years. Where the period of service is less than 11 years but not less than 9 years, he is entitled to a pension at the rate of £7 per week for the first period of 10 years, and no pension after the first 10 years have expired.

Where the period of service is less than nine years, but not less than seven years, the pension at present is at the rate of £4 10s. per week for a period of 10 years, with nothing payable after the first 10-year period has passed. Where the period of service is less than seven years the member of Parliament concerned receives only the contributions which he has made to the fund, plus such rate of interest thereon as shall be determined by the trustees of the fund.

The proposed new scale of pension payments is, firstly, where a member has served for not less than 15 years, a pension at the rate of £13 10s. per week for 20 years. Where there has been a membership of not less than 13 years, a pension of £13 10s. per week for the first 10 years and £6 15s. per week for the second period of 10 years is payable. Where the membership has been for not less than 12 years a pension of £12 5s. per week for the first 10 years, and £6 2s. 6d. per week for the second 10 years is payable.

Where the membership is not less than 11 years, the pension rate will be £11 per week for 10 years and £5 10s. per week for the second 10-year period. Where membership of not less than 10 years has been established, the pension rate will be £9 15s. for 10 years with no pension at all thereafter. Where the membership is of not less than nine years' duration, the rate of pension will be £8 10s. per week for a period of 10 years and no pension subsequently. Where their membership has been not less than eight years, their pension rate will be £7 5s. per week for 10 years. Where membership has been less



than seven years in total, the pension rate of £6 per week will be payable for a period of 10 years.

The position under the proposed amendments to the law where a member has served for less than seven years, will be the same as at present. Such an ex-member would receive his contributions as a refund and would, in addition, receive in connection therewith such rate of interest as the trustees would consider to be reasonable in the circumstances. It is proposed in this Bill to alter the amount of pension to which widows would be entitled.

At present, the rate of pension to widows varies. They are entitled to one-half of the pension which was being received by the husband, or half of the pension to which he would have been entitled for the first period of seven years—if I remember rightly—and thereafter for a further similar period a pension at the rate of one-third.

Under this Bill, the pensions to widows will be paid at the rate of two-thirds of the pension to which the husband would have been entitled but for his death. In other words, whatever entitlement would have obtained had the husband continued to live, will be paid to the widow concerned at a rate of two-thirds during the period the pension would have continued to operate had the husband lived for the full period of his own entitlement.

The Bill also grants discretionary power to the trustees of the fund to receive applications from widows for special consideration and should the trustees consider such applications deserving, a special grant will be made from the fund.

**Mr. Ross Hutchinson:** Is that provision to act retrospectively? For example, could widows receiving pensions now make requests, or does it only apply as from the date of the assent to this Bill?

**Mr. HAWKE:** I think the whole of these new proposals will come into operation from the date of assent to this Bill and would only apply to members who were, in fact, members of Parliament at the 31st December, 1958. Therefore, I think I am correct in saying that none of the provisions in this Bill in respect of pension rates would have any retrospective application.

In regard to this proposed discretionary power which the Bill aims to give to the trustees in connection with widows, the authority of the trustees to make special grants would operate only during such period as the widow concerned would legally be entitled to draw a pension. Once the total period of entitlement had disappeared, or been used up, then no widow who subsequently wished to make an application for assistance would have any legal right to make such application; and

should one do so, the trustees would certainly have no right at all to consider it, and therefore no right to make any approval in connection with it.

I have already said that these proposals will commence from the date of assent to the Bill should both Houses of Parliament give their approval to this proposed new legislation. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

**THE HON. D. BRAND (Greenough)** [4.16]: As we all know the subject of the Bill, as the draft has been circulated during the last week, and there has been a meeting of hon. members in this Chamber to discuss the provisions contained in it, there is little that I wish to add to what has already been stated by the Premier. For quite a time now, hon. members have been concerned about the inadequacy of superannuation. It must be borne in mind that, whether an hon. member is a workman or a tradesman, or has a business, his membership for the minimum period of three years of this Parliament does cause a break with his association, and it is very difficult to take up the reins again.

However, in the majority of cases the term of office here is longer—at least six years—and that makes it even more difficult for an hon. member to re-establish himself, unless there is some security by way of superannuation or a sum of money available to him upon his compulsory retirement.

The provision making or increasing the rate to two-thirds of the pension to be paid to the widow of a deceased member, is a very important one, particularly to younger members of Parliament who may have young families. The sum of £130 paid in annually by the member is quite a substantial contribution. I would think that if there was any opposition to these new provisions by hon. members, it would be in regard to the large sum of money per annum to be paid.

However, I myself am quite happy to pay that premium in return for the security that is forthcoming. I think that had we previously been prepared to pay out a substantial sum of money, the Treasurer might have been able to support some more favourable proposals previously.

The provision for discretionary powers for the trustees to help widows who find themselves in such a position as to be embarrassed is a good one. I feel sure that in the fullness of time, whilst amendments will be made to it, the measure will prove to be a very sound basis for a superannuation scheme. I support the second reading.

Question put and passed

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

*Third Reading.*

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

# **CATTLE TRESPASS, FENCING AND IMPOUNDING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

(No. 2).

*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 5th November.

**THE HON. A. M. MOIR** (Minister for Mines—Boulder) [4.23]: This Bill, introduced by the hon. member for West Perth, proposes to amend Section 26 of the Cattle Trespass Act. If hon. members examine it I am confident they will come to the conclusion that, if agreed to, it would in many cases cause hardship. Section 26 of the Act at present makes provision for certain obligations, to devolve on people sharing a mutual fence. That section says—

Whenever any mutual fence erected as aforesaid shall fall into disrepair and become insufficient, any owner of adjoining lands, having given notice to the other owners of the land divided by such fence, may on their refusal or neglect for a week to contribute to the maintenance thereof, cause the same to be repaired and made a sufficient fence, and shall thereupon be entitled to recover from such adjoining owners rateably their proportions of the expense of such repairs in like manner in due course of law; Provided always, and be it enacted that no greater sum shall be recovered from any person under this Act in respect of the making or repairing of any fence than the proportionate share of such portion of the actual cost that would be incurred according to the price in the district at the time for erecting and repairing a fence of the same description as that which has fallen into disrepair and become insufficient.

Hon. members will see that in this section there is ample provision to ensure that the cost of repairing or replacing a mutual fence shall be borne by the parties concerned. The amendment proposes to set out what shall be regarded as a sufficient fence in certain circumstances by adding the following proviso:—

Provided further that where the fence which has fallen into disrepair and become insufficient is a closed picket fence, then notwithstanding the provisions of Section thirty of this Act,

the term "sufficient fence" shall, for the purposes of this section, mean a similar closed picket fence.

Under that provision, if a closed picket fence dividing properties fell into disrepair it would be mandatory on both parties to replace it with a similar closed picket fence, notwithstanding the fact that neither party might wish to have that type of fence but might, in fact, prefer some other type. The existing closed picket fence might be 4 ft. high, for instance, and it would have to be replaced by a similar fence, also 4 ft. high, although that might not be the wish of the parties concerned.

This measure could cause considerable hardship in country areas. In country towns, when timber may have been much cheaper than it is now, many closed picket fences were erected, but have since fallen into disrepair. Instead of allowing the owners of the land a discretion to use cheaper material to replace the existing fence, the measure would make it mandatory on them to erect a new closed picket fence, even though, as I said previously, they might desire to have some other type of fence. In the early days on the gold-fields many closed picket fences were erected, but in later years second-hand corrugated iron has generally been used to replace the pickets and it makes an admirable fence.

Another bad feature of the Bill is that as late as last session Parliament passed an amendment to the Act conferring on local authorities the right to make by-laws setting out what they deemed to be a sufficient fence. A local authority would probably specify several different types of fence which it would deem sufficient, thus giving the people concerned a choice. Over the years opinions in regard to the fencing of property change. Nowadays many people like a cyclone netting fence; while others, again, have different ideas.

By Act No. 46 of 1957, the Cattle Trespass, Fencing, and Impounding Act was amended to authorise local authorities, with the approval of the Governor, to make by-laws prescribing what constitutes a "sufficient fence" either for portion of its district or the whole of the district and providing power so that fences of different classes may be prescribed as "sufficient fences" for different parts of the district. A great deal of discretion is granted to local authorities whose members, after all is said and done, are the representatives of the ratepayers of the district and they should know what are the fencing requirements of the people in the area.

The proposal of the hon. member for West Perth would override any by-laws made by a local authority; and, in regard to a closed picket fence, would allow reinstatement to a height coinciding with that in existence when the fence was originally put up—which, in some cases, might

well be as low as 4 ft. Therefore, the proposal in the Bill would completely override the by-laws which had been approved by the Governor and gazetted by a local authority and under which a type of fence was prescribed as being sufficient.

I do not think that, after such a short time from the date Parliament granted local authorities power to declare what is deemed to be a sufficient fence, this amendment should be agreed to. The proposal applies only to a closed picket fence; it does not apply to any other type. The existing provisions of the Act will have to apply to this fence.

Nevertheless, if some local authorities saw fit to take advantage of this recent provision in the Act, it would mean that whatever by-laws it had gazetted would be overridden by this measure so far as closed picket fences are concerned. For those reasons, I must oppose the second reading of the Bill.

**MR. BOVELL (Vasse)** [4.34]: I have listened to the Minister with considerable interest. He made the point that it would be mandatory upon the owners to erect a closed picket fence, in any circumstances. The hon. member for West Perth told the House during the speech he made when introducing the Bill, which speech appears on page 1979 of Hansard No. 14 dated 5th November, 1958, that—

In conclusion, let me say once again that this provision applies only where two owners cannot agree as to the type of fence they wish to have re-erected.

If that is so, there is some merit in the measure.

**Mr. Moir:** The hon. member should examine the provisions in the Bill, because that is what counts; not what the hon. member for West Perth says.

**Mr. BOVELL:** The Minister is apparently at variance with the hon. member for West Perth. Perhaps we may have a referee in this matter by the hon. member for Stirling giving his opinion on it. Fortunately, we have only one legal gentleman in this House at present, and therefore there will be no legal controversy.

However, I feel that the claim contained in the introductory speech of the hon. member for West Perth that the Bill will apply only in those cases where one owner requires a closed picket fence and the other does not, is quite sound. It shall apply only when a closed picket fence has been erected previously. If this is the case, the same type of fence shall be re-erected.

Because I have no first-hand knowledge of the fact, I might mention that it has been said that there has been more controversy over fences which divide properties than there has been in regard to mothers-in-law.

**The SPEAKER:** The hon. member will not be able to connect that up with this Bill, I am afraid.

**Mr. Watts:** According to the State Housing Commission, the erection of a fence costs only 2s. 3d. a foot.

**Mr. BOVELL:** On the assumption of the hon. member for West Perth that the Bill will not be mandatory and will apply only in those cases where a closed picket fence has fallen into disrepair and the re-erection of the fence takes place on the same site provided both parties are in agreement, I support the second reading of the Bill.

**MR. CROMMELIN (Claremont)** [4.37]: I oppose the Bill. Last year an amendment to this Act came before the House, the principal object of which was to give local authorities discretion in the re-erection of fences. It is all very well for the hon. member for West Perth, in this amending Bill, to assert that it applies only to closed picket fences, but the point is that in some municipalities around the metropolitan area it is often found that when a fence has fallen into disrepair the owner concerned is anxious to build a low brick fence in its place.

However, if this Bill is to deal with the actual erection of a closed picket fence where no other type of fence can be erected, it will override the discretion of the local authority which may consider that a better type of fence would be an asset to the district or the people concerned. This may not happen on many occasions, but today people have a greater tendency to beautify their homes with ornamental fences and gardens. Therefore, I oppose the Bill more from the point of view that it takes away discretionary power from the local authority, which power was granted to local authorities by an amending Bill last year.

**MR. HEAL (West Perth—in reply)** [4.38]: First of all, I would like to state that if I had had any idea that this Bill would cause hardship to anyone, I would have been the last one to introduce it into this House. I cannot follow the argument advanced by the Minister and that put up by the hon. member for Claremont. I doubt whether the Bill does make it mandatory that a certain type of fence shall be erected, especially if both parties agree. If both parties agree to the erection of a closed picket fence I cannot see why the fence cannot be erected.

This Bill is introduced only for the purpose of providing for the effecting of repairs of a fence and to cover those cases where two owners cannot agree on the type of fence to be erected. If the two owners do agree on the type of fence to be erected, nothing can be done about it, provided the local authority is in agreement.

If hon. members read Section 26 of the Act they will realise that the intent of the concluding words is that a fence of the same description should be re-erected.

As I claimed during my second reading speech, and as I claim now, this Bill seeks only to tidy up Section 26 to make it provide what it was intended it should. In regard to local authorities making by-laws, I do not think that many by-laws have been promulgated in regard to fences as yet. However, even if they have, I do not see how this amendment that I am seeking to have added to the end of Section 26 will make any difference. If a local authority brings in a by-law concerning the erection of any type of fence I should imagine that it would apply to new houses that are to be built in the district in the future. If the by-law applies to old houses, I do not think the amendment would take any discretionary power away from the local authority.

In any case, on various occasions I have thought it might be a good idea if some authority were taken away from local authorities; because it has occurred to me that they have too much power, especially in regard to the granting of building permits and other matters of that nature.

I repeat that, for the life of me I cannot see the reason for the Minister's opposition to this measure, because I cannot agree with him that it will make it mandatory upon an owner to erect a closed picket fence, even if the owners agree to erect a different type of fence. The only objections that have been raised against the measure have been by the Minister and the hon. member for Claremont. Therefore, if the Bill passes through the second reading stage and either of those two gentlemen desires to move an amendment to the Bill, I am sure that some compromise can be reached.

One amendment already has been suggested with which I am in agreement; and that is, that the following words be added at the end of the proviso:—

Unless differently determined by mutual agreement in writing by the owners of the adjoining lands endorsed with the consent of the local authority.

If this amendment is agreed to, it may overcome some of the objections raised by the Minister and the hon. member for Claremont.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; Mr. Heal in charge of the Bill.

*Clause 1—put and passed.*

#### *Clause 2—Section 26 amended:*

Mr. HEAL: I move an amendment—  
Page 2, line 9—After the word "fence" add the following words:—

"unless differently determined by mutual agreement in writing by the owners of the adjoining lands endorsed with the consent of the local authority."

*Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.*

*Title—put and passed.*

Bill reported with an amendment and the report adopted.

### **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (RESUMPTION OF LAND) ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

#### *Council's Amendments.*

Schedule of two amendments made by the Council now considered.

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Hon. A. R. G. Hawke (Premier) in charge of the Bill.

#### *No. 1.*

Clause 3, page 3, lines 2 and 3—Delete the words "a subsection as follows" and substitute the words "the following subsections."

Mr. HAWKE: The Legislative Council has made two amendments. One is preliminary to the other. The essence of the real amendment is that where the Governor purchases land by voluntary agreement under proposed new subsection (1) (b) of the appropriate section of the Act, there should be laid on the Table of the House from time to time statements setting out particulars of purchases made, and the disposition of the land after purchase. When the House is not in session these statements are to be laid on the Tables of each House of Parliament within 30 days of the day on which Parliament next assembles. The purpose of the amendment is to keep Parliament informed of future transactions under the proposed new subsection of the Act. The Government accepts the amendments made by the Legislative Council. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

#### *No. 2.*

Clause 3, page 3, line 23—Add after the word "applicant", the following subsection:—

(8) Where in exercise of the power conferred on him by subsection (1b) of section eleven of this Act the Governor purchases land for the purposes of this

Act, or where the Governor transfers or grants a lease of land so purchased, the Minister shall, on or before the expiration of thirty days after the purchase, registration of the transfer, or execution of the lease, lay or cause to be laid on the Table of each House of Parliament a report containing true particulars of the purchase, transfer, or lease of the land, including a description of the vendor, the land, the consideration, or the rent reserved, but if Parliament is in recess the Minister shall lay the report or cause it to be laid on the Table of each House of Parliament within thirty days of the next sitting day of Parliament.

Mr. HAWKE: I have already referred to this amendment, and I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

### UNFAIR TRADING AND PROFIT CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

#### *Council's Amendments.*

Schedule of three amendments made by the Council now considered.

#### *In Committee.*

Mr. Sewell in the Chair; the Hon. W. Hegney (Minister for Labour) in charge of the Bill.

No. 1.

Clause 4, page 3, line 5—Add after paragraph (b) new paragraphs to stand as paragraphs (c) and (d) as follows:—

(c) by inserting after the word "sale" wherever appearing in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (d) of the interpretation of "unfair trading methods" or "unfair methods of trade competition," the words "or agreement to sell";

(d) by adding after the word "quality" at the end of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (d) of the interpretation of "unfair trading methods" or "unfair methods of trade competition," the words "and with like conditions regarding delivery."

Mr. W. HEGNEY: It is not proposed to dissent from any of the Council's amendments, and I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 2.

Clause 6—Delete.

No. 3.

Clause 7—Delete.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I move—

That the amendments be agreed to.

Amendments Nos. 2 and 3 are inter-related and refer to the application by the director for an injunction. I indicated to the Leader of the Country Party that this would not be insisted upon in another place, and hence these amendments.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

### CATTLE TRESPASS, FENCING, AND IMPOUNDING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

#### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 5th November.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [4.55]: This Bill seeks to amend the Cattle Trespass, Fencing, and Impounding Act. It was first introduced in the Legislative Council and, having passed through that Chamber, it made its appearance here. The measure has been adjourned and on the notice paper for some weeks. Briefly, the provisions of the Bill are two in number. The first provision sets out that any person who knowingly, without reason or excuse, enters upon any country land shall, on complaint made to a justice of the peace by any person in possession of the land, pay or forfeit a sum of not less than £2 and not more than £10 whether damage has been proved to have been done or not.

I repeat that the first provision makes it necessary—whether damage is proved or not—that such person, on complaint to a justice of the peace, shall pay a fine or forfeit a sum of money of not less than £2 or more than £10. The second provision states that a person who is in possession of any enclosed land, or that person's employee, or any member of that person's family, may demand from a person who trespasses upon such land, his name and address.

Mr. Brand: Are you giving the point of view of the Government?

Mr. EVANS: No. We find that a person who trespasses on land can be asked to give his name and address to the person who owns the property, or to an employee of that person, or a member of his family; and anyone who neglects or refuses to give his name, or gives a false name may, on complaint to a justice of the peace, be made to pay or forfeit a sum of money not exceeding £5. Those are the provisions of the Bill. However, Section 13 of the parent Act gives adequate protection to the property or landholder. That section reads as follows:—

In all cases of trespass on land committed by any person, with or without any cattle, the owner of such land

may complain thereof in manner afore-said to a Justice of the Peace, who, when no bona fide question of title shall arise in the course of proceedings, may adjudicate thereon and award to such complainant, in respect of any damage on any country land, in addition to or inclusive of any penalty for trespass herein provided, a sum not exceeding Ten pounds; or if such Justice of the Peace shall find the trespass or damage so complained of to have been justified, or so trifling as not to merit any punishment, he may dismiss the complaint.

I contend that Section 13 of the Act provides sufficient and ample power in a sensible manner to a justice of the peace, whilst at the same time it offers complete protection to the property owner. Accordingly I claim the amendment before the House is completely unwarranted. I would like to repeat the particular feature of the first provision of the Bill which states that the person shall be subject to forfeit a sum of money not less than £2 and not more than £10 whether any damage shall be proved to have been committed or not.

Mr. Bovell: Why should people trespass? Would you like somebody walking around your house in the middle of the night?

Mr. EVANS: If it were a case having been proved to have been done, I would not be opposing the payment of damages; but where damage has not been proved to have been committed, a person is still subject to pay this money.

Mr. Bovell: You would not like prowlers walking around your house in the middle of the night.

Mr. EVANS: The Bill further states as follows:—

... any person who knowingly without lawful reason or excuse enters on any enclosed country land shall, on complaint made to a Justice of the Peace by the person in possession of the land, forfeit and pay to such latter person by reason of such trespass whether any damage shall be proved to have been committed or not, a sum not less than two pounds nor more than ten pounds, and in any case where damage shall be proved to have been committed, such sum shall be in addition to and not in substitution for any damages assessed by reason of such trespass.

Mr. I. W. Manning: Does this cover the Kalgoorlie electorate?

Mr. EVANS: I will come to that. I claim that the powers contained in this provision whereby an individual can be required to give his name and address to the person owning the land, an employee of that person, or to any of that person's family, is tantamount to placing a bounty over the

head of any person who may trespass. I claim that that is a rightful power of the police only.

The hon. member for Katanning, in introducing this Bill, claimed that people who travel the country areas and who, for good reason, may wish to pass on to someone's property, have the right to seek the permission of the property holder. That is quite obvious and true. However, in some areas it is quite evident that property holdings are large; and, although a person may have a good excuse to go on to somebody else's land, in order to obtain permission he may have to travel a great distance to reach the homestead.

Furthermore, we find that property that has been held by families for many years and has been handed down from sire to son, is property that, in the early days, was—to use a colloquial term—dirt cheap; and that land is held and protected very closely by members of the family to whom it has been handed down. It is my belief—and I believe the policy of my party—that there should be a system of unlocking the land.

Mr. Brand: Unlocking the land?

Mr. EVANS: In another place, an amendment was made to this Bill—

Mr. Brand: What would "unlocking the land" mean?

Mr. EVANS: —to limit its provisions to the South-West landowners. That amendment was made despite opposition by hon. members of the Liberal Party in another place to eliminate the Goldfields and other areas. It was due, I believe, to the advocacy of hon. members of the North-West and hon. members of the Goldfields.

A certain letter was read in another place which had been sent from the pastoralists at Kalgoorlie to an hon. member of the Country Party. Members of the Eastern Goldfields Gun Club claim that accusations made in that letter were unjust and untruthful. As a result, I believe that all Goldfields members have been sent quite a deal of correspondence from that particular club.

Mr. Cornell: You are pointing the gun!

Mr. EVANS: They oppose the provisions of this Bill, even though at the present moment its jurisdiction is limited to the South-West Land Division.

Mr. Brand: You will put the Minister in an invidious position.

Mr. EVANS: When the hon. member for Katanning was closing the debate on the introduction of the Bill in this Chamber he said this, when speaking of what went on in another place—

It was agreed that the Bill should operate, for the time being at least, only in the South-West Land Division.

It is obvious that those words are heavy with meaning. I claim that they try to cast the shadow of control over the entire

State. It is my opinion that it is the thin end of the wedge; it is unjust and unwarranted. The power is contained in Section 13 of the principal Act in order to protect the property-owner. There is also power for him to ask a person's name and address, and it is my desire to see that the status quo remains. I oppose the Bill.

**THE HON. A. M. MOIR** (Chief Secretary—Boulder) [5.5]: The provisions of this amending Bill, although confined to the South-West Land Division, can have some disturbing effect. I speak in regard to people engaged in mining pursuits.

Mr. Brand: Speak up; we cannot hear.

Mr. MOIR: From time to time quite an amount of trouble crops up between people who are the occupiers or the owners of land and people who are searching for minerals and prospecting for minerals. We have trouble in various parts of the State in this regard. Some of them, of course, are absolutely ridiculous.

It is only a short while ago that one pastoralist in the North-West complained that people engaged in mining and bulldozing roads through his lease were destroying quite a large amount of spinifex. I think hon. members will agree that that is ridiculous.

On the Goldfields, where pastoral leases are granted with certain conditions attached to them, we find that the majority of pastoralists are very helpful, not only to the mining people who wish to go through their properties, but also to the public at large. We know that, at the present time, towns are fenced in practically right up to the boundaries with pastoral leases; and the majority of the pastoralists do not place any restriction in the way of people who wish to travel over the roads within the properties in order that they may have a day out on Saturday or Sunday, or go to a picnic in the bush. However, there are some individuals who object very strongly to anybody going on their properties at all for any purpose.

Although this Bill is limited to the South-West Land Division, we could have trouble in places where prospecting for minerals is occurring on quite a big scale at the present time. Hon. members may, or may not, be aware that a mining company with quite a large capital is, at present, investigating our bauxite deposits, which extend from New Norcia in the North, to Bridgetown in the South.

Mr. Nalder: What has that to do with this Bill?

Mr. MOIR: If the hon. member will be patient, I will explain the position. Employees of these companies, who may have to pass through various properties, can be pulled up, even though they are not doing so for an unlawful purpose. They can be stopped and questioned; and if the person

doing the questioning is not satisfied they can be taken before a justice of the peace. It depends whether the person doing the questioning is satisfied or not.

I would like it to be clearly understood that I hold no brief for people who trespass on properties and frighten stock or do a considerable amount of damage. I do not support them in any way whatsoever. I do not know how that position can be overcome.

During the discussion on this Bill in another place, the hon. Mr. Diver quoted from a letter he had received from a Goldfields pastoralist. As a result of his doing that, widespread publicity was given to the allegations made by this particular pastoralist. I want to say, here and now, that this is the only pastoralist on the Goldfields—he is a comparative newcomer—who places every obstacle in the way of people who might wish to go on his property.

As a result of the allegations, this man (Mr. Kennedy) wrote to the hon. Mr. Diver, who—I expect in good faith—quoted the letter in the Legislative Council. The resulting publicity caused me to address a letter on the 20th October to the Minister for Police, as follows:—

I have been perturbed at statements made recently in the Legislative Council by the Hon. L. C. Diver, M.L.C., that he had received a letter from a pastoralist named Kennedy, who is settled at Kurrawang, alleging that he had been attacked by a Goldfields shooting party and severely beaten up, and threatened that perhaps some day he may be mistaken for a kangaroo . . .

Mr. Brand: That has happened before!

Mr. MOIR: The letter continued—

. . . Would you please inquire from the Police Department if Mr. Kennedy did lodge any complaint of this alleged occurrence with your officers at Kalgoorlie or Boulder, as I consider it may be necessary that the correctness, or otherwise, of this statement should be known when the Bill—in connection with which this statement was made—is under discussion in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister for Police called for a report from the district Inspector of Police. It is quite a long report, and I do not propose to read it all, because it contains other matters as well. Part of it is as follows:—

I have to report that there is no record at either Kalgoorlie or Boulder stations of any complaint by Reginald Robert Kennedy, Pastoralist, of Mun-gari Station, of any alleged attack or beating up by a shooting party; or of any threat that "perhaps some day he may be mistaken for a kangaroo".

Mr. Brand: That has happened, too.

Mr. MOIR: Does the hon. member say this threat was actually made?

Mr. Brand: I do not say that; but trespassers have been mistaken for animals, and they always run the risk of being shot.

Mr. MOIR: But on this occasion a threat was supposed to be made to Mr. Kennedy who was objecting to people being on his property. The threat was that he might be mistaken for a kangaroo. These representations were made in the Legislative Council.

Mr. Tonkin: He might have been caught on the hop.

Mr. MOIR: Yes. The inspector goes on to say—

I have this date interviewed Mr. Kennedy at Mungari Station, with particular reference to his allegation, as contained in his letter to the Hon. Mr. Diver, M.L.C. 1, that "he had been attacked by a goldfields shooting party and severely beaten up" and 2, that he "was threatened that perhaps some day he may be mistaken for a kangaroo".

As a result of this interview with Mr. Kennedy, at which Constable Neville was present, I ascertained that the above 1 and 2 were two separate incidents and that in neither case had any report been made to the police.

When questioned, Mr. Kennedy stated that the attack and severe beating up referred to another person and not to himself. He claimed he had knowledge of this incident but did not feel free to inform me of the name of the party he had referred to in his letter as severely beaten up. However, he stated that such beating up did not necessitate medical or hospital treatment to the person referred to—

This person was supposed to have received a brutal beating. The report goes on—

—the incident occurred over two years ago and he was positive the aggrieved party, whom he would not name, had made no report to the police of the assault.

What an extraordinary state of affairs when someone is beaten up on his own property by a gang of irresponsible and, presumably, brutal people; yet the person who suffered did not even seek medical attention or see fit to report the incident to the police. The inspector's report continues—

Concerning the threat that perhaps some day he (Kennedy) may be mistaken for a kangaroo, Kennedy stated that this occurred on his property at a waterhole called Bullock Hole, some three years ago. At the time Kennedy had disturbed a man shooting at this waterhole and warned him against shooting and trespassing. This man who was (and still is) unknown to

Mr. Kennedy then became nasty and remarked that "perhaps some day he (Kennedy) may be mistaken for a kangaroo". Mr. Kennedy took this remark as a threat and considers that to be the only possible meaning to apply. Although he took this serious view, he made no report of the incident to the police and stated that the man was unknown to him, that he did not ask his name and that he has not seen him since.

I think hon. members can deduce from what the inspector says that Mr. Kennedy was indulging in a lot of hot air. It is unfortunate that he has done so, because widespread publicity has been given to these allegations, and no doubt people outside Western Australian think there must be people on the Goldfields who are brutal and irresponsible, and without any sense of fair play at all when they will attack an individual in such a manner. The remarks contained in the police report indicate that Mr. Kennedy has probably been drawing on his imagination quite a lot.

Although the Bill is confined to the South-West area, I point out that the South-West covers quite a large portion of the State, extending from Ravensthorpe in the south, which has been a goldmining centre and is now principally a copper-mining centre, to Geraldton in the north. In between these two points, a considerable amount of mining is carried out.

Mr. Norton: Actually the South-West Land Division goes as far as the Murchison River.

Mr. MOIR: Quite a considerable amount of mining is carried out in the South-West, and in the not-too-far-distant future there could be a great increase in mining activities. Legislation such as this will cause many difficulties, because in the search for minerals people have to go off the beaten path to find the indications and follow them up in order to investigate the possibility of minerals being present.

We must remember that already the Act contains provisions to deal with this matter. Section 13, which the Bill seeks to amend, contains what should be ample provision to cope with any unlawful trespasser on a property. Section 13 provides—

In all cases of trespass on land committed by any person, with or without any cattle, the owner of such land may complain thereof in manner aforesaid to a justice of the peace—

This is entirely different from the proposal in the Bill which is that any person may question and demand the name of anyone he finds on his property. The section continues—

—who, when no bona fide question of title shall arise in the course of the proceedings, may adjudicate thereon and award to such complainant, in respect of any damage on any country



land, in addition to or inclusive of any penalty for trespass herein provided, a sum not exceeding Ten pounds; or if such Justice of the Peace shall find the trespass or damage so complained of to have been justified, or so trifling as not to merit any punishment, he may dismiss the complaint.

In my opinion, Section 13 gives ample coverage to the property owner when people trespass on his property. Nowadays people do not walk miles to go on somebody's property; they probably stop a motorcar along the road and climb through a fence. Someone must own the motorcar, and the licence number can be taken and, as a result, proceedings can be instituted against the people concerned. I oppose the measure.

**THE HON. A. F. WATTS (Stirling)** [5.23]: I am amazed at the opposition offered to the Bill. I am certain that those who oppose it, in the terms they have mentioned, have not the faintest idea of the genesis of it or what it actually proposes to do. We have heard a lot about what is going to happen on the Goldfields and the North-West, but the Bill expressly excludes both those areas, because it says its provisions shall apply only to the South-West Land Division. In the South-West Land Division we have practically the whole of the agricultural areas of the State, and in this area a terrific proportion of the real wealth of Western Australia, in the way of livestock, wool, and grain crops, is produced.

The Bill proposes to protect only those persons who have enclosed country land. This means, of course, that the land to be protected is enclosed with a sufficient fence to keep out great and small stock. So it can apply only to developed land, and mainly land that has been developed for agricultural pursuits.

For a considerable number of years there have been the gravest complaints in regard to the activities of people who enter upon enclosed agricultural land. What these people do is harmless enough in many ways, it is perfectly true, because they enter upon the land to look for mushrooms; or to find a short-cut to a lake to shoot ducks; or for some other similar purpose. This occurs in my own district. But in the course of entering upon land for any of these purposes, people can do untold damage for which, under the parent Act, there is absolutely no redress.

The hon. member for Kalgoorlie talked about the duty of the police to take the names and addresses of such people; and said that the owner of the land should not be given any right to take the name and address of a person trespassing on his property who, in his opinion, had done him some damage, indirectly or directly. Did you ever hear such nonsense as that!

Take for example such a place as the war service land settlement area at Jerramungup where there will be 150 families and 50 farms of enclosed agricultural land; and where there will be, from time to time, ample scope for doing the things that I said just now trespassers frequently do quite thoughtlessly. Jerramungup is 66 miles from the nearest police officer. How far away will the trespasser be by the time a police officer can get to Jerramungup to take his name and address? There are dozens of other places similarly situated in the South-West Land Division and in the agricultural areas.

Section 13 of the Act is not adequate to cover the position. Quite apart from the fact that we have to identify the person who has committed the trespass—I have just pointed out that this is almost impossible without the powers in the Bill—we have to establish the damage that has been suffered and put a value upon it. Then the magistrate can give relief not exceeding some figure which is named in the section.

The damage that is done is frequently incapable of being assessed in terms of money. Take the position when someone drives a motorcar among a flock of sheep just about to lamb. What is the effect on the sheep? Heaven only knows what it is, but the damage they suffer cannot be proved unless the driver of the car actually knocks some down and kills them; and this rarely happens. The effect on the animals and their progeny could be considerable.

So the Bill has been introduced to cope with these two problems: First, it seeks to give the owner of enclosed land an opportunity to ascertain within the law who is the person who has been on his property doing these things and to find out his name and address. Surely that is reasonable! If there was a police officer within a couple of hundred yards of the property, then undoubtedly this provision would not be required. The efficiency of the Police Force could be relied upon. But if a man had to go 10, 20, or 30 miles to get a police officer, by the time he arrived on the scene to carry out his duty, the trespasser could be 100 miles away.

**Mr. Rowberry:** What would you do if the trespasser refused his name and address?

**Mr. WATTS:** I take it that such a refusal would be an offence. But at the present time the landowner has no lawful right to ask the trespasser's name and address. The Bill proposes to give the owner of enclosed land the right to ask for these particulars so that he can, if he feels disposed because of what has happened to his property, go before a magistrate; and if he can prove damage, he can claim for it in addition to any penalty which the magistrate may be disposed to impose.

Mr. Rowberry: What if the trespasser asks for proof of the identity of the land-owner?

Mr. WATTS: I suppose there are all sorts of bush lawyers about Western Australia. If the hon. member cares to add a clause to the Bill to cope with that problem, I am prepared to support it. But it is to be assumed that the Bill covers that fairly well by saying, "any person in possession of land, or any employee or member of the family of such person." I think in reasonable language that covers most of the problems which the hon. member for Warren seems to have in mind. When one considers the various aspects to which I have made reference, and the fact that this measure seeks only to apply to those areas in which the greater part of our enclosed, cultivated, and developed agricultural land is situated, the Bill is a reasonable proposition.

The hon. member for Kalgoorlie referred to some position in the early days. But these are not the early days. In respect to the area which this Bill covers, this is a time when considerable development has taken place; a time when the handling of farming property is not by guess and by god but a matter of scientific development and working, and something that cannot lightly be interrupted by people wandering about in motorcars looking for mushrooms, as they undoubtedly do in many parts of my district. I have seen some of the things that have resulted from it.

I do not want too many obstructions placed in the way of people to whom in many cases it is a harmless pastime; but at least the owner of property is entitled to some reasonable protection, and people should not be allowed to wander about over his property. With modern transport, the number of folk going into the country is becoming greater and greater. People can get further away from townships—further out into the agricultural areas where, as I have said, no police officer is to be found. Nowadays people can do things which previously they could not do. A few years ago it was possible to walk only a mile or so from a township on foot. So it is time that the law was altered in a reasonable manner; and, in my view, this Bill is reasonable.

As I have endeavoured to explain, it does not impose any unreasonable hardship on anybody. It leaves to a magistrate the final decision as to what shall be done to the individual concerned—which is proper. I hope that the House will bear in mind the fact that this Bill applies only to the areas to which I have referred; therefore, it is not capable of being used in the manner which was so carefully referred to by the hon. member for Kalgoorlie. Also, it will make some contribution to the welfare of our agricultural industry.

If hon. members have read in the last few years a publication issued by the Farmers' Union of Western Australia,

known as the "Farmers' Weekly," they will have found frequent references to the difficulties I have referred to, and the need for some alteration to the legislation. They are the facts that have been presented to the paper by several branches of the union scattered throughout the State; and that is the reason why the Bill is before Parliament.

It is to endeavour to remedy, in a reasonable manner, the difficulties which have been referred to so frequently in the columns of that journal, which is the official organ of the great majority of those who are engaged in agricultural pursuits in the South-West Land Division. There is a demand for this Bill; and it is a reasonable piece of legislation, as I think everyone who gives it impartial consideration will agree. I very definitely support the second reading.

MR. O'BRIEN (Murchison) [5.35]: I rise to oppose this Bill; although, as the Leader of the Country Party pointed out, there is a clause in it—Clause 3—which has the effect of limiting the legislation to the South-West Land Division. That particular clause was inserted only after strong opposition had been levelled at the Bill in another place. I am the son of a pastoralist, and I know what I am talking about when I speak of trespassers and what effect this legislation will have. It is all a matter of co-operation. Sheep can be using wells on a property, but lots of things can happen to them—one could almost say that things happen to them miraculously—

Mr. I. W. Manning: The day the shooters come, you would shift them away from the wells?

Mr. O'BRIEN: That is just too silly for words. To say that a person would shift his sheep away from the wells is as silly as saying that water should be carted from a well so that thousands of sheep could get a drink; instead of taking the sheep to the well.

Mr. I. W. Manning: How could you co-operate with trespassers?

Mr. O'BRIEN: Over the years, and throughout the State, certain people have indulged in shooting; they shoot because they like to eat wild game. Certain people like shooting kangaroos and other wild game.

Mr. I. W. Manning: Don't they have to have permits?

Mr. O'BRIEN: When these people wish to shoot on a certain area they see the pastoralist or farmer concerned and ask for permission. In many cases they make themselves known to the landowner. It is also true, as the Leader of the Country Party said, that in these days of fast transport, there are a few people who do rush

hither and thither, stealing wool and committing other offences. Generally speaking, people who like to go shooting co-operate with the landowners. As a result, I do not think there should be any fear of foul play. The Chief Secretary mentioned a personal outrage. To me this Bill looks like the Kennedy Bill—a measure introduced for one man and one man only.

As I have said before, we are here to legislate for the whole of the State; and if this Bill were passed, it could create trouble throughout the State. I have with me a letter to prove my point. It is written from Jeedamya Station, which is just out from Menzies.

Mr. Roberts: What about—

The SPEAKER: Order! Let the hon. member state his case quietly.

Mr. O'BRIEN: These station-owners are not opposed to people shooting kangaroos on their properties; as a matter of fact, they like to see them there. Only 12 months ago in this House I claimed that kangaroo-shooters should be more or less restricted, and the graziers said, "No, certainly not, we want them to shoot kangaroos because the kangaroos are a pest—they are vermin—and we want them destroyed." Some hon. members opposite do not want anybody to shoot anything; they just want the landowners to carry on in their own way.

There are people who have holdings on which there are water holes; the natives use those water holes and catch ducks which they use as food. Also, because of the high price of wool, graziers have been grazing their sheep wherever they can and, as a result, many of them have been overstocking. But that is the least of their worries.

Mr. Court: This Bill does not even refer to your area.

Sir Ross McLarty: It has nothing to do with it.

Mr. O'BRIEN: In the south the farmers have water holes on their properties, but apparently some of them are afraid that a few sheep will be frightened. But these people who go shooting are bushmen; they are not mugs. They know what they are doing. If they were mugs they would be lost before they left Midland Junction. The name of the man who wrote the letter to which I have referred is Graeme Macpherson. He is highly respected in the Menzies district and, as a matter of fact, is chairman of the road board in that town.

Mr. Bovell: The Menzies district is not in the South-West Land Division.

Mr. O'BRIEN: He writes—

I thank you for your kind invitation to the field day shoot and barbecue at Mr. Jasper Bright's property, but unfortunately, I have a prior engagement on that date.

His property is Kookynie. The letter goes on—

One of your members was here the other day, and I have asked him to call here on Saturday on his way to Kookynie, and will furnish him with a rough map showing dams here on which there may be some ducks.

Mr. Thorn: What has that got to do with it?

Mr. O'BRIEN: People shoot ducks, do they not? There are also a few ducks on the cricket field. The letter goes on—

If at any time, you or members wish to have a shoot in this part, you are welcome at any time to come along, providing I have a little prior notice of your intentions.

Mr. Bovell: There you are!

Mr. O'BRIEN: That is all they want.

Mr. Nalder: What is the date of the letter?

Mr. O'BRIEN: The 28th October, 1958.

Mr. Court: If they all gave prior notice there would be no trouble.

Mr. Nalder: The shooting season was closed. You are putting your friends in.

Mr. O'BRIEN: All this talk about frightening sheep away from water holes is just so much talk. When the sheep are thirsty they will go to the water holes and drink, and the bushman in the outback does not try to frighten the sheep away; he lets them drink because he knows that if he frightens them away he will frighten the game away too.

There are many prospectors who are prospecting for minerals, not only in the Murchison area but also in other parts of the State. These prospectors get a certain amount of assistance, but it is not much when one compares it with today's basic wage. It is impossible for them to keep themselves on the money they get. We realise that, but they are obliged to cut down on their expenses and to economise.

Mr. I. W. Manning: They can keep ducks.

Mr. O'BRIEN: They do economise by arranging to keep ducks, and also by cutting down on their meat bills. It has been said that this Bill will give plenty of trouble to graziers and landowners. Let us try some co-operation. The dictatorship has gone far enough.

If we on this side were to put up a Bill like the one before us, we would be called "commos" for a start. That would be nothing compared with what else would be said. I feel I have the support of my electorate and the support of the whole State when I say that there is already an Act which provides proper protection for those entitled to it, and which allows the so-called trespassers to be dealt with. I strongly oppose this Bill.

**MR. I. W. MANNING** (Harvey) [5.47]: I support this amending Bill, because it has been repeatedly brought to our notice that property owners have suffered from the activities of trespassers. The Bill is designed to put more sting into the term "trespassers will be prosecuted."

This measure will have application only to the South-West Land Division, and in my view covers the district from which complaints have come. They are many and varied. This Bill applies to farmers and graziers running sheep in the wheat-belt areas, to which people from the towns and cities go mushrooming and shooting, thus disturbing the stock. It also applies to the South-West cattle country, where the main trespassers are the duck-shooters and kangaroo-shooters.

I have had personal experience of cattle being shot as a result of the activities of kangaroo-shooters. Frequently we find people coming on to our property to shoot kangaroos. In one particular instance we discovered, after the shooters had left, that our stock had been shot. These trespassers have shot up the place and left. We have no redress. That is not an isolated instance.

The Premier: I have seen human beings shot on some Perth properties!

**MR. I. W. MANNING**: If this Bill is designed to prevent trespass of that nature, it should have the full support of the Premier and his Government. Anything we can do to curb the activities of such people should be done.

**MR. BRAND**: I should imagine some of that shooting has been going on in Northam.

**MR. I. W. MANNING**: Most of the complaints we know of come from property owners near the metropolitan area, from those located along the Perth-Northam Road, the Albany Highway, and the South-West Highway. The kangaroo-shooters go out in the evenings; and over a period they have proved to be a great nuisance to property owners. They show complete disregard for the property of other people. They shoot on those properties, regardless of any damage they may cause.

This Bill will in some way contribute towards the curbing of the activities of such people. I can see no merit in the objection of hon. members opposite, because they have based their arguments on the pastoral areas, to which this Bill does not apply. It applies only to the South-West Land Division which is closely stocked. It is the disturbance and damage of stock which is the real concern of the property owners. Hon. members opposite have treated this matter lightly, but the damage caused to some people as a result of trespass warrants some tightening up of the Act. In certain instances it might be difficult to apply the provisions in this Bill. I have had occasion to approach people on

my property and ask for their names and addresses. The Bill justifies our full support.

**MR. W. A. MANNING** (Narrogin) [5.52]: On this question we have certainly been "walkabout" with some hon. members from the Goldfields. If the position were not as serious as it is, this debate could be quite funny. The Bill has been brought forward—

**MR. BOVELL**: The hon. member for Murchison was quite serious.

**MR. W. A. MANNING**: He was. But his remarks did not have any application; because, as he says, the Bill does not refer to his electorate. He complained of that provision being put into the Bill. That does not matter; it is there. It is confined to the South-West Land Division.

**MR. EVANS**: It can be taken out.

**MR. W. A. MANNING**: That clause is in the Bill. What is the use of saying that it may be taken out at some future date? The hon. member for Murchison has made reference to bushmen, mugs, waterholes, and wild ducks. It is quite clear that he is bringing up the red herring to feed the wild ducks in the Murchison.

This small measure has been introduced to remedy a particular circumstance. The fact is that people from the towns and city go into the country to seek mushrooms. During the mushrooming season on some country roads it is difficult to find any property on which people are not trespassing. Such people without thought—though not deliberately—can cause untold damage to stock. It so happens that the mushrooming season generally coincides with the lambing season, and that is the reason for the damage being done.

I know one person who has a stud sheep property, and some of his sheep sell in the category of £500 upwards. It may be all right for the person going out with a basket and picking the mushrooms, which might at the most be worth 30s. He is able to have a feed; but he has no idea that that basket of mushrooms may have caused untold damage to the sheep-breeder. It could cost anything up to £500.

**MR. O'BRIEN**: In what way would the ewes lose their lambs?

**MR. W. A. MANNING**: The disturbance of the sheep at that particular time can result in tremendous loss. It could be very extensive. The loss of a few pounds might not be very severe, but the damage could run into hundreds of pounds. The person to whom I have just referred has a property of easy access to people seeking mushrooms. He told me he had never refused permission for anybody to pick mushrooms on his property, but he objected to their going onto it without permission.

This Bill seeks to cover an instance where a person walks on to a property without permission. He may enter a pad-

dock which is not open to him. When permission is asked of the owner I referred to he generally replies, "You can go mushrooming, and you may find some in that paddock, where I have no sheep grazing." He tells such people where they can obtain mushrooms. This is done, and generally no damage is caused. It is absurd for hon. members representing Goldfields electorates to oppose this Bill, especially as they are not concerned with the matter.

Mr. O'Brien: We are concerned with the State just as much as you are.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: If the hon. member is, he certainly does not understand the position. Opposition to this Bill is most unwarranted. If some hon. members took the trouble to find out exactly what it means, they would soon reverse their attitude, because the Bill contains nothing offensive. It is a protection against people who innocently do things which can cause a good deal of damage to properties. This House should support the Bill.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [5.57]: I intend to support the Government on this measure. I do so for a number of reasons. By all means we should amend the existing legislation to give greater protection to farmers, where stock and crops are involved. We should do that without any question; but that objective should be achieved in a way other than is proposed in the Bill.

If this Bill becomes law, I can imagine many farmers sitting back in their homesteads, with binoculars focussed on the paddocks, watching the city people park their cars on lonely roads and walk through the fences. At that stage the farmer gets into his vehicle, approaches the trespassers, and takes their names and addresses. He then takes them before a magistrate and receives an award of £2.

Mr. W. A. Manning: That would not be profitable to the farmer.

Mr. GRAYDEN: It could be highly profitable if the farmer did that 50 times a day. From the references made by various speakers, on occasion there would be 50 trespassers on a property during the day. In this manner a farmer might be able to discontinue the raising of crops, and the production of wool and lambs. Simply by putting a little super on the land and spreading mushroom spawn, he could entice people on to the property, and receive £2 on each occasion.

My remarks might be slightly exaggerated. On the other hand, I believe that a lot of the statements in respect to damage have also been exaggerated. I have lived on farms for two-thirds of my life. I have always been able to wander over the properties of my neighbours, and I have extended them the same privilege. I cannot recall any instance where damage was caused. On the contrary, I have known many farmers to be grateful at times for

receiving reports from such trespassers about ewes having difficulty in lambing; of cattle calving, being bogged, or being tangled in fences. Thus it cuts both ways. I think it is an extremely selfish attitude on the part of landowners to deprive people of the opportunity to enjoy the pastime of searching for mushrooms, and other pleasures which are the heritage of us all.

As I mentioned earlier, there are many ways in which the present legislation could be amended to give adequate protection. If a person drives a vehicle on to another's property and damages the grass or something like that, this can easily be proved, and the owner can take action whereby he will be awarded damages.

I can recall coming home during the war, after six years away in various parts of the world, and making a trip to the Darling Ranges. I cannot remember the exact place, but it was a property with a creek through it. I remember seeing the sign "Trespassers will be prosecuted" which had been placed every 100 yards along the six miles of the creek that was in this man's property. I can recall how extremely incensed I was that anyone could own such a vast area, have nothing on it, and yet place signs all over it which flaunted his selfish attitude.

I cannot think of anything more calculated to stir up antagonism between farmers or landowners and the public than the incidents which would arise as a result of this Bill. I know what I would do if I walked through a fence and some farmer came to me and asked me my name with a view to prosecuting me and having me fined £2 which would eventually go to him.

Another point which has been overlooked in this matter is the position of the natives. There are hundreds of natives in the South-West corner of our State. We have not only now introduced myxomatosis which has wiped out most of the rabbits—

Mr. Brand: I wish we had!

Mr. GRAYDEN: —but under this Bill, the hunting grounds of the natives would be restricted, and we have not given them any alternative.

Australia is a country in which individuals own large tracts of land; and whilst I believe they should be given all the privileges associated with such ownership, I do not believe they should be allowed to deny the public the right to go on that land. Although I do not know the exact number, I imagine there would be 400,000 people in the metropolitan area. It would be a strange condition of affairs if, in a State the size of Western Australia, we confined people to the narrow strip of land adjoining the country roads or the occasional reserves set aside, simply because every so often some damage was done to a property. This position is already adequately covered by legislation and the farmer has ample redress.

If some amendment is necessary to the legislation, it should be to tighten up in respect of damage caused by trespassers. By all means, let that type of legislation be introduced. I would wholeheartedly support it. But I will never support a measure which gives a man the right to rush out and take the name of an innocent person, who might not even know of this legislation, and then have him fined £2 which would eventually go to the individual laying the charge. In no circumstances whatsoever would I support that type of legislation, and I am surprised at the selfish attitude of those who would seek the enactment of such legislation.

**MR. OLDFIELD** (Mt. Lawley) [6.5]: I can readily sympathise with farmers who have suffered damage or hardship in the past caused by mushroomers, duck-shooters, and kangaroo-shooters. Perhaps that situation could be likened to what could happen in the metropolitan area. An unauthorised person entering someone else's property to pick roses and carnations is no worse at law than the mushroomer, Kangaroo-shooter, or duck-shooter. There is no difference. However, in Australia we have grown up with the idea that everybody is entitled to go mushrooming or to shoot ducks and kangaroos, and people have been accustomed to going on to other people's property to do this.

I realise that some farmers do need protection. Sometimes children or young couples on a farm supplement their pocket money or income by picking mushrooms and sending them to the market. I have heard of cases where either children or young couples have gone out one day and picked a good quantity of mushrooms and have sent them into the market. They have then gone out the next day with the intention of securing another equally as large number only to find that someone has been in and cleared the lot out. In these cases, there is no doubt that the farmer would have cause for complaint.

I feel that the Bill is not altogether well framed. The approach to the subject of the penalty is un-Australian, in that the complainant is to receive the fine. This is the same situation as has been criticised in other parts of the world where the complainant gets half, a percentage, or even all the fine. I do not believe that it is proper legislation which enables the complainant or informer to benefit financially as a result of another's wrong-doing.

**Mr. Watts:** That provision is in Section 13 now.

**MR. OLDFIELD:** It might be; but I do not like the attitude. If the provision is in the Act, the sooner it goes out the better. Do not let us make it more widespread.

There has been a lot of loose thinking with regard to the effect of this Bill on those holding miners' rights. A check of

the Mining Act reveals that if this Bill is successful, the situation in regard to these people will remain entirely unaltered; as, under the present legislation, they are, subject to Acts and regulations, entitled only to enter Crown land for prospecting and mining purposes. In the Mining Act the interpretation of "Crown land" is—

all land of the Crown which has not been dedicated to any purpose, or reserved, or which has not been granted in fee or lawfully contracted to be so granted, and which is not held under lease for any purpose except pastoral and timber purposes.

And further on in the Act it is stated—

The undermentioned Crown lands shall be exempt from occupation by the holder of a miner's right:—

- (1) Land already occupied by virtue of a miner's right;
- (2) Land in lawful occupation as a yard, garden, orchard, or cultivated field;
- (3) Land in actual occupation on which a house or other substantial building has been erected; and
- (4) Land on which an artificial dam or reservoir has been made or a well or bore sunk.

Therefore, this Bill will have no application whatever to the holder of a miner's right. His position will not be restricted any more than at present.

In view of my sympathy towards the farmer in regard to the damage that he has suffered and is liable to suffer because of gates being left open and fires being lit—people are often careless with regard to fires—and the disturbance of stock, such damage being unassessable, I support the principle of the measure. I am unable however to support its application.

I do not like the way the Bill is framed. It is a pity that there was not more time for further consideration of this measure. More thought should have been given to it. A provision such as this should be made, but people should not be restricted altogether. They should not be denied the rights and enjoyment of privileges which they have experienced in the past. It must be realised, of course, that such enjoyments as these have been illegally gained, because everybody knows that mushrooming, duck-shooting and kangaroo shooting without permission on private property are illegal. But I do not like these privileges being taken away.

I think the farmer should be afforded some measure of protection; but I do not feel we have time this session to give the matter the thorough and full investigation it requires; and I do oppose the provision for a fine or penalty to be awarded to the complainant.

**THE HON. D. BRAND** (Greenough) [6.12]: I want to support this Bill because I believe that the principle of dealing with trespassers has been established over many years, and the request for the tightening up of the provisions of the Act is brought about by the development of the motorcar and other means of transport whereby more and more people are leaving the built-up areas and going into the country. On the other hand, the build-up of the country itself, the subdivisions, and numerous farms is another reason for the introduction of this measure.

The Leader of the Country Party has pointed out that the principle of a fine or penalty has already been established in the Act. However, because of the difficulty of enforcing the Act and obtaining results, I believe that this Bill should be passed as an experiment. If it were found that people in possession of land were taking advantage of the law, and were—as the hon. member for South Perth suggested might happen—framing other people, then of course this Parliament would quickly amend the law.

I know from experience—because I lived on a farm near Mullewa—just what damage mushroomers and shooters can do to a property and the effect they have on lambing ewes, to say nothing of the damage they can do to stock generally. Surely the man who owns the property has the right to decide who should enter it! It is the responsibility of this Parliament to protect him as far as possible from the irresponsible attitude of the person who feels inclined to hop over into private property for mushrooming or shooting or generally to interest himself at the expense of the owner. I support the Bill and hope the House will pass it.

**MR. OWEN** (Darling Range) [7.30]: I support the Bill, but would like to point out that some of the arguments put forward by hon. members on the Government side of the House were very wide of the mark. The remarks of the hon. member for Murchison were just as wide of the mark as are the wide open spaces where he lives; but I agree with his view that there should be more co-operation between the landowner and the would-be trespasser. The co-operation, however, should in the first place come from the would-be trespasser.

In nearly all cases where anyone desires to enter on land, whether to shoot game or pick mushrooms or wildflowers, the owner of the property would raise no objection if approached properly, but would direct the person concerned to the best place for whatever it was he wanted—particularly where there was stock in the paddocks, and the owner would ask that the stock be not disturbed. If that were done there would be very little trouble; but unfortunately, particularly in areas within 50 or 60 miles of the city, there are a great many week-end and holiday motorists who, without

thought, disturb stock or sheep and take firewood, wildflowers, or mushrooms, without asking the permission of the owner of the property.

I have on many occasions had to ask people to get out of a paddock to which they had gone to get wood. Often, when approached in that way, such people have replied, "But you are not using it." That might be so, but people should ask the permission of the landowner before taking wood; and the same applies to wildflowers and mushrooms. The attitude of these people—they are mostly city folk—towards the ownership of land is very strange. I have known trespassers, when approached while picking mushrooms, to say, "They are only mushrooms. They have nothing to do with you. They are really an act of God. You did nothing to encourage them." All that may be so, but I do not think it gives the trespasser any right to enter a property and take the mushrooms.

**Mr. Tonkin:** Will the hon. member endeavour to show where the existing legislation is deficient?

**Mr. OWEN:** It is difficult to prove trespass, under the Act.

**Mr. Tonkin:** How will that be different, under this measure?

**Mr. OWEN:** In this instance if a person enters on the land for any unlawful purpose—I do not altogether agree with that provision of the Bill—it can be regarded as an offence and he is liable to a fine.

**Mr. Evans:** Under the parent Act the offence has to be proved, but that would not be so under this Bill.

**Mr. OWEN:** It has to be proved that he enters upon the enclosed land and that he is there without lawful purpose.

**Mr. Tonkin:** The existing Act provides for a penalty, even though there is no damage done.

**Mr. OWEN:** The number of prosecutions which have failed under the parent Act does not give any encouragement to take action against trespassers.

**Mr. Tonkin:** What has been the cause of the failure?

**Mr. OWEN:** Not being a lawyer, I cannot say, but many cases have been dismissed.

**Mr. Tonkin:** They would fail under this measure, too.

**Mr. OWEN:** I do not think so. Where the offence is stealing wood or picking wildflowers, for instance, it is necessary to wait for the offence to be committed; but under the Bill, to enter on land for an unlawful purpose would be an offence.

**Mr. Tonkin:** The existing Act so provides.

**Mr. Watts:** One difficulty is to prove the identity of the person concerned.

Mr. Tonkin: The same difficulty will exist here.

Mr. Watts: No, it is provided for.

Mr. Tonkin: I do not think it is.

Mr. OWEN: The fact that a few mushrooms or wildflowers are stolen, or some firewood taken, is beside the point. The chief complaint of landowners and stock owners is the damage done to stock. I know one farmer, whose house is a quarter of a mile from the road, and who had several times to chase mushroom hunters away. He asked me to tell them that they were trespassing, and when I approached them, two of them were quite defiant. That farmer told me of the losses he had suffered through trespassers, particularly at lambing time.

Any sheep man knows that a ewe with its first lamb is prone to leave it to perish, if interfered with. The ewe abandons the lamb and it is either taken by foxes or dies of starvation. This man showed me several lambs that had been picked up in the paddocks and others that were found dead. When he reprimanded one lady for disturbing the sheep she said, "When I was here last week I did you a good turn. I picked up one little lamb and took it down to its mother."

As hon. members probably know, if one handles a young lamb, particularly before the ewe first suckles it, it will probably be abandoned. It is quite likely that one of the dead lambs that had been picked up by this woman had died because of being handled in that way. Very often trespassers are accompanied by yapping terriers which chase the sheep and upset them, frequently bringing on premature lambing, which may result in the loss of both the lamb and the ewe.

On one occasion this farmer was so exasperated, when he found two women standing by and watching a ewe which had just borne a lamb, that he said to one of them, "Madam, if you were in child birth, would you not like some privacy?"

Mr. Tonkin: What was the answer?

Mr. OWEN: As the hon. member for Harvey said, the measure would put a bit more sting into notices that trespassers will be prosecuted. Although people have their attention drawn to the fact that they are trespassing, they frequently ignore the warning and go on their merry way, leaving the farmer lamenting and on occasions suffering considerable losses. Although I would like to see it amended so that the fine would be imposed by normal court procedure, I support the Bill.

MR. LEWIS (Moore) [7.42]: When I first came here I realised that I had a lot to learn, but, after listening to some of the debate this afternoon, I realised that my education has not yet begun. I listened to the hon. member for Murchison and the hon. member for Kaigoorlie; and, remembering that this Bill relates

only to the South-West Land Division, I could not see where most of their arguments had any force. The purpose of the Bill is to discourage trespassing in the South-West Land Division; and, so far as I can gather by reading the Bill and the parent Act, the main difference between them is that this measure gives the owner of land the right to take the name of the trespasser, and I think that would make a conviction much easier to secure.

Mr. Evans: Don't you think that that is a job for the police?

Mr. LEWIS: Possibly, if the police were handy, as they would be in the metropolitan area; but in most country districts the police may be anything up to 30 or 40 miles away. As most of the trespassing is done at week-ends, and in view of the fact that in most cases the telephones are out of action until 9 a.m. on Monday morning, by the time the police were informed the culprits could be hundreds of miles away. I therefore do not think the suggestion is a very practical one.

Most of the damage done by trespassers is in a form not easy to assess. The loss of livestock, and particularly lambs, is one of the main troubles; and, as has been pointed out, most of the trespassing occurs during the mushroom season, when the lambs are being born. As any sheep man knows, once a lamb is born the owner or shepherd makes it his business to leave the ewe and the lamb alone, at all events until such time as the lamb is first suckled by the ewe; because once they are disturbed the ewe frequently leaves the lamb. That is particularly so if feed is short and the ewe is not in good condition. In those circumstances it is quite likely that the lamb will be abandoned. Although one may discover a dead lamb, it is difficult to assess the cause of death; and therefore, in the majority of cases, an owner would be hard put to say that the death of the lamb had been caused by the ewe being scared away from pastures by a trespasser.

Damage is sometimes caused also by that trespasser who follows the horses. At one time people used to follow them along the street with a broom and shovel, but today they have to go further afield for animal manure. I know that, particularly around the Armadale area, and also in other districts, the removal of animal manure means a considerable loss to the owner of the land and people who trespass on land for this purpose should be checked.

Most trespassing, however, is committed by unthinking people who do not intend to do any harm. It has been asked, of course, "Why should not the people be allowed to go out and enjoy the wide open spaces?" I quite agree; but we must remember, too, that we all believe in that old adage, "An Englishman's home is his castle" and that applies with equal force to the man whose home is in the Darling Range or in South



Perth. I wonder what the hon. member for South Perth would think if a group of people squatted on his front lawn and had a party there?

Mr. Evans: Don't you think people in the city should be allowed to go into the wide open spaces for a change?

Mr. LEWIS: I readily agree with their desire to get into the country at week-ends and in the pastoral areas and I appreciate that it is not the intention of the people in the country to discourage that. However, they can get just as much enjoyment in browsing along the country roads; and there are many unfenced areas where they can go without trespassing on property, particularly in those paddocks where there is livestock.

It has been said, too, that this provision, although applying only to the South-West Land Division, is the thin edge of the wedge and that a majority in each House could amend it to reduce or increase the area beyond that confined by the South-West Land Division. In my opinion, we must accept the Bill on its merits and not consider what might happen in the future. One good point was raised by the hon. member for South Perth in regard to the provision relating to the landowner deriving benefit from the imposition of a penalty. Whilst appreciating that he, naturally, will often go to considerable expense to obtain a conviction against a trespasser, at the same time, I quite agree that he should not be a beneficiary from any penalty that is imposed.

Mr. May: The Treasurer would not agree with that.

Mr. LEWIS: I am sure that most farmers would not worry about it. Most of them want to discourage trespassing, particularly when it causes the death of livestock, and they would not press for any monetary benefit from the penalty imposed. I make those few remarks in support of the Bill.

On motion by Mr. Norton, debate adjourned.

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1958-59.

### *In Committee of Supply.*

Resumed from the 2nd December. Mr. Norton in the Chair.

*Vote—Miscellaneous Services, £3,777,979 (Partly considered):*

*Item, Kindergarten Union, £32,500.*

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I notice that the estimate for this year shows an increase of £2,000 on that provided last year. I merely wish to ask the Treasurer whether the Government has any policy in regard to granting financial assistance to the Kindergarten Union. Is the policy to be one of making small increases in the grants every year, or is there a final objective in regard to the State taking over the whole

of the financial responsibility or any part of it as the duty of the State? This is quite an important question, because frequently the Government is plagued with requests from the Kindergarten Union for additional grants.

Mr. HAWKE: This year's grant, the same as each grant since 1952, is based largely on the recommendations of a Royal Commission which the previous Government appointed in that year. If I remember rightly, the members of that commission were Mr. Murray Little and Sir Ross McDonald.

Mr. Watts: Yes, they were the two gentlemen who were the members of that Royal Commission.

Mr. HAWKE: I thank the hon. member. That Royal Commission made a searching investigation into the affairs of the Kindergarten Union. It covered the activities of the union, its financial needs and its financial relationship to the Education Department, together with all the obligations associated with that department.

On the point whether the Government has a policy to take over the Kindergarten Union as a branch of the educational system, the advice which has been given to me periodically is that the executive committee of the Kindergarten Union would certainly not desire that step to be taken. It has a strong desire to maintain the union as such and the management of it. Therefore, no request, so far as I know, has ever been made to the Government by the union for the complete taking over the union's activities by the Government.

In recent years, the Government has, on representations made for additional financial assistance, increased the grant which would have been made available had the conditions laid down by the Royal Commission been adhered to strictly. The hon. member for Leederville is hon. treasurer of the Kindergarten Union at present, and he has led deputations to me over the last two or three years and also made personal representation for as much financial support as possible for the Kindergarten Union from the Treasury.

I think we all recognise the value of the work that this organisation does and would desire the Government to make as much money as possible available from State funds to encourage and foster the work which the union does in training as many pre-school children the union is able to cater for with the accommodation and training staff which it has at its disposal. I know that more could be done by the union to train pre-school children if much more money were made available. However, consistent with the fair and reasonable needs of the State school educational system, we have, in recent years, made available as much additional money as possible to the union in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

*Item, Sailors' Rest, £100.*

Mr. ROBERTS: Can the Treasurer clarify the reason for this item? I have looked through the items of the Miscellaneous Services, but I cannot find the Mission to Seamen mentioned. I was wondering whether the Sailors' Rest has some relation to it.

Mr. HAWKE: This item has to do with an organisation that operates at Fremantle only at present. It provides for special facilities for sailors who are off ship and the Government makes a small annual contribution to it.

*Item 20, Slow Learning Children's Group, £2,000.*

Mr. ROWBERRY: I notice that the Estimate for this year is £5,000 below that for last year and £2,763 below the expenditure for last year. I make a compassionate plea for this group of children who, from birth, are denied a great deal of the good things of life as a result of mental and physical disabilities. However, by special training they can be taught to take their own place in the community. A letter which I have here from the Slow Learning Children's Group of W.A. (Inc.), dated the 1st December, 1958, and which is addressed to myself, reads as follows:—

re Proposed Schools for S.L. Children  
in Manjimup, Busselton and  
Geraldton.

As you know, a proposal was put forward by our Branch some time ago that an approach should be made to the Government to obtain assistance for the establishment of suitable schools for Mentally Retarded Children in those areas where the Education Department considered that the number of prospective children warranted the provision of such special facilities.

So far, although the Branches and our Central Executive in Perth approved the idea of the approach being made, no move has as yet been made. We wondered if it would be possible for you to advise the possibility of a deputation from the Country Branches concerned meeting with either the Premier or the Minister for Education, or both, as soon as it can possibly be arranged.

Through the work of the S.L.C.G. and the Education Department, facilities are available in the Metropolitan area and Bunbury only. Children in other country areas such as Manjimup are totally unprovided for. Through the good offices of Mr. Hoar, when Minister for Lands, land was made available in Manjimup for a Centre and clearing operations are already in progress. The Country Branches are all actively engaged in raising as much finance as possible, but, it will be realized that the provision of facilities

for these children is beyond the financial capacity of the Groups concerned and we feel that the needs of the S.L. Children should be taken into consideration along with the needs of their more fortunate brothers and sisters.

Any help that you might be able to give us in placing our case in the right quarters would be appreciated.

There is a proposal to build a school in Manjimup, which is the geographical centre of this area. I hope the Government will consider these children and that the decrease of £2,700 is merely a saving that can be doubled in the future.

Mr. ROBERTS: I heartily agree with the hon. member for Warren that the Slow Learning Children's Group is worthy of the greatest consideration. Two or three years ago in Bunbury the citizens got together and established a branch of this group. They built a school in the Punchbowl area in Bunbury. The organisation has done a great job for the children in the South-West. The group is contemplating the establishment of a residential hostel in Bunbury to cater for these unfortunate children.

I received a letter from the honorary secretary of the Slow Learning Children's Group Bunbury Branch dated November of this year, which reads as follows:—

Re Establishment of a Residential  
Hostel in Bunbury for Mentally  
Retarded Slow Learning Children.

In an endeavour to provide Special Educational Facilities for children in the above group, from outlying districts, the above project is to be investigated by this Branch.

As a project of this nature would require considerable organisation and finance, we feel that interested people and charitable organisations should be given the opportunity to assist with planning and development.

We have at present in Bunbury a special school where children from Bunbury and as far afield as Donnybrook and Harvey are given educational opportunities within their capabilities.

With the existing facilities, we can cater for more children and as the demand is increased, it is our desire to extend the existing school.

There are, no doubt, many more children in the district who are denied this opportunity because of transport difficulties.

Our Object is to Overcome this  
Obstacle.

With this in view, we are extending a general invitation to all interested to attend a meeting to be held at the school.

Noonjie,  
The Punchbowl Camping Area,  
Bunbury.

On Monday, the 8th December, 1958,  
at 8 p.m., to discuss the project.

These Children need your Assistance.  
Can we Rely on you to Help?

Yours faithfully,

FORD CAMPBELL,  
Honorary Secretary.

I hope the Treasurer will give every consideration to this group and, if possible, that he will next year increase their vote to enable them to continue the good work they are doing for these unfortunate children.

Mr. HAWKE: As hon. members know, the Government has substantially assisted the Slow Learning Children's Group. Without an explanation, the figures in the Estimates could be misleading. The reduction in the vote is apparent, but not real. The grants made by the Government previously, and those to be made in the future, cover the administrative work of the group and, to some extent, their building operations. The Grants Commission suggests it is not proper for the Government to place against the Consolidated Revenue Fund the grant which would be made to this organisation for building purposes; so the amount shown this year will be given to the group for administrative purposes. In all, I should think we would be paying more this financial year to this group than was paid last year.

However, because of the separation of expenditure for administrative purposes and for building purposes the figures in the Estimates have required alteration as compared with previous procedure. The president of the group, (Mr. Bourke) and the secretary (Mr. McGillivray) had a discussion with me this week, and referred to the group's activities in Manjimup, Bunbury, and other country centres. They are naturally anxious that the Government should assist them to the utmost extent. I am sure hon. members will agree that when an organisation such as this tries to help itself, the Government should also assist it to the utmost extent possible. That has been done, and will continue to be done.

*Item, Surf Life Saving Association, £500.*

Mr. ROBERTS: An increase of £100 has been provided on last year's vote. I brought this matter to the attention of the Treasurer last year. The Life Saving Association is one of the most worth-while organisations in Australia. It does a tremendous job on a purely voluntary basis. The sacrifices the life-savers make, and the lives they save are too numerous to mention; and I hope that, as the years go by, the Government will give greater

financial consideration to this body. Our beaches, from Geraldton to the south coast, are becoming more popular, and more clubs are being established, which means that the £500 they get will not go very far. I hope the Treasurer will increase that amount in future years.

*Item, Western Australian Institute for the Blind, £5,750.*

Mr. TOMS: I am pleased to see that the Treasurer has estimated for an expenditure of £5,750. This is a most worthy cause, as are many others in this vote. From time to time the Treasurer has been referred to as Father Christmas. All these institutions are deserving of support, particularly the Blind Institute at Maylands. There are over 100 partially blind and blinded people in the institute, who are doing an excellent job with their cane work. This compares very favourable with, and in some cases better than, that imported from overseas. I hope hon. members will be able to spare a few minutes some time to see the work that is being done. An amount of £130,000 has been collected, which will enable the building programme to proceed to provide better working conditions.

*Item, Albany Municipal Council—Drainage Yakamia Creek, £4,500.*

Mr. HALL: I notice an amount of £4,500 has been estimated as expenditure. This work will drain the areas on the other side of Lockyer and will eliminate dampness. On the far eastern end it will throw open land for market gardens. I do not know whether the Albany Municipal Council has contacted the Treasurer for a grant, and I would like information on that matter.

Mr. HAWKE: This is a proposal to assist in the draining of the creek to which the hon. member for Albany has referred. It is a three-party proposal in regard to providing the total amount of finance required. The Government has agreed to provide half of the estimated total cost, and the Albany Road Board and Municipal Council together have, I understand, agreed to meet the other 50 per cent.

I am not in a position to advise the hon. member as to the exact stage which has been reached in regard to the planning of the proposed work. Therefore, I cannot advise the approximate date on which the work might be put in hand. I should think the responsibility in that direction will rest with the local government authorities, the main responsibility of the Government being to provide half the estimated cost when the work is under way.

*Item, Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, £1,500.*

Mr. COURT: Could the Treasurer advise the nature of this grant? Does it refer to a conference to be held, or to a scholarship?

Mr. HAWKE: In Perth, in 1959, there will be a congress of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. The Government has agreed, on special representations being made to it, to make £3,000 available towards meeting the total cost of staging or promoting this congress in our State. Payment of the total amount to be paid by the Government, is to be spread over two financial years which is, naturally, convenient to the Government and is satisfactory to those who have the responsibility of organising the holding of the conference in Perth.

As the hon. member for Nedlands would realise, this congress will be of very great importance to Australia and New Zealand, and directly to many other countries of the world. In view of the great importance of the congress and the fact that leading scientists will come to our State to attend it, members of the Government considered this was something well worthy of financial support from the Government.

If we look at the financial side as to what Western Australia will spend to assist to organise the congress, and what the State may receive back financially, I think we will agree that the balance sheet will finally show a credit to Western Australia. However, that was not the most important or an important consideration in the mind of the Government when the decision was made to assist to finance the holding of the congress here.

We believe the congress will be of sufficient importance and value from the scientific point of view as to be worthy of as much financial support as the Government can give, irrespective of the financial benefit it will return to the State, by the presence on several days of so many important scientific overseas visitors.

Mr. COURT: Could the Treasurer advise whether the conference will be confined to Australian and New Zealand scientists, or will it have a pan-Indian Ocean complex?

Mr. HAWKE: It will have a pan-Indian Ocean complex, and some of the foremost scientists from Asian countries will attend the conference.

*Item, Bunbury Municipal Council, £900.*

Mr. ROBERTS: I would like the Treasurer to indicate the details of this item.

Mr. HAWKE: I would point out that this money is related to the drainage of a housing scheme at East Carey Park. The total estimated cost of the scheme is £25,000. The State Housing Commission has agreed to find £15,000; the Municipal Council at Bunbury, £7,000; and the Government, £3,000.

*Item, Junior Farmers' Movement, £11,000.*

Mr. LEWIS: I am pleased to see an increase in the allocation of moneys for the Junior Farmers' Movement to the extent of some £4,000. I would like the Treasurer to explain how the extra increase is to be used.

Mr. HAWKE: The increase this year has been brought about by the full-year employment of two field officers who were appointed last financial year but were not employed during the whole of the last financial year. The item also makes provision for the employment of an additional female assistant in connection with the activities of the Junior Farmers' Movement.

*Item, Library Board of Western Australia, £100,000.*

Mr. CROMMELIN: As hon. members know, some libraries have been established in the metropolitan area and some are about to be established. To lead up to my question I would like to read the first and last paragraph of a letter which was received by the Municipality of Claremont from Mr. F. A. Sharr, State Librarian. It reads as follows:—

I am instructed by the Board to inform you that the Board has recently been informed of the amount of money which the Government proposes to recommend to Parliament for allocation to the Board for the current year, as a result of which it is apparent to the Board that it will not be possible to maintain in the current year as good a service of new books to your library as that to which you have been accustomed.

I may perhaps add, for your information, that the Board is committed in the current year to a very full programme of new library development. It has unfortunately happened that the present somewhat unexpected stringency has coincided with this heavy demand for books for new libraries. Most of the local authorities concerned have built or are providing new library buildings, and it would clearly be a grave breach of faith for the Board to fail to supply the books. As you will readily understand, local authorities have to make plans for such projects some time ahead and therefore the Board has to make commitments before the Annual Parliamentary Budget. In the circumstances, the Board feels that some degree of reduction of the level of service to existing libraries for the time being is a more equitable course than dishonouring its commitments to the new libraries. I may add that in the circumstances, the Board cannot foresee the establishment of any new libraries after the end of the current year, unless and until Parliament can see its way clear to make substantially increased funds available.

The point that arises is that libraries are established in the metropolitan area, and there are municipalities which are endeavouring to establish libraries. The Claremont library has been established for about

five years and is run at an annual cost of £3,300; and the books are available to rate-payers at no cost.

To establish the library, the Claremont Municipality paid £2,200 to the Library Board as an initial outlay for books, and paid £2,300 in order to fit up portion of the council chamber as a library. We feel that there will be an ever-increasing demand for libraries in the different municipalities, and I would like the Treasurer to give some indication as to what help will be given in this regard. If the present rate of expansion of libraries continues, the Claremont Municipality will be at a disadvantage in regard to books. I would like to know the future policy of the Government in regard to existing libraries.

Mr. ANDREWS: About a fortnight ago, an organisation to which I belong in Victoria Park, received a reply from the Perth City Council in regard to a request which was made for an extension of the library to Victoria Park. This reply contained a statement which I thought was rather unnecessary. It suggested to this organisation that it approach its local member because the Government had reduced the library grant by £18,000.

Because of that statement in the letter of the Perth City Council, I asked the Treasurer a question last week regarding this matter. I asked him what was the amount of subsidy paid to the Library Board of Western Australia over the last three years. The Treasurer informed me that in 1955-56 it was £58,680; in 1956-57, £89,005; and in 1957-58, £100,000. The increase has been very large over those two years. The following statement has now appeared in the Press. It is headed "Funds for Library Fall Short." It reads as follows:—

The State Library Board has not enough money to buy additional books.

Councillor C. N. Harris, acting chairman of the board, said in Perth yesterday that Premier Hawke had promised to review this situation in January.

About 33 local government authorities had asked to be in the library scheme, but there were not sufficient books at present to allow that.

#### Replacements.

Cr. Harris said the board's maintenance programme had required the replacement of 20 per cent. of its books each year. They became out-of-date or tattered.

"We have now reached the stage where the stock of books in W.A. is such that the money the Government gives us will only maintain and not allow us to build on the stock," he said.

This year there had been an £18,000 cut in the £118,000 made available by the Government the year before. It meant the book fund had £18,000 less, as salaries had to be paid as usual, and no additional books were bought.

On the Estimates we find £100,000 for this year, also. Because of the discrepancy in the statement made by Councillor Harris and the letter from the Perth City Council, and the estimate—and not knowing that the estimate for the Library Board would come before us tonight—I put a question on the notice paper for tomorrow. I wish to ventilate the position because apparently someone is making a bad blue. I have an idea it is coming from a certain quarter, but that is guesswork. The whole matter of the grant to the Library Board should be cleared up.

Mr. HAWKE. It is well-known that people who become associated with libraries, museums, and art galleries are enthusiasts, which is a good thing. Naturally they always want to let their enthusiasm have full rein. Consequently they are always keen to obtain as much money as possible for their library, art gallery, or museum.

I think the £100,000 which the Government proposes to give to the Library Board is a fairly substantial amount. I know the board could spend £200,000, £500,000 or even £1,000,000 if someone could make such a sum available. But we have to keep in mind the legitimate requirements of many other activities; and we have to remember the financial resources available to the Government.

I do not blame any hon. member for advocating that more money should be made available with respect to every item in the miscellaneous section. I think every item is deserving of as much money as can be made available. Whilst I am dealing with this matter, I would like to say that some hon. members in this Chamber opposed very strongly the legislation to continue the land tax on improved farming land.

Mr. Bovell: Not again!

Mr. HAWKE: As a result, the Government has been deprived of £200,000 this year. Unfortunately a majority of members in another place followed the bad example which was set by some hon. members here, and the legislation was defeated. Had the Government been in a position to receive that £200,000 it could probably have done better than it has been able to do in respect to these estimates.

Mr. COURT: The Treasurer's explanation on this item is the one we would have expected him to give. Has the Government conferred or is it conferring with the Library Board with a view to a declaration by the board or the Government—whichever is the appropriate authority—which will let the local libraries know where they stand? I am referring to libraries about to be established. These local libraries are breaking out almost like a rash. Once they are established, the patronage is amazing. The Netherlands and Rockingham local authorities

are in the queue, as it were, for the establishment of libraries. Apparently they have to work in conjunction with the State Library Board if they are to be successful in having a library of sufficient magnitude to fill a proper role in the district.

I know of municipalities that are in the process of providing buildings for libraries, but on present indications it will be impracticable for them to get books to go into the libraries when they are complete. It is better for the local authorities to tell the ratepayers the situation, and that the whole project must be deferred, rather than give a false impression as to when the libraries will be functioning. If finance is going to be difficult, could the Treasurer say whether a policy declaration will be made?

Mr. HAWKE: The Government is making available £100,000 this financial year, which is exactly the same amount as was made available last year. No reduction has been made. I would be astounded to think that anyone in authority was trying to spread the idea through the community that the amount to be made available this year had been cut by £18,000 as compared with the amount made available last year. Clearly, as the printed Estimates show, the same amount is being made available this year as was available last year.

I do not know much about the inside workings of the Library Board; All I know is that this financial year the Government is giving it £100,000, which is quite a solid sum of money. It is up to the board to make the best possible use of this money and whatever other moneys, if any, it may have under its control.

Where local authorities desire to move faster than it is possible to move, presumably it is within the power of such local authorities to make additional finance available to themselves, even if that were to be done on a temporary basis and on the understanding that the Library Board would refund the advance at some future date.

Mr. PERKINS: I am heartened to hear hon. members speaking of the demand that has developed for library facilities in Western Australia. I have always been interested in this subject, and I may fairly say that perhaps I played some small part in the establishment of the system as we know it today. It is almost 16 years since I first came into this Chamber and made my maiden speech on this subject when speaking to the Estimates. I well remember the kind reception which the then Premier (Mr. Willcock) gave to my modest request for a small sum of money to give some such system as this a trial. Mr. Willcock had the reputation of being a tough Treasurer, and many hon. members were amazed when he said he would

favourably consider the request and suggested that I discuss it with him. Shortly afterwards he agreed to commence by giving an amount of £1,000. That was the genesis of the free lending library scheme in Western Australia.

It is good to know that the scheme has been extended as it has, and that there is a demand in the community for the service. The Government has been reasonably generous, I think, in its treatment of the Library Board. We have made a not inconsiderable amount of progress. I further express the hope that the Treasurer will, as he is able, make further funds available for this worthy purpose. The present amount, no doubt, will have to be increased because this is part of our educational system.

For many years we were very backward in this matter. We were one of the most backward countries in the world in regard to library service; it was almost non-existent. From what I can see of the library system operating in many country districts, I think Western Australia is showing the way to the other States in this matter. But the Premier will have to realise that when we have a service like this and we have good officers—as the Library Board has—the demand will increase, and more money will be required. I can only hope that as the Government is able to do so, it will allot the necessary funds for this educational development.

Mr. COURT: The Government is putting a substantial sum into this project, and I feel that with the great enthusiasm that has sprung up for libraries there will be a tendency on the part of some municipalities to commit themselves ahead of the practical problems of establishing and servicing libraries. They can only be guided by the central body because, apparently, it is only from the use of the Library Board facilities that the local libraries assume a worth-while character.

I do not suggest there should be any interference with the Library Board, but in view of the large sum involved and of the indication which the hon. member for Roe gave that more money will be needed, the Government should get from the board some declaration of policy which can be understood by the local authorities so that they do not try to expect the impossible, and convey to their people the idea that something will be achieved in three or four years when they know it will not be achieved. This is just a question of getting clarity for the great number of local authorities which are starting to take an interest in libraries.

*Item, McNess Housing Trust, £20,000.*

Mr. BRAND: The estimate for this year is double the estimate for last year and represents an increase of £10,000. We all recognise there is a great demand for this

type of house, but I would like to know from where the money is coming, and the basis of the expenditure of the extra £10,000.

Mr. HAWKE: The money will come from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, as the Leader of the Opposition would know. The reason for increasing the grant is the very great demand which exists for the provision of small cottages for aged couples, particularly aged pensioner couples. This is a payment which arises not only in the metropolitan area, but also in some of the larger country towns. The demand is one which the Government, unfortunately, cannot, anywhere near meet in full. However, it is thought to be a most deserving need and, therefore, the Government is increasing the amount available for that purpose this financial year as compared with the total amount which was expended last year.

*Item. Pemberton National Park and Recreational Reserve Board, £250.*

Mr. ROWBERRY: The estimate for this item in 1957-58 was £250, and the expenditure £750. This year's estimate is £250, a decrease of £500 as compared with the expenditure last year. I am a member of that board, and we have made certain commitments on an estimate compared with last year's grant, and this decrease of £500 will cause considerable embarrassment. The board is a statutory body approved by the Minister and elected locally. It administers the National Park, in which there is a pool. There was no trouble in building the pool, because it was done by local endeavour, and cost practically nothing. It is a tourist attraction and is visited by people from all over the State. The Tourist Bureau gives a grant because of this, but the difficulty in financing the pool is caused by it being situated in a class "A" reserve, and admission charges cannot be made.

Mr. Cornell: What about putting it in King's Park?

Mr. ROWBERRY: We have not the population to draw on, such as would be the case with a pool established in the park; and we do not have the same dissension. We would like the government to have another look at this matter because we are in considerable difficulty. Indigenous trees have been planted and it is a beautiful spot; it is an attraction not only for the local people but also for people from other parts of the State.

I have a shrewd suspicion that because of changes in the Premier's Department we missed out. It might have been because we lost our friend at Court, and we did not press our case hard enough. However, I wish to make strong representations to the Treasurer to reconsider the matter because this is a national project. I have not the

eloquence at my command to press the matter further, but I leave it to the compassionate outlook of the Treasurer.

Mr. HAWKE: The hon. member for Warren has almost undone me. As hon. members are aware, the financial position of the State is very difficult. I know that he would say that £500 is neither here nor there; it is neither here nor there if one has it. But if one has not £500 it is here and it is there, even though it is not there! The note which I have in connection with this item points out that the £250 now remaining in the item is an annual grant towards the cost of meeting the operating expenses of the caravan park.

This grant is payable under an agreement which was reached between the Government and the Pemberton Board, and has an operational period of five years, starting from the financial year 1955-1956. The decrease of £500, which is shown in the item for this financial year as compared with last financial year, has to do with a special grant for capital expenditure made by the Government to the board. It was understood, at the time this grant was agreed upon, that the payment of £500 by the Government to the board would assist the board to complete a building project which it had in hand at the time. It was understood that the payment of the amount would not place upon the Government a continuing responsibility year by year for the amount in question.

However, I am not in possession of all the detailed information. Should the board desire to make some new representations, and should it be able to state a strong case, through the member for the district, I would be willing to have another look at the amount which the Government could make available this financial year; although, as I said earlier, the bottom of the barrel has been fairly well scraped. I think one could even say that the bottom of the bottom of the barrel has had a bit of a scraping.

*Item, Royal Mint—Additional Grant, £78,000.*

Sir ROSS McLARTY: Would the Treasurer tell me what this expenditure means, and how it is incurred? I suppose I should know, because I remember the item in days gone by. I note also that there is an increase this year of £9,500.

Mr. HAWKE: The State, under the Royal Mint Act, finds £25,000 each year to meet expenditure at the Mint. The excess expenditure for the year is provided under this item. All receipts from the activities of the Mint are taken into Revenue, and this year they will amount to £97,000. Therefore, it will be seen that from the point of view of the Consolidated Revenue Fund it is not a losing proposition for the State.

Mr. BRAND: I should like to know from the Treasurer whether the lack of an item for swimming pools indicates that no money is to be made available for this work this year.

Mr. HAWKE: On the contrary, my dear sir—

Mr. Brand: I thought it would be the year in which you would spend most.

Mr. HAWKE: No. As a matter of fact, the policy of the Government on swimming pools—

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Premier cannot discuss an item that is not there.

Mr. Brand: Saved by the bell!

Mr. HAWKE: Might I say—by way of interjection, standing up—that the amounts to be provided are to come from loan funds following a suggestion by the Grants Commission.

*Item, University of Western Australia—Additional Grant including Chair of Education and Faculty of Dental Science, £284,712.*

Mr. COURT: I would like to discuss Items 52, 53, and 54 together, because they all refer to the University. I would like to know the relationship of these amounts and the amount that appears in the Loan Estimates under the heading of the University of Western Australia, and the arrangement that the Commonwealth Government has made with universities throughout Australia. Under these arrangements the Commonwealth provides a considerable sum of money to assist these universities. The University of Western Australia gets its share, as I understand it, subject to certain extra expenditure by the Government of Western Australia. Can the Treasurer reconcile the amounts in the Estimates with the normal commitment that the Government has to the University, and the extra payment it proposes to make to match the Commonwealth payments? Also, does the Commonwealth money go direct to the University, or via the State Treasury?

Mr. HAWKE: Answering the last question first, I understand that the Commonwealth grant passes through the State Treasury, and then to the University authorities.

Mr. Court: It is not reflected in the Estimates?

Mr. HAWKE: No; and what is more, the State Government does not charge the University authorities any commission for handling the money, which is quite a contribution. It is quite true that items 52 and 53 contain increased amounts this financial year, and much of the increase under each item has been brought about by the anxiety of the State Government to

enable the University authorities in Western Australia to gain the maximum payments possible under the Commonwealth Grant, following the acceptance by the Commonwealth of the Murray Commission Report on Universities.

There are some other additional costs which have developed this financial year as against last financial year which are not related to the Commonwealth special grant. However, those are more or less normal increases in University activities; and naturally, in a progressive University, costs do rise from one year to another. I hope that every rise in costs at our University can be fully justified.

Mr. COURT: Do I take it from the Treasurer's remarks that the amounts provided in our Estimates for 1958-59, both under the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the Loan Estimates, are sufficient to enable the Western Australian University to get the maximum it is entitled to get under the Murray Report?

Mr. Hawke: Yes.

*Vote—put and passed.*

*Vote—Child Welfare and Outdoor Relief, £679,760—put and passed.*

*Vote—Department of Industrial Development, £150,563:*

Mr. BRAND: This is one of the very important departments of the State. If all that we read about the interest taken in the potential and in the secondary industries of the State is true, this year the department will take on a greater degree of importance. The prospect is that the administration of this department will become very important, because through this department liaison must be maintained with any party interested.

I notice that the vote is £150,563. Does the Minister for Industrial Development anticipate, as a result of the increased activities in recent months and of the contacts made by the trade mission, a greater expenditure in the coming year?

Mr. HAWKE: The department is carrying much the same number of personnel as previously. Its future will depend to a considerable extent on the rate of development which may come to pass as a result of the activities of the trade mission overseas. Already we have received a very satisfying result, considering that the mission has been back in this State only a short time. I am not now the Minister for Industrial Development. I passed that responsibility on to the hon. Mr. Wise. Hon. members will recollect that I took on the portfolio of Minister for Industrial Development following the promotion of the Minister for Mines to Minister for Lands and Agriculture, with the idea that as soon as circumstances permitted some other person in the Ministry would take over that portfolio.



It is my thought that the department might very well be divided into two sections to further assist and promote industrial development. I have it in mind, and I shall certainly discuss the matter with the Minister concerned, as to the advisability of considering the division of the department into two sections; one will be the engineering and technical section, and the other will be the promotional and publicity section, for want of a better name.

We have reached the stage where the campaign in favour of goods made in Western Australia is becoming increasingly effective. It was recognised at the beginning that this campaign was a scheme to re-educate the people of this State. We all know that over a period of many years the people in this State developed the habit of purchasing certain brands of goods, and that nearly all those brands were goods made in the Eastern States.

Naturally when people, particularly adults, become accustomed to do certain things, it is hard to break their habits. It is harder to break the set habits of an adult than those of a child. So the campaign to educate the people of this State to ask for different brands of goods, from those to which they have been accustomed for years, has been going on for many years. In recent years it has been intensified. We have just about reached the stage when the tide is moving fairly strongly in the direction of the re-education programme.

It appears to me that the Department of Industrial Development, far more now than before, has a dual purpose and a dual organisation, much more clearly defined than previously. During the next several months there could be a re-organisation within the department to increase the personnel so as to take far more advantage of the new situation, firstly in regard to the continued re-education of the people, and secondly, and just as important, the increasing establishment of new industries and branches of existing industries.

Mr. COURT: On this question of industrial development we have to address ourselves to factors other than the actual staff which might be employed. We come face to face with Government policy. It is well known that the engineering trade in the State is languishing. Some very forthright public statements have been made by Tomlinson Steel Ltd. regarding its situation. That situation is reflected in the share market. Prior to that we had some announcement in regard to the Commonwealth Engineering Works. Both of these establishments have been the subject of questions in this House during this session. The main trouble facing both those concerns is the diversion by the Government of work from private industries to Government concerns.

Mr. Hawke: That is not so.

Mr. COURT: In that case the questions have been answered wrongly. So far as diesel railcars are concerned, after tenders were called publicly the job was given to the Midland Junction Workshops.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope the hon. member will tie up his remark with an item in the vote.

Mr. COURT: They are related to the use of the staff of the Department of Industrial Development. It is argued by some supporters of the Government that if men are diverted from private undertakings to work in the engineering branches of Government concerns, the same number of men will be employed; in other words, local employment is not impaired. I submit that in the long run it is impaired very severely.

Mr. O'Brien: I would draw the hon. member's attention to Standing Order 390. I think he is out of order. He is not speaking to an item.

Mr. COURT: I am dealing with item No. 1. That is the personnel section. In discussing the personnel I am discussing their functions.

Mr. Kelly: You said you were not concerned about the personnel.

Mr. COURT: I think I am within the bounds of reasonableness in referring to the functions and potential of this staff, otherwise it is useless pursuing the matter. I would have thought the Minister concerned would introduce each division as a separate vote. I appreciate that the Premier introduced the whole estimate at one time, and therefore introduced all the different departments at the same time. We should be able to discuss these matters in a general way in the manner that is intended in Committee.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you speaking on the personnel, salaries and allowances of officers?

Mr. COURT: Yes, and the functions those officers will fulfil. If private industries are permitted to flourish they can make a greater contribution to this State. That should be one of the aims of the department, to get the maximum development from any particular industry. The argument that a person working in the Midland Junction Workshops, State Engineering Works, or State Building Supplies is making the same contribution to the economy of the State has some superficial correctness.

When we study the long-term effect, it does not stand up to examination. In order to keep going, concerns like Tomlinsons and the Commonwealth Engineering Works have to obtain work from outside the State and abroad, as they have done. We have the Commonwealth Engineering

Works diverting to Western Australia a proportion of the overseas rollingstock orders. The firm took that work away from the Eastern States establishment and gave it to Western Australia. That work was not available to any Western Australian concern.

Mr. Evans: Why can't that be continued?

Mr. COURT: There is not enough work in this State to enable that concern to flourish. But if the work can be sweetened with a proportion of local work, such as the building of the rollingstock and other work of the Government, it will be turned into a profitable and economic unit in industry. In being able to do this work as well as by tendering for work in the Eastern States and other parts of the world, these concerns naturally make a greater contribution to Western Australia in the ultimate, because the Midland Workshops do not tender abroad in normal circumstances for Indian Government rollingstock, for jobs in the Eastern States or Africa; and the firm of Tomlinson Steel Ltd. did prove that it could go abroad and successfully get contracts in fair competition with the Eastern States and other countries.

However, if there were a regular flow of local Government work, it stands to reason that the firm would have an easier and better prospect of maintaining a constant economic unit, and the ultimate employment factor in Western Australia and the ultimate contribution to the economy must of necessity be greater. I submit that it is a question of policy if the industrial development staff is to be able to achieve the maximum economic development in Western Australia.

*Item, Salaries, £25,013.*

Mr. ROBERTS: Never before in the history of our State has there been greater need for a closer liaison between Governments and industry in general in regard to the expansion of industries, whether new ones from overseas or industries already established.

Mr. May: Have you just found that out?

Mr. ROBERTS: I was interested to hear the Treasurer's comments in regard to the splitting of this department into two sections—scientific and promotional. I feel that the Government should give consideration to further splitting the department by providing for one section to go out—as did the recent trade mission—and seek industries willing to establish themselves in Western Australia.

The second and most important aspect is that there should be a section to go out and seek new markets for goods produced in Western Australia. A trade mission to our neighbours overseas in the near north would have great results and give a tremendous boost to Western Australian

manufacturers. The great majority of people at the moment are all for this "Buy W.A. Goods" campaign; but if manufacturers in this State could obtain additional markets by assistance through the Government, I feel confident that it would be doing the same job as far as employment in this State is concerned as is hoped will be achieved in regard to the trade mission overseas.

I make that suggestion to the Treasurer in the hope that he and his Cabinet colleagues will give consideration in the very near future to trying to boost the sale of Western Australian goods not only in Western Australia, but in the Eastern States; and to the colossal market potential in our near North.

Mr. HAWKE: The officers of the Industrial Development Department for whom the salaries are provided in this item carry out a great deal of activity and investigation in regard to industries such as Commonwealth Steel and Tomlinson Steel Ltd. I think it is probably a bit unfortunate that both these industries are practically single-purpose industries. In other words, they are not general engineering establishments. Secondly, they have to depend very largely—if not entirely—upon the one class of work.

The modern trend according to these officers of the Industrial Development Department is for the general-purpose engineering establishment to be preferred because such establishment can execute work of various types; and, secondly, it does not have to depend upon the same class of order all the time for activity and for existence.

Mr. Court: That is only practicable up to a certain-sized establishment though.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes. If we care to discuss in detail the engineering establishment at Welshpool which is operated by Tomlinsons, we know the industry was established there following the war, and it was established mainly to manufacture rollingstock, particularly railway trucks. There is not much demand in Western Australia for railway trucks outside the demand set up by the Government Railway Department and the Midland Railway Co.

Over the years, all classes of Government have established a large-scale workshops at Midland Junction to do the work of the Government Railway Department. I am not well informed about what the Midland Railway Co. does, but I imagine it might import a lot of its requirements from, perhaps, England, because most of the shareholders of that company live, I think, in England.

Obviously the Government is not in a position to make much work available, outside of its workshops, to firms of this description. Nevertheless, the Government did assist Tomlinsons very substantially to secure the large-scale contract which

it obtained for the manufacture of railway wagons for supply to India under the terms of the Colombo Plan. I think it is not exaggerating to say the firm of Tomlinsons could not have carried out that order had it not been for the guarantees which the Government gave to financial institutions on behalf of Tomlinsons to enable that firm to obtain the money with which to execute the contracts; and naturally the officers of the Industrial Development Department came very prominently into these transactions between the Government on the one side and the firm of Tomlinsons on the other.

There has been an attempt—I think a very futile one so far—by certain people in Western Australia to spread the idea that the Government, through the Industrial Development Department or through other Government departments, gives as little as possible in the way of orders for industrial production and other production to private enterprise in Western Australia.

The stupidity of that assertion can be shown up very prominently by the fact that last financial year the State Government paid at least £60,000,000 to private business people in Western Australia. So the Government of Western Australia—partly through the Department of Industrial Development, and partly through other Government departments—is making a tremendous financial contribution to the activity and stability of private enterprise in Western Australia. The Government would be by far the best customer in size and in prompt cash payment which private enterprise in this State has.

Mr. COURT: Not so prompt from what we heard last year!

Mr. HAWKE: Should the hon. member for Nedlands be in a position to bring to my notice, through the officers of the Industrial Development Department, some account which the Government owes at present and which has been outstanding for any longish period, I would investigate such account very quickly, and I think I could undertake to ensure that it would be paid with very little delay.

The Government spends money through a large number of instrumentalities. We have the Consolidated Revenue expenditure, the loan fund expenditure, expenditure through the Government Insurance Office and the State Electricity Commission, and through dozens of other organisations of a similar character, all of which are expending money which has either been provided by the Government or raised by those instrumentalities under the benefit of Government guarantees or Government legislation; and so the Government—all the activities of the Government are taken into consideration, direct and indirect—spends a tremendous

amount of money each year; and last financial year £60,000,000 at least was paid to private business concerns from those sources.

Mr. BRAND: I do not know whether the Director of Industrial Development has not been keeping closely in touch with his Minister; but it would seem to me that the £60,000,000 which the Government is alleged to have spent with private industry was, indeed, a matter of no option—no great achievement in that at all. But I would like to ask the Treasurer whether he would be spending £60,000,000 this year, particularly in view of the direction which he has issued to other instrumentalities and Government departments that their supplies must be obtained through Government industry and Government instrumentalities.

Mr. HAWKE: I think the Government, particularly through the Industrial Development Department and other departments, would pay more than £60,000,000 this financial year in the direction which I have indicated; and I would also say the people who are employed at Midland Junction Workshops and by State Building Supplies and the State Engineering Works would, when they receive their wages and salaries each week or fortnight, be great customers of private enterprise in this State. I have never heard of private enterprise turning any of that money away.

Mr. COURT: Replying to my earlier remarks, the Premier referred to the two engineering establishments which are so important in the industrial development of this State as being special types of engineering establishments. They were encouraged to establish themselves here with the object of catering for that particular type of engineering. It is easier for the economy of a State like this to employ the resources of a general purpose engineering establishment in many directions, but I think we are making a retrograde step.

We have just announced a new industry for this State of a value, according to the Press, of £200,000; and I submit that these two industries, one on a caretaker basis and the other on a restricted basis, would have a much greater impact on the industry of this State. It is sad that we cannot keep them going, because they have a great contribution to make. I understand that the fact that the productivity in this State was higher per man than that in the Eastern States, induced them to bring to Western Australia some of the work which we would otherwise not have got. Can the Treasurer say what chance there is for suitable work to be given to these establishments in order to help keep them going.

Mr. HAWKE: The Government will continue to do whatever is possible to make work available to these concerns. I think there is more likelihood of work being made

available through the Department of Industrial Development to Tomlinsons than to the other firm. In conclusion I would quote briefly from "The West Australian" of the 6th September last under the heading "Investors' Notebook." There, under the sub-heading of "Reports Give Little Cause for Gloom," we read:—

With the exception of the building industry it is obvious that conditions in this State have been more buoyant than they have appeared to be from time to time. This emphasises the danger of too readily swallowing unsubstantiated tales of gloom.

Mr. ROBERTS: Would the Treasurer comment on the suggestion that a trade mission be sent overseas in the near future to encourage the sale of Western Australian goods?

Mr. HAWKE: A very prominent Perth businessman recently made a trip to Asia and some other countries, in company with some Eastern States commercial men. He has made available to me a copy of the report he prepared on his activities. I have not had time to read it but will certainly do so. There may be a great deal of merit in the hon. member's suggestion, and I will discuss it with the Minister for Industrial Development and the Deputy Premier, who would be in a position to offer helpful advice when the matter is being discussed.

Mr. EVANS: I wish to deal with item No. 3—Pyrites Concession Freights. This item refers to concession rail freights on pyrites sent from the Goldfields to the metropolitan area for treatment. The view is held, on the Goldfields, that the pyrites should be treated there, and I look forward to the time when the Chamber of Mines can be convinced—possibly with Government assistance—that the prospect is a practicable one.

When that time comes I would like to see a concession paid by the Government on the freight to assist an industry on the Goldfields for the manufacture of acid from the pyrites, or the extraction of the sulphur or the liquefaction of the sulphur-dioxide gas, which could be transported for the manufacture of sulphuric acid at the superphosphate works. Would the Treasurer explain why the estimate for 1958-59 is below that for the past year?

Mr. HAWKE: The Government would be willing to consider any proposals developed between the private interests concerned for the processing of pyrites ore on the Goldfields. That ore is mostly mined at Norseman and the lower amount shown in this item is based on an estimated lower total production of pyrites ore at Norseman during the current financial year than during the last financial year. I understand this has been brought about, not by any action of the State Labour Government against private industry in

this State, but by the action of the private-enterprise Federal Government in allowing red sulphur to be brought into Australia from Red China.

*Item, Collie Grain Distillery Maintenance, £1,250.*

Mr. ROBERTS: The vote last year was £1,000 and the expenditure £290; and this year's estimate is £1,250, an increase of £960. Here is a magnificent building for housing some industry, which would be welcome in the South-West. I would ask that when new industries are coming to this State the country areas be given consideration.

Mr. HAWKE: The Government is maintaining this large building in the hope that it will eventually be used to house some industry. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, the Government does not dictate to any private company the site where it will establish a new enterprise. He would have liked the oil refinery to be at Geraldton, but the company concerned chose Kwinana.

Mr. Roberts: The B.H.P. were taken to Bunbury and had a look around.

Mr. HAWKE: I can understand people going to Bunbury and being disappointed, if they saw the wrong people there.

*Item, Bureau of Research and Development, £14,150.*

Mr. COURT: Last year's vote was £15,000 and the expenditure £8,973. This year the estimate is £14,150. Could the Treasurer indicate the main projects in which the bureau will engage this year and whether this has relation to the coking of Collie coal?

Mr. HAWKE: Yes; most of the expenditure is related to coking Collie coal. In a previous period it was related to gasifying that coal. The bureau from time to time carried out other research, but most of the expenditure last year related to coking the coal. We know it was coked successfully in the laboratories here, an achievement which led to further experimentation recently in Germany by the Lurgi Company, which is now hopeful that an economic commercial process for coking Collie coal will soon be practicable.

Mr. Court: Will that announcement be practicable this year?

Mr. HAWKE: I think an announcement might well be made within the next six weeks.

*Vote put and passed.*

*Vote—Public Works and Buildings, £1,167,490.*

THE HON. J. T. TONKIN (Minister for Works—Melville) [9.43]: The activities of the Public Works Department extend throughout the entire State of Western Australia and include the construction and

maintenance of jetties, harbours and rivers; the construction and maintenance of public buildings; the construction and maintenance and operation of goldfields, agricultural and country town water supplies, as well as sewerage, irrigation, drainage and the acquisition of property as required for government purposes.

The department also operates one of the State's largest and most modern workshops of its type in Jewell-st., East Perth, for the maintenance of Government plant. The department carries out extensive works from funds provided by the Commonwealth Government, other State departments, local governing authorities and other organisations. The total expenditure covered by those activities for the year ended the 30th June last amounted to £13,210,400, while the total revenue collections for the same period were £1,273,600.

The expenditure by the engineering division for 1957-58 amounted to £6,311,600; and by the architectural division, £6,272,800. Because of the very nature of its activities, practically every trade is represented among the employees of the department and, with the exclusion of approximately 500 at the State Engineering Works, the department employs 4,800 men. Good progress has been made with country water supplies and irrigation works. The pipeline supplying water from Katanning to Narrogin has been completed and the construction of the pipeline north-west from Cunderdin towards Koorda has also been completed and it will also be my good fortune and privilege to open officially the water supply at that town at the end of next week.

New reticulated water supply schemes have been provided for the towns of Lake Grace, Dumbleyung, Williams and Onslow, whilst the scheme at Albany is being further developed. The wall of the Wellington Dam is being raised 50 ft. and, when completed, will increase the storage capacity from 8,500 million gallons to approximately 41,000 million gallons, thus enabling large extensions to be made to the existing irrigation areas in the South-West.

Mr. Brand: That is part of the work that has been approved by the Commonwealth Government?

Mr. TONKIN: Yes. Whilst this major development takes place at the source of supply the main irrigation off-take channel is being enlarged and it is planned to have the work completed in time to take advantage of the 1960 rains.

At Fremantle, a new 600-ton slipway is nearing completion, and it should be in operation shortly. Also, a commencement will be made on improving the fishing boat harbour. Extensive improvement to the berth facilities at Port Hedland are in progress to facilitate the export of minerals and other cargo through this centre.

The largest departmental undertaking under construction at present is the modified comprehensive water supply scheme, which is being financed by the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments on a £ for £ basis. The project has now reached the stage where the major pipelines to towns are approaching completion and active attention will be given to the extension of water supplies to the individual farms. If the present rate of progress can be maintained—and I see no reason at this stage why it should not—it is anticipated that the modified comprehensive water supply scheme, as we know it, will be completed in from three to four years.

The maintenance of the Goldfields water scheme receives constant attention and capital expenditure is incurred on enlarging and replacing defective sections of the main conduit, together with improvements to existing schemes serving expanding towns. New reticulated water schemes will be functioning this financial year in the towns of Northampton, Perenjori, Pithara and Buntine. Work will commence on schemes for the reticulation of the towns of Donnybrook and Denmark.

Substantial funds are being expended at Albany, Bunbury and Geraldton as part of a programme to develop and maintain the outports. Sewerage schemes are being constructed, improved or maintained in the country centres of Albany, Collie, Northam and Geraldton. Among the more important works which will receive attention in the North-West by the Public Works Department organisation in that area are the provision of a new berth at Wyndham and a deep sea port at Derby, to be financed by an amount of £2,500,000 provided by the Commonwealth Government for expenditure over a period of five years. Improvements to port installations and water supplies will continue during the year and special attention is being given to works arising from increased mining activities.

The second section of the Royal Perth Hospital and the new Chest Hospital, together with many other hospitals, schools and other works have been completed during the year. A large number of schools, hospitals, and miscellaneous works are under construction, including the Albany Regional Hospital, new works and offices for the Government Printer, new chemical laboratories for the Department of Agriculture, and a boys' reformatory at Caversham. A large programme of works is planned for the current year, including the commencement of the new mental hospital at Guildford; new headquarters for the Rural and Industries Bank; extensive additions to King Edward Memorial Hospital, and further schools, hospitals, and other works.

In the North-West, the new technical school at Derby has been completed. Large additions are to be made to the Onslow

and Derby hospitals and new court-houses and offices are to be erected at Derby and Port Hedland.

I propose to deal with the various departments under my control whilst I am on my feet, so hon. members who desire to discuss departmental estimates dealing with the Public Works Department, the State Electricity Commission, etc. should do so on the general discussion on these provisions.

With regard to the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department, provision has been made in this year's Loan Estimates for the expenditure of £1,651,500 to be expended on metropolitan water supplies on which actual expenditure in 1957-58 was £1,569,000. Probably the most important project in hand at present is the Serpentine Dam and expenditure during 1958-59 will amount to £687,000 which has enabled, firstly, the completion of the construction of the 48-inch main from the Serpentine pipehead dam to Victoria Park. This will, with the completion of the 42-inch main from Victoria Park to Mt. Yokine ensure the supply of water from Serpentine to Mt. Eliza and Mt. Yokine reservoirs. Secondly, the expenditure during 1958-59 will enable the completion of the diversion of the river and commencement of the main construction of the Serpentine Dam.

When I mention those figures of expenditure, I am referring of course to loan expenditure, because it has been the practice for years for Ministers not to discuss their developmental works on the Loan Estimates but to deal with them on the general Estimates, and that is what I am doing now.

An amount of £394,000 is included in these Estimates to enable the completion of the Victoria Park-Mt. Yokine trunk main. This will make available for consumption, water from Serpentine which we would not have if the main were not constructed. Because we have that main completed as far as Belmont and in operation, we have been enabled, in the recent hot spell, to use substantial quantities of water which were brought down from the Serpentine pipehead dam.

Provision of £28,000 has been made to extend an adequate water supply to the high level area of Mt. Yokine and Nollamara. Also, provision of £154,000 has been made for extensions of reticulation mains to serve new houses and areas as well as for improvements of existing water mains. The sum of £186,000 was expended for these purposes during the preceeding financial year. Questions have been asked recently about the North Beach feeder main. Provision of £37,000 has been made to augment the supply in the North Beach-Watermans Bay area in order to provide for future extensions in these parts and in the Marmion and Sorrento districts.

An amount of £93,000 has been provided for the construction of the first stage of a link main direct from the Serpentine main to the Melville reservoir. This first stage will provide an improved supply of water to the Brentwood area which has been suffering a great deal of inconvenience because of an inadequate supply. However, the completion of that main will effect a great improvement in that district.

A total of £326,500 has been included in the 1958-59 Estimates for sewerage work. The amount spent during last financial year was £255,000. The current year's provision includes £210,000 for the amplification of the Subiaco Treatment Works. This is to continue the construction of a plant to provide for the high rate activated sludge process of sewage treatment to improve the quality of the effluent discharged into the ocean. There is also provision made for £65,000 for sewerage reticulation.

During last financial year, £102,000 was spent on drainage and the amount included on the current estimate is £250,000 which provides for £57,000 to be spent in South Belmont to continue the construction of stormwater drainage in areas subject to flooding in winter; £100,000 to be spent in Bayswater to commence the construction of a new drainage scheme to serve an area where many houses are subject to flooding; £10,000 to be spent in Bassendean to construct a new outlet section of the Brook-st. drain; £37,000 to be spent in Jolimont for pumping to Lake Monger and £28,000 in Maylands-Inglewood for a drainage extension to Catherine-st.

The CHAIRMAN: As hon. members are aware, a function has been arranged to-night to say farewell to Mr. Courts who, I understand, has been an employee in Parliament House for 40 years. I will therefore suspend the sitting for 15 minutes to enable hon. members to attend this function.

*Sitting suspended from 10 to 10.30 p.m.*

Mr. TONKIN: During 1957-58 the bulk of the loan expenditure of £1,925,000 was incurred on the following works:—

#### Water Supplies—

Serpentine pipeline, £876,000.

Serpentine main dam construction, £138,000.

42 in. trunk line to Mt. Yokine, £167,000.

High level tank to Nollamara, and improvements to Mt. Yokine high level area, £76,000.

Extensions and improvements, £188,000.

Treatment works amplification, £186,000.

Main drainage for Welshpool, Bentley, Victoria Park, Carlisle and South Belmont, £86,000.

So it is clear that the level of activities of the department for 1957-58 has been carried on this financial year, and sufficient allocation has been made to maintain that level of work so that considerable water supply extension, sewerage provision, and drainage provision will be made as previously. In connection with the Main Roads Department, I wish to inform the Committee that the programme of works carried out by the department in the financial year 1957-58 amounted to £7,575,000. This was an all-time record. The bituminous surfacing work completed by the department during the year totalled 481 miles of priming and 522 miles of sealing and re-sealing. In addition, more than 10,000 miles of road were either cleared, formed, gravelled or stabilised.

Employment by the department has continued at a high level and the average work force employed during the year was 2,243 men which is the highest in the post-war period. In the current financial year a programme of works involving upwards of £7,600,000 has been allocated for expenditure. The proposals provide for the priming of 543 miles, and the sealing and re-sealing of 634 miles of main and rural roads. A sum of £880,000 has been programmed by the department for expenditure in the north-west part of the State, and this amount represents a record allocation for work in that area.

The hon. member for Kimberley was somewhat critical the other evening, and claimed that more money should be spent in that part of the State. But I would remind the hon. member that the expenditure last year in that part of the State was an all-time record. Some regard must be paid to the use to which a road is put. It is unreasonable to expect that where the traffic density is less than three vehicles a day large sums of capital expenditure should be outlaid simply in order to enable some people to say that there is a bitumen road available over which one might travel.

Experience has shown that very satisfactory dirt roads can be provided in the North, which are a distinct advantage, in certain circumstances, as against bitumen roads. The hon. member will know that world standards provide that no more than  $7\frac{1}{2}$  tons on the rear tandem axle shall be carried on bitumen roads, and we find it necessary to police those regulations very strictly; otherwise, we would leave ourselves open to the charge that we were wasting our money.

Any neglect in that regard, to confine the loads within reasonable limits, could result in very substantial damage being done by a single vehicle to long lengths of road. In the North-West and Kimberleys, because we have not got these bitumen roads, there is no need to impose this loading restriction; and, as a result, tremendous loads are carried on those roads

without any restriction at all. If the roads were bituminised we would be obliged to impose these loading restrictions, which would have the effect of reducing what are now profitable businesses to quite uneconomic ones.

It has been pointed out from time to time that in order to keep down costs in the transport of ore, it is necessary to carry large loads at a time. These large loads would not be possible on a bitumen road. So it would not be an unmixed blessing if we were able to accede to the request of the hon. member and provide nothing but bitumen roads. However, the need for such roads in certain places where the traffic intensity warrants it, is well known, and steps are being taken progressively to achieve the desired result.

The sum that I mentioned as being an all-time record does not include provision for plant purchased or for administrative costs. The contributory bitumen scheme which has operated successfully between the department and local authorities is being continued. Since the inception of the scheme three years ago 554 miles of developmental roads have been surfaced with bitumen. This year the department has allocated £136,000, and 49 local authorities will participate in the scheme by the expenditure of a like amount. Allocations have also been made during the current financial year for the construction of roads to serve new land settlement areas, and developmental projects in the north-west part of the State.

Before leaving this department I would like to make some mention of the progress being achieved on the bridge at the Narrows. We have had some periods of concern during the construction of the bridge, because of unexpected developments which threatened to upset the time schedule. These things could not have been foreseen previously; they were conditions which were not experienced elsewhere, and when they did occur special steps had to be taken to deal with them.

But the contractors have shown great ingenuity, and have been able to adjust themselves to the altered conditions, and, in my view, they have done a wonderfully good job in maintaining the progress they have. Initially it was found that driving gambia piles was a much more difficult job in the great depth of silt we had than was expected, so some strengthening of the piles was necessary in order to take the strength for the blow that had to be struck to the piles to get them to penetrate to the required depth.

After some experimenting that was overcome, and the driving of the piles proceeded satisfactorily. On the north side we had a difficulty again, quite unforeseen, because the sand that was being placed on top of the silt in order to form a bed for the bridge roads just went through the silt and, having reached the firm ground on the bottom, it

spilled out laterally in such a way that it exerted force against the wooden piles and pushed them over to an appreciable degree. That necessitated some precautionary measures with regard to the steel piles which were to be driven, and it was considered that some stabilising measure would be required if we were to keep the piles in position for a period of 12 months, until such time as the ground properly settled and movement had stopped.

After a lot of investigation and submission of data to Great Britain, a certain method of construction was decided upon, which has since been conducted with satisfactory results. Now there is no concern whatever as to what might occur with regard to this pressure resulting from the spilling out of the sand at such great depth. Unfortunately, however, some months were lost, because of these difficulties, and accordingly, the bridge will not be completed within the scheduled time. But indications are that the delay will not be very long.

All the construction parts have been made, and the cement sections have actually been completed. It now remains only to place them in position, to have them stressed in accordance with plan, and then to complete the finishing parts of the bridge. So it could be confidently anticipated that the bridge will most definitely be completed well before the end of next year. It is taking such shape now as to indicate that it will indeed be a very fine structure.

I think it is necessary to say a little about the State Electricity Commission, which is playing such a very prominent part in the development of this State and which is destined to play even a greater part, because indications are that the commission will be called upon to provide very large amounts of power to meet the needs of industry which we feel will be established in Western Australia in the very near future.

To give some idea of the amount of current which we might be called upon to supply, I need mention only one fact which emerged within the last month in connection with one of the industries which the trade mission had good reason to believe would be attracted to Western Australia. Members of this company have already been here to make investigations on the spot. I received a cable asking for a quote for a certain quantity of power. The quote I was asked for was for a supply of 8,500,000 units of electricity per month.

That is a tremendous consumption of power by our standards; and even a fraction as small as a tenth of a penny per unit on that consumption works out at something like £40,000 a year in power costs. A variation of .1 of a penny per unit makes a difference of £40,000 in the budget of the company.

I mention that to give an indication of what we might be expected to provide for in the near future. That will, of course, mean a considerable increase in the quantity of Collie coal to be consumed. Industries which are possible—I might even say very probable—will require very large quantities of coal. So there is indeed quite a bright future for the coal-mining industry in Western Australia.

The Treasurer a little earlier this evening was asked about the possibility of coal being coked successfully in Western Australia; and I think he mentioned a period of six weeks during which he might be expected to have some definite proposal. The last indication we had from the Lurgi people in Germany was to the effect that a proposition based upon their latest experiments would be embodied in a report which we could expect to receive about the 15th of December. So the prospects are that before this month has ended, there will be a proposal. I can only make a guess now, because I have had no indication of the actual contents of the report, other than that the Lurgi people are satisfied that they will have a proposition which will be attractive to us.

If they have succeeded in being able to submit a proposal which is economically sound, then there is indeed a very rosy future for the coal-mining industry, because the trade mission, during its discussions in the U.S.A., was in touch with a gentleman who has capital ready and who also desires to use it for the purpose of coking our coal and exporting the coke to the U.S. The prospect of that industry is certainly one which should instil confidence in our people, because we have a great shortage of coke in Western Australia; and if it were not for the activities of the State Electricity Commission, a lot of people would be in difficulty over coke supplies.

That is one of the reasons why we still import Newcastle coal. The State Electricity Commission could use more Collie coal and use its water gas plant, but there would be far less coke available; and our hospitals are dependent upon it. It is considered to be more economic under existing conditions to use a quantity of Newcastle coal, which we do. However, the possibility that we can coke Collie coal opens up a new field for us with very attractive prospects.

Subject to audit, the overall operations of the commission for the year ended the 30th June, 1958, resulted in a profit of £24,240. This figure was about £80,000 less than the profit for the previous year. The reduced profit was due principally to the increased capital charges on the first unit of the Bunbury power station, which came into operation shortly before the commencement of the 1958 financial year.



In September, 1957, the Government negotiated a new contract for the purchase of coal at a price which was approximately 12s. per ton below the previous price. The savings so made were of great assistance in helping to offset the capital charges of £350,000 per annum on the new Bunbury plant.

The output of the commission's electricity generating plant increased during the past year by about 7 per cent. The commission anticipates this rate of increase will be maintained during 1959, and that the total revenue of the commission for the year will exceed £8,000,000.

The commission has operated at a profit each year since 1953; and if there are no substantial increases during the current year in any of the costs of producing electricity and gas, it is anticipated that the operations of the 1958-59 year will also result in a profit.

The second unit of the Bunbury power station will come into operation in time to meet the winter load for 1959. It will be followed by the third unit approximately a year later. Tenders have been let for a fourth unit and when this is completed the Bunbury power station will have a capacity of 120,000 kilowatts and will be the largest station in the commission's system. Work has commenced on the construction of a second 132,000 volt line to inter-connect the Bunbury and Collie power stations with the metropolitan stations.

The commission is conducting boring operations in the Collie basin to ascertain whether sufficient water is available to enable a major power station to be installed on the coal field. The commission's generating plant is sufficient to meet present demands and its planned generating plant programme is considered sufficient to meet the expanding requirements of industrial development and of housing.

Over 60 per cent. of the commission's output of gas is made in the carburetted water gas plant which uses Collie coal. A high pressure main is being constructed from the gas works to the Mt. Lawley area to improve supply to existing consumers and to provide for expansion. The construction of another high pressure main is under consideration. The existing gas manufacturing plant is sufficient to meet present requirements and will provide for some future expansion.

Approximately one-half of the capital funds borrowed by the commission come from subscribed loans. Two public loans were raised during the past financial year, one being fully subscribed. The other was subscribed to the extent of 64 per cent. by the public and the balance was made up by the underwriters. During the 1959 financial year the commission expects to raise about half of its subscribed loan requirements from private loans and will probably seek to raise only one public loan on the market. The work of changing the frequency from 40 to 50 cycles in the metropolitan area is almost completed.

That explanation gives a good idea, I think, of the great activity of the State Electricity Commission which, it must be conceded, is playing a prominent part in aiding the development of Western Australia. We have many demands for extensions of power which would be quite uneconomic. If they were acceded to, the inevitable result would be an increase in the price of electricity and that is the last thing we want. One of the most important questions raised from time to time in discussions with the trade mission abroad, was the cost of power, and comparisons were made between the cost of power in Western Australia and in the U.S.A. and Great Britain, and there was a wide disparity. Fortunately, there is not such a wide disparity between the prices of power in the various States of Australia.

When one considers that the coal we buy has to be hauled a considerable distance, at a fairly high freight, as against the non haulage of coal in Victoria, it will be seen that coal can be obtained in Victoria at about 8s. per ton or 1s. for one million B.T.U.'s, whereas in this State it costs 53s. a ton or 55d. for one million B.T.U.'s. That tremendous difference means that we have quite a task in keeping prices within a range which will not impose too great a burden on industry. It can truthfully be said that in this regard the commission has done a remarkably good job.

During the six years that this Government has been in power there has been only one increase in the price of electricity, despite the fact that the cost of most other things has risen; and that increase was only .01d. per unit. That is a very slight increase indeed and it was made within a couple of months of the Government coming into office, but no further increase has been made in electricity charges since then. One of the main reasons why the position has been held at such a satisfactory level is that the commission has resisted demands by many people for uneconomic extensions of power to be made available.

For some time we had to adhere to a standard that extensions would not be made in residential areas, involving more than two bays per consumer. Fortunately, owing to reduced costs of materials and improved efficiency it became possible, within the last few weeks, to improve the standard and we are now able economically to extend on the basis of three bays per consumer. We are now able to connect up many people who previously could not be given the service. If we can remain on the basis that uneconomic extensions will not be made, such business as is offering on an economic basis can be attended to and I think we can steadily move towards a reduction in the price, which will be advantageous not only to domestic consumers, but also to industrial consumers—and that is important. Quite

naturally, any reduction in the price of coal will be reflected in electricity charges which will be attractive to industry. I think we are gradually achieving a situation where we can expect a reduction in the cost of coal.

Already the price being paid for coal is a substantial improvement on the prices that obtained previously; and I think further reductions can be anticipated. If that is so, it will be greatly to the benefit of Western Australia, because we cannot afford to pay high prices for coal when it is available at lower rates in other States and we are in competition with them for industries which we are trying to attract. In the final analysis, when those controlling an industry are deciding where to locate a factory, it is the economics of the proposition that decide what they should do. If their production costs are going to be such that they cannot market their product in competition with their competitors, they will not go into business. We have to be in a position to show that becoming established in Western Australia gives them a strong competitive position.

Fortunately, in regard to a number of industries, we have been able to do that, and an example is the new industry which it has recently been decided to establish in this State. The economics of that industry are good, because the asbestos required can be obtained in Western Australia and it is extremely probable that the synthetic rubber required will be obtained here also. Should that eventuate, the company concerned will be in a most advantageous position. Those are the factors which influence people, and so we must keep in mind the necessity to strive for further reductions in cost of electric power, in order to provide the encouragement which is so vitally necessary.

Mr. Court: What is your present reserve generating capacity?

Mr. TONKIN: I have not the figure in kilowatts, but the curve drawn to show the relation of power to demand indicates that there is quite an adequate reserve and we are constantly making provision to meet the increase which is taking place; so we have no worries about it.

Mr. Court: Would you have a reserve of 25 per cent. at present?

Mr. TONKIN: I would say there is a 25 per cent. reserve.

**THE HON. D. BRAND** (Greenough) [11.01: I thank the Minister for the details he has given on the important department he administers. In the minds of most Western Australians, the most important item is water. As a matter of fact, we have heard a great deal in respect to the possible difficulties of providing all the necessary water for the metropolitan area in the event of excessive hot spells during

the summer. The Estimates indicate that a large sum of money has been expended already on a number of projects, one of which is proceeding at present at Serpentine, but the demand is ever-increasing.

I am not speaking cynically, but in spite of all the optimistic promises by the Minister that the requirements would be met in any hot spell, we have found already that the demand is beyond the anticipated supply according to the experts who advise the Minister. However, in fairness to him, that has been the case for a number of years. It seems to be that some of our planning, even though we might imagine it to be forward, liberal and expansive, is not yet big enough to meet the increased demand for water and electricity that we have experienced over the last few years.

In Western Australia, particularly, we are interested in adequate supplies of water in the country. All of us have seen reference to costs of providing water supplies in the country, particularly that comment by the Grants Commission during its recent visit to this State. We must recognise that the further we extend the main conduits the greater is the demand for water through those mains, and the greater the turnover, but the price we charge for water at present is such that the Treasury will be called upon, to an increasing degree to contribute a form of subsidy to keep the price of water down.

If there is anything that will help us develop our open spaces, and if we are to have our own expansion and development in country towns, we must be able to provide adequate and potable water supplies, not only for domestic purposes; but, as in the case of Geraldton, for the irrigation of small garden lots and other production such as tomato growing. What the future holds we cannot say. Great development and discoveries in recent years lead me to feel that surely in this important matter of water provision in a country such as Western Australia, which has extensive dry inland areas, science will discover how to demineralise water containing minerals, of which we have an abundance in this State.

The Minister made some statement regarding experiments to be conducted in Western Australia on the demineralisation of water. However, I should think that a great deal would depend on the economic success of providing fresh water from brackish and salt water supplies and that is closely related to the cost of electricity, to which the Minister has referred. Great advances, of course have been made in America and, to a limited extent, in Palestine, where the Jewish fraternity are facing, with great courage and enterprise, the problem of providing fresh water in the limited arable areas which are available to them to produce the products which they require so badly to meet their rapidly increasing population.

In America, millions, if not billions, of dollars are being spent on this same experiment. I have no doubt that in those countries they will produce the answer, not immediately, but gradually, for the benefit of the people of the world, of treating the water which we have in abundance and, ultimately, I suppose, water from the sea itself which can be used to the advantage of mankind in the production of food and other necessities throughout the world. In the meantime, it is rather disappointing to hear that the Minister does not envisage the completion of the comprehensive water scheme, as such, for, I think, another three years.

Mr. Tonkin: Yes, for three to 3½ years.

Mr. BRAND: We recall the history of the initial comprehensive water scheme and whilst we have supplied water to towns hundreds of miles from the metropolitan area and the source of supply, the history of the scheme goes back to about 1947 when the hon. Mr. Victor Doney was Minister for Water Supplies. In fact, plans were laid and specifications drawn up that year. Indeed, original approaches were made for financial assistance to the then Prime Minister, the late Mr. Ben Chifley, by the present Premier, who was Minister for Works at that time.

Mr. Potter: It even goes back before that.

Mr. BRAND: It does not matter, because it is so far back. The fact remains that we have been many years making this progress and the area is still limited to the original boundaries of the amended comprehensive water supply scheme. It is of great satisfaction to know that Narrogin, Pingelly, and other towns which suffered so badly during the summer months because of the shortage of water, are now secure inasmuch as they are connected to the comprehensive scheme.

We should also appreciate that those who planned that scheme had vision enough to lay down a 30-inch pipeline from the Wellington Dam, the wall of which is being raised to increase the capacity, because it is inevitable that whilst the pipeline provides water to those towns at present, the pure economics of the scheme will demand that we use water for rural areas and extend those pipelines inland to Lake Grace and other centres where not only the people residing there, but also the farmers, can enjoy real security which I believe only a worthwhile comprehensive scheme can provide.

That should be the objective of the Government of this State; and indeed, I might say the Commonwealth Government, in its various hand-outs. As to this scheme, it should have regard to the fact that, apart from the area around the coast of Western Australia, we have

millions of acres of good fertile land which, if provided with water, could be made more or less productive. I should remind the House that when the present Minister for Works took office, he was approached to further the comprehensive scheme to cover the northern areas. I recall attending a conference of local government representatives from those areas when the Minister addressed us and produced a plan.

That plan looked very attractive—almost as attractive as the first plan of the multi-storey hospital which went to Albany. However, I will not go into that. Nevertheless, this was a very nice plan, and it showed what we could ultimately expect in the provision of a water supply from Midland Junction to Wongan Hills and all towns up to Geraldton connected with the scheme to Dowerin and the North-Eastern wheatbelt areas. When the scheme is completed, these districts will become more and more productive and will carry more people to the acre—not many more, but at least there will be more people in these areas producing wealth for the State.

Whilst we have ups and downs in respect to the demand for our primary products, the rate at which the world's population is increasing is such that there will always be a reasonable demand—provided we are sensible about our production—for the products we can grow in this State. At that time the estimate for the proposed comprehensive scheme for that area amounted to £14,000,000. The original scheme—that which will be completed in three to four years—was originally estimated to cost, I think £4,800,000. With added costs it has increased to £10,000,000.

When I was Minister for Works there were many demands by people outside the boundaries for extensions to that scheme. Whilst it is a wise and sound policy to build the scheme, we must expect that, from the day it is completed, there will be an ever-increasing demand from farmers and towns outside its boundaries to be connected to this stream of security. I think of Corrigin and Qualtrading, towns not connected or included in the comprehensive water scheme. They are worthwhile and growing towns which, up to this point, have not been included in the scheme as we know it, although a great deal has been spent on their water supplies.

However, in those areas there is no water scheme or service catchment which could give the people there some security, for the simple reason that, during the hot dry summer and in the very year we need a water supply, there is nothing in the dams. So far as I can make out, in most of the areas the possibility of finding an adequate and good underground water supply is fairly

remote. Having said that, I hope the Committee will pardon me for mentioning a couple of my own problems in the northern area. Whilst the town of Perenjori has been reticulated, there are still two towns in that area which are without an adequate water supply to service the people who live in them.

People from the metropolitan area and major towns consider it a real hardship if they are not able to obtain water from the tap when they go to the country to live, or if they are not able to enjoy the amenity of a reticulated scheme or a septic tank. Until small country towns are provided with water supplies there will always be the tendency for the womenfolk, in particular, to get out of these centres and live nearer "civilisation." Such places are located within even 160 miles of Perth.

The little township of Dongara suffers a great deal of embarrassment during the summer months. Whilst the Government has provided some money to establish an experimental scheme, the local road board cannot meet the demand for water during the holiday months, when thousands of visitors go there during Easter and Christmas. I should imagine there is a limited supply of potable water. There may be underground water a little further out, but it is a question of money and technical assistance to provide such a supply. I would draw attention to the fact that according to the Estimates the Government is spending less this year on water supplies than it has in the past.

The expenditure on water supplies should not be reduced at this point of time in view of the fact that money is losing its value and there is some degree of inflation. If the amount to be spent this year is the same as that for last year, we cannot expect the same work to be done. The only way to get more value is to have these works done by private contract.

I would ask the Minister to inform us if he is still interested in the second comprehensive scheme covering the northern areas. If he is, the initial planning should proceed. It takes a number of years to carry out the necessary surveys and draw up the plan. Once that is done the great hurdle of finding the money must be faced. As soon as the present comprehensive scheme is completed and the extensions carried out, I would like to see work going on to establish another scheme, so that work on water extension schemes in this State can proceed further.

I would remind hon. members about the decision of the Mexican Government which years ago decided to spend 50 per cent. of the national income on the provision of water supplies. It was a backward country but it spent 50 per cent. of its national income in that manner. It does not have to do so now, because firstly that country has a huge national income; and secondly,

it has met the costs involved in establishing the water supplies. We would like to see the same type of progress in this State.

Some sacrifice ought to be made in the metropolitan area in order that potable water schemes might be implemented in the country districts.

Mr. Marshall: I would like to see you advocating that in the metropolitan area.

Mr. BRAND: I am saying that now. Unlike the hon. member, many people in the metropolitan area recognise the importance of providing water supplies in the country.

Mr. Tonkin: So long as they have a good supply themselves.

Mr. BRAND: That is human nature. I now refer to the State Electricity Commission. It is refreshing to note that for some years past this undertaking has shown a surplus. Let us hope it will continue to be administered successfully. I recall the decision of the McLarty-Watts Government to pay a subsidy of £72,000 to the commission in order to keep down the rates to country consumers under the South-West scheme. The commission was so successful in its undertaking that the Government was able to withdraw that subsidy. Although there is a loss of some £40,000 in the South-West scheme, that is offset by the profit made in the metropolitan area, which amounted to £77,000. That gives the S.E.C. a surplus of £30,000. Perhaps the hon. member for Wembley Beaches will ask for the rates of metropolitan consumers to be lowered, and for the rates in the country to be increased!

We should bear in mind what the Minister has said in regard to the possible increase in the consumption of electricity. He mentioned a figure of 8,500,000 units per month. That is a colossal consumption. Plans should now be made so that when the increased demand takes place it will be met. This planning to meet the future will mean a steady capital expenditure each year.

I know that some pressure has been brought to bear on the Government for a reduction in the price of electricity by one company. When the B.P. Company first established a refinery in this State, it made a definite attempt to obtain a concession for electricity supplies. On the advice of the experts, including Mr. Dumas, the then Government refused any concession, and the company had to pay the same rates as other industrial users. Once a concession is made to one firm, a precedent is set, and that could lead to a point where the State Electricity Commission would become an unprofitable undertaking.

I concede the need to offer cheap power and a continuity of supply. If we are to continue using coal to produce electricity, let us hope that huge reserves can be built up, and that this State will not be

dictated to by the whims of the union in limiting the amount of coal output. If there is anything to frighten big industry, it is the possibility of a breakdown in power supplies. All our eggs in Western Australia are in one basket in regard to electricity, and at present it is in the form of coal from Collie. Arrangements have been made for an alternative fuel, but at present there are some difficulties, apart from any effect which the use of an alternative fuel would have on the population and work force in Collie.

In spite of having been chided by the Premier for my remark in connection with main road funds—that Western Australia enjoyed a handsome allocation for road development—I still say that the £7,000,000 allocated to this State, two-fifths of which must be spent on rural roads, is most liberal. I only hope that the new agreement which will be signed within the next year or two will be on the same basis as the old—that is, on the basis of two-fifths area and three-fifths population. If that is done we will be assured for a long time to come that the problem of open spaces and sparse population will be dealt with by the provision of good roads. We should not forget that Western Australia receives more for its money in the form of roads than any other State, because it has no constructional difficulties or foundation problems.

If we are to enjoy an upsurge of industrial development in this State, the vote to the Minister for Works should be allocated in such a way as to maintain the progress that was established by the McLarty-Watts Government in respect of the outer ports—Bunbury, Geraldton, and Albany harbours. Those are the three main centres serving the regional hinterland, and those harbours are the essential outlets. We speak of Fremantle as the gateway of Western Australia, but each of those ports represents the gateway of its district. We should not overlook the importance of establishing a deep-sea port or ports in the North-West. If this work is continued, and the production of this State increases in the hinterland, there will be no holding us back, and great progress will come about in those towns.

**THE HON. A. F. WATTS** (Stirling) [11.29]: There are a few general matters to which I wish to make reference. I join with the Leader of the Opposition in expressing the hope that the Federal aid roads grant will be continued on the same favourable basis in Western Australia, as that on which it has operated in the last few years.

The representatives of the Government in Victoria, in making the criticism about Western Australia in regard to this particular matter have, so far as I can discover, not been fully informed as

to the exact position in regard to some aspects. The Minister may correct me if I am wrong in this regard, but I have repeatedly seen the accusation made by the representative of the Government of Victoria that the whole of the expenditure—for example, the bridge across the Narrows—has come from Federal aid roads money.

Mr. Tonkin: That is not true.

Mr. WATTS: And I have been given to understand that approximately 50 per cent.—running into some £600,000 or £700,000—has, up to date, actually been contributed from the metropolitan traffic fees paid by metropolitan motorists.

Mr. Tonkin: That is true.

Mr. WATTS: The propaganda which has been used against Western Australia in those circumstances is gravely unfair, and I am glad the Minister has been able to confirm the impression I had gained from such information as one can obtain in legitimate ways, because the position of Western Australia must surely be recognised by the other States. It still has a vast area and an extremely scattered population and a tremendous scope for development; and it still, in other aspects, is one of the best customers of the Eastern States, that the Commonwealth possesses. So to continually harp on the theory that Victoria is paying for this or that in Western Australia, firstly in the circumstances to which we have just referred; and secondly, taking into consideration the overall principle, is something that is deserving of criticism from this side of the continent and a little less from Victoria.

I do not doubt for one minute that representatives of W.A. will properly stress this position, but I have resented, and I think many other people who have any idea of the facts at all, have resented the allegations which have been made against this State. There is nothing wrong in principle if the whole of the erection or construction of this particular work has been paid for from the Federal aid road money because there is nothing illegal or improper under the agreement in the expenditure of that money.

Admittedly, it has not been the custom in this State—and I trust it will never be the custom—to spend very large fractions of this money on metropolitan works. The greater part of it has been—and is still being—spent in the outlying areas on works of one kind or another, and this is right enough. But there is nothing intrinsically wrong if the whole of it is being spent so far as the cost of this project is concerned, out of the Federal aid road money. Therefore, while I am pleased to know, for a variety of reasons, that such a large contribution is being made by the metropolitan trust account to the completion of this work, it

behoves our friends over east to be a little more particular and careful to verify their facts before they make some of the statements that have been attributed to them.

Mr. Marshall: Some of our friends here, too!

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: They will not affect the issue here very greatly, but the Government of Victoria might. There is another matter which concerns me in connection with main roads. That is the prevalence of the idea, as I see it, that the question of road construction should, to a very large degree, depend upon the traffic which is using it at the present time. I would suggest that there are quite a considerable number of roads in this State which are not being used because they are unsatisfactory. People go around much longer routes in order to get a road which is more suitable for travelling on; and in consequence the poorer type of road does not carry the traffic which, under the present system, induces the Main Roads Department to consider it should rapidly be improved.

It seems to me that while that aspect must be given some consideration—I do not deny that—it should not be, as it appears to be, the chief yardstick by which the question of whether a road shall receive early improvement or not is determined. I feel that the question of the development that is taking place along or at either end of a road, the growth of population, and the like, should be taken equally into consideration; and in those circumstances I feel that some lengths of roadway in this State, on which little progress has been made to bring them to a first-class condition, would soon find themselves rapidly improved.

I suggest to the Minister that he might try to work out some formula which would take into consideration those other aspects, and not only, or chiefly, the question of what traffic is using the roads. I am saying this because I have found, during the course of representations, that that is always the major matter that is considered; there were only 22 vehicles using this road per day during the period in which we took the census. That surely should not be the main criterion on which determinations are made.

I asked a question either yesterday or today in regard to the expenditure from the Main Roads funds on roads north of the 26th parallel of south latitude. It has always seemed to me that in direct ratio as it were to the provisions of the Federal Aid Roads Agreement we should be prepared to expend a fairly substantial proportion of the Federal aid road money on roads north of that parallel.

We receive the share of the fund on a population-cum-area basis; and in consequence we receive much more than we would receive on a population basis only. The area of this State north of the 26th

parallel definitely lacks the population but it certainly does not lack the area; and following to its logical conclusion the argument I have just used it is necessary, in order to hope to get the people there, to make the means of access and what amenities are available better than they are at the present time. We will not get people to live there first by providing roads afterwards; and therefore, while on the face of it the figures—mentioned by the Minister in answer to the question, and indeed, I think, in some part of his speech this evening, as to the expenditure on these particular areas—have improved very considerably, I think they follow the general intention of the argument which gives us the money which we spend, known as the Federal aid roads fund.

I frankly admit that hon. members of this House on many occasions in the past have tried to contribute something towards resolving some of the problems of this area north of the 26th parallel, as we always define it, to help improve its development and its attraction to population. We realised only a few years ago that there were no more people in that area than were to be found employed in one of the emporiums in Melbourne—some 7,000 or 8,000 people. Various matters have been discussed here from time to time—relief from taxation, extension of public works, delegations to the Commonwealth—some of which have borne some slight fruit.

The last-mentioned, I suppose, has been the most fruitful of all—to wit, the all-party delegation which resulted from a motion moved by the late Mr. Ackland and which was carried by this House, and which resulted in an interview with the Prime Minister, the Treasurer, and the Minister for Industrial Development in Canberra in 1955. It is surely, I think, out of the unanimity which was expressed on that occasion, although a very long interval elapsed between the discussion and decision on the matter, that the first grant of £2,500,000 over a period of five years was made to the State of Western Australia, and that so far as we know now, a second grant of £2,500,000 will be made for a continuation of the work. It certainly was not our intention at the time that the work should be limited to the 20th parallel. If I recollect aright, however, the major work proposed at that time was above that parallel, and in consequence it may be the reason for that decision, but I am hopeful that the next £2,500,000 will be allowed to be spent anywhere in the north-west area of this State at the discretion of the Government for the time being. For it seems to me that it is competent—under Section 96 of the Constitution, I understand—for the Commonwealth to stipulate conditions to the State on the way the money should be spent.

As long as it is aware of the general principles that would actuate the State in the expenditure of the money, I do not

think that it should actually lay down conditions as to its expenditure on the particular items that the State may feel should be undertaken.

Turning for a moment to metropolitan water supply, it seems to me that future problems are going to be very considerable. I do not see where further water supplies can be easily obtained for the City of Perth. Admittedly, those that are in existence, and those under construction, will solve the problem for a considerable time; but if the forecast of Mr. Stephenson is likely to be realised, then I would suggest that the problem as we saw it a year or two ago in connection with the then population, will arise in connection with the population which will exist in a few years' time. Therefore it seems to me there should be some encouragement given even now—because it might be well to start the idea moving as rapidly as possible—to the individual citizen to make use of the water supply that can be tapped in very large parts of the suburban areas of Perth in underground wells and bores.

As everyone knows, there are parts of the suburban areas of Perth where it can be done fairly cheaply and large quantities of water obtained, and good water at that. In other parts of the metropolitan area it can be done, but not so cheaply. But in any case, quite a considerable capital expenditure, running up to £1,000 in some places if the job is done properly, and certainly not less than £500 in any place, could not be avoided. The effect of the usage of that water, if it were used in a large number of places, as it could be, would surely be to restrict the demand upon the public supplies created out of loan moneys. If the supplies were maintained at these individual premises, it would minimise the future demand of an increased population to a very considerable extent.

But there is no encouragement to expend this capital sum. A person who spends a thousand pounds today, and makes use of large quantities of water from the underground supply at his dwelling, pays exactly the same water rates as he would if he were doing nothing but draw upon the public supply. It is true that he probably escapes something in the way of excess water charges. But I submit that the bigger the premises the greater the rates, and the more water he is allowed as a rebate against his rates; and, therefore, the less prospect there is of his having to pay excess water.

It seems to me that consideration should be given to a system whereby, under conditions to be clearly publicised and laid down, a person who provides himself with water from an underground reservoir of that nature should be allowed at least some reduction in the rates he has to pay so as to encourage him to spend the capital sum necessary to provide this underground supply, and the machinery necessary to bring it to the surface. I do not know

whether consideration has been given to such a proposal; I think it would be a very good idea if it were done; and there are so many hundreds, if not thousands, of places in the metropolitan and suburban areas where such water could be obtained and used to the relief of our public supplies, and ultimately to the relief of further expenditure, probably in difficult circumstances. In my opinion it would be a jolly good idea if consideration were given to that aspect.

Mr. Nulsen: Eventually they will have to do that.

Mr. WATTS: I feel the same way; and I am suggesting, as I did just now, that we should start thinking about it early, because it is not going to be a simple matter to do in a short time the thousands of places that I believe could be done.

There is one other matter, in connection with water supplies of a general nature, that I would like to refer to, and that is the desirability, if practicable—and I believe it is—of striking a uniform rate for excess water throughout the rural areas. I am not going to bring up the much-talked-of question of a uniform water rate. In my opinion that is an entirely different matter, which I prefer should be left alone, at least as far as I am concerned on this occasion; but I believe that some approach to uniformity of rates for excess water is by no means impracticable. The hon. member for Narrogin asked some questions on this very subject a few days ago; and without fishing out the questions, and wearying the Committee with them, it was perfectly clear from the answers given by the Minister that the charges for excess water in various parts of the country districts vary considerably.

I think the charges were 1s. 3d. per thousand gallons in some places; but, in the majority of them, the charges were about 4s. a thousand gallons, and in one or two instances 7s. and 10s. a thousand gallons. That is as near as I can remember the figures. Surely it would be practicable to make some better approach to uniformity than that! Admittedly the situation in regard to the water supply systems at present is unprofitable. But let us look at the position of the people who live in these different places. It is an extraordinary state of affairs that in one place the charge for excess water that might be used is half, a quarter, a fifth or an eighth of the rate being paid in some other place.

I do not think it is impracticable to evolve a scheme—not to achieve complete uniformity immediately—to bring the charges nearer and nearer together. On one occasion the Minister did say something to the effect that an approach was being made in that direction; that is why I was so interested in the questions asked

by the hon. member for Narrogin a few days ago. The answers did not disclose that there was any approach, that one could see, towards uniformity. I suggest that careful consideration be given to the matter because I think it is something that the rural districts of various kinds deserve to have favourably considered, and something which it is not unreasonable to ask for.

Of course, I appreciate the reasons why the comprehensive water scheme, as authorised, will not be finished for three to three and a half years. The scheme as authorised and contemplated by the Act of 1947 was, as everyone knows, a modified one resulting from the committee of inquiry appointed by the Commonwealth Government and chaired by Mr. Loder. The committee investigated the original proposals and took evidence from all interested parties; then it recommended the modification on the evidence which had been given to it in various parts of the State.

If I remember rightly, the estimated cost at that time was £4,350,000, and it has increased over the years, because of the depreciated value of money and other increased costs, to a matter of £10,000,000. Fortunately there has been an increase in the Commonwealth grant from £2,150,000 to £5,000,000.

I think, too, that there are some areas which, when the Loder Committee made its inquiry in 1946 or 1947, totally rejected the idea of water being piped to them, but which today would very readily change their minds. I do not say that all the areas would do so, but some of them would, although they were against it at the time. A number of them are not nearly as much against it now; because, in the interim, there have been times when they have been faced with problems of water shortages—and there I refer not only to people in the towns but also to those in the agricultural areas. They are facing problems in regard to their stock which they are not accustomed to face, and which they do not look forward to facing again.

Mr. Tonkin: Corrigin is one such place.

Mr. WATTS: I think the Minister is right there. So the quicker the scheme as now authorised can be finished—and I am afraid I must agree that the authorised scheme should be finished first—the quicker we can give a reconsideration to the position of other districts, some of which at the inquiry turned down the proposition in 1946. I believe their need is becoming more evident than it was a decade or so ago, and too much delay should not take place before favourable attention is given to a reconsideration of the matter so far as they are concerned. I think I have taken up enough time and so I shall subside.

Progress reported to a later stage of the sitting.

## BILLS (3)—RETURNED.

1. Plant Diseases Act Amendment (No.2).
2. Plant Diseases (Registration Fees) Act Amendment.
3. Parliamentary Superannuation Act Amendment.  
Without amendment.

## TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).

### *Second Reading.*

**THE HON. A. M. MOIR** (Chief Secretary—Boulder) [11.58] in moving the second reading said: I do not think there is any necessity for me to cover the ground that I covered last evening when introducing the same measure. On that occasion the Deputy Speaker ruled the Bill out of order at the third reading.

Mr. Bovell: I suppose it is identical in every detail.

Mr. MOIR: Yes. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

**MR. WILD** (Dale) [11.59]: Like the Minister, I do not intend to take up the time of the House except to say that we recognise that this is a most important piece of legislation. I can only repeat what I said last night—I feel that the Bill should have been brought down earlier. As it is such an important piece of legislation it is a wonder that the Government did not recognise the fact that it required a Message from the Governor. Because of that omission it has been necessary to reintroduce the same Bill within a period of 24 hours. I support the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### *In Committee.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

### *Third Reading.*

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1958-59.

### *In Committee of Supply.*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting, Mr. Norton in the Chair.

*Vote—Public Works and Buildings, £1,167,490 (partly considered):*

**THE HON. SIR ROSS McLARTY** (Mur-ray) [12.2 a.m.]: I have not very much to say on these Estimates, and what I have



to say is really of a local nature affecting my own district. I have heard it said in this House when these Estimates have been introduced that they represent a barometer of the State's progress. I have always found them most interesting to listen to. We all suffer disappointments by wanting certain works in our electorate which we are not always able to obtain; they are postponed, and we have to wait and keep on trying to get them.

I do think a works priority list would be a good thing. By that I mean a priority list of urgent work could be drawn up, and hon. members would then know where they stood. I also realise that we could not always keep to this priority list. Many things would occur that would have to receive immediate attention. Matters of urgency would arise and the list would have to be departed from, from time to time; but in such cases good reasons would have to be given. We only have to consider the amount of work that hon. members want done in their electorates to know how important the position is. They require water supplies, hospitals, schools, and other essential works.

I was interested to hear the Minister tell us about a record amount of money being spent on main road development this year. One would expect that to happen, because each year we get more and more from the petrol tax and, of course, improved machinery and mechanisation is being introduced yearly. It is natural, therefore, that we should expect that record sums of money would be spent in each succeeding year for the development of main roads in this State.

Like the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Country Party, I hope that the present set-up under which we receive our share of the petrol tax on a population-area basis will continue. I believe it will, because I have attended Premiers' conferences where this matter has been discussed, and the Prime Minister has always been sympathetic to the formula which now applies.

I will now proceed to discuss matters affecting my own electorate. The first thing which I want to mention, and about which the Minister has a pretty good knowledge, is the position of the ocean bar at Mandurah. This is causing great concern to the residents of Mandurah. On the 1st December I received a letter from the Minister which says in part—

I refer to your letter of the 6th November which was accompanied by one addressed to you by the Secretary-Engineer, Mandurah Road Board, stressing the necessity for work to be carried out urgently to improve the condition of the Mandurah ocean bar. In reply I desire to state that while I am very sympathetic to the request, all Loan funds available to me for the

current financial year have been allocated for other works which I consider are of higher priority and, in consequence, I regret being unable to assist in the direction desired, at least during this financial year.

In that paragraph I do see some hope. Not only does the Minister say he is sympathetic, but that he is very sympathetic, to my request. He adds that he is not able to provide assistance, at least not during this financial year which, I presume, means he hopes to be able to do so next financial year.

As hon. members know, rivers and streams in my electorate, and in the electorate of the hon. member for Harvey, are constantly being dammed. Tonight the Minister referred to large sums of money being spent on the Serpentine river—large sums which have already been spent, and further large sums which are to be spent. In the aggregate, I suppose, some millions of pounds have been spent in damming rivers and brooks in the Harvey electorate and, to a lesser extent, in the Murray electorate. I know that these works are essential and that they must be carried out.

Water is a prime necessity, as the Minister said tonight, and the people in a metropolis such as this—a growing one—must have an adequate supply of water. But the damming of these rivers and brooks is having an effect upon the Murray and Harvey estuaries. Less water is going into them, and the result is that the ocean bar becomes a more permanent obstruction as time goes on. It is from the Mandurah waters that I think 90 per cent. of the small fish consumed in the metropolitan area come. There are a large number of fishermen who earn their living in that particular area. If the bar is to close, as it is doing now, and close so frequently, it must have a most serious effect upon this fishing industry; and, indeed, it is already doing so.

Mr. Owen: Will it affect the jackpot?

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I do not know about that; at the moment I am trying to draw the attention of the Committee to the fishing that is carried out in the Mandurah water. It is a most important industry. The Mandurah district is a rapidly growing one, and is visited by thousands of people for their holidays. It is a most unfortunate circumstance that we have the problem of this bar continually with us. I know the problem is not an easy one to solve; and the Minister no doubt also knows that, because he had the advice of his engineers, who have spent a considerable time at Mandurah in the hope of being able to find a solution to this problem.

In the letter to which I have referred, I notice a suggestion is being made that a dredge should be sent to Mandurah to carry out work on the bar.

This dredge is at present employed on the Narrows bridge project, and I think it would be a pretty costly proposition to send it to Mandurah. I would ask the Minister to give some consideration to assisting the local authority at Mandurah to defray a substantial proportion of the cost in regard to this dredging proposition.

As I have said, the Minister has received a deputation in regard to this proposition, and he has had many reports on it. I should think that the file on the Mandurah bar must be one of the most ancient that the Minister has in his office. But the position becomes more acute as time goes on, and I hope something will be done in the very near future to deal with this problem. It was hoped that the Minister would be able to make some finance available to strengthen and build up a retaining wall; but, unfortunately, as he said in his letter to me, he considers that there are other urgent works throughout the State which should have a higher priority, and, for the time being, he is apparently unable to provide the necessary finance.

I hope the Minister will keep this matter in mind, and that, at an early date, money will be made available to carry out this most urgent work. The other point with which I want to deal also affects my own electorate. I refer to the question of electricity. The Minister said that from time to time requests are made to the Electricity Commission—and no doubt to him—for certain extensions which are not regarded as economic, and this would raise the price of electricity to the consumers if agreed upon.

A certain part of my own electorate is in a most unfortunate position. At present, electricity is reaching as far as Serpentine. Serpentine is only five miles from the Keysbrook-North Dandalup district. On the southern end we have electricity at Pinjarra; and that is only 10 miles from North Dandalup. There is also electricity at Mandurah.

This is a rapidly developing district in which we have some of the finest stud stock in the State; in which we have a great quantity of wholemilk produced; and it is a district, which, in recent years, has had large sums of money invested in it.

I have asked the Minister a question on the notice paper—if there is a notice paper tomorrow—to ascertain what he considers the prospects are of this district obtaining electricity extensions in the future.

Mr. Tonkin: I do not think I can answer that question until Monday.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I am glad I have claimed the Minister's attention, anyhow. If he is here on Monday, it will not be my fault. No wonder the residents of that district feel aggrieved in not being supplied with electricity. A number of them have said to me that recently the Minister went abroad and made certain offers to firms to establish in Western Australia; and he

even held out inducements that he would give certain concessions if these firms would establish in Western Australia. This is what people are saying to me, "Why not make some concession to us? We are 40 miles from the metropolitan area. We are only a small area, when the whole of the South-West is taken into consideration, but the rest of the South-West is supplied with electricity. How much longer are we going to be left out?"

I think their attitude is a reasonable one. I agree with the Minister that we just cannot agree to expansions in any light-hearted fashion, because I know they are costly. I also know that they must add to production costs generally. But when a whole district is affected, and the adjoining districts are supplied with power, they are indeed placed in a most unfortunate position if they cannot see any hope, in the foreseeable future, of having electricity extended to their particular area. I should not think that this would be a very costly business. As time goes on, one would hope that the profit of the Electricity Commission will continue to increase, as more and more power will be used.

One cannot expect any district so closely situated to the metropolitan area to progress if it is without a power supply. I ask the Minister to have a look at this matter; and I hope, as he has promised to provide money for the Mandurah bar, that he will be sympathetic towards doing something to provide this district with power. I repeat, that in the last few years, large sums of money have been spent in development in these areas. As I have already said, some of the leading stud breeders in the whole of the State are situated there; and it is a fairly closely settled district which is producing a large quantity of wholemilk, as well as other much needed primary produce.

The next point on which I wish to speak is not a local one. I am speaking about urgent priorities. I have heard quite a deal, during this session, from other hon. members asking what the prospects are of having septic systems installed in various public schools throughout the State; and I have heard reasons given by both the Minister for Works and the Minister for Education as to why this cannot be done.

I think our sanitary conditions are amongst the most primitive things that are still with us. I think it is so urgent, that special efforts should be made to provide the necessary funds, where adequate water is available, to put in septic systems, particularly as far as public buildings—and more particularly schools—are concerned.

I heard a case the other day of a small school—a very small school—which is known to the Minister for Works and where £78 per year is being paid to a sanitary contractor. I should think it would cost a few hundred pounds to provide

it with an adequate septic system, and the result would be that a great deal of money would be saved on the revenue side.

We are told that classrooms must be provided before septic systems. That will go on for some considerable time. It is bound to. However, I would suggest to the Treasurer and to the Minister for Works that they should treat this as a more urgent matter. It is urgent that septic systems be provided in public buildings; and, as I said before, particularly in schools in different parts of the State.

Before concluding, I would like to mention something about the north. The Minister gave us reasons why it was not advisable, in some cases, to provide bitumen roads in the north. I am not quoting him word for word, but that is his meaning. He explained why. He said if bitumen roads were provided in country such as the Kimberleys, load restrictions would have to be placed upon certain vehicles.

I think road trains will become more common in those areas—

Mr. Brand: There is no doubt about that.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: —and they are necessary in order to get cattle to market in better shape than is being done under present circumstances. But if we are to use road trains, we must be careful not to bruise and knock the cattle about. A month or two ago I saw certain cattle that had been carted by truck into a port in the Kimberleys and some of them were so badly bruised that they had to go down the chute.

The only way to avoid that, if road trains are to be used—and we need this more modern form of transport in the Kimberleys—is by providing better roads. I feel that is one of the things that will have to be done; and I would ask the Minister to give consideration to it when he is forming his next road programme throughout the State.

I am glad to have had the opportunity of mentioning these few matters, and hope that the Minister will view them sympathetically, as he has promised to do in the one case. We will then get some practical results from the attention the Minister has given to these matters.

Progress reported.

## ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE HON. A. R. G. HAWKE (Premier—Northam): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.15 p.m. today.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 12.27 a.m. (Friday).

# Legislative Council

Friday, the 5th December, 1958.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.