

Britain to enter the European Common Market—with what appears to be the inevitable consequential disappearance of some of our United Kingdom markets—gives a new meaning and added force to the letter by which Captain Stirling ultimately prevailed upon the British Government to annex and settle Western Australia. That letter was addressed to the Colonial Office on the 30th July, 1828, and in it Stirling said this among other things:—

I represent it as the land out of all that I have seen in various quarters of the world that possesses the greatest natural attractions.

I pause here to pay tribute to the State's first tourist booster. Then Captain Stirling proceeds in his letter—

It cannot for long remain unoccupied . . . as by its position, it commands facilities for carrying on trade with India and the Malay Archipelago, as well as with China.

Above all, so it seems to me, the best way for us to meet our economic difficulties is to build up our local markets through increasing the population of Western Australia by accelerated immigration, and to encourage secondary industries as they are being encouraged by the Minister for Industrial Development. From an economic united states of Europe, it is not such a big step to a more or less political united states of Europe. The political consequences, to us, of such a move are matters on which all serious-minded citizens should now begin to ponder.

I notice that my time has almost gone. I would, however, again congratulate the Government on the report contained in His Excellency's Speech. Much has been done; much is being done; much remains to be done; and much is going to be done. What with its ever-increasing variety and multiplicity of responsibilities and duties, and its ever-increasing demands on the one hand, and almost continuous travel on the other, ministerial office these days is no sinecure; and it is my earnest wish that the Premier and his Ministers may be granted health and strength, firmness of mind, soundness of judgment, tenacity of purpose, and the accomplishment of their desires for the advancement of Western Australia, which, to myself and many others, is the land of our birth, and to thousands of others the land of their adoption, but which to all of us is the one spot in the world where we desire to live, work, and play as individuals, with a full sense of our responsibilities to the community.

As this afternoon's proceedings differ somewhat from ordinary proceedings, perhaps it may not be inappropriate if I were to close with the sentiments with which it is customary for you, Mr. President, to

open the daily sittings of our House on other days. Therefore, I would express these sentiments, not only for Western Australia, but for Australia and the world, namely: May all we do be done on the best and surest foundations; may peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety be established among us for all generations.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central)
[4.12 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. H. C. Strickland (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 4.14 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 3rd August, 1961

CONTENTS

	Page
MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY	9
PROCLAMATION	9
SUMMONS FROM THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR	9
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—	
Carnarvon Junior High School: Need for a Hostel	11
Chamberlain Industries: Negotiations for Sale	10
Chevron-Hilton Hotel Agreement: Take-over by and Financial Backing of Latec Investments	10
Railway Sleepers: Tenders for Departmental Requirements	9
State Building Supplies—	
Legislation for Sale	10
Tabling of Agreement for Sale	10
State Trading Concerns: Interest Paid by Saw Mills, Brick Works, and State Building Supplies	9
Water Meters: Installations under New Rating System	9
Western Australian Goods: Appointment of Sales Promotion Committee	9
BILL—	
Administration Act Amendment Bill—	
Leave to Introduce; Introduction and 1r.	11
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH—	
Distribution of Copies	11
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY—	
Speaker on Motion—	
Mr. Craig	11
ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL	13

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. F. E. Islip) read the proclamation of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator (Sir John Dwyer) summoning the third session of the Twenty-third Parliament.

SUMMONS FROM THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber; and, having heard His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

STATE TRADING CONCERNS

Interest Paid by Saw Mills, Brick Works, and State Building Supplies

1. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

- (1) What is the total amount of interest paid by the State Saw Mills from its inception to date of merger with the State Brick Works?
- (2) What is the total amount of interest paid by the State Brick Works from its inception to date of merger with the State Saw Mills?
- (3) What is the total amount of interest paid by the State Building Supplies from date of merger to date of its recent sale?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The Leader of the Opposition was good enough to give notice of this question, and I make the following replies:—

- (1) £969,207 paid during the period 1913-1957.
- (2) £239,051 paid during the period 1915-1957.
- (3) £503,125 paid during the period 1957-1961.

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

Tenders for Departmental Requirements

2. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Railways:

What procedures are to be followed this financial year by the Railways Department to obtain the timber sleeper requirements of the department?

Mr. COURT replied:

The Leader of the Opposition was good enough to give notice of this question, the answer to which is that tenders have been called and are being considered, and an early decision is proposed.

WATER METERS

Installations Under New Rating System

3. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Does he recall informing a deputation of water supply employees last October that—

With the new system of water-rate payments soon to be introduced it was imperative that everyone have a water meter?

- (2) How did it become practicable to introduce the new system referred to without having the necessary water meters installed?

Mr. WILD replied:

I wish to thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for giving me prior notice of this question. My reply is as follows:—

- (1) Yes. However, my statement has been taken too literally. It was intended to convey that every potential user of excess water must have a meter.
- (2) The differential system of rating does not entail full metering, but does call for more intensive metering, and action is being taken towards this end.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOODS

Appointment of Sales Promotion Committee

4. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is he aware of a decision of the Country Party annual conference that a committee should be appointed to assist the Government to promote the sale of Western-Australian-made goods similar to the Trade Promotion Council established under the Hawke Government?
- (2) As this is in direct conflict to Government policy, as expressed by him in the past and in this House, is a change in that policy on this matter likely to occur as a result of the decision of the Country Party conference?

Mr. COURT replied:

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was good enough to give me notice of his two questions. The answers are as follows:—

- (1) Only so far as it is reported in today's issue of *The West Australian*.
- (2) Until more is known of the background of the conference decision, I would not be prepared to express an opinion.

The present policy is producing results which are expected to improve even further with additional specialist staff being engaged to help local manufacturers expand local, Eastern States, and overseas markets.

STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES

Legislation for Sale

5. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

In view of the absence of any reference to the matter in His Excellency's Speech delivered this afternoon, I would like to ask the Premier whether there will be any legislation in order to give members of Parliament an opportunity of discussing the terms of the virtual gift of the State Building Supplies and the railway mill to a certain overseas company?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No legislation is proposed.

Tabling of Agreement for Sale

6. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

Without notice on the same matter, I would like to ask the Premier when does he propose, on behalf of the Government, to table a copy of the agreement in this House?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Cabinet will give some consideration to this matter.

Mr. Hawke: Only some!

Mr. BRAND: But it is anticipated that it will be made public in due course.

CHEVRON-HILTON HOTEL AGREEMENT

Take-over by and Financial Backing of Latec Investments

7. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Premier:

- (1) Will he inform the House whether negotiations are being continued between the Government and Latec Investments regarding the building of the Chevron-Hilton Hotel?

- (2) Has the Government made any inquiries regarding the financial stability of Latec Investments; and, if so, what do those inquiries reveal?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) Since the visit by representatives of Latec to this State in connection with the possible taking over of the agreement from Chevron-Hilton Hotels in respect of the building of the hotel here, negotiations have been—and still are—going on. Before any agreement is made, the Government will have to be completely satisfied with the financial backing of Latec.

I would also like to tell the House that the Chevron-Hilton Hotel people have been very co-operative in this matter and are anxious to co-operate with the Government in any opportunity the Government might have in regard to having part of the hotel erected in time for the Commonwealth Games; or, in fact, of having it completed under the original arrangements.

CHAMBERLAIN INDUSTRIES

Negotiations for Sale

8. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Premier:

- (1) Is the Government at present negotiating the sale of Chamberlain Industries to the South Australian firm of Horwood Bagshaw?
- (2) If so, has the approval of the Commissioners of the Rural and Industries Bank, the legal owners of Chamberlains, been granted for such negotiations to take place?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Since the Government's advertisements of its willingness to sell Chamberlains, quite a number of companies have shown some interest.

Mr. Graham: To give them away!

Mr. BRAND: At the present time some interest is being shown by the company referred to.

- (2) With regard to the reference to the Rural and Industries Bank, if it is necessary, and if any decision is made, the bank will be apprised; but at this stage there will be no need whatever to seek any authority from the Commissioners.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I think we had better make the next question the last one.

CARNARVON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Need for a Hostel

9. **MR. NORTON** asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Carnarvon Junior High School been declared a high school under the Country High School Hostels Authority Act?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes," will he advise the House of the procedure to be taken to bring the needs of the district for a school hostel to the notice of the Country High School Hostels Authority?
- (3) If the answer to question No. (1) is "No," what action has to be taken to have this school declared a high school under the Act?

MR. WATTS replied:

The honourable member gave me notice of these questions, and I thank him. The answers are as follows:—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The department has already informed the authority of the needs of the district, and it is understood that representatives of the authority will visit Carnarvon in due course.
- (3) Answered by No. (1).

ADMINISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Leave to Introduce

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [3.48 p.m.]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

That leave be given to introduce a Bill for "An Act to amend the Administration Act, 1903-1960."

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced and read a first time.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Accompanied by members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator in the Legislative Council Chamber, to hear the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to members of both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused printed copies of the Speech to be distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion

MR. CRAIG (Toodyay) [3.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—

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

I would like to express my thanks to the Premier and his Cabinet for giving me the privilege and honour this afternoon of moving the Address-in-Reply. Those members who were fortunate enough to hear His Excellency's Speech must have been impressed with the feeling of optimism it conveyed and also with the confidence it expressed in the future prosperity of this State.

One has only to recall the various large projects referred to by His Excellency, projects which included the possible construction of the standard gauge railway, and the establishment of an integrated iron and steel industry—this latter project alone will account for something like £100,000,000—to appreciate what His Excellency had to say; and when we take into consideration the various other large industries that are going to be established here and the widespread development of our varied and vast mineral resources, and the possible success of the efforts that are being made in the search for oil, then I think that we in Western Australia are on the brink of a new era. It is many years since there has been such progress in evidence—

MR. GRAHAM: Such unemployment!

MR. CRAIG: And we hope that progress will continue. For too long we have been considered the backward State of the Commonwealth; and who knows but that our progress in the next few years will be far more rapid than that in the other Australian States.

MR. GRAHAM: Starting next April.

MR. CRAIG: I know that many people will agree with what I am saying. One can be excused for feeling enthusiastic about our future, because we can look forward to it with the utmost confidence. With all the projects envisaged, no doubt there will be certain problems to be faced; but I have sufficient faith in the Government to know that it will overcome those difficulties.

But there is one problem that has been with us for many years, and frankly I would like to see a more concerted action taken towards overcoming it. I refer to our water supplies. My reason for making this statement is that over the past few years people, not only in the metropolitan area but in the country areas, too, have been subjected to water restrictions. And not only that, but there are some areas in the country—particularly in my own electorate, which borders the metropolitan area—which have no water at all; and I would say their prospects of obtaining it are very remote indeed: very remote until such time as the metropolitan position improves.

I imagine that the new heavy industries, which no doubt will draw millions of gallons of water a day, will place a severe burden on our existing supplies and will possibly overtax them to the extent that restrictions more severe than previously will have to be imposed. I am hopeful that this will not be so; but we must agree that, based on past experience, that could happen.

Only this week I read in the Press that concern is being felt for the present position at Serpentine and Mundaring. Unless we receive the normal average rainfall in August, the position could worsen for next summer. Fortunately, last summer the Minister felt that restrictions were not necessary.

The Minister, of course, is aware of the position, and he controls two departments connected with the supply of water: the Metropolitan Water Supply Department and the Country Water Supplies Department. In addition, there are other Ministers who are concerned in the supply of water, including the Minister for Mines, who has under his jurisdiction the geological section, which is principally concerned with the search for underground water supplies. If the member for East Perth is anxious to have his say I would point out that he will have an opportunity next week.

Mr. Graham: He will certainly exercise it, too.

Mr. CRAIG: I was trying to give some attention to His Excellency's Speech this afternoon, but all I could hear was a bit of a kerfuffle from the member for East Perth who was sitting alongside me.

Mr. Graham: You saw a copy of the Speech weeks ago.

Mr. CRAIG: As I was saying, there are other Ministers and other departments concerned in the supply and the search

for water. Further, there are several advisory committees concerned with the supply of water, and in this morning's Press I noticed that a pleasing announcement from the Minister was recorded to the effect that the comprehensive scheme is to be extended. He made that announcement to the Rural Water Council and that section of the Farmers' Union which is interested in water supplies.

Mr. Tonkin: Don't take it too literally.

Mr. CRAIG: Therefore, it can be seen that there are a number of departments and other bodies involved in the supply of water. I will go further and point out that some of these bodies have their own staffs, including civil engineers, hydraulic engineers, and geologists. The possibility does exist that there might be some confusion or some overlapping of ideas between these bodies. There could even be some duplication of ideas.

I take this opportunity to give full credit to both the present Minister and his predecessors for their conscientious approach to the problem; but, nevertheless, I consider the question is so important that it should be completely divorced from any political voice or control. I believe, too, that the best interests of the public can be served by bringing all these interested departments and committees together to serve under one authority, which could be called the Water Conservation Authority or Commission, similar to that which is operating in the Eastern States. The existence of such an authority in the Eastern States is probably one reason why the water position in that part of the Commonwealth is not so acute as ours.

The function of such an authority could be to formulate a plan for over-all improvement in water supplies in both the metropolitan area and in the country; to develop the further stages of the comprehensive water scheme; to continue with the uninterrupted search for underground supplies; and to study the results and the developments of the work that has been done in the conversion of salt water to fresh.

There are many other features that this proposed authority could study, but the main purpose would be to have all ideas of the existing departments and committees collated under one head. If this were done I cannot see that it would cost the Government any more than at present. The idea I am putting forward might be considered nebulous; but then again, in another quarter, it might be considered to have some merit. I am merely putting the suggestion forward as a private member, this being my opportunity to do so.

Mr. J. Hegney: Perhaps you could make inquiries whilst you are in London.

Mr. CRAIG: I have not reached there yet. I sincerely urge that some consideration should be given to this serious matter, and we should not leave any stone unturned for the achievement of this objective.

MR. GUTHRIE (Subiaco) [4.5 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier): I move—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 8th August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.5 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 8th August, 1961

CONTENTS

	Page
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Brentwood School : Additional Classrooms	14
Crown Land : Burning off in Metropolitan Area	15
Female Members and Staff : Provision of Toilet Facilities	14
Leucosis Control : Assistance for Poultry Farmers	16
Lupin Seed : Improvement of Local Product	16
Midland Province Water Supply : Surveys for a Comprehensive Scheme	15
Rock Phosphate : Use on Western Australian Soils	14
Traffic Act : Reprint of Regulations	16
Unemployment Increase and Trade Depressions : Reasons	14
Wundowie Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry : Payment of Timber Royalties	15
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—	
Main Roads Department : Receipts for Year Ended the 30th June, 1961	13
Parliamentary Procedure : Ringing of Bells	13
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SECOND DAY—	
Speaker on Motion—	
The Hon. H. C. Strickland	17

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

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT

Receipts for Year Ended the 30th June, 1961

1. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

What were the Main Roads Department receipts for the year ended the 30th June, 1961, from all funds?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Mr. Strickland was good enough to give me notice of this question earlier in the day, and the answer is £9,543,196 7s. 6d.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Ringing of Bells

2. The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

If I may be permitted I would like to preface my question and say that associated with age-old proceedings in Parliament is the ringing of the bells. In the light of the new contrivance which has been substituted for the bells, I would ask the Minister whether we are contravening Standing Orders which specifically require bells to be rung for many particular and specified reasons? In the absence of bells, will the business of Parliament, where bells are required to be rung for proceedings, assuredly be in order?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

With respect, Sir, I think this is a question which perhaps should have been directed to yourself. I am aware it is an age-old custom that bells be rung. In the early stages of parliamentary procedure it was done by a person moving around from corridor to corridor, and from place to place, ringing a hand-bell. Now we might find ourselves in a position where it may be necessary to place an interpretation upon what sort of ringing noise this instrument shall make.

I feel sure that whoever is responsible for the new sound that we have heard was instrumental in putting that sound in the House for the benefit of members. I am sure the House Committee—if it was the House Committee's responsibility—did not have any intention of contravening Standing Orders.