

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 7th August, 1962

CONTENTS

	Page
QUESTION ON NOTICE—	
Mental Institutions : Ratio of Doctors, etc., to Patients	185
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : FOURTH DAY—	
Speakers on Motion—	
The Hon. E. M. Heenan	185
The Hon. A. L. Loton	190

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

QUESTION ON NOTICE

MENTAL INSTITUTIONS

Ratio of Doctors, etc., to Patients

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

What is the number of doctors, attendants, nurses, etc. per 100 patients in mental institutions in Western Australia?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Number of doctors per 100 patients—1.

Number of male nurses per 100 patients—13.

Number female nurses per 100 patients—10.

Number other staff per 100 patients—20.

These figures do not include out-patient clinics and the day hospital.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : FOURTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from the 1st August on the following motion by The Hon. H. R. Robinson:—

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

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

THE HON. E. M. HEENAN (North-East) [4.40 p.m.]: As a goldfields representative it is perhaps proper that I should have something to say about the gold-mining industry and matters incidental thereto. The Governor's Speech, unfortunately, contains only a brief reference to the industry, as follows:—

The value of mineral production for the year 1961 was £22,376,840. Gold production was higher at 871,845 fine ounces. The value of minerals other than gold and coal was again a record.

That, I think, is the only reference in the Governor's Speech to the important goldmining industry. We find that there is no reference in that Speech to the problems confronting the industry, or to any proposed plan for its assistance; neither is there any reference to such incidental matters as improvements to the Workers' Compensation Act, particularly those sections which deal with the industrial disease of silicosis. I sincerely hope this silence does not indicate that the Government has no plans during this session for dealing with the matters I have mentioned.

It will be seen from His Excellency's Speech that last year this State produced 871,845 fine ounces of gold, at a price of £15 12s. 6d. an ounce—which is paid in Australia, and which makes the value of the State's gold production for the year 1961 approximately £13,622,000. This is well over £1,000,000 a month.

I also notice from the annual report of the Chamber of Mines, which was recently published, that there are still approximately 5,000 men directly employed in the goldmining industry. It should be unnecessary for me to point out that towns like Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Boulder, Menzies, Leonora, Gwalia, Mount Ida, and Mount Magnet are almost wholly dependent on goldmining. If goldmining in any of these centres ceased there would be very little justification for the retention of the towns.

This brief outline should illustrate very clearly how important goldmining still is to Western Australia, and how absolutely necessary it is that everything possible be done to ensure its continuance, and its possible expansion. Although £1,000,000 worth of gold is still being produced every month in Western Australia, it cannot be assumed that all is well with the industry. The price of gold still remains static at £15 12s. 6d. an ounce, which is equivalent to 35 American dollars. This same price has been in existence for the past 25 years or longer.

The costs of production in the gold-mining industry, like every other industry over this period, have risen out of all recognition. Indeed, it is a great tribute

to all concerned that ways and means have been skilfully devised whereby, so far at any rate, the situation has been more or less satisfactorily handled by the gold-mining industry. There has, of course, always been the hope and expectation that the price of gold, as fixed by the United States at 35 dollars an ounce, would be increased sometime.

Earlier this year there were indeed significant moves and rumours that indicated some increase was imminent. At the time there was a big outflow of gold from America to meet her international commitments; and it was anticipated in some quarters that a devaluation of the dollar would be necessary to rectify the situation. Only recently, however, President Kennedy announced that there would be no devaluation of the dollar; and this categorical statement seems to imply that in the foreseeable future there will be no rise in the price of gold.

In view of America's attitude, therefore, it is as well that we should now face up to the facts and the indications that the price of £15 12s. 6d. an ounce is all that can be expected by the industry in at least the immediate future. If, therefore, the industry is vitally important to Western Australia—as I firmly believe it is, and as I am sure all members will agree—then we must not cease advocating our case for further assistance from the Federal Government.

It is pleasing to note that the Commonwealth Government has agreed to re-enact the provisions of the Goldmining Industries Assistance Act for a further period of three years. However, in many respects, the assistance provided is inadequate and does not fit in with the needs and realities of the problems which now confront the industry. I trust, therefore, that the Minister for Mines and his Government will use all their efforts to persuade the Federal Government of the need of the industry, and the merit of its claims.

With regard to prospecting, it is only fair to say that the Minister and his department have shown a commendable interest in prospectors and their problems. However, I still believe that far more money should be spent in trying to locate new mines to replace those which have closed down; and, in this regard, it is only reasonable that a case be submitted to the Federal Government, because the financial commitments of such a proposal are far beyond the capacity of the State.

Prospecting is now a very expensive business, and the modern prospector must be skilled and must possess up-to-date gear and equipment. He also has to live and support his dependants while facing long periods without any worth-while income. It is not surprising, therefore, that there are few prospectors in the field

nowadays; and, in consequence, there have been very few new finds in recent years. I think something should be done to rectify that state of affairs.

Millions of pounds are being spent in the search for oil; and no-one will criticise this. However, the goldmining industry has done and is still doing a great deal for this State; and there can be little or no doubt that there are further rich mines which are only awaiting discovery. Skilled prospectors, in my opinion, should be organised and given adequate inducement. In addition, a real effort should be made in collaboration with the technical officers of the Mines Department to locate and develop new mines.

Mr. President, I mentioned the Workers' Compensation Act because this is an Act which has a big bearing on the lives and well-being of the men engaged in the mining industry and their dependants. Goldmining has always been a hazardous occupation; and, in spite of improved techniques and conditions, the accident rate is still comparatively high. Therefore, the Workers' Compensation Act should contain just and reasonable provisions; and it is one Act more than any other which, in my opinion, should be kept constantly under review to keep it in line with changing thought and conditions. This has not been done with our Act, and the present position is that the worker in Western Australia is deprived of many benefits and protections which the worker in the other States is afforded. To make some suggestions, I advocate that the amounts now allowed for death, and for total or partial disability be considerably increased.

Members will recall that only recently the High Court of Australia indicated in no uncertain way that the awards of our courts to people injured on the roads are well below what is afforded in other States. In many respects this point of view also applies to awards to persons injured at their work. In my opinion, it is also high time that what is known as the to-and-from clause be incorporated in our Act.

If a man is injured through no fault of his own while going to or from work, surely he should be compensated! The consequences to himself and his dependants are the same as if the accident happened at work. The family still has to eat and pay rent; other commitments have to be met; and doctors and hospital bills must be paid.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They are pretty costly today, aren't they?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: In my opinion, it is unjust and unfair for this protection not to be extended to our workers; and to be quite fair to employers, it is my view that the majority of them would not oppose such provisions even if it meant slightly higher premiums, which I doubt.

Although we removed from the Workers' Compensation Act the three-year limitation period in which miners suffering from silicosis had to lodge their claims, we did nothing for the unfortunate ex-miners suffering from silicosis who, through no fault of their own, did not lodge claims in the years before we made the alteration. For the information of the House I am going to outline a few cases to illustrate what, in my opinion, is an unfair state of affairs. The first man's name is Adamini. I am sure he will not mind my using his name. It is a fairly common name. I will omit his christian name.

Mr. Adamini is a married man who started working on the mines at Gwalia in 1929 and left in 1942 to go into the Army. He went back to the mines and worked underground until 1952, since when he has been living at Fremantle and working as a wood merchant. In January of this year he went to Dr. X, a specialist, who told him he was full of silicosis; and this was confirmed by an X-ray.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: When did he go out of the mines?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: In 1952. Nothing can be done for him.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Shame!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What did your Government do about it up to 1952?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: That is beside the point.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is not! You make charges but you are not prepared to accept the fact—

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I am just stating the facts. Another case is that of a man named Noone.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I have copies of some interesting correspondence in connection with the South-East Province election, which make charges about this.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: The man I have just referred to worked underground in the mines from 1923 until 1942. In a letter dated the 17th July, 1961, Dr. Elphick of the Perth Chest Hospital had the following to say to the man:—

Unfortunately, with all the sympathy in the world, I still do not feel we are able to help you, and in a long conversation with the Registrar of the Workers' Compensation Board it was agreed that, notwithstanding the anomalies and the obvious injustices of the situation, there was nothing we could do to help you.

I could quote other cases, but these are two typical examples. It is not my purpose to attach blame to anyone; to blame anybody would not help these unfortunate men. I wish I could offer some constructive suggestion towards helping them.

There is satisfaction in the fact that action taken in this House last session ensured, to some extent, that this sort of thing would not happen again. Today miners can rest assured that they will not be in the same position as the two men mentioned in the cases to which I have referred; because we, in our wisdom, altered the Workers' Compensation Act to prevent any recurrence of those situations.

However, I am concerned about the hard luck cases. If miners' difficulties were caused by their own carelessness, or their own fault, one could feel sorry for them, although they would themselves be to blame; but in the majority of cases the men were not warned that they were suffering from silicosis. This may have been due to insufficient medical examination or inadequate scientific research. In such instances the men concerned did not get £s. compensation. They were unaware that they had the disease until they were informed by doctors some years later. I feel that some avenue should be found to enable such men to obtain compensation.

I am critical of the present Workers' Compensation Act. I would point out, however, that the industrial disease of silicosis is provided for in the Act. However, scores of men who work for years in the mines underground do not, surprisingly, contract silicosis, although they grow thin, and have bronchial troubles. These men may have an X-ray taken and by some remarkable chance be found not to be suffering from silicosis. They have just about everything else wrong with them, but they do not suffer from silicosis dust.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: They are just burned out.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: At the present time the Workers' Compensation Act does not provide for such men. A case in point is that of a man named Louis Cauchi of 10 Cheetham Street, Kalgoorlie. This man was born in 1903, which makes him about 59 years of age. He is a single man. He was last employed in June, 1959, on the Perseverance mine. He had been working since 1930 in mines at Wiluna, Gwalia, and Kalgoorlie. He ceased work in 1959 because he felt too ill to carry on.

This man now receives an invalid pension of £5 15s. per week. He felt he was unable to carry on his work and was under the impression that he was suffering from silicosis. He was examined by a doctor at Kalgoorlie. I will not mention the doctor's name because I have not got his authority to do so. However, the doctor wrote to me on the 19th February this year. The doctor's certificate is as follows:—

This man is a true respiratory invalid. His condition is due to a bronchitis. There is no radiological

evidence of silicosis to any significant degree. This man is probably one of the best examples of pulmonary disease other than silicosis which has been caused by air aggravated through occupation in a dusty condition.

One comes across many such cases. Some miners may be termed as being "burnt out". Often they are thin, and they suffer from bouts of influenza, pleurisy, and that sort of thing. They go to a laboratory for examination when it is frequently found they have only a minor degree of silicosis—perhaps 10 per cent., 15 per cent. or 20 per cent.—or no evidence of silicosis at all.

The unfortunate miner then receives whatever is the percentage of the total amount permissible. This is not sufficient to keep him, so he carries on working. I feel that the present Act needs amending to cover such cases. It will be recalled that Dr. Hislop also advocated that something should be done.

It is no good pointing out the shortcomings in the Act unless one is prepared to make practical suggestions which might be helpful. In my opinion the Government should appoint a committee or a Royal Commission to inquire into the matter, and endeavour to co-ordinate the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act and the Mine Workers' Relief Act.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you think the two Acts should be combined?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I think it would require a Royal Commission to determine that. I would not like to commit myself. They are two entirely different Acts. We have the Workers' Compensation Act and we have the Mine Workers' Relief Fund. The latter is something entirely different.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: It doesn't come under the Workers' Compensation Act.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: No; it is simply an insurance scheme. At the present time the mine worker contributes to the Mine Workers' Relief Fund. He pays 1s. 9d. per week; the mine where he is employed pays 1s. 9d. a week; and the Government contributes 1s. 9d. a week to the fund. If a man leaves the mine because of silicosis, and if his compensation contributions are exhausted, he becomes eligible for benefits from the Mine Workers' Relief Fund.

The maximum benefit under this fund is £4 10s. This figure includes £2 for the man, £2 for his wife, and 10s. for one child under 16 years of age. I feel that the fund, while being a good one, should be extended. When a man applies for an invalid pension or an old-age pension he is able to receive only a limited amount from the fund without his pension being reduced.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It was only recently, you know, that we effected an increase in their contributions so that we could give the added benefits.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: My suggestion is that the whole subject is worthy of careful study and investigation because the time has arrived when the Act should be streamlined and improved. I have here a book entitled *Industry, Tuberculosis, Silicosis, Compensation*, and at page 119, under the heading of "Accidental Injury—Occupational Disease", the following appears:—

If there is any justification for compensation (regardless of fault) in the case of accidental injuries, then such justification should apply even more forcibly to a compensation system for occupational diseases. Few accidents occur where the worker is not partly at fault and where avoidance of the accident does not rest in a considerable degree within the control of the employee. However, with occupational diseases, the picture is vastly different. The employee can do little to avoid the onset of an occupational disease because usually he is unaware of the hazard. Many times even the employer dealing with new chemicals or new combinations of chemicals is unaware of potential hazards to the health of his workers.

I repeat that in the mining industry there are a number of men who obviously are suffering from the affects of many years of work underground but who, at the present time, are not covered by the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act. On the goldfields any doctor will certify, in the majority of cases, that a worker's bronchitis or weakened condition has been brought about, in the main, by years of work underground; yet the Act does not cover such cases. That is entirely wrong and we should take steps to remedy the position. I do not think the Chamber of Mines or any other body of employers would offer any serious objection to that proposition.

I enjoyed, and was greatly impressed by, the fighting speech which my colleague, Mrs. Hutchison, made when speaking on the Legislative Council franchise. In my opinion, she put up a very good case which would require a good deal of answering. Like some other members in the Chamber I have recently emerged from contesting a Legislative Council election. You, Mr. President, escaped that ordeal and I congratulate you accordingly. For the North-East Province there was a total of 5,806 electors on the roll. The members of the North-East Province and their supporters have given this roll a very intensive canvass over the years, and on this occasion I put in a great deal of work in enrolling as many people as I could.

I pride myself that I know the requirements of an elector fairly well, and if any person has the qualifications in any respect whatsoever I will put his name on the roll. Our efforts resulted in a total of 5,806 being enrolled for the North-East Province, which takes in the Murchison and Kalgoorlie electorates. In those two Legislative Assembly electorates there were 11,556 names on the roll. So there the position is revealed: for the two Legislative Assembly electorates 11,556 people were enrolled, but for the Legislative Council province covering the same territory only 5,806 names were on the roll.

I feel that I can say with confidence that the proportion of Legislative Council enrolments to Legislative Assembly enrolments is higher in the North-East Province than in most of the other nine provinces. I have not any figures to support that statement, but knowing the work we have done on the goldfields I am confident it will bear close scrutiny. So I repeat that of the electors enrolled for the Legislative Assembly electorates of Murchison and Kalgoorlie, approximately only half can vote in the Legislative Council elections for the North-East Province. To me that seems utterly wrong; that is, in respect of this important House of Parliament approximately less than half the voters for the two Legislative Assembly electorates can vote for the North-East Province.

Dr. Hislop, in his remarks the other evening, said that nothing in this world can remain static; everything must change. I am wondering whether that statement will ever apply to the unsatisfactory state of the Legislative Council franchise provisions in this State. I think something should be done to bring about a change because the people have lost almost all interest in Legislative Council elections.

I understand that in the Metropolitan Province and in the Suburban Province only about 40 per cent. of the people enrolled cast their votes. In spite of the efforts that were made by representatives of both parties to get them to vote, that was the best result that could be achieved. Anyone who has just contested a Legislative Council election will bear out what a costly business it is and how far £1,000 will go. By the time one has tried to enrol people and to induce them to attend the polling booth to vote, a great deal of effort and money has been expended.

I often sympathise with those members who represent country districts and people who live long distances apart and who are far distant from the polling booths. In those instances Legislative Council elections must be extremely difficult to organise and conduct. I think the whole state of affairs; namely, the unsatisfactory state

of the roll and the indifference of the people towards enrolment and towards voting for the Legislative Council, is due largely to the restricted franchise which baffles them so much.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Make it compulsory.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: What surprises me is the number of people that one meets who do not understand the qualifications and who are not on the roll. Do you know, Mr. President, that my Liberal opponent in the last election for the North-East Province boasted that he had lived in Kalgoorlie for many years; but when the rolls came out and he opposed me, his name was not even on the roll!

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I think he was only pushed in to fill the gap.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: At least it was one vote he did not get.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Just as well you were not beaten by one vote.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I am sure all members have undergone experiences like that. Some people have not the faintest idea that they are entitled to be enrolled. If one were to walk along a street of any suburb of Perth and approach people who were renting houses, one would be surprised to learn how many of those occupiers would say they thought they did not have the right to vote for the Legislative Council.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: If the election was compulsory do you think we would get better members of Parliament?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: That question is beside the point and, in my opinion, has no bearing on it at all. However, I doubt that very much. For what it is worth the interjection may be all right, but I say frankly that the members of the Legislative Council, as long as I have known them in my long term, have been men of a high calibre; they have always done a good job for the people they represented and for the State in general. I would be the last to throw aspersions on the calibre of members of this House as it is now constituted.

I was pleased to read a report recently in *The West Australian* dealing with a conference of the Country Party, when the question of granting a vote to aborigines was discussed. I noticed some delegate opposed the proposal because he contended that if aborigines were given a vote they would all vote for the Labor Party. I admired the reply given by another delegate, and to the best of my recollection it was the same reply as I have just given to the Minister; namely, that it was beside the point and that if there was merit in the proposal for aborigines to have a vote it was not right to deprive them of it because they would all vote for one party

or another. One cannot be certain for whom the aborigines will vote. As they receive more education they will vote for one party or another, and they will vote for someone who, in their opinion, is doing a good job for them.

I applaud the proposal to give the aborigines the right to vote. Of course some of them will experience difficulty in working all this out. Some unscrupulous people might impose on them and mislead them; but the time will come when the aborigines will be better educated and be able to assimilate our way of life, and thus be able to vote as intelligently as the rest of the community. It is a fair argument that if we extend the franchise to aborigines, we should also give a vote to the spouses of those who are now qualified to vote for the Legislative Council.

To me it would seem monstrous to deprive the wife of a farmer, a miner, or in fact anyone at present on the roll, of a vote in the light of present-day trends. I cannot see why this House should not do something to extend the franchise. Such extension would not make a vast difference to the constitution of this House. If every elector and his spouse were given a vote, if everyone paying rent and the spouse of everyone who is paying rent were also given a vote, that would to some extent duplicate the present set-up. At least that would make it much easier for people to be enrolled, much easier for the people to comprehend the qualifications, and much easier for those concerned to handle elections of the Legislative Council.

In these days we should endeavour to maintain the interest of the people in the parliamentary system, otherwise it will go by the board. There is no shadow of doubt about that. Unless the people of Australia take an intelligent interest in the government of their country and study the policies submitted to them from time to time, the time will come when they will have another system imposed on them. In my mind that is a very real fear. That is why the Legislative Council of this State functions well, and I am not criticising it.

All members of this House do their best, and the laws they pass are generally for the benefit of the State and the people. However, the lack of interest as shown in the voting in Legislative Council elections is becoming almost tragic and alarming. One does not feel much pride when one analyses the election figures and sees that we, the members of this House, represent a very small quota of the people living in this State.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: If the vote for the two Houses of Parliament was made compulsory and was extended to include adult franchise, do you not think this House would become a rubber stamp?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I do not think so at all. That does not happen in the Senate.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: There is a different sort of representation in the Senate.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: In this State the Murchison seat is represented by Mr. Burt in another place, while Mr. Evans, who represents the point of view of the opposing party, represents Kalgoorlie. I am a representative of the North-East Province in this House.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That does not answer my question.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: If this House were to become a mere duplication of the Legislative Assembly, there would be no justification for its existence; but I do not agree that is the case.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Now you are getting near the truth.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: In conclusion I want to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your re-election as President, and I share fully the sentiments that have been expressed by other speakers. I also congratulate Mr. Wise on his appointment as Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Willesee on being appointed as his deputy. I congratulate my friend, Mr. Stubbs, on his election to this House. I have known him for many years and I am sure he will impress us all when we get to know him. I congratulate Mr Robinson on his election; and, although I do not as yet know him very well, I wish him every success.

THE HON. A. L. LOTON (South) [5.42 p.m.]: I shall only deal with a few matters to enable other members who desire to speak to this motion this evening to do so. Firstly I want to make a plea on behalf of the people who are interested in the Old Barracks for the retention of a portion of them. It is very fitting that portion of the Barracks, situated at the top end of St. George's Terrace, should be retained.

When I was walking along Barrack Street I noticed the commemorative tablet built into the footpath, which sets out that nearly 133 years ago—on the 12th August of 1829—the first tree was cut down for the erection of the Perth Town Hall. It is all very well for some people to say that in the march of progress some of the fine buildings of this State, which have stood the test of time, should be demolished. I disagree with the view of the Town Planning Authority which considers that in the construction of the new road system at the foot of Malcolm Street to link the northern suburbs, the Barracks should be removed.

I do agree, however, that the Government garage and the temporary buildings housing the architectural division of

the Public Works Department, which are located at the rear of the Barracks, as well as the temporary buildings in Malcolm Street, should be demolished—and the quicker the better as far as I am concerned—so that the new Government offices on the Observatory site can be proceeded with. I do contend that the main arch of the Barracks and a small portion of each wing should be retained.

When we consider the fine old building of the Perth Town Hall, the retention of a portion of the Old Barracks will give the people in the years to come an opportunity to appreciate another fine historic building. The people who appreciate historic buildings and who are fighting for their retention will no doubt give satisfaction to the generations of the future. Their retention will mark the early days of settlement in Western Australia.

When the Minister is replying to the debate, I would like him to give us some enlightenment as to what the Government proposes to do regarding the Civil Service. It was banded about for some considerable time before the State elections in March this year that correspondence was taking place between the association and the Premier as to what would happen regarding the three weeks' annual leave. The Premier said he believed in arbitration, and so do I. But from what I can find out the Civil Service Association at this stage cannot apply to the Arbitration Court because Parliament has not given it the authority to do so.

Just before the elections the Leader of the Opposition stated that if the Labor Party were returned to office, irrespective of the desires of members of the Legislative Council, it would administratively give three weeks' annual leave to those in the Civil Service Association. That is not the way I desire it to be done. I want the association to be given the right to apply to the Arbitration Court. If this is done, the association may possibly lose certain advantages it now has. For instance, it may lose some of the holidays it now enjoys; but that would be left to the court to decide. The association might be granted three weeks' annual leave; I do not know; but the association should be given the right to apply to the court. I believe Western Australia is the only State in which the Civil Service Association does not—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What the Premier said was that he was not going to buy votes prior to the elections.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: The Minister might give some information regarding the point. In an issue of the association's journal—I do not remember the date, but I think it was some time in June—it was stated that the matter seems to be in a fluid state. Being one of those who believe in arbitration, I think we should let Parliament decide what action is to be taken

in that regard. The association should be given the right to apply to the court, and the court can make a decision on the annual leave.

Another small matter I desire to raise would really, I suppose, concern the Perth City Council rather than Parliament. It is the growing incidence of loud speakers in the City of Perth. When we walk along Hay Street we hear blaring forth from a loud speaker on one side of us—"Buy So-and-so's shoes; they never squeeze." And on the other side we have someone asking us to buy a certain brand of bathers because they will always fit. This goes on from one end of Hay Street to the other. Loud speakers have even been installed inside shops, but I do not suppose we can do anything about them. However, I do believe we should do something about the loud speakers when their noise reaches the main thoroughfares.

Some years ago we legislated to stop street photographers. We licensed them and stipulated they could only photograph at certain places at certain times. The time has come when we should take some action in regard to these loud speakers, otherwise we will find it will be impossible to do so. Perhaps the Perth City Council is not very concerned; I do not know. However, I feel we should be concerned at this stage particularly as thought is being given to converting the central part of Hay Street into a public mall. If that is done and the noise of motorcars is taken away, the blare of the loud speakers will be almost impossible to bear, and for that reason people would not continue to shop there.

I desire now to say a few words with regard to the build-up of traffic at traffic lights during peak periods. An intersection I use pretty frequently is that at Milligan Street and St. George's Terrace. I find that the congestion there is particularly bad on a wet morning, for some reason. It may be that the average motorist goes a little slower on such days. Because of the short time the lights are on, the traffic does not get away fast enough and it builds up right to the top of St. George's Terrace. On quite a few mornings it is very evident that when the traffic is flowing down the Terrace there is such a density of traffic that it builds up past the Barracks so that traffic going up the Terrace cannot turn right into George Street, and a complete bottleneck occurs at the junction of George Street, Malcolm Street, and the Terrace. Whether this problem could be overcome at certain periods by having—

The Hon. L. A. Logan: A policeman to jog them along.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: Yes. It could perhaps be arranged for the green lights to come on quicker and the red lights to cut out quicker, because traffic coming down Malcolm Street and cutting into Milligan Street is almost non-existent.

Due to the almost even cycle of the lights, there is this build-up of traffic along the Terrace all the time. The same thing happens in Plain Street: because of the build-up, the traffic cannot all get through when the green lights are on.

I believe that in some other cities in the world the lights can be manually controlled at set periods so that the traffic can flow faster when the density is greatest. It is a point to which very grave consideration should be given.

Another way of ensuring a better flow of traffic would be to eliminate all right-hand turns in certain parts of the city. If this were done, motorists would plan their route in order to remain in the left-hand lanes for turning, and those who desired to go straight on would have a clear run in the centre lane. At present if the motorist desires a clear run and moves into the centre lane for this purpose, he is stopped at nearly every intersection by cars in front of him waiting to turn right. It happens all the time in the city.

I believe that in London there is no right-hand turning at all. I do not know whether it is a fact, because I have not been there, but some members who have may be able to recall whether that is so. However, I do know that one man who went to London made a report to the Royal Automobile Association on his return in which he expressed his surprise that nothing had been done along those lines here. It would be a good idea if on their way into town tomorrow members studied the traffic. If they do, I am sure they will find how much easier it would be if they always made sure they did not have to make any right-hand turns. They would keep to the left all the time and would find that they would not be stopped at all; except, of course, by lights.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Motorists still turn right against the no-right-turn sign.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: That is so. They do all sorts of things sometimes. The other morning I was behind a motorist who turned right into Hay Street, facing east, and tried to drive against the traffic. Of course that was because he did not realise that Hay Street is a one-way street.

Another matter to which I have given a lot of thought over the last fortnight is that regarding the establishment of the farms in the Ord River area. I have taken a great interest in the war service land settlement scheme since its inception. I was here when the original legislation was passed in 1945, and I have seen the mistakes, successes, disappointments, commissions held to rectify matters which have arisen, appeals to the Federal Government, appeals to the State Government, and the change of Ministers who administer the Act. And even today after many years—10 or 12 years—there are some settlers on properties who are not very soundly based.

Some have, perhaps, been more fortunate than others: the first season may have been favourable for them; they may have had sufficient capital behind them; or they may have been more fortunate in the purchase of machinery with the finance made available to them.

A lot of the trouble in the early days of land settlement arose from the lack of finance available to the settler to purchase machinery. There was a very limited range of tractors available, and second-hand tractors were bought by dealers and sold to the settlers. It was pointed out that it would be far better for the Government to provide a new tractor which would have no upkeep. The same situation occurred with regard to utilities. Second-hand utilities were bought, and these proved very expensive to run. Finance was not easy to come by. It was a drain week by week and month by month on the resources of the administration to keep the settlers provided with the most essential parts of their equipment, these being their tractors and utilities.

One of the conditions of application for war service property was that a person was not to be precluded because of lack of capital. An applicant was requested to invest such money as was considered by the Government to be reasonable in the circumstances. If a man had no financial resources, he was not precluded from being allocated a farm provided he had been trained and had been accepted as being a suitable applicant. That was all that was required of him. It did not matter whether he had 2d. or £50,000; it made no difference. The only difference which occurred was that if a man had a lot of money invested in his property he had a fair chance of losing it all, whereas the man who had no money invested in it obviously could not lose any.

I have here a brochure prepared by the Lands Department, and it states—

The financial resources of applicants will be considered when determining eligibility for selection.

I will admit that the man who has some capital is going to be more favourably placed than the man without capital in a venture such as this. I am fortunate because I have had loaned to me by a person who has submitted an application for one of these blocks at Ord River a detailed statement of what he anticipates his expenditure will be, based on figures taken from this brochure plus bits and pieces gathered from reading. Those members who have a copy of this brochure will find on page 16 Appendix "A" which states—

Estimated Plant and Machinery Requirements.

The following list of equipment is suggested for safflower and with the exception of the harvester should be on the farm by April 1st, 1963.

Do not forget this is August, 1962, now—

	£
Wheel tractor	1,600
Plough	300
Heavy disc cultivator	300
Harrows	200
Pavy hill grader	300
Seed drill	300
Harvester	2,500
Truck	1,800
	<hr/>
	£7,300

That figure, near enough, coincides with the estimate made by this settler. The brochure continues—

For 1963-64 wet season and subsequent seasons additional equipment will vary with crop selection. If cotton is selected the following is suggested:—

I do not know why, but a high clearance tractor is mentioned here. We have the ordinary tractor and the special high clearance tractor with which the settler can work over the top of the furrows or the plants in the early stages of growth. The additional equipment suggested is as follows:—

	£
High clearance tractor	1,600
Mounted cultivator and ridger	700
Four-row planter	840
High drum cotton picker ..	4,660

Some members may have seen pictures of these cotton pickers. I think that one is working this year on the cotton crop at the experimental station. Some north-west members will know of that. Mr. Willesee nods his head. The list continues—

	£
Land plane	600
Delver	300
Spray equipment	300
Irrigation fittings	1,000

£10,000

So, £17,300 worth of equipment will be required before the beginning of the 1963-1964 wet season.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What is the price of the cotton picker?

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: It is £4,660. That is a lot of money in anybody's reckoning; particularly for a settler who is going on to a new project—and this is a new project. The experimental station has been going for a while, and five blocks are to be allotted to settlers. This is an experiment, and the Government cannot afford to see it fail. If it fails, I am afraid the whole scheme will go overboard.

The men who will be going there—I think there are less than 50 applicants for these blocks—will be very carefully selected. But I just wonder how many

of them will achieve the anticipated yields. Here again, referring to this brochure, we find that the anticipated yield of safflower is 2,000 lb. per acre which totals, on the basis of a crop of 200 acres, 180 tons. At £42 per ton, that would bring in a return of £7,560; but that is if the settler gets that yield. Those of us who are interested in agricultural pursuits know that frequently yields do not come up to expectations.

If, in this instance, the yield is only half of what is anticipated, the settler will find that he is not very soundly based because, on the figure mentioned here, by April 1964—that is twelve months after he commences—his outlay will be £35,195. That is a lot of money in anybody's reckoning.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Mr. Wise said it would be £35,000.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: If his yield does reach 2,000 lb. per acre and he does receive £42 per ton, he will get £7,560. But if his crop happens to be a failure, where do his resources come from to enable him to carry on for the following period?

That is where I think the Government, at this stage, should advise the Land Board that the Government will assume financial responsibility in order to ensure that the settler, after he has been selected and has carried out the work under the direction of the agricultural advisers in that area—because it is laid down that he must do this and must do that—will be able to carry on so that the scheme will not fail.

I do not think a great deal of money would be required for this purpose, because if the Government makes a success of the first five settlers, it will have a big influx of applicants for the succeeding blocks.

There is another point here because the brochure has this to say—

It is strongly recommended that lessees live in Kununurra township and make use of the amenities provided. Living conditions on the black-soil in the wet season are almost impossible.

The men will have to go out to their blocks in the wet season to work them. Would it be any worse living in a building on a block there than it would be on the wet clay in such areas as Kenwick and Cannington?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I think it would.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: I just wonder whether it would. The toilet amenities in these areas are built right above the ground; and I think that would be the main disadvantage at the Ord River. The brochure goes on further to say—

All houses in Kununurra are on sandy soil with septic system of liquid waste disposal.

It is not always necessary to be able to get rid of the liquid waste at the moment that it is required to be disposed of. If the storage tank of the dwelling is large enough, then, when the dry season comes around, if the drains are properly set out, the liquid waste will dissipate in the soil.

The average settler will, if he lives on the property in the first instance, have a far greater chance of making a success of the venture than if he has to travel six miles from Kununurra to the farm each day.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I could name 30 pastoral homesteads across the north of Australia on black soil country.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: The men in the agricultural districts of the State who have made a success, are the men who have, in the main, lived on the property and not in the town.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am not clear about this, but I understand there are some practical difficulties about living on the property.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Yes; but it is not impossible.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: I am just raising these points as I see them. I have not been in that area at all and, unfortunately, I do not know anything about it. I am talking of some difficulties as I see them, and am making some suggestions that I think could be put into effect. If the Minister can show me that I am wrong, I will be quite happy.

A father and son, or two brothers, might go on to one of these properties. It is essential that there be at least two men to operate each farm, because it would be beyond the physical resources of any one individual to do it. With two men working on the farm, so long as they are close relatives or friends, one can do the cooking and the other can do other work and there will be far greater production and better returns than by having one man travelling backwards and forwards; because every moment spent on the road is time wasted; and it is very expensive because we are told that petrol in drums there costs 4s. 2d. per gallon. That does not represent cheap transport. The brochure mentions this—

Lessees may wish to use one of the houses to be offered by the State Housing Commission at a price of approximately £5,000 or a rental not yet determined but unlikely to exceed £6 10s. per week. Alternatively they may wish to build to their own design or choose from a large number of designs available through the State Housing Commission.

But look at the number of people in agriculture today who, when they commenced operations, built a big machinery shed—and no mention of a machinery shed is

included in this brochure—and provided in one corner of it, living accommodation for themselves.

What is wrong with these settlers doing that for the first 12 to 18 months if we would like them to cut down their capital costs? Because it is much easier to borrow money then to repay it. These people should cut down to a minimum in the initial stages, and that could mean the difference between failure and success to many of them.

I am hoping that when the opportunity arises I will be able to have a look at these ventures. If we make a success of the first ones then I shall have no hesitation about the following ones. But if, for lack of capital, some of the best applicants are going to be turned down in favour of others who have capital but no know-how, then the scheme will not have the chance to succeed that it would if the best applicants were chosen.

There is quite a bit of conjecture, of course. Anyone can play around with figures and arrive at a conclusion. If the crops do not produce the anticipated yield, the schemes set out in the brochure will not come to fruition as quickly as is anticipated.

If we go into the wheatgrowing areas we find that whereas one man makes a success and has a wonderful crop, the man alongside, because of a difference of a day or two in seeding, suffers a loss in yield of several bushels per acre. With intensive farming like this, the ultimate results will be very finely judged.

No mention is made in the brochure of encouraging the early settlers to live on the property. Here again the point arises that the people who are prepared to live on their farms—I am not certain that they can do so in this instance, and the Minister seems to think there is a doubt about it—would be able to grow their own vegetables and run some fowls and so provide themselves with meat, and eggs. They should also be able to run a few pigs for at least some of the year, if not all the time, because at Glenroy, at one stage, a large number of pigs were run. I do not know what happened to that venture, but it received considerable publicity at one time. The pigs were run at Glenroy in conjunction with the killing of beef for the southern market.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I understand the principal difficulty about living there is that it is all irrigable land.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: A lot of the south-west is irrigable land, too.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I will find out what I can for you.

The Hon. A. L. LOTON: I am raising these points; and the more information the Minister can give to me and to other

members, the better it will be for all of us here, and the better it will be for those people who have not applied for blocks at this stage but who will apply later.

I implore the Minister to discuss this matter and see that the settlers who are selected in the first place will not be short of cash if the crops do not come up to the expectations of the departmental officers, as mentioned in the brochure.

That is all I have to say at this stage, and I await with interest the reply of the Minister on this matter.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. G. Bennetts.

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

CONTENTS—continued

	Page
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—continued	
Recreation Reserve for Albany : Site at Spencer Park	198
Rest Point Reserve No. 18723—Excision and Lease : Tabling of Papers	199
Salt : Encroachment in Rural Areas	201
Silicosis Compensation Payments : Policy of State Insurance Office	199
State Shipping Service : Ports Visited by Captain Williams	201
Superphosphate—	
Erection of Manufacturing Works at Esperance	200
Financial Assistance from Government	200
Freight Concession	196
Tale : Tonnage Mined and Exported from Three Springs Mine	202
Trading After Hours : Complaints of Radio and TV Offers	197
Water Supply Department : Revenue and Source	202

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—

Apple Industry Royal Commission : Availability of Report	203
Boddington Hospital : Commencement of Additions	204
Norseman Pyrites : Use at Esperance Superphosphate Works	203
State Shipping Service : Availability of Captain Williams's Report	204
Trading After Hours : Position of Shops in Kalgoorlie and Boulder	203

BILL—

Supply Bill, £25,000,000 : Returned	238
---	-----

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : FOURTH DAY—

Speakers on Motion—	
Mr. Gayfer	235
Mr. Grayden	218
Mr. Heal	228
Mr. W. Hegney	210
Mr. Mitchell	204
Mr. Norton	230

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

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Visits of Schoolchildren

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) [4.32 p.m.] : I wish to make an announcement on the visits of schoolchildren to the House. Last year there was some difficulty because quite a number of members wanted to bring the children of many schools to visit Parliament House, and it was not possible for all of them to be fitted in. I have told Mr. Lovell, the officer in charge of these visits, to afford every opportunity to any member who wants to bring to the House the pupils of more than one school, to arrange a visit of one school and have that finalised before the pupils of the next school are brought along.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 7th August, 1962

CONTENTS

PARLIAMENT HOUSE—	Page
Visits of Schoolchildren	195
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Alcoholic Addicts : Federal Grant for Establishment of Clinics	200
Beeloo Electorate : Enrolment of Mr. W. E. How	198
Community Centre for Albany : Site at Spencer Park	198
Darlington Railway Line : Departmental Inquiry on Re-opening	197
Diesel Railcars—	
Bellevue-Helena Vale Service	197
Swan View Service	197
Doctors in Kimberley District : Appointments at Kununurra and Broome	199
Esperance Railway Extensions : Resumption of Properties	200
Fish : Canning in Western Australia	198
Harvey High School : Cost	198
Houses at Carnarvon : Levelling and Claying of Sites	201
Iron Ore—Export Overseas : Tabling of Correspondence	203
Junior High Schools : Establishment in 1961-1962, and Number of Pupils	197
Metropolitan Urban Land : Minimum Area—Tabling of Papers on Investigation	203
Mineral Claims : Powers of Minister and Warden	201
Norseman Pyrites : Use at Esperance Superphosphate Works	199
Northcliffe School—	
Number of Pupils	197
Upgrading to Junior High School	197
Press Court Reports : Omission of Sordid Details	198
Railway Junior Clerks : Appointments, Resignations, and Increase in Number	196