

State of 24,000, this means the ratio at university is one to 24,000 as against the non-Aboriginal ratio of one to every 126 citizens.

In a UNESCO publication of 1958 entitled *Race and Psychology*, the writer, Klineberg, in dealing with the question of intelligence related to race, said—

The net result of all the research that has been conducted in this field is to the effect that innate racial differences in intelligence have not been demonstrated; that the obtained differences in test results are best explained in terms of social and educational environment; that as the environmental opportunities of different racial or ethnic groups become more alike, the observed differences in test results also tend to disappear. The evidence is overwhelmingly against the view that race is a factor which determines level of intelligence.

I am not suggesting that all Aboriginal children would have the ability or the desire to go to university, any more than all children of European origin; but the ratio I quoted is ridiculous. It should at least be brought down to that of the rest of the community. I look forward to the day when we will have not only Aboriginal sportsmen, artists, and others of whom we are all extremely proud, but also Aboriginal doctors, lawyers, accountants, and architects, to mention just a few of the professions.

Up to this point I have been dealing mainly with those people who have the desire and the ability to integrate given the opportunity. However, I am not unmindful of the fact that there are probably quite a number who would not wish to integrate and some who would be unable to cope with the requirements of modern society. For these people I would like to see a kibbutz-type system investigated.

The kibbutzim I saw in Israel functioned extremely well and provided not only all the services required, but also complete security for the sick and the aged. There was housing and employment on the spot, education for the children, medical treatment, and social and cultural activities. When I was there, although Israel was a tiny country, there were 230 kibbutzim in existence with populations ranging from 60 to 2,000. They were mainly agricultural, but some had very successful industrial enterprises in operation.

If this type of village could be adapted for our Aboriginal people I believe a number of desirable features could be added to those I have already mentioned.

Firstly, and most importantly, would be the lifting of morale and the pride of

people working and making decisions for themselves.

Secondly, it would overcome much of the heartbreak we see today associated with children being taken from their parents, young people developing into social cripples through alcoholism, and elderly people dying in the bush through lack of adequate shelter and medical attention; and, thirdly, it could be a stepping-stone to integration.

Whenever one raises the question of Aboriginal advancement, one is always faced with: Where is the money coming from? Because of the limited resources of the States I believe the Commonwealth Government must assume a far greater responsibility in this field. Surely in a budget of some \$8,000,000,000, the Commonwealth could invest a few millions in one of this nation's most precious assets—its people! Only 1 per cent. of its budget would provide \$80,000,000, and it would be an investment. Over the past years the cost of neglect has been high—not only in bad health, delinquency, illiteracy, and loss of production, but also in Australia's reputation in the eyes of the world.

Money spent now on a comprehensive programme will produce rich dividends. The dividends will be independent, proud citizens playing their full part in the social, economic, and cultural life of this country.

THE HON. R. T. LEESON (South-East)
[4.08 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 4.09 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 15th July, 1971

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at noon.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. J. C. Bartlett) read the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) summoning the first session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament.

OPENING PROCEEDINGS

Message from the Governor's Commissioner

A Message from His Excellency's Commissioner (His Honour Mr. Justice Virtue) requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber. Members accordingly proceeded to that Chamber; and, having heard the Commission to do all things necessary for the opening of Parliament, returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS

His Honour, Mr. Justice Virtue, Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, having been commissioned by His Excellency The Governor, entered the Chamber to administer to members the Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty, and was conducted to the Chair. The Commission to swear-in members having been read, the Clerk produced the writs for the general election, held on the 20th February, 1971, showing the names of the members returned. These members—with the exception of Mr. T. A. Hartrey (Boulder-Dundas) and Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Cottesloe)—took and subscribed the Oath and signed the Roll.

The Commissioner then retired from the Chamber.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [12.43 p.m.]: The House being duly constituted, I move—

That Mr. John Mervin Toms do take the Chair of the House as Speaker.

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta—Deputy Premier) [12.44 p.m.]: I second the motion.

MR. TOMS (Ascot) [12.45 p.m.]: I submit myself to the will of the House.

There being no other nomination, Mr. Toms was conducted to the Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Toms) [12.46 p.m.]: I thank members for the honour they have conferred upon me and I now assume the Chair of Speaker of this House.

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [12.47 p.m.]: I wish to congratulate you, Sir, upon having assumed the position of Speaker of this House. It is a very important and exalted position. Many illustrious predecessors have held this position and it will not be easy for you to live up to the very high tradition which has been our general experience. However, we have sufficient confidence to believe that you will be able to achieve that desired impartiality and efficiency which

is so very necessary for the proper conduct of the Legislative Assembly. It is most important that the rights and privileges of members should be adequately safeguarded and that any tendency to have them eroded should immediately be resisted by yourself on behalf of members.

I am sure you will receive the full co-operation of the members of the Assembly and this will enable you to discharge those very onerous duties which, from time to time, will present you with great difficulties; and, I repeat, we are confident that you will be able to perform those duties satisfactorily. On behalf of those for whom I speak, I wish you well.

SIR DAVID BRAND (Greenough—Leader of the Opposition) [12.51 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House offer you our congratulations and trust that your experience in the Chair of the Legislative Assembly will be personally pleasant and one which, having regard to the need to be impartial, will be satisfactory to this Assembly. I think it is fair to say that during the time you have been in this House you have given us no need to fear that you will be unduly biased in any one direction. However, I suppose that, following in the steps of your predecessors, you will make decisions from time to time, not always based on precedent.

I think, Sir, we all know that this House, as constituted at the present time, is almost evenly balanced. Therefore, I think your decisions will assume an even more important value than those made during periods in which the House was a little unbalanced. So, Sir, having regard to the importance of your vote, I know that you will continue to uphold the reputation of past Speakers of this House. Once again, I trust that your experience will be a pleasant and happy one.

MR. NALDER (Katanning) [12.52 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, may I offer my congratulations to you on being elected to this very important and high position in this House of Parliament in Western Australia in this year of 1971. I am sure the experience you have gained as a member of this House will, because you have had experience of discussions and debates that have taken place from time to time, stand you in good stead. Therefore, I feel you are qualified to accept this responsibility.

I feel sure this House will give you the support it has given in the past to others who have held your high position, and that, as the history of this House continues, you will carry out your duties and responsibilities in the same way as others have done in the past. So you may be assured of our support as far as your position in this Parliament is concerned.

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Toms) [12.53 p.m.]: The Hon. the Premier, The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, and The Hon. the Leader of the Country Party: I thank you all very much for the confidence you have expressed in me with regard to the position I now hold. I know that the comments made about my predecessors are very true and that the high standards set by them will take quite a deal of living up to. I realise that the people who have occupied this position before me have done an excellent job, even though those on one side of the House may not have agreed at times. Nevertheless, that has been the experience of the House. However, I do trust that, as Speaker of this House, I will do my best to at least equal my predecessors in my efforts to maintain the dignity of the House.

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [12.54 p.m.]: I desire to announce that His Excellency the Governor will now be pleased to receive the Speaker-elect and such honourable members as desire to accompany him.

Sitting suspended from 12.55 to 3.00 p.m.

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Toms) [3.00 p.m.]: I desire to report that I submitted myself to His Excellency the Governor and, on behalf of the House, laid claim to its undoubted rights and privileges and prayed that the most favourable construction might be placed upon its proceedings; and that His Excellency has been pleased to express his satisfaction at the choice of the Assembly in the following terms:—

Mr. Speaker:

It is with much pleasure I learn that you have been elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly to the high and honourable office of Speaker of that House. I have every confidence that you will fill the office in a worthy and dignified manner.

(Sgd.) Douglas Kendrew,
Governor.

SPEAKER'S COMMISSION

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Toms) [3.02 p.m.]: I wish to report also that I have received from His Excellency a Commission to swear-in honourable members, and this I hand to the Clerk to read to the House.

The Commission was read.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Toms) [3.04 p.m.]: I am ready to swear-in the member for Boulder-Dundas.

Mr. Hartrey took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance, and signed the roll.

SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

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

QUESTIONS (6): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. RURAL INDUSTRY

Election Promises

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Premier:

- (1) Will the election promises he made to farmers and the rural industry require legislation this session?
- (2) If so, what new Acts or amendments of existing legislation would be required?
- (3) When will such legislation be introduced?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Some will, but not all.
- (2) and (3) The necessary Bills will be introduced in due course and will include complementary legislation to enable Commonwealth proposals to be implemented.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Legislation

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Premier:

- (1) When will legislation covering the new environmental protection proposals be introduced?
- (2) As several important decisions, such as the siting of the Pacminex Alumina Refinery and the routing of the S.E.C. power line through the Darling Range, are dependent upon the passing into law of the environmental protection legislation, does he contemplate any special action to expedite introduction of the necessary legislation?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Endeavours are being made to have the proposed legislation ready for introduction in September.
- (2) Yes.

3. ELECTION PLEDGES

Lack of Liaison between Premier and Treasurer

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Premier:

- (1) Was he correctly reported in *The West Australian* of the 7th April under the heading "Tonkin Shelves Election Pledges" as saying that almost all election promises would be effected and that

he was not contemplating any increased taxes or charges at the moment?

- (2) As, on the 2nd June, 1971, it was announced that hospital fees would be increased by 50 per cent. and on the 2nd July that sharp increases of water charges were announced, does this situation indicate a lack of liaison between himself and the Treasurer on financial matters?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) The caption "Tonkin Shelves Election Pledges" was hardly appropriate for my statement "I want to say something with regard to some enforced delay which will be on us in connection with the implementation of some promises which were made during the election. In connection with some which are urgent the Government would naturally be anxious to implement these as quickly as possible."

- (2) Not at all.

4. ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Abolition, and Substitute

Mr. MCPHARLIN, to the Minister for Works:

Subject to the abolition of the present road maintenance tax what alternative does the Government propose to introduce as a substitute?

Mr. JAMIESON replied: I thank the member for Mt. Marshall for some early indication of this question and I reply as follows:—

The matter of providing alternative road funds when the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act is abolished is at present under consideration by the Government. As soon as a decision is reached a public announcement will be made.

5. ARGYLE HOMESTEAD

Dismantling and Re-erection

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the current estimate of cost to dismantle and re-erect the Argyle homestead if this complete task is undertaken when the homestead is dismantled before the area is flooded on completion of the main Ord Dam?
- (2) By how much does this exceed the estimate made when the previous Administration decided to dismantle and re-erect the homestead?

- (3) In view of the unique nature of this historic old homestead and the obvious dangers to its re-erection in appropriate form if there is a break between time of dismantling and re-erection, would the Government give urgent reconsideration to its decision not to proceed with re-erection at this juncture so that the homestead's transfer is undertaken as part of the main Ord Dam project while workmen and others have the benefit of seeing the home in its original setting?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for prior notice of this question, the answers to which are as follows:—

- (1) \$55,000.
- (2) The estimate has not altered.
- (3) It is not possible for the State, for financial reasons, to undertake the rebuilding of the homestead at this time. However, the dismantling and storing will be planned and executed to ensure that the inherent characteristics of the building are retained should reconstruction be approved at some future date.

6. ALBANY WOOLLEN MILLS

Financial and Reorganisation Arrangements

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Industrial Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) Has the Government finalised the financial and reorganisation arrangements agreed in principle between the previous Administration and the Albany Woollen Mills?
- (2) Is the new plant acquisition and installation and reorganisation programme proceeding satisfactorily?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) It is anticipated the documents will be ready for signature within two weeks.
- (2) Yes.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Leave to Introduce

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [3.50 p.m.]: In order to preserve the privilege of the House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

For leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend section forty-nine of the State Electricity Commission Act, 1945-1966.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. J. T. Tonkin (Premier), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Toms) [3.51 p.m.]: Accompanied by members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Governor 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. A. R. TONKIN (Mirrabooka) [3.52 p.m.]: I move—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to:—

May it please Your Excellency: We the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament 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 wish to express my gratitude to the people of Mirrabooka for having decided to send me to this Parliament as their representative. I can assure them that they will have my undivided dedication to their interests at all times.

Congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, upon your elevation to the esteemed and high office you now hold. I also wish to congratulate the Premier and his Ministers on their most important appointments, and also for the undoubted energy they have shown in grappling with this great State's many problems.

I am most grateful to the members of this Parliament and to the staff of Parliament House for the courtesy and understanding they have shown to me as a new member.

I am very conscious of the honour and privilege that I have in speaking as a member of the Legislative Assembly. This place is the focal point of community life in this State. At times, members of Parliament have complained that the powers of Parliament are being abrogated by extra-parliamentary forces, and that there are other elements taking the place of Parliament as the fountain of the law and government. Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that if we—the people assembled—are in

danger of losing our position of power and primacy to extra-parliamentary forces then we must be largely to blame.

I would like to pose this question: Whose fault is it that extra-parliamentary forces have had to move against retail price maintenance, which had been allowed to flourish for decades? If we do not lead the people along the path of progress, then we cannot complain if other forces take over the leadership.

Experience has shown us the fate of many, many institutions in all times and in all places that have become irrelevant to the needs and aspirations of the people. Such moribund institutions are swept into the dustbin of history. So, Sir, we look forward, under your guiding hand, to a fruitful session of legislative reform.

His Excellency referred to the sharp deterioration that has occurred in the rural sector over the past twelve months. Now, I do not claim to be an expert on our agricultural and pastoral industries, but there is one aspect upon which I would like to touch briefly. The malaise which has descended upon our primary industries is partly due, I believe, to various forms of protection which have been accorded certain sections of our economy. Protection takes various forms. It can be a payment of subsidy; it can be the imposition of a tariff. However, it can also be a function of the omission of certain needful legislative programmes such as the control of restrictive trade practices. This, also, is a form of protection for certain favoured sectors.

Protection in various forms may be given to an infant industry because it is considered that the industry is needed for our economic or strategic betterment. However, once that industry is established it is associated with the powerful forces of organised capital and organised labour and it may not be so easy to deny protection to that industry.

In other words, the protection which was originally accorded for economic reasons—and here I shall be charitable and assume in this hypothetical case that there were no political motives—cannot be taken off for political reasons.

Tariffs and subsidies produce less real wealth because economic resources are attracted to high cost industries and, conversely, drawn away from low cost industries. This reduces the total income of the nation because resources are being channelled into unsuitable sectors.

This, I believe, is a cogent reason for our indifferent rate of economic growth. It is this low growth rate which leads to a reduction in the resources available for reinvestment which, in turn, leads to our reliance upon overseas capital. In the end this must place us in an invidious balance of payments position.

The essence of the problem so far as our primary industries are concerned is that many industries only need protection in order to be able to pay the cost of protection to other industries. In other words, one industry's protection becomes another's cost. Consequently the wool producer, for example, is squeezed between costs and prices and, moreover, the prices are determined by the world market over which he has no control. The result is that strong industries are being squeezed between costs and prices and, I believe, we have begun to destroy them.

Wool prices are not absolutely too low at the present time, but they are too low relative to the present cost structure. It is a cost structure which has been raised by various forms of protection, as I have already indicated, and by restrictive trade practices which have been outlawed in other countries such as Britain and the United States, which, in this aspect at least, are more enlightened countries than Australia.

I probably do not need to add that Western Australia bears the burden of the cost of protection to a disproportionate extent due to the structure of the economy. The fact that the results of protection cannot be easily quantified leads to confusion which blunts the edge of opposition, and inertia dictates that the position will continue. I question a policy which helps our weak industries to prosper and destroys our strong industries. An overall diminution in real wealth is the chief outcome.

I am very proud to belong to a Government which very early in its life acted as though it trusted the people by making two decisions of crucial importance to education. One of these was the release to the people of the Australian Education Council's survey of needs. I cannot agree that the people whose children are to be educated and who foot the bill should be kept in ignorance of the dire straits in which education finds itself.

Another decision of courage, I believe, was to give the teachers permission to criticise the Government—an opportunity several have been quick to seize. Surely our responsibility in education is to the students and to society. I believe a frank and uninhibited exchange of views will further these aims. So I would congratulate the Government upon these enlightened steps.

There is a crisis in education. Over 24,000 primary school children are being taught in classes of 40 or more. There are thousands of children whose rate of learning is slower than average for various reasons and who are denied the opportunity of satisfactory remedial treatment. Special education is provided for only 1.75 per cent. of primary school children and for

less than 1 per cent. of secondary students. Many children are taught in substandard accommodation that would not be tolerated in the commercial world.

To suggest that there is no crisis in the face of those facts does not reveal anything about the state of education; but it does, I believe, say a great deal for the priorities and sense of values of the speaker concerned.

The Federal Government must come to the rescue. However, it prefers to use our money so that, for example, education officers in the armed services in some cases have been teaching only three periods a week. Just imagine that waste of teacher-hours while little tots of five and six are being taught in classes of over 40 and are being marked for life by such a traumatic introduction to education. No wonder two-thirds of our young people are pleased to sever their connections with their schools at the age of 14 or 15. It says a great deal for our society when men in the armed services receive such pampered treatment at the expense of our very young children.

So, a very large part of the solution of our education problems rests, not with a State Government, but with our Federal Government and ultimately, of course, with the people. However, when dealing with education, we must avoid using assembly line techniques when evaluating the problems and the solutions. There is a qualitative side to education and if it is neglected while we concern ourselves only with dollars and cents, then all our efforts will be swirled away as water down a drain.

We must be prepared to review our fundamental philosophy. So much of our educational effort is misdirected, I believe, because many of the practising teachers are hazy as to the achievable and desirable ends.

When perceptive man looks at our condition upon this globe, one aspect of our development shrieks for attention. Marvellous as our progress has been over the past century, our development is distorted and uneven. On the one hand we have an explosion of knowledge—although the last word in this respect has not yet been said—distance has been conquered, communication around the globe is almost instantaneous, and we have the ability to destroy by thermonuclear or bacteriological war. Man is truly a wondrous creature!

And yet, when we look at our development in the field of the humanities, in the field of controlling our own emotions, and in the field of understanding our fellow man, then we are brute savages who are scarcely removed from pithecanthropus. Here there is no knowledge explosion!

This is the tragedy of man. Having developed one aspect of his potential and not the others, he is like a baby playing with a very sharp knife. Not yet having control over himself, he is likely to do himself a fatal injury. This explains why he uses his brilliantly inventive mind to perpetuate the horrors of an Auschwitz, a Nagasaki, or a My Lai. What is the point of developing our technology if we are going to use it to destroy ourselves? We need to bend our intellects, our energies and our wills to the task of building a society that will ensure a better life for our children.

However, we are still compounding the error. If we examine the situation in our senior high schools we find it quite possible—even likely—that a student will proceed to his Leaving Certificate examination and yet not enter in his final two years upon the study of those subjects which confront him with some of the great social issues upon which he will have to make decisions for the next 50 years or so. Part of the blame for the extreme narrowness of such an education must be placed at the feet of those who constructed the matriculation regulations.

The narrowness continues for those students who go on to university. We cannot afford to have physicians, engineers, physicists, and so on who are social illiterates. It may be argued that there is not enough time for all students to study all subjects. This is very true. However, everyone is a citizen! Everyone is given the franchise at 18!

I will never be called upon to build a bridge; I will leave that to the engineer. I will never be called upon to diagnose a case of embolism; I will entrust that task to the physician. But each and every one of us is called upon to make decisions on the course society should take. Yet it is precisely this field—the field of social sciences, the field of study that will lead to progress in our understanding of man the individual and of man in society—that is most neglected; a neglect that will lead us very rapidly to our undoing.

If we want our young people to understand and cherish democracy; if we are concerned that they may be lead astray by demagogues, then we should give them the tools so that they may be able to evaluate the many and varied ideas with which they will be assailed. If a student's roots go deep into the democratic processes, he will be able to withstand the seductive blandishments of extremists whether they be of the left or the right.

I believe it is immoral to say to our youth: "You can have power by way of the vote, but we will do nothing to equip you with the knowledge and the wisdom that will help you to make decisions that will save mankind from disaster."

MR. HARTREY (Boulder-Dundas) [4.07 p.m.]: I formally second the motion

Debate adjourned, on motion by Sir David Brand (Leader of the Opposition).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [4.08 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 20th July.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.09 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 20th July, 1971

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

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION

Allocation to Council Ministers

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

In order that members might be informed on the manner in which the Government Ministers propose to conduct legislation, would he tell us whether he intends any change to take place in the form that we have followed over the years; that is, that Bills come up to this House and he, as Leader, allocates them to his other two colleagues, or whether there is any basis of representation in the House of Ministers in the Legislative Assembly similar to that which exists in the Legislative Assembly in respect of Ministers in this House?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

In replying to this question I might possibly embarrass the questioner, because I intend to