

design that the scheme extends to take-over offers made in respect of shares of proprietary companies, and in regard to this aspect the Attorneys-General of the States were unanimous. If in operation it were established that the formalities of the scheme ought not to apply to proprietary companies, a suitable amendment would undoubtedly be agreed to and be sponsored by State representatives.

Furthermore, I am told that the clause would not prevent a round-table conference, as suggested by Mr. Watson. The only State which differed on this clause—and it was not on this aspect—was Queensland, which did not want any take-overs at all. Apart from that all the State Ministers were unanimous.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—9.

Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. R. C. Mattiske
Hon. J. Cunningham	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. J. M. Thomson
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. G. O. MacKinnon	(Teller.)

Noes—13.

Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. H. G. Strickland
Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. J. D. Teahan
Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. R. Thompson
Hon. G. E. Jeffery	Hon. S. T. J. Thompson
Hon. P. R. H. Lavery	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. L. A. Logan	Hon. J. J. Garrigan
Hon. L. Murray	(Teller.)

Majority against—4.

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 185 to 200 put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 2.30 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 12.12 a.m.
(Thursday).*

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 1st November, 1961

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

BILLS (10): ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. Gold Buyers Act Amendment Bill.
2. Public Moneys Investment Bill.
3. Fisheries Act Amendment Bill.
4. Stamp Act Amendment Bill.
5. Welfare and Assistance Bill.
6. Mining Act Amendment Bill.
7. Entertainments Tax and Assessment Acts Repeal Bill.
8. Bulk Handling Act Amendment Bill.
9. Railway Standardisation Agreement Bill.
10. Railways (Standard Gauge) Construction Bill.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL

Message: Royal Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying that he had reserved the Bill for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

COAL MINE WORKERS (PENSIONS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

POLICE AT ALBANY

Nature of New Building

1. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

Does Item 23, page 6, of the details of the General Loan Fund Estimates—New Police Buildings at Albany—refer to a new holding gaol and prison or a new police station?

Mr. WILD replied:

A new police station.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

Officers Employed in Albany and Bunbury Areas

2. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many agricultural officers in all branches are operating in the Albany area?
- (2) How many agricultural officers in all branches are operating in the Bunbury area?
- (3) Does the Agricultural Department employ casual officers at either Albany or Bunbury; and if so, when are they employed, and how many in the respective areas?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Seven.
- (2) Sixteen.
- (3) Two export fruit inspectors are employed at Albany from March to May each year. Argentine ant spray hands have been employed seasonally at both Albany and Bunbury as treatment of local infestation has required.

BOKERUP LAND SETTLEMENT AREA

Road System

3. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Have roads been formed and made to serve the land settlement area at Bokerup?

- (2) If so, what important main roads link up with roads serving that area?
- (3) What important secondary roads link up with arterial roads serving the land settlement area at Bokerup?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Perth-Albany Road and Donnybrook - Boyup Brook - Kojonup Road.
- (3) Cranbrook-Frankland-Rocky Gully Road and Boyup Brook-Cranbrook Road.

GEOFFREY ALAN DALTON

Tabling of Papers Concerning Death

4. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Attorney-General:

Will he lay on the Table of the House all papers relating to the death of Geoffrey Alan Dalton (known as Geoffrey Alan Kneller), who was accidentally drowned on the 12th August last?

Mr. WATTS replied:

Yes, for seven days. I have here the Crown Law Department file in question, and will lay it on the Table of the House for seven days.

The file was tabled.

PRESTON TIMBER CO. PTY. LTD.

Tabling of Transport Board and Police Traffic Papers

5. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

Will he lay on the Table of the House the Transport Board and Police Traffic papers relating to Preston Timber Co. Pty. Ltd.?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

No; but the honourable member may examine the file in my office.

PIN BALL MACHINES

Introduction of Legislation

6. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it considered that pin ball machines contribute to juvenile delinquency?
- (2) If so, is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation regarding these machines during the current session?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Answered by No. (2).

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Profit Margin: Effect of Application of Regulation 36

7. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

(1) Is he aware that at the recent Supreme Court hearing of an action involving the validity of regulation 36 of the Totalisator Agency Board, the chairman of the board gave evidence as to the variations of the board's margin of profit which resulted from the application of this particular regulation as amended from time to time?

(2) Would it be possible to calculate the actual percentage of profit variations corresponding to each alteration to regulation 36 if records were not kept of this aspect of the board's transactions?

(3) Why did he state in answer to a question on the 9th August—"As the board does not keep separate records of this aspect of its transactions, the proportions of the amount of between £12,000 and £14,000 resulting from the application of regulation 36 is not available"?

Details of Profit Percentages

(4) Will he supply a copy of the details of percentages of profit resulting from the application of regulation 36 as given by the chairman of the T.A.B. to the court?

Mr. BRAND replied:

(1) No. But it is accepted that he did.

(2) No.

(3) Because that is the true position. The writ issued against the board was limited to regulations 36 (1) (a) and 36 (1) (b).

The percentages furnished by the chairman at the recent court hearing were the all in percentages involving the application of regulations 34 (6) (a); 34 (7); 36 (1) (a); 36 (1) (b); and 36 (3). At no time has the board kept records which have measured the net overall result of the application of regulations 36 (1) (a) and 36 (1) (b). In fact, the inference contained in the question of the 9th August, 1961, that the major portion of the amount between £12,000 and £14,000 resulted from the application of regulation 36—(presumably 36 (1) (a) and (1) (b))—is incorrect.

(4) No. The board has submitted its report to Parliament and it is obvious therefrom that it made an overall gross profit of 17.2 per cent. It is felt that no other details should be furnished.

RACING AND TROTTING CLUBS

Amounts Paid from Revenue

8. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:

- (1) Is the following statement which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 29th August, correct?

From the sum which the Government received from racing and trotting taxes, it paid almost £64,000 to clubs to offset the loss to them in off-course turnover tax from 1st January to 31st July last.

- (2) If the foregoing statement is correct, how does he reconcile with it the information which he gave on the 9th August, that since the T.A.B. commenced operations he had paid from revenue £28,574 18s. 6d. to the W.A.T.C. and £13,556 6s. 5d. to the W.A.T.A., which amounts to only two-thirds of the sum reported in *The West Australian*?
- (3) What is the total amount which has been paid out of revenue to racing and trotting clubs since the 30th June this year, to compensate them for loss of their proportion of racing taxation due to the introduction of the T.A.B.?

- (4) When were such payments made and what was the amount of each payment?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The amounts in this question related to payments made to only two clubs and did not include payments made to the other racing and trotting bodies. Further, the answer on the 9th August only included the period up to the end of June. The actual payments for the month of July were made after the honourable member's question was answered.
- (3) £29,787 19s. 10d.
- (4) The payments were—

4	1961	W.A.T.C.		W.A.T.A.		Fremantle Trotting Club	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
	June	4,101	2 5	2,016	4 4	449	8 9
	July	4,549	2 2	2,077	15 11	463	3 4
	August	3,535	15 10	1,496	18 3	356	6 5
	September	3,573	0 2	1,877	5 5	446	17 1

Payments for the months shown were in each case made in the following month.

		Country Race Club		Country Trotting Clubs	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
April to June	3,355	8 6	1,489	2 3

These payments are on a quarterly basis and were made in July.

RAVENSWOOD SUBDIVISION

Application of Town Planning Uniform By-laws

9. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) Is it a fact that a Minister of the Crown cannot vary, extend, or override any regulation?
- (2) If so, what authority has the Minister for Town Planning to override regulation 3 (e) of the Uniform By-laws made under the Town Planning Act and gazetted on the 14th October, 1949, despite so-called "special circumstances surrounding the Ravenswood subdivision"?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) and (2) I would refer the honourable member to paragraph (5) on page 3 of the "Procedure relating to notices of motion and questions" issued in August, 1960, by the Speaker to all members of the Legislative Assembly.

TRANSPORT BOARD SECRETARY

Apology to Broome Country Women's Association

10. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Transport:

When does he intend to reply to my letter of the 21st September, 1961, with reference to a letter from the Broome Shire Council, requesting an apology from Mr. Slater (Secretary of the W.A. Transport Board) regarding his remarks in a letter dated the 9th June, 1961, to the Country Women's Association, Broome?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

The chairman of the Transport Board has been in touch with the Country Women's Association of Broome, and I understand that the secretary of the Transport Board (Mr. G. Slater) has, under date, the 3rd October, 1961, submitted an apology to the honorary secretary, Country Women's Association, Broome.

GIRL DELINQUENTS

Imprisonment in Fremantle Gaol

11. Mr. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is he aware of the article appearing in *The Sunday Times* of the 29th October, 1961, headed—

Gaoing of Girl—Jolts Officials—No Alternative?

- (2) If he is aware of the article, and as I raised this very same question with him on the 20th September by question and answer,

can he advise whether the Government is taking steps to have this unsavoury position altered?

- (3) As there were only five cases in the past ten years of girl delinquents having been sent to Fremantle Prison will he endeavour to have the girl referred to in No. (1) transferred to more suitable surroundings?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) and (3) I have discussed the matter with the Minister for Child Welfare and am advised that consideration is now being given to the provision of suitable accommodation for cases of this kind. I am further advised that in this particular case it is unlikely that a transfer to some other place can be arranged.

However, the matron at Fremantle Prison is taking a special interest in the girl and is endeavouring to teach her sewing and knitting. The Child Welfare Department is also arranging that a psychologist visit her regularly.

TOBACCO GROWERS

Warren Area: Displacements and Alternative Employment

12. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Are any plans being developed by his department to provide alternative employment for displaced tobacco growers in the Warren area?
(2) Is he aware that out of a total of 242 growers in the season 1960-61, only some 25 growers will be producing in the present season?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) and (2) With the buoyant business atmosphere in Western Australia resulting from industrial expansion as well as increasing land development, it is not expected that displaced tobacco growers from the Warren area will experience any great difficulty in changing to other business activity or employment.

Manjimup Area: Alternative Crops

13. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Has the Department of Agriculture made any progress in its plan to aid and advise displaced tobacco growers in the Manjimup area on alternative types of primary production suitable to the area?

Mr. NALDER replied:

The following action has already been taken to assist with alternative types of primary production in the Manjimup area:—

- (a) Marketing possibilities have been discussed with processors, and it is considered certain alternative crops such as onions, tomatoes, and broom millet are worthy of trial on a commercial basis. Some of these crops have already been planted by growers.
(b) Experimental plantings of these crops are being made at the Manjimup Research Station to enable problems of their local culture to be investigated and demonstrated.
(c) An additional agricultural adviser has been transferred to Manjimup to advise growers on these alternative crops.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Details of Profit Percentages

1. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) In regard to No. (4) of question No. 7 on today's notice paper, I understood the Premier to refuse to supply the information which was requested. Is the Premier aware that this information has already been supplied publicly, inasmuch as it was given to the court in the presence of newspaper reporters who could have published it in the newspapers the following day?
(2) Under the circumstances is it not treating Parliament with contempt to refuse to supply information which has already been made public?
(3) If so, what is the reason for this attitude?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) to (3) I will check the claims made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and give an answer at the next sitting of the House.

GIVING WAY TO THE RIGHT

New Regulation

2. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that a new regulation has been approved in respect of drivers of vehicles giving way to other vehicles approaching from the right at intersections and junctions?
(2) If so, what is the nature and import of such regulation?

- (3) Has this regulation been approved by the Australian Transport Advisory Council?
- (4) If not, what were the reasons for adjourning the motion moved to give the right of way to vehicles as described in No. (1)?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A regulation has been laid on the Table of the House today and the honourable member will find it among the regulations I tabled a few moments ago.
- (3) Yes; it has been approved by the Australian Transport Advisory Council, but the actual formal and public approval will take place when the balance of the Australian Traffic Code is published, and this cannot be before the next meeting of the council. However, in view of the fact that there was a variation in the practice between Western Australia and Victoria on the one hand, and the other States on the other hand, a lengthy discussion ensued, and it was decided that we should revert to the regulation in substance as tabled in the House today.
- (4) Answered by Nos. (1) to (3).

CHEVRON-HILTON COMPANY

Utilisation of Hotel Land

3. Mr. MAY asked the Premier:

Having regard to the fact that the Chevron-Hilton Hotel proposition has now been completely abandoned for want of finance, to what use does the Government propose to put the land on which the hotel was to have been built?

Mr. BRAND replied:

It is not correct to say that the Chevron-Hilton Hotel proposition has now been completely abandoned. As I explained to the House yesterday, the company has a period of 90 days from the date of service of the notice in which to pay the instalment. Until the expiration of that period the company still has its rights to the land in accordance with the agreement.

PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL

Payment for Visiting Doctors

4. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Health:
 - (1) What is the estimated cost to Princess Margaret Hospital under the new scheme of payment for visiting doctors over the trial period of six months?

- (2) What is the basis of remuneration in regard to this payment? Is it on an hourly basis, and what is the fee per hour?
- (3) Is any difference made in the rates of remuneration in regard to different qualifications of the doctors; and, if so, what?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for giving me some notice of these questions. In replying to them, I am advised by the board as follows:—

- (1) It is expected that the gross cost will be a maximum of £12,800, which would be an increase of £10,300 over the amount already paid for sessional work.
- (2) Payment is directly related to the needs of each post and provides for regular and routine attendance at the hospital and a ready availability for emergency calls. Each assessment is then equated to a number of sessions per week for which payment is made at rates of either eight guineas, nine guineas, or 10 guineas per session. Medical student teaching is still carried out in an honorary capacity.
- (3) Only medical men of consultant status and qualification are appointed, except on rare occasions and then for some special reason. The different sessional rates mentioned in No. (2) refer to seniority only.

OVERRIDING OF REGULATIONS

Statutory Powers of Ministers

5. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Attorney-General:

The information I am seeking is a question of fact. What statutory power is available to a Minister of the Crown to override a regulation?

Mr. Tonkin: None.

Mr. WATTS replied:

The honourable member is seeking an opinion on a legal matter; that is what he is actually doing. Therefore I submit it comes under the reservation made in the statement by you, Sir, to which I referred in my answer.

Mr. Tonkin: I will answer it for you—none.

Mr. WATTS: The honourable member would have answered me in any event if I had given an opinion.

That is one reason why it is not desirable to give one; because the honourable member would deny it immediately.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman): Order!

6. Mr. **OLDFIELD** asked the Premier:
In view of the fact established by the lack of answers to my questions, and in view of the fact that a Minister of the Crown has broken the law by overriding a regulation, what action does the Premier propose to take?

Mr. **BRAND** replied:

The Attorney-General—if he is the Minister referred to—has not broken any law; and I refer the honourable member to the question answered by the Attorney-General.

7. Mr. **OLDFIELD** asked the Premier:
In view of the fact that the Minister for Town Planning has broken the law by overriding a regulation, what steps does the Premier propose to take to rectify the situation?

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman): I think the question has already been answered.

BILLS (7): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Gas Undertakings Act Amendment Bill.

2. The Fremantle Gas and Coke Company's Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Watts (Minister for Electricity), and read a first time.

3. Wheat Pool Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.

4. Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.

5. Mental Health Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Health), and read a first time.

6. Workers' Compensation Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Labour), and read a first time.

7. Police Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police), and read a first time.

BILLS (3): THIRD READING

1. City of Perth Parking Facilities Act Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Transport), and transmitted to the Council.

2. Traffic Act Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police), and transmitted to the Council.

3. Builders' Registration Act Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Wild (Minister for Works), and transmitted to the Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Transport) [5.2 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This amending Bill at first sight appears to be somewhat lengthy; and, whilst this may be so, the Bill, in fact, does not make any radical alterations to the present Act passed during the last session of Parliament. Members of this House will recall that the Local Government Bill, before finally becoming an Act last year, was before Parliament on many occasions over a period of some 12 years and was one of the largest Bills to be dealt with by this Parliament as it contained, in all, 694 clauses and 26 schedules.

Originally, it was not the intention of the Government to introduce any amending legislation during this session of Parliament; but, with a major Act as large as the Local Government Act, it is not altogether surprising that minor errors and omissions crept in; and as it is necessary to submit some amending legislation in order to smooth out one or two difficulties that have arisen, the opportunity has been taken to correct any anomalies or printing errors and/or omissions that occurred in the final draft or print.

The amending legislation contains 34 clauses, of which 31 affect the Act itself, whilst the other three affect the schedules to the Act. Most of the 31 clauses affecting the Act deal with corrections of errors and omissions or minor alterations to preserve uniformity, and this will be shown, as I intend to briefly explain all proposed amendments set out in the Bill.

Clause 1 of the Bill is a machinery clause. Clause 2 deals with an amendment to section 4 of the principal Act, which section has reference to the Interpretations Act, 1918. Consequent upon the passing of the Local Government Act, the official title of a

road board became that of a shire council; the chairman of a road board became the president of a shire council; and the secretary of the road board became the shire clerk.

It had been thought that, by virtue of the Interpretation Act, these changes would have been effective in relation to other legislation which imposed some duty or conferred some privilege on the chairman or secretary of a road board, and that these same duties or privileges would still have applied to those officials under their new names.

Doubts have been expressed in some quarters that this is so, and legal experts are found to be in disagreement on the matter. In order to resolve any possible doubt, or shadow of doubt, therefore, this Bill provides that where another Act or regulation thereunder refers to a road board, to the chairman of a road board, or to the secretary or assistant, those references shall in future be read as if they referred to a shire council, the president of a shire council, or to a shire clerk or assistant shire clerk.

The type of reference referred to is, for example, that in the Electoral Act, under which the secretary or assistant secretary of a road board is empowered to carry out certain functions in regard to absent voting, another being the provision in the Justices Act under which the chairman for the time being of a road board is *ex officio* a justice. The Declarations and Attestations Act is another example. This Bill is designed to ensure that there can be no challenge to these officials carrying on the duties as they have in the past.

Clause 3 deals with an amendment to section 6 of the Act (Interpretation) to provide a definition for a "building line," due to the fact that any such definition is not now included in the Act. Clause 4 deals with an amendment to section 12 merely to correct a printing error.

Clause 5 deals with an amendment to subsection (7) of section 41 of the Act, having reference to the term of office of councillors so as to provide that the number of councillors to retire on the fourth Saturday in May of each year shall be as near as practicable to one-third, in lieu of one-third as at present provided; because in cases where the membership of a council—and, in particular, a shire council—is not divisible into thirds, difficulty would be experienced in administering this particular section. The amendment will also prevent confusion with section 41 (7) (a) (iii), because this latter contains a provision that the retirement shall be as near as practicable to one-third of the total number.

Clause 6 substitutes the word "names" for the word "surnames" in subsection (6) of section 45. This section deals with electoral rolls and provides in subsection

(6) that where two or more persons are deemed to be owners or occupiers of land, the person to be nominated for enrolment may be selected by all or a majority of all the persons; and if no selection is made, then the two persons whose surnames are first and second in alphabetical order are the persons to be selected. It could happen, and has happened in the past, that surnames are also identical, therefore creating a problem, and the amendment is to remove this so that in the case of surnames being the same, the selection can be made from the first names.

Clause 7 is to provide in section 73 for the retirement of a mayor or president elected in accordance with the provision and to correct an apparent omission. Clause 8 deals with an amendment to section 75 by adding after subsection (4) a new subsection which will allow a deputy mayor or deputy president to resign.

Clause 9 is an amendment to section 84 and seeks to overcome a difficulty that became evident following the coming into force of the Act. As section 84 now stands, it has been ruled that a person voting in both a personal and representative capacity could not exercise more than four votes in the case of an election of a mayor or president, or more than two votes in any election for a councillor, whilst the person voting in a representative right only could exercise as many votes as those to which his individual representations entitle him.

Originally, it was intended that one person should not be permitted to represent more than one body corporate, but it was not intended that this should debar a person from so acting and, by so doing, losing his personal rights. The amendment, therefore, seeks to remedy this and to provide that when a person votes solely in a personal capacity, he, like any other person, is limited to a maximum of four or two votes as the case may be in his own right, or eight or four votes as the case may be if he also represents a body corporate, and when he is representing a body corporate only, can exercise only four or two votes as the case may be.

Clause 10 is an amendment to section 101 subsection (2) and is to make it clear that a ballot is necessary when there are two or more candidates for a vacancy instead of more than two candidates as is at present provided.

Clause 11 is an amendment to section 159 to correct the spelling of the word "municipality".

Clause 12 is an amendment to section 178 to correct the spelling of the word "adjourned".

Clause 13 is to correct an obvious error in section 188 by bringing the word "resolutions" into paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of the section where it rightly belongs.

Clause 14 is an amendment to section 190 of the Act. Section 190—dealing with the publication of by-laws—provides, in subsection (6), that if the Governor confirms a by-law the Minister shall “on payment by the council of the cost of publication”, cause the by-law to be published in the *Government Gazette* and to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

Prior to the coming into operation of the Local Government Act, local authorities constituted under the Municipal Corporations Act and the Road Districts Act were not required to pay the cost of publication of by-laws, and it is evident that when departmental discussions were taking place on this particular matter, some confusion crept in, because, as in the past, local authorities were only required to pay the cost of anything which they themselves published in the *Government Gazette*, dealing with matters of an administrative nature—such as advertising appointments of building inspectors, loan advertisements and suchlike—it was intended that this procedure should continue, and the amendment to section 190 as set out in clause 14 of the Bill is to remove the words “on payment by the council of the cost of publication”.

For information, it is pointed out that at the present time by-laws or regulations under any other Act—such as the Health Act, Town Planning Act, Vermin Act, etc.—are published free of cost to local authorities.

Clause 15 is for the purpose of amending section 204 to provide a new by-law-making power for councils to make by-laws for prohibiting the placing in or about any rubbish depot or other public place or vacant land, any disused refrigerator etc., unless all doors, lids, locks and hinges are removed or rendered incapable of being fastened. Members might recollect reading some time ago where in another State a fatality occurred by a child becoming locked in a disused refrigerator that was dumped at a rubbish tip, and thereby suffocating.

Clause 16 of the Bill is to correct the spelling of the word “accordingly” in section 275.

Clause 17 of the Bill is for the purpose of removing any confusion concerning the matters and things that are required to be done under paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (4) of section 288 of the Act in order that land of a width less than 66ft. but of no less a width than 25ft. may be dedicated for the purpose of public streets, including any extension of a street.

Clause 18 of the Bill is to add additional subsections—namely, subsection (3a) and subsection (3b)—to section 364, and further to clarify paragraph (a) of subsection (4); and, finally, to add a further subsection to be known as subsection

(8) to provide that the term “building” does not include a fence for the purposes of section 364 of the Act.

Section 364 deals with the power of councils to prescribe new building lines by by-law and sets out when and how the area comprised between the old building line and the new building line becomes dedicated and vested in the Crown, and also the liability of a council to pay compensation to persons who, because the land is so dedicated, lose or suffer depreciation.

After the Local Government Act came into force, concern was expressed by the Perth Shire Council, the Town Planning Department, and the Main Roads Department as to the possible impact that the provisions of the section might have on town-planning schemes of local authorities, regional planning by the Town Planning Board, and highway planning by the Department of Main Roads, due mainly to the fact that—

- (a) a “building” was defined by section 6 of the Act to include in any case a fence erected in the district of a city or town or in a townsite; (i.e., in any portion of a municipality of a city; in any portion of a municipality of a town, or in any portion of a townsite included in the municipality of a shire); and
- (b) that immediately the line between the old and the new building line was cleared of buildings and of other obstructions, the land became dedicated and compensation became payable irrespective of the value or position within the area between the old and the new building line of any such building.

Clause 18 of the Bill therefore provides for the addition of a new subclause (3a) for a council, after the prescribing of a new building line, to give written notice to any owner affected by the building line requiring him to clear the land between the building line and the previous building line of buildings and other obstructions; whilst subclause (3b) provides that an owner to whom a notice is given under subclause (3a) shall comply with the notice.

Clause 18 (b) of the Bill provides for an amendment to paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 364 of the Act which, in effect, will provide that compensation will not be payable unless buildings and obstructions are cleared for the purpose of re-erecting an existing or a new building behind the new building line, or if the land is within an area specified in an order, the land is so cleared by reason of a notice served by the council in accordance with the provisions of the conditions of the order. I would draw the attention of members to subclause (3a) of clause 18 of the Bill.

Attention is drawn to the word "Order" in paragraph (b) of clause 18 of the Bill because the term "Order" is defined by section 6 of the Act as follows:—

"Order" means an order made by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Executive Council.

This special provision would enable an area to be defined by order, following which no notice could be served by the council during the time the land concerned was subject to the provisions of the order.

It will be appreciated that building lines are fixed not so much for immediate use, but to make provision for long-term planning either by a council or other departments; and in order to arrive at uniformity under this heading, a conference was held between officers of the Crown Law Department, the Town Planning Department, the Main Roads Department, and the Department of Local Government prior to the recommending of amending legislation.

Clause 19 of the Bill is to correct an error by merely inserting the word "a" before the word "bar" in line 3 of subsection (3) of section 371. Clauses 20 to 24 are all for the same purpose. Part XV of the Act deals with buildings and sets down certain procedure it is necessary to follow. Subsection (5) of section 403 has application to dangerous buildings. Subsection (2) of section 408 has application to neglected buildings. Subsection (2) of section 409 has application to dilapidated buildings. Subsection (2) of section 411 deals with the right of a council to demolish buildings in certain circumstances. Subsection (2) of section 417 has application to the power to order the removal of inflammable buildings. In each case, it is provided that after serving a first notice on an owner or occupier, a council shall cause a copy of the notice to be published once in the *Government Gazette* and once in a newspaper circulating in the district.

The Perth City Council and the Local Government Association have both raised the question that where orders are served, they are, in the majority of cases, complied with, and to comply with the provisions of the Act causes quite a lot of additional expense; and the amendments to the sections of the Act referred to and covered by clauses 20 to 24 in the Bill are merely for the purpose of providing that if an owner or occupier on whom the council serves a notice does not comply with the requisition, the council shall then cause a copy to be published once in the *Government Gazette* and once in a newspaper circulating in the district.

Clause 25 of the Bill is for the purpose of including a new by-law-making power (26a), authorising a council to make by-laws for requiring that buildings generally, or a building of any specific class, shall not be built nearer to a building line than is prescribed in a by-law. For many years past councils have included in their building by-laws a provision that buildings

should be sited in such a way that the distance between the frontage of the building and the allotment or the building line, where one is prescribed, must be of a specified distance. Some doubt has been cast upon the validity of such action in the absence of any specific by-law-making power, and clause 25 is to remove any doubt in this regard.

Clause 26 of the Bill is to correct the spelling of the word "principal" in paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 505 of the Act in the second last line. Clause 27 of the Bill is to correct the spelling of the word "building" in paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 523 of the Act in the second line of the paragraph. Clause 28 of the Bill is merely for the purpose of removing the words "if the portion" appearing in line five of subparagraph (i) of paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of section 533 of the Act and inserting those words after the word "grant" in line 6.

Section 533 of the Act deals with the question of valuations and subsection (4), dealing with annual values, states in subparagraph (i) of paragraph (f) that—

no land shall be regarded as unoccupied if it is a portion of the land contained in the original grant from the Crown, and is let or occupied with any other part if the portion of the land contained in the grant belongs to the same owner as the other part in the grant and that other part is occupied and rated.

The amendment will mean that the subparagraph will then read—

no land shall be regarded as unoccupied if it is a portion of the land contained in the original grant from the Crown, and is let or occupied with any other part of the land contained in the grant if the portion belongs to the same owner as the other part in the grant and that other part is occupied and rated.

The amendment is to correct a printing error.

Clause 29 of the Bill is to increase the statutory limit imposed in paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 548. The Act at present provides that the maximum general rate that may be imposed for each pound of unimproved value is 1s. where a reticulated water supply service is not provided or is not available. When the Bill was before the House last year, it provided for a maximum rate of 2s. in the pound; but by amendment, it was reduced to 1s. in the pound.

The present maximum limit of 1s. in the pound on unimproved capital values which must cover all amounts required by a council for its general works and activities, including interest and repayment of loans has been found, in the case of some councils, to be inadequate and has caused one or two local authorities some financial

embarrassment. Two councils adversely affected are the Shire of Denmark and the Shire of Collie.

The Shire of Denmark for the year ended the 30th June, 1961, found it necessary to impose rates of 1½d. in the pound in rural areas and 1s. in the pound in townsite areas to cover its normal works and loan repayments; but on account of additional loans raised during the 1960-61 financial year, a further levy of 2d. in the pound would be necessary to carry on the same volume of works during the 1961-62 year, which would mean a rate of 1s. 1½d. in the pound in the rural areas and 1s. 2d. in the pound in the townsite.

This council advised that taxation values were being used to their maximum; and the department, on communicating with the Taxation Department, found this to be so; and the Taxation Department further advised that it could not, at this stage, recommend any increase in unimproved capital values in the Denmark area. Coupled with this is the fact that of the land in the Denmark municipal district, 31.9 per cent. is taken up in State forests—including the Denmark water catchment reserve—42 per cent. is Crown land or other non-ratable property; whilst reserves under the control or management of the council accounted for 1.3 per cent., leaving only 24.7 per cent. of the district that was ratable; and this included some land which was only recently opened up.

To enable district requirements to be met during the 1961-62 year, the Denmark Shire Council was forced into the position of borrowing money for normal construction works which would usually be found from revenue; and borrowing for such a purpose, of course, is not generally a wise procedure. In the case of this shire, a rate of 1s. 3d. in the pound is essential; and unless values increase or further Crown land is thrown open for selection, it may even be necessary, for the 1962-63 financial year, for ministerial approval to be sought by the council to exceed the 1s. 3d. in the pound limit, provided the Bill is agreed to.

In connection with the Shire of Collie, the rates levied by this council for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1961, to cover normal activities—including loan commitments—varied from 1s. 1½d. in the pound in rural townsites up to 1s. 3d. in the pound within the Collie townsite itself, all on unimproved capital values. After giving the position most careful consideration, the Collie Shire Council imposed for the 1961-62 rating year a general rate of 1s. in the pound for the Collie townsite plus a separate health rate of 2d. in the pound under the Health Act, but this left the council some £3,000 short in revenue as compared with the 1960-61 financial year. As is the case with Denmark, the ratable land in the Collie municipal area is small, being equal to approximately only 55 per cent. of the total

area, the balance being forest land, water catchment areas, parklands, and reserves, which account for 45 per cent. of the total of the municipal area.

Other councils approached the Minister for Local Government, pointing out the difficulties they would experience in abiding by the Local Government Act, particularly the requirement that rates must be uniform except in the case of special works—namely: Bridgetown, Wyalkatchem, and Kondinin—and these difficulties were overcome only by imposing a rate that would require the rural areas to contribute more to the municipal fund than previously, whilst it was not possible to increase the amount to be contributed to the fund by townsite areas.

With these matters in mind, it is necessary that serious consideration be given to clause 29 of the Bill which is for the purpose of increasing the maximum of the general rate that may be levied on unimproved capital values to 1s. 3d. for each pound of unimproved value, with a proviso that in such districts or specified areas as the Minister may approve of, the rate may be increased up to 1s. 6d. in the pound. This is one of the most important amendments sought to the Act.

Clause 30 of the Bill is to add to section 556, subsection (1), paragraph (b) of the Act, after the word "persons" in line 1, the words "or the holder for the time being of any office specified in the Order". Section 556 of the Act deals with the appointment of valuation appeal courts to hear appeals against valuations imposed by local authorities; and when courts were originally set up the valuation court for the areas outside the metropolitan valuation appeal court was referred to under the heading of "the magistrate for the district".

Crown Law expressed the opinion that this was hardly correct as, by referring to the magistrate for the district, no provision could be made for any person who was relieving a magistrate to act as an appeal court; and advised that if the "office" as distinct from the "person" was referred to, then all legal objection would be overcome. The amendment which is to allow of the appointment of magistrates by their office instead of reference to them in a personal way is therefore recommended to the House.

Clause 31 of the Bill is for the purpose of adding a new subsection to section 604 of the Act so that a council may, if requested by a lender, issue a single debenture in a suitable form covering the amount borrowed in lieu of issuing debentures for each half-year over the term of the loan as is at present specified in the Act. The request was put forward by the Associated Life Officers, the Bank of New South Wales, and the Commonwealth Bank; and is supported departmentally.

Clause 32 is for the purpose of amending form B of the seventh schedule by substituting the word "Forty-seven" for the word "Forty-four" in line 3, so that reference will be made to the correct section. Clause 33 of the Bill is to alter the word "as" to the word "or" in the heading to the eighth schedule (last line to the eighth column) and is to correct a printing error. Clause 34 of the Bill is to amend the seventh schedule to correct printing errors by changing the word "and" where first appearing in line 3 to the word "of" and to substitute the words "thirty-five days" for the words "one month" in line 2 of the fourth paragraph of the form headed "Notice and Valuation and Rate".

I am advised by the Minister for Local Government and the Local Government Department that none of these amendments are designed to go further than I have set out in the notes I have used in introducing the measure. I think it was expected when the Bill was debated in the House last year that it would be inevitable that some amendments would be required, and some perhaps fairly quickly.

As I have stated, this Bill is designed to correct several urgent anomalies which have shown up, and the opportunity is taken to make some other urgent corrections which are considered necessary by the Local Government Department. I would ask members, if they have any amendments to put forward, to place them on the notice paper as soon as they can, because the Bill deals with technical subjects, and I would like to have the opportunity of referring those amendments to the department before they are debated at the Committee stage.

Also, if members so desire, I will at the second reading stage and the Committee stage arrange for an officer of the Local Government Department to be in attendance to advise me and to enable me to clarify any technical points that may need clarification in order to properly appreciate the full purport of the various clauses in the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Toms.

ADMINISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 31st October.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [5.35 p.m.]: This Bill proposes to amend the Administration Act in three or four directions. One of the amendments proposes to revert to the original basis in relation to ascertaining the net value of a deceased person's property. That original basis was altered in 1955 when a new method was introduced of valuing the property at the time of its

distribution; and as the Attorney-General said in explaining this point, there has been, over fairly recent years, an upward trend in the values of properties of all descriptions with the result that a valuation which might have applied at the time of the death of the deceased person has changed quite considerably in many instances by the time the distribution is actually due to take place. I think the original basis which this Bill proposes to revert to would in practice be found to be more satisfactory. Therefore, that part of the Bill has my approval.

Another portion in the Bill aims to bring widowers on to the same basis as widows in relation to application which may be made for the deferment of payment of duty on a deceased estate. Under the present law a widow, where the dwelling-house of a property does not exceed £6,000 in value, and the total estate does not exceed £10,000 in value, may apply for the deferment of duty, and such application may be granted on such conditions and for such periods as the commissioner, after consultation with the Treasurer of the State, may think fit. The amendment in this Bill in relation to that matter proposes to extend that privilege to a widower who would wish, because of financial circumstances, to have payment of duty on a deceased estate deferred.

The third amendment relates to the proposed abolition of duty which is now payable on gifts that are made to certain classes of schools in Western Australia. The Attorney-General quoted to us the appropriate section of the Act, and that section lays it down that no duty shall be payable in respect of any gifts made to a public hospital declared to be such under the provisions of the Hospitals Act, 1927, for the maintenance of a free ward in any hospital, and also to any public educational institution in Western Australia which is wholly or in part dependent on any State grant, aid, or subsidy.

The existing provision in the Act, as we would all understand, excludes a substantial number of schools in Western Australia, most of which we regard as independent schools. The proposal in this Bill in that direction proposes to lay it down that so long as one of those independent schools is declared to be efficient under the terms of the Education Act, no duty shall be chargeable in respect of any gift made from any deceased person's estate to any such school. I would think that, when this provision becomes law, there would not be many schools operating in the State which would not come under the Act as it would be amended by this amendment.

Mr. Watts: I think there might be one, but that is all; and it is a very small one.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes. So I think we can say with a fair amount of assurance and confidence, that the acceptance by Parliament of this amendment will mean that in practice, in the future when gifts are made from deceased estates to any school in Western Australia, each such gift will not be liable to the payment of any probate duty. Those, in my reading of the Bill, are the main amendments proposed, and I support the second reading.

MR. GUTHRIE (Subiaco) [5.42 p.m.]: I wish to support this Bill. I am particularly interested in the amendment to section 15A the need for which, to some extent, I must accept some responsibility because some ten or twelve years ago I gave an opinion to the West Australian Trustee Executor & Agency Co. Ltd., that the law was uncertain as to the method by which an intestate estate was distributed. Up to that time members of the legal profession, I think in the main, and the trustee companies had distributed intestate estates according to the realisation figures and there usually was not a great variation between the realisation figures and the probate figures.

Then we came to that period in our career when we had what was known as Treasury control of properties, and both the State and Federal duty assessing authorities were compelled against their will to assess duty on the properties at what were known as Treasury prices. In view of a number of court decisions, a prudent trustee was unwise to put an estate up for sale while these controls existed. In fact, a case in the Eastern States dealt with the correct valuation of a property. It may have been the High Court or the Supreme Court of New South Wales; but it was held that a public authority could not resume land and expect to get away with paying the Treasury prices. Because of this, no prudent trustee would sell the estate at such a price, knowing it was a temporary figure; and every prudent trustee knew that he could not obtain a higher figure until the Treasury control was lifted.

The West Australian Trustee Executor & Agency Co. Ltd., was the administrator of such an estate and there was a considerable difference between the value at which duty had been assessed and the figure which the estate realised. It made a great difference in the benefits to be derived by the next-of-kin. I was asked by the company which set of fractions it should distribute the estate on: the fractions which were established on the probate duty values or the realisation values. I found, somewhat to my surprise, that the law was far from clear; and when one examined the history of the statutes of distributions—which go back to the reign of one of the Charles, from memory—it became apparent why those difficulties had arisen.

In early times the wife received very little recognition under British law, and there was no provision made for the wife to get any part of an intestate's estate: it passing to the heir, in the case of real property, and to the next-of-kin in the case of personal property. When we became a little more civilised and recognised the wife as having some rights, the statutes in England, in other parts of the British Commonwealth, and in this State, were amended to permit the wife to have some share. By that method she got a fixed sum in the first instance, and then there was a clear break-up of the estate down to the children. It was not as clear as it had previously been. Our Administration Act had provided, and still provides, that the property descends to the next-of-kin as tenants-in-common in their fractional proportions.

This provision for the wife's first £500, as it was originally, produced very great problems. The English courts overcame them by a method of expediency, and as the break-up became more complicated the position became more unsatisfactory. I came to the conclusion, with some doubt at the time, that one did not take the realisation figures at all, but one took the fractions established by the duty assessment.

In my advice to the trustee company I suggested that the matter should be put beyond doubt by Parliament; and as a result—I think in 1955 or 1956—the present member for Mt. Lawley introduced legislation as a private member to amend the Administration Act, and section 15A was inserted. This section was inserted to provide that the realisation figures were to be taken. That was considered at the time to be satisfactory.

However, practical experience has since shown that it could be unsatisfactory, inasmuch as a man may leave an estate which consists of his house valued at £2,000, and his widow can believe that she owns it. However, 15 years later that house may be sold for £5,000, and the widow suddenly finds that she did not own it; that she only owned a proportion of it.

As a result of that the Commissioner of Titles has stated that he is unable to register a transfer in favour of the widow. The law requires that the property must be sold and the realisation figures established before the widow's claim is established.

That has led to great hardship. It has been considered advisable to return to the original provision before section 15A was enacted. Once the value is established for probate duty the fractions of the various parties will be arrived at and they will own that estate in those fractions whether the value rises or falls, and it will enable the property to be registered in the name of the next-of-kin if that is desired.

I would point out that the intention of the law is that an intestate's estate shall not be sold. In fact, an administrator has no power to sell without either the leave of the courts or the consent of the beneficiaries. The reason for that is that the administrator is not a person in whom the deceased had reposed any trust. The effect of that is that the estate will pass to the next-of-kin, as near as possible in the form in which it existed at the date of death.

I am not so certain that subsection (2) of section 15A will work out. Time alone will tell. If, after practical experience, it does not work out, members may well see a Bill introduced either next year or the year after to amend this subsection. We can only find out by applying it to practical cases, and it is difficult at the moment to visualise cases which may arise. However, we can only hope it will produce the desired result.

The only other matter to which I wish to refer is the provision in clause 6 which I think is an excellent one. It is common knowledge that people who are minded to give money to charitable or public purposes are motivated to a large extent by the question of whether it is duty free or whether it is not duty free. They may find that when giving money to some public institution no probate duty is necessary. However, when giving money to an independent school, they find that probate duty is payable. The public institution then gets the money, and the independent school suffers.

This provision will enable those schools—which play a very important part in the community—to get much-needed financial assistance from philanthropists who are disposed to assist them.

For those reasons I have much pleasure in supporting this measure.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Watts (Attorney-General) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Section 69 amended—

Mr. HAWKE: In this instance I am merely seeking information. In paragraph (b) of clause 3 we find the following words:—

by adding after the figures, "1956" in the last line, the passage, "or as are declared by Parliament in Part III of the First Schedule",

and so on.

I am wondering why it is necessary to include in the clause the words "or as are declared by Parliament"? I should think that anything which appears in an Act of Parliament must have been decided by

Parliament and laid down by Parliament; and therefore, automatically, anything in a law is declared by Parliament. I would like to know why it is necessary legally for those words to be put into the law.

Mr. WATTS: Although I would not like to say that the words are essential, they are considered desirable, because they make reference to the Bill which follows by introducing the Assessments Act into the proposals of the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 6 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General), and transmitted to the Council.

DEATH DUTIES (TAXING) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 31st October.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [5.57 p.m.]: The Opposition has no objection to offer to the provisions set down in this Bill to amend the Death Duties (Taxing) Act. In essence the Bill proposes to bring about a reduction in the amount of death duty payable on estates where they pass to the widow or widower or other near relatives of a deceased person, provided those near relatives live genuinely or have been living genuinely in Western Australia at the time of the death of the deceased person.

The Treasurer, in explaining the provisions of the Bill, gave some examples of how the reductions would operate and the extent to which they would operate. The only query one might be inclined to raise is as to whether the reductions should have continued up into the higher brackets of estates. I notice, for instance, that where an estate is valued at £15,000 there will be a reduction in the amount of death duty payable, and the reduction would amount to approximately £56. Presumably as the value of the estates in question go higher, the reduction to be received will lessen until at some high figure it would, I presume, disappear altogether.

The Treasurer told us the concessions provided for in this Bill would cost this State approximately £70,000 in a full year, and some £25,000 during the balance of the present financial year. Whether the Government is in a position financially to make these concessions—especially where they apply in the higher brackets—is, I suppose, debatable. However, the proposals in the Bill are Government policy

and are considerably modified when related to the promises given to the people during the last election campaign. So possibly we could say the proposals in this Bill indicate a rather greater degree of responsibility than was manifested by the two Government parties, or at least by one of them, when they were seeking the support of the electors some two and a half years ago. I support the second reading of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Brand (Treasurer), and transmitted to the Council.

SUPERANNUATION AND FAMILY BENEFITS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 26th October.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [6.4 p.m.]: This Bill contains three or four non-controversial amendments. The first proposes that pensions under the Superannuation Act shall not be paid until an employee concerned has ceased duty. As I understand it, the necessity for this amendment has arisen because of certain words in the existing Act which would make it quite legal, I believe, for an employee to claim a pension on reaching what is known as the retiring age, or the age at which he or she had elected to retire. I agree it would be undesirable that a person in those circumstances should be able to draw a pension, even though he or she had not actually ceased duty with the Government.

Another amendment arises because of alterations made in Britain to the National Insurance Act of that country. This amendment arises because of the fact that the Government of Western Australia employs in England some six or more persons who, of course, work in the office of the Agent-General for Western Australia in London.

The most important amendment in the Bill covers the proposed establishment of what will be known as the provident account. As I understand from what the Treasurer said, this account or fund is to be set up for the purpose of providing a superannuation scheme, of a type, for persons in the employ of the Government who, for health reasons, are not able to qualify to become members of the State superannuation scheme. Where any person who becomes a member of this proposed provident account, or provident fund,

improves in health to an extent which would qualify such person to be accepted into the State superannuation scheme, then the Bill makes provision for such transfer to be made on the necessary medical evidence being provided.

The employees who would become members of this provident fund are, as I understand it, to make contributions at the rate of 1s. for each complete £1 of gross fortnightly salary; and these contributions may be deducted regularly and automatically each month from the salary, or may be paid direct by the employees concerned.

The Bill goes on to make provision for the amounts which will be paid out of the provident fund to the contributors when they qualify or, in the case of the death of contributors, when their dependants would qualify to receive payments. The first provision for payment is related to contributors who retire or who are retired by the Government on or after reaching the age of 60 years, or whose services are terminated on the grounds of invalidity, or because of retrenchment.

The Bill lays it down that such persons would be paid a sum equal to three times the amount which they would have contributed in total to the provident account, plus compound interest on their contributions at a rate of interest as fixed from time to time by the board. In that regard a later provision in the Bill provides that the State shall pay to the provident account an amount equal to two-thirds of the total payment. The State would make such a payment in relation to the employees to whom I have just referred, and also a similar payment in relation to another group about whom I will speak now.

The next provision for payment from the provident account relates to the situation which would arise upon the death of a male contributor. The Bill provides that the widow of such a contributor would be paid a sum equal to three times the amount of the contributions plus, again, compound interest at a rate of interest fixed by the board from time to time. Where the male contributor who is deceased does not leave a widow, but is survived by a child or children under the age of 16 years, the sums which are to be paid to the child or children shall be the same as that provided in respect of the widow. Where there is more than one child the amount would of course be divided equally among those children still under 16 years of age.

A further provision relates to a contributor who, upon death, had not left any dependants at all. As I understand this part of the Bill, a single male person could not in any circumstances have dependants who would qualify under the provisions of this measure; nor could any female employee, who was a contributor to the provident account, have any dependants who

could qualify for benefit upon the death of the female employee. I raise that point because it is quite conceivable that a female employee would have children under 16 years of age dependent upon her. She could be a widow with children still under 16 years of age; and presumably she could be a wife with a husband still living, and be employed by the Government but have children under 16 years of age. For instance, her husband could be an invalid pensioner.

Whether those circumstances were considered by the officers responsible for making recommendations to the Government in connection with this portion of the Bill I, of course, am not in a position to say. However, I would like the Treasurer to have inquiries made before the Bill is introduced into the Legislative Council, or at least before the Committee stage is taken in that House. Should the Treasurer, as a result of such inquiries, consider that some provision should be made on the basis of merit in relation to a single male, or a female whether she be single or married, to enable real *bona fide* dependants, and particularly children under 16 years of age, to receive some benefit, then I would hope he would have arrangements made for appropriate amendments to be included in the Bill when it is in the Committee stage in the Legislative Council.

Where these contributors to the provident account die before retirement, and there are no dependants—and there may not be any—then an amount equal only to the amount of contributions, plus compound interest at a rate of interest fixed by the board, is to be paid to the personal representatives of each contributor concerned.

Another provision in the Bill lays it down that where a contributor resigns, is discharged, or dismissed, there shall be paid to him an amount equal to his contributions to the provident account, plus compound interest as previously mentioned.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. HAWKE: Prior to the tea suspension I was pointing out that any contributor to the provident fund who resigns or is dismissed or discharged shall be paid an amount equal to the contributions paid by him to the provident fund, together with compound interest at such rate as is fixed by the board. I was about to raise the question of what legal difference might exist between the word "discharged" and the word "dismissed". The appropriate part of the Bill reads—

Where a contributor to the Provident Account under this Division resigns or is discharged or is dismissed, there shall be paid to him an amount equal to the amount of the contributions paid by him

As far as I am aware the term "discharged" is the same in effect as the term "dismissed". They both mean being sacked. Presumably the Parliamentary Draftsman had good reason to include both terms in the clause.

Mr. Brand: Proposed new section 83I refers to retrenchment and discharge.

Mr. HAWKE: If the Premier has a note on this point I shall be pleased to hear from him; if not, it does not really matter, because whether a man is considered to be discharged or dismissed will not make any difference in practice. Either way he will receive the same amount from the provident fund.

The Bill makes provision for a person, other than a person specified, to receive payment provided the board agrees. Presumably that has been inserted in the Bill to meet a special situation which might arise occasionally. I think it is probably a wise provision.

As I mentioned earlier, the contribution of the State to the provident account in respect of those instances where the contributors will receive back three times the amount they paid in, plus interest, is to be two-thirds of each such payment. I understand the State will be called upon to make contributions to the account only when withdrawals are made from the account; in other words, as I understand the Bill, the State will not pay in regular amounts, but only the requisite amounts when sums three times those paid in by contributors, plus interest, are being withdrawn.

I was very disappointed to find that no provision has been made in the Bill for those State pensioners who failed to receive any increase in their pension rates as a result of legislation passed in this Parliament previously. The death duty Bill which was dealt with earlier today provides for reductions in death duties amounting to approximately £70,000 in a full year. It therefore appears that the State Government has money available.

At this stage I cannot think of a more deserving section of the community than the State pensioners who are on the lowest rates of pension. Again I express very deep regret that no provision is made for those low-rate State pensioners in this Bill to amend the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act.

MR. HEAL (West Perth) [7.38 p.m.]: As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, the Opposition is not opposed to the amendments contained in the Bill. They merely seek to tidy up a few points in the legislation which required looking into. When notice of the Bill was given, many people now drawing low pensions were hopeful that some increase would be provided. The Leader of the Opposition expressed deep disappointment that no increases are to be given to pensioners who received low increases last year. I, also, am very disappointed.

There is a motion in my name before this House which may not see the light of day. I hope it will, so that the House will be given the opportunity to debate this matter. If it passes, the motion may be the means of introducing a small amending Bill during this session to provide increases for the 1871 pensioners, and others.

The Government has given relief in respect of certain taxes—entertainments tax and the death duties. If the Government can do that it should be able to make money available to give those in receipt of small pensions a small increase. I hope that before this session of Parliament is concluded some consideration will be given to what I have proposed, and that those pensioners will receive some increase.

MR. BRADY (Guildford-Midland) [7.40 p.m.]: I support the amendments contained in the Bill. I hope this House will be given the opportunity to discuss the resolution standing in the name of the member for West Perth relating to pensions and superannuation. Like the honourable member, I have received a number of requests, arising out of that motion and out of the Bill before us, to obtain extra relief for those on the lower scale of superannuation.

One man told me that when he left the railways in 1950 he retired on a pension under the 1871 Act of £7 5s. a week, which was 7s. above the basic wage. Today, in 1961, he is receiving only £9 19s., which is £5 1s. under the basic wage. Members will see what a disadvantage the 1871 pensioners are placed under. They feel they have been let down badly by the Government, because any increase they have received has been absorbed by rising costs.

This person told me that the Government had done the wrong thing by bringing the 1871 pensioners under the 1938 Superannuation Act. He considered the Government was dodging its responsibilities to those who are covered by the 1904 Public Service Act, which legislation assumed the rights and responsibilities of the 1871 Act. There is something in what he says. When he was a young man employed in the railways he worked long hours but received no overtime. During stock-taking he worked on Saturdays and Sundays. He was assured that when he retired he would receive an adequate pension. Yet in 1961 his pension is £5 1s. below the basic wage.

I inquired whether pensioners had the right to seek social service assistance. This man told me that many pensioners in the same position as himself resented the need to apply for social service benefits. They felt they should not have to ask the Government for those rights, as they had played their part in the Civil Service and railway service of this State

when they were getting on their feet. They had put up with many of the disabilities which workers in subsequent days did not have to put up with. They felt they were entitled to some consideration.

I received the following letter last week from a pensioner:—

Superannuation Act 1938

I wish to draw your attention to the following position of members of the above fund who have retired recently, and find the following facts, and state my own case.

- (1) I joined the fund at its inception, and elected to pay the rate to retire from Government service at the age of 60.
- (2) The fund raised the contributions to be paid over the years to which I have no exception.
- (3) On attaining the age of 60 I decided to work on until a date that suited myself, and eventually retired from the W.A.G. Railways, at 65, and during my last twelve months I increased my units by one, making five in all.
- (4) During the years of the functioning of the Fund the value of repayments has increased from 10s. to 17s. 6d. per unit by way of pension.
- (5) Members who retired, after having paid in but few subscriptions were able, to retire on the fund as their age entitled them to, at the ruling rates, then in force, but at a latter period, they were granted an extra amount which was to combat C.O.L., which brings their payments to £4 per week (no grumble about this).
- (6) On my retirement, I am paid at the rate of 17s. 6d. per unit, as against their £1 per unit.
- (7) If I had retired at 60 I would have been entitled to the £4 per week instead the Fund had the use of my money for five years, then I receive the lesser rate.
- (8) The effect is that I am surrounded by retired Government pensioners of the Fund, who as I stated before paid in for very short periods in a great number of cases and it seems strange, that when my turn comes, I get less value for my pension, after paying subscriptions for a long period.

Admitting its a wonderful asset to the pensioners who are drawing it, and it deserves to be made a compulsory condition of service of those employed in Government service.

Trusting you will look in this matter and make it clearer to several of the old members.

Hoping I am not taking up too much of your time and would like a reply on your views.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

He then signed his name. Another pensioner on superannuation points out that by virtue of the fact that he tried to provide for his old age and received superannuation, he is not being given very much consideration by the Taxation Department.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Is the honourable member relating these remarks to this Bill or do they really have relation to pensioners under the 1871 Act?

Mr. BRADY: I am pointing out the disabilities some of these superannuated people are suffering and from which they feel they should have some relief. Of course, if you, as Speaker, rule that the remarks should be left until the debate on the motion moved by the member for West Perth, then I will abide by your ruling.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): We cannot have them on both occasions, and I think that when dealing with the motion would be a more appropriate time.

Mr. Heal: If it ever sees the light of day.

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [7.48 p.m.]: First of all, I will say that the House will have the opportunity of debating the motion moved by the member for West Perth as it is one of the items which were listed for private members' day.

Mr. Heal: Thank you.

Mr. BRAND: I would like to thank the House for its support of the Bill. As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, there are no major amendments in this piece of legislation, and the important provision is the one which provides for the establishment of a provident account to enable those people who are not fortunate enough to be able to pass the health standard requirements, but who are still healthy enough to be employees of the Government to attain some degree of superannuation and put aside something for their days of retirement or for their dependants.

The point raised by the Leader of the Opposition as to the expenditure of the benefits paid to members of the Provident Fund such as a bachelor or a female with dependants other than children, will be raised. However, I did make some inquiries during the tea suspension, and I find that the conditions laid down in this Act are similar to those laid down for the general superannuation scheme and applying to all of those members who subscribe to that scheme.

As to the difference between dismissal and discharge, I think that on page 9 of the Bill will be found the answer. A man who is retrenched is, I should say, dismissed; and one who is not enjoying good health or has to be put off for reasons other than retrenchment is considered to be discharged. Anyhow, as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, that is not a very important point; but the explanation is contained in the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Brand (Treasurer), and transmitted to the Council.

BANANA INDUSTRY COMPENSATION TRUST FUND BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 26th October.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [7.55 p.m.]: This Bill is one which has been necessary for a long while as far as the banana industry is concerned. Quite a number of years ago the growers in Carnarvon tried to find some method of insuring their crops against cyclones. Extensive inquiries were made throughout Western Australia of insurance companies to see whether a scheme such as this one could be inaugurated; and, as a matter of fact, the suggestion of 2s. a case levy was the one put forward.

At that time there had not been a great number of cyclones to affect the banana industry. Actually the industry started to come into its own about 1947 when the rehabilitation of returned soldiers and other people took place in Carnarvon. From that year on, the banana industry became quite well established and for many years it supplied practically the total banana requirements of Western Australia.

At present Western Australia is consuming in the vicinity of £500,000 worth of bananas a year. In one year Carnarvon was able to supply £300,000 worth of bananas, but normally supplies only half the demand. Since 1947-48 banana production has fluctuated because of many reasons, but mostly because of lack of water and, in all, three cyclones. In order that members might have some idea of the production which has taken place over the years, I intend to quote the production figures from that year to the end of 1960,

and at the same time I will comment on the various cyclones. The production has been as follows:—

Year	Cases
1947-48	43,252
1948-49	57,155
1949-50	77,310
1950-51	68,011
1951-52	54,676
1952-53	51,509
1953-54	31,205

This was a drop due to a cyclone in 1953. It will be seen that the production was down about half as there was only partial destruction of plants.

1954-55	57,506
1955-56	51,750
1956-57	25,604

This decline was due to a cyclone in 1956.

1957-58	32,817
1958-59	53,096
1959-60	80,922

This was a record year.

1960-61	5,630
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As all members will know, the drop in production to 5,630 cases in the year 1960-61 was due to the most disastrous cyclone the district has ever experienced.

It will be seen from those figures that cyclones do not always result in total destruction. Last year four cyclones came within the vicinity of Carnarvon but none of them did any visual damage. One may have caused fracturing of roots, and so on, but there was no apparent damage. However, there was a flood which did destroy quite a few acres of bananas, but those concerned received compensation from the Government.

Cyclones seem to have a cycle. They appear to strike certain parts of the coast concentrating on particular areas for two or three years. As a rule the cyclones come in from the Timor Sea to Cape Leveque and then turn at right angles and travel down the coast until they come close to land, and again turn at a right angle and travel inland in a south-easterly direction.

Normally the cyclones come down from Roebourne to Onslow and turn inland, but for the last two years the cyclones which have come down the coast have come in from Trowton Island and run parallel to the coast down to North-West Cape. One of them passed across the cape, but the other turned around North-West Cape and went south-east, and travelled down the coast crossing the coast near Carnarvon, and inland from there.

It is quite on the cards that we could be free from any severe cyclones in the next year or two as they may change their course; but, on the other hand, we could strike another cyclone. From the records, however, that is not particularly

likely. I think the proposition in the Bill will give an excellent opportunity to build up a reasonable insurance scheme over the years, provided we do not get hit too early.

There has not been a great deal of damage from floods. Only the low-lying areas near creeks and so on get flooded when the rivers come down; but by and large the floods do not do much damage to the banana plantations. In fact, they do more good than damage.

Diseases are also covered by the measure; and I point out that Carnarvon has been remarkably free from diseases in bananas. There are actually only two or three diseases which affect the district in any way. There is Panama disease which has been in Carnarvon. It was discovered fairly early and eradicated. One of the most dreaded diseases is bunchy top, but strict quarantine regulations will prevent its coming to Carnarvon.

Another disease, perhaps not as bad as the ones I have mentioned, is that known as squirter disease. It affects the fruit and can be carried by means of the banana cases. I understand that the Carnarvon climate is not particularly suitable to the development of that disease. We have not been troubled with it so far; and provided no imported cases are taken into the area, we are not likely to get it.

The only insect pest that has caused us concern was a plague of locusts which, some years ago, completely stripped the banana plants of their leaves. But the plants more or less recovered, and those that were not bearing went on into production in the normal way.

Another insect pest which can come into the district, if quarantine regulations are not observed, is the borer—a beetle which gets into the corm or bulb of the banana and destroys it. Borers were found in some imported suckers on a plantation on one occasion, but they were quickly got rid of, and we have had no trouble from that source since.

I understand that the planters are pleased with the Bill in its present form, with the exception of one clause. They agree with the actual clause, but they consider a proviso should be added. The clause to which I refer is on page 13 of the Bill, and it deals with the method of assessing the average production when damage occurs. The method of assessing the average production is to take the average number of cases produced per acre by each planter for the preceding five years. As I have already pointed out, we have had three cycles since 1953. So, if we had assessed the damage from the cyclone in 1956, we would have had to take into the calculation the year 1953, in which cyclone damage occurred.

Cyclones do not generally have a completely destructive effect on a plantation. They will flatten the plantations or tangle the plants, but they leave quite a lot of

the plants undamaged; and some plantations may receive comparatively little damage, or none at all. Therefore one planter might have his plantation almost totally destroyed and another may suffer no damage at all, or only very little.

That would mean that when working out the assessment in a year such as 1956, there could be one person with no production or very little production for 1953, while another might have quite average production. So we would not get a proper weighted average production for each person, because in averaging each planter over the years we would find that one man's average would have dropped considerably while another's would have remained fairly static. That suggests that where a cyclone has occurred and an assessment has been made in any one year that assessment should be excluded from the weighted average.

I suggest to the Minister that consideration be given in another place to adding a proviso to subclause (4) of clause 25 on page 13, as follows:—

Provided that such calculation shall not include any year in which compensation shall have been assessed.

That would mean that we would then actually go back six years but would not include the year in which compensation had been paid. In that way we would give each person a reasonable average over the years. If he suffered damage by cyclone or flood, then he would not be assessed on the same level as his neighbour who had probably suffered very little damage. If the Minister would give consideration to what I have suggested it would help considerably.

The other methods of assessing, as set out in the schedule, seem very reasonable, because young plants very seldom sustain much damage, and they will be assessed at 30 per cent. That is reasonable because a young plant has not used any manures to speak of; nor would it have had much water poured on it; it would have been planted for only three months. As the months went by, much more water would be used—and water is an expensive item—and more manure would be used.

And so we get to the bearing stage, where 75 per cent. and above is included in the calculation. When plants reach that stage, a lot of money has to be spent on water for them; and when it is known that the cheapest manure used in Carnarvon is in the vicinity of £50 a ton, and that the cost can go as high as £70 or £80 a ton, it will be readily realised that the cost of developing and bringing a plantation to the stage of production is very great. It is necessary to use large amounts of fertilisers to keep the plants well fed in order to ensure proper growth.

I have no further comments to pass on the Bill at the moment. I have spent a fair amount of time studying it today, and

I cannot see anything in it that I wish to alter. I have discussed a few technical points with the Minister, and he has explained them to me, and they do not need amendment.

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [8.11 p.m.]: I thank the member for Gascoyne for the manner in which he has covered the history of the banana industry in this State and for the consideration he has given to all aspects of the legislation.

As the honourable member pointed out, we discussed the Bill prior to its appearing on the notice paper; and I gave him an assurance—and I give it to the House—that the suggestion he made will be given consideration; and we will see that the amendment is inserted when the Bill is considered in another place. I think the honourable member's proposition is a sound one. The reasons for the Bill have already been given, and it is not necessary for me to again cover the ground.

I am quite sure from the information that has been received that the Bill will cover a great need in the industry, especially when a cyclone hits the plantations and heavy losses, which could be an embarrassment to growers, are sustained.

As I pointed out when introducing the Bill, all these points have been covered. The growers will contribute 2s. a case and the Government 1s. a case, and at the end of the seven-year period—that is the life of the Bill—the whole question will be reconsidered; and if it is necessary to prolong the life of the legislation, it can then be extended.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and transmitted to the Council.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1961-1962

In Committee of Supply

Debate resumed from the 31st October on the Annual Estimates, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair.

Vote: Education, £10,662,000—

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Minister for Education) [8.20 p.m.]: I propose to give a short review of the Estimate and certain other matters connected with the Education Department. The total estimate is £10,662,000, an increase of £1,040,239 over the expenditure for the previous financial year. The greatest

increase is in salaries, which rise by £850,920 to £8,847,000. This rise is due, firstly, to a new salary determination to operate from the 1st July, 1961, under which the salary expenditure will rise by at least £370,000. I might say that against that determination there has been an appeal lodged with the school teachers' tribunal.

Basic wage adjustments are likely to require £61,400, while normal grade increments in teachers' salaries will account for £170,000. The last item, which will make up the increased expenditure in salaries, will allow for the additional teachers who are naturally required as the school population will increase. It might be desirable to quote some figures as to enrolments in Government schools.

In 1959, there were 91,405 children in primary schools, and it is estimated that in 1962 there will be 95,000. In secondary schools the rise has been even more noticeable. In 1959 the enrolments were 24,447 and it is estimated that in 1962 they will number 32,200. Actually, this year the number is 30,472. The great increase occurred in 1961 when the total attendance increase was 4,900 children at both primary and secondary schools taken together.

During the two years, 1960 and 1961, about 450 classrooms were completed. Taken on an average of 35 children per classroom—which makes a reasonable allowance for the necessarily smaller number that are, in the main, at secondary schools—that would provide accommodation for 15,750 children. So that, in two years, the increase in numbers being 8,900, it is quite obvious that there has been a substantial gain in accommodation during those two years. From what I have said, it can be observed that the greatest increases have been in the secondary education field as a result of the high post-war birth rate and the stronger tendency for children to remain at school for longer periods; these have affected enrolments.

These increases, as well as the new salary award, will cause a rise of approximately £265,000 in salaries in the secondary division, that, of course, being part of the grand total I have given earlier. The increase in primary school enrolments, whilst not as high as in previous years, still renders it necessary to provide more teachers, and the resultant increase in expenditure on salaries will be approximately £420,000, which is also part of the total sum.

The retention rate for scholars beyond the school-leaving age has increased. The percentage of grade seven children remaining to the third year high school level has risen to 56 per cent.—a gain of 10 per cent. in three years—while those remaining to fifth year and thus completing secondary education has increased from 8.8 per cent. to 12.2 per cent., and this,

with a much bigger year group, is a very heartening sign for the future for our youngsters.

The need for buildings, of course, still remains a comparatively urgent one. The total expenditure estimated during this financial year from loan funds for school buildings of all types, including the estimated amount that is likely to be spent by the Country High Schools Hostels Authority, will be £2,750,000. That, I think, is a larger sum than has ever been spent in any previous year. Although the need for buildings remains an urgent one, an effort has been made during the last three years to reduce the size of classes. Where rooms have become vacant in schools situated within a few areas in which the population has been declining, it has been possible to place extra teachers, and this has reduced the size of the classes.

This has resulted in significant improvement and is evidenced by the facts that, in 1959, 5.6 per cent. of classes exceeded 50; whereas, in 1961, only 2.9 per cent. of classes exceeded this number. Over the same period, 48.9 per cent. of classes numbered less than 40 in 1959, and 54.1 per cent. in 1961. With the training of more teachers, and as the availability of rooms increases, it is hoped to have no classes over 50 and gradually to lower the maximum to 40 pupils per class in primary schools.

Owing to the large increase in secondary enrolments over the past three years, the need for more high schools has become a matter of urgency. Since 1959, four new high schools offering five years of secondary education have been created; that is, Applecross, Tuart Hill, and Mt. Lawley in the metropolitan area, and Busselton in the country. In 1962, Hollywood and Katanning will have fourth forms as a preliminary step to their becoming senior high schools in 1963. Since 1959, eight high schools have been created at Kwinana, Scarborough, Bentley, Melville, Embleton, Swanbourne, Katanning, and Pinjarra; and, in 1962, nine high schools will be established at Margaret River, Bridgetown, Harvey, Mt. Barker, Mt. Helena, Kalamunda, Ashfield, Hamilton Hill, and Churchlands.

Although the same spectacular increase in enrolment has not been made in primary schools, there has been a continued effort to provide better facilities both in the metropolitan area and in the country. Some evidence of the progress made may be seen from the eight new junior high schools created over the past three years at Brookton, Bruce Rock, Derby, Kalamunda, Wundowie, Wyalkatchem, Nannup, and Northampton, and the growing expenditure on primary school buildings. Additional junior high schools are to be established in 1962 at Lake Grace and Darkan.

Technical education is being reorganised with the opening of separate trade schools and a decentralised programme from the Perth Technical College. As more students seek the services of the technical division for further education after leaving school, the number of full-time and part-time instructors must be increased. The additional salary expenditure in this division is anticipated to be almost £90,000, making the total item approximately £895,000.

Parallel to the increase in secondary enrolments, there has been an increase in the number of full-time students in technical schools. The total number of individual students, both part-time and full-time, enrolled in technical institutions in 1959 was 36,651; and in 1960 it was 38,200. In 1961 these figures will have reached 40,000.

In order to meet the increasing demand on the technical education side, some extensions to the Leederville Technical School, and the conversion of the old Midland High School for technical purposes have accordingly improved facilities. Extensions to the Wembley Technical School during the current year will enable the engineering trades to be adequately catered for at that centre instead of in the City of Perth.

Planning is proceeding on an institution to replace the present Perth Technical College. I might also say that a contract has been let for the erection of substantial buildings at Albany for a technical annexe at that centre. As soon as the new primary school which is now in course is completed at Bunbury the old school will be converted into an annexe for that centre. In both centres there has been an increased demand in the last couple of years, and they have received attention. Similar considerations are in mind for Geraldton, where it is hoped that steps can be taken in the reasonably near future.

I might now turn for a moment to the teachers' training question. The resources of the teachers' training division are severely taxed, with each college coping with the maximum number it can accommodate. The reclassification of the salaries of the lecturing staff, the increased number of students, and the consequent additional staff have all combined to increase the salary expenditure by approximately £48,000. The total expenditure is £760,000.

Increases in the fees for university students will increase the expenditure in this particular item by about £3,000. Increased enrolments, of course, have raised the necessity to train yet a greater number of teachers, and have led to an increase in 1961 of 186 trainees over the 1959 figure of 1,185, which resulted in a total number of 1,316 trainee teachers in 1960; and 1,369 in 1961.

Last year some 525 students from the two training colleges graduated, but necessarily there are a number of retirements

and resignations during the year, not to forget the unfortunate cases of some of the teachers who died while still in the service of the department. In consequence, the number that can be classified as being additional to the teaching staff is considerably less than the number of graduates.

The number of school bus services continue to increase, as more areas are developed and consolidation progresses. From 568 buses, contract and subsidised, carrying 18,523 children daily in 1959, the services rose to 591 buses—an increase of 23—carrying 19,417 children in 1960. In this year, 1961, there are 618 buses for 20,059 children.

There were some increased operating costs, including a rise in the standard rate of bus contracts, and increased wages due to basic wage adjustments under the agreed formula. These, with the additional services referred to, will cause the expenditure on transport, including driving allowances to individuals, to increase by approximately £32,000. The expenditure on this item is quite likely to pass £1,000,000 annually. The cost per child at the present time is £49 7s. 7d.

In order to facilitate the ease of operation of bus services in country areas, school bus advisory committees are being established to act as advisers to the Education Department on problems of school bus administration in each locality. A guide book on these services has been issued, and the Government has now agreed to pay the installation and rental costs for telephones in country schools operating bus services. This is estimated to cost £1,300 annually. Some of those schools had the telephone before, but a number did not; and in view of the exigencies of the school bus service it was considered essential that all schools where bus services brought children to them should be thus served. Hence the arrangements made quite recently.

During 1961 a change was made in the scholarship scheme, as the scheme previously in operation had ceased to bear any relationship to modern needs. The change involved the cessation of scholarships offered at the end of the primary school, and the transfer of the same allocation of finance to the third year of secondary education. The only scholarships to be awarded at the end of primary school are the "District Superintendents' Scholarships" for children who, in order to obtain a secondary education, must live away from home. There will be 50 of these of an annual value of £30. On the results of the Junior Certificate examination 50 scholarships of an annual value of £60 will be awarded to enable children of high ability to continue their education to Leaving standard. In order to provide these scholarships an amount of £162,000 has

been provided in the Estimates. This is an increase of £6,500 over expenditure for 1960-61.

I might say that the system of bursaries for assisting young people who desire to become school teachers from the Junior to the Leaving standard is still continuing. There have been suggestions that the stage has arrived when consideration should be given to its discontinuance, but that has been frowned upon by the department and myself because it is considered highly desirable for the present, and for some considerable time to come, that there should be such a scheme maintained, as it is undoubtedly contrived to attract a great number of very desirable people, who otherwise could not have managed to remain at school to the Leaving Certificate period, to the service of the department and, in consequence, of course, to the service of the children who have to be educated.

An estimate for subsidies to Government and non-Government schools is £74,250, which is an increase of £22,500 over expenditure in 1960-61. That is partly due to amendments to the legislation. In April, 1961, added assistance was provided to private schools by way of piano and library subsidies. These two subsidies alone will cost £17,000 in this financial year.

I would now like to touch on agricultural education, which is enjoying great success, both educationally and agriculturally. Replacements of vehicles and equipment, purchases of new equipment, and increases in wages of farm staff will increase expenditure by approximately £7,600 to a total expenditure of £89,400. At present there are four high schools which have agricultural "wings"; namely, the Narrogin Senior High School and Harvey, Denmark, and Cunderdin junior high schools.

Narrogin has progressed to the stage where in 1960 a profit was shown in every section of the farm. Although in the early stages it is not considered essential that an educational institution of this type should show a profit, it is gratifying to note that Narrogin, the oldest of these institutions, is showing a profit and may be considered a successful business venture as well as an effective training institution.

The new agricultural wing at Cunderdin, which also showed a profit, is still in its infancy but shows considerable promise of developing into a very adequate training centre. The improvement in the agricultural schools is chiefly due to the helpful advice afforded by advisory committees which have given much time and experienced advice to these schools, and the adoption of a new plan by the department some years ago.

I should like to pay a tribute to those gentlemen who voluntarily give a great deal of their time to consideration of all

the problems that are presented to them in respect of the development of agriculture at these agricultural wings, and who appear to me to thoroughly enjoy the really hard work they are called upon to do in many instances. I do not think that any words I can express can convey the real appreciation of the department, and I would suggest also of many others—the parents in particular—for the very excellent work that has been carried out by those gentlemen in the various areas.

The new dormitories at Narrogin have enabled a greater number of agricultural students to enter training. Further extensions in the future will extend these opportunities. Narrogin is also providing a third year of training for a small group of students. Day courses have been established at Margaret River, Boyup Brook, and Bridgetown. Land has been prepared at Wyalkatchem, and it is intended to introduce day courses also at Mt. Barker.

During 1960 the Country High School Hostels Authority was established to provide accommodation for primary and secondary children in areas where there was a need. The authority, which is empowered to raise £200,000 per annum for two years, has already authorised the building of a hostel at Merredin; this to be followed by a further hostel at Narrogin. The authority was at Carnarvon yesterday investigating what should be done at that centre, where the need is also considered to be a pressing one.

There has been an ever-increasing amount of material produced by the Education Department in the form of school papers, high school magazines, supplementary readers, and curricula, all of which is distributed to Government and non-Government schools. Some indications of the increase may be seen from the fact that in 1959 some 99,300 school papers and 41,000 high school magazines were distributed. In 1961 the number of school papers issued rose to 104,000, while 45,400 high school magazines were distributed. Supplementary literary readers have been published containing material from earlier school papers. A series of booklets on topical subjects for use in secondary classes is planned. Two excellent publications have already appeared on "Water Conservation" and "Indonesia." I might say that I have had an opportunity of reading the publication on Indonesia in recent times, and I would like to compliment those responsible for its preparation.

A considerable amount of research has been carried out both in primary and secondary education. In primary education there have been a number of standardised tests produced by the department, which have been offered free to schools. A scheme for increasing reading ability was produced in 1960 and distributed for use to

some 250 schools. Other activities involving research in arithmetic, spoken English, writing, and reading have also been undertaken. Major tasks planned for 1961-62 are the development of a programme in study skills and continuation of arithmetic research leading to a revision of the primary arithmetic curriculum. A curriculum in general religious instruction was issued to all primary-school teachers in 1961.

In the secondary field the major activity has been the development of a secondary-school curriculum, which has progressed to the stage where a syllabus in science is in wide use, and syllabuses in English, social studies, and health are in restricted use in some schools. Experimental work in a new approach to mathematics is being carried out in one senior high school.

Following the passing of the Education Act Amendment Bill during the last session, a tribunal has been established to handle all industrial matters concerning State school-teachers. The tribunal commenced its duties in April and it is expected that this will simplify procedures for teachers and administration alike. I might mention here that Mr. Alec Ball, formerly a legal practitioner at Harvey, has been appointed chairman; and Mr. Sampson, formerly headmaster of Perth Modern School, was elected by the State School Teachers' Union to represent them as a member of the tribunal; and the third member at the present time is Dr. Neal of the Education Department.

The department, in conjunction with the Teachers' Union, is conducting a survey into the provision of adequate housing for teachers. Prototypes of possible school residences and specifications of minimum basic requirements have been drawn up and circulated for comment. It is hoped that as a result of this survey the department will be able to provide satisfactory accommodation for teachers at reasonable rentals.

As from 1962 the Government has agreed to waive all tuition and examination fees for teachers doing departmental courses to fulfil promotional requirements. This will enable teachers to enrol without charge for instruction in teachers' certificate subjects or for guidance in doing teachers' higher certificate theses. The department will also bear all expenses connected with the examinations for these certificates. This will cost approximately £2,000 per year.

Specialist branches have increased expenditure in some, through the enlargement of their services. A piano-tuner is to be employed by the music branch to service all departmental pianos. This replaces the contract services previously provided; and the anticipated expenditure will be £900 for a vehicle, £250 for travelling, and approximately £1,500 for salary.

The move of the head office to its own buildings in Parliament Place—where as members know, Hale School was formerly situated—will involve some additional expenditure in certain areas. The need to provide ground and cleaning staff, switch-board equipment, and operators and other staff will increase the expenditure on salaries for the head office by approximately £29,000.

There is no question, however, that the allocation of the buildings—which had been purchased under an arrangement made some four or five years ago—to the Education Department was a very excellent move. The whole of the department, with few very small exceptions, is now housed under the one roof; and the comfort and convenience and ability to deal with the public, which previously was done under great difficulties in some instances because of the separation of sections of the department over a wide area of the city of Perth, has been removed; and the department, I am sure, feels it is functioning more satisfactorily.

To meet the growing enrolments and to eliminate substandard and temporary accommodation, some 666 classrooms will have been built over the past three years: 193 in 1959; 223 in 1960; and an estimated 250 by the end of 1961. The Government has continued to provide septic tank installations at country schools under arrangements made with local authorities, as provided for in the Bill introduced by the Minister for Health on behalf of the Government in 1959. At the beginning of 1959 some 195 schools were without septic systems; by July, 1961, only 88 schools had not been equipped, and 64 of these did not have an adequate water supply.

So it will be seen 107 schools have been equipped in just under two years, which I think shows a remarkably fine response from the local authorities to the proposals, and also the wisdom of the Government in introducing the proposition at the time it did.

I do not think there is anything more I can reasonably say in regard to the Education vote. I think that I have given a reasonable coverage of the affairs of the department over the year and some of its ideas and expectations for the ensuing year. I have also here the figures in regard to the estimates for the Crown Law Department. I think I could well leave it at this stage; and if members raise no objection, and if any member desires any information, when I reply I shall try to give it to him.

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [8.51 p.m.]: In speaking to this vote I cannot help but be impressed by the large amounts of money that have been expended on education in the State over the years. The amount provided this year is £10,662,000, which is an increase of

£1,040,239 over last year. I have no doubt that that vote will be increased from year to year as the State grows and makes the natural progress which we hope it will.

I would like again to direct the Minister's attention to the fact that the Geraldton High School is in need of more classrooms, as he knows. It has grown out of all proportion to what was expected in its early years, and it is very much in need of an assembly hall. When we ask for an assembly hall we are usually told that other schools are more in need of classrooms than the high school at Geraldton is in need of an assembly hall. Be that as it may, we will continue to press our claims for an assembly hall because we believe it is essential both for the students and for the teaching staff.

The school itself is a credit to the department and the State—that is, the way the school and its grounds have been kept. As I said before, it has grown out of all proportion; and I understand expected enrolments next year, in spite of the fact that there is a junior high school at Northampton, will make it necessary for the department and the Public Works Department to build more classrooms.

The other problem in Geraldton is the school at Bluff Point. That school has grown, and a lot of money has been spent on it in the way of maintenance. It is an old school. I understand the department had thought to remove it to another site a little further down. I can assure the Minister that if the department would do that it would have everything to commend it. The present site is not a suitable one for a playing area; but the other site, which is about 20 chains further down—an old site which was under the control of the municipality, but which has now reverted to the Education Department for educational needs—would make an ideal site for a secondary school at Bluff Point.

I mentioned previously that a junior high school has been built at Northampton. Actually, the extra rooms to make it a junior high school were built when the member for Mt. Hawthorn was Minister in the previous Administration. However, it is only this year that it was put into use. I have no doubt at all that the Minister can be assured the people in the Northampton district are glad of that junior high school; and my information is that it is again too small. It was built for a certain number of students, but those attending are far in excess of the number expected, and will be again next year. I wish to draw that to the attention of the Minister. It is most essential that an extra classroom be built at the Northampton Junior High School as soon as it is possible to do so.

Another need that is agitating the minds of the people who pay any thought to better education—particularly in a district like Geraldton, which is mainly noted

for its growing of cereals, tomatoes, and products of that kind—is the provision of an agricultural college where agricultural science can be taught to students to a more advanced degree than is possible at present. The future will prove that it will be very necessary for an agricultural college to be built; and no doubt it will be erected on the ground reserved at the high school at Geraldton, in which case it will be a fine asset for the district, and also for the State as a whole. We know that farming and the growing of produce today is becoming a highly scientific matter.

The only other matter on which I wish to speak concerns school buses. I often feel very sorry for the staff who have to control these buses. Those people certainly need a lot of patience and have to put a lot of time into seeing the buses are controlled properly. The distances which have to be travelled by children in most instances in the country are far too great; and I think the time has been reached—I think it has been passed—when something should be done to shorten the distances that children have to travel to attend school.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [8.57 p.m.]: I would like to make a short comment on this vote, mainly dealing with the matter referred to by the member for Geraldton; that is, the siting of schools. I have noticed several classic examples where housing commission development has taken place without sufficient thought being given in the planning to a school site, which would be adequate and which would be in a suitable place, having regard to the development of the housing.

In the case of Cloverdale, after a long time a site was selected for an infants' school near the high school. It was totally unsuitable, and I brought the fact to the notice of the House previously; because while it may have been quite justifiable to have a high school where it is in central Belmont, the site finally selected for the infants' school was not a good one by a long stretch of the imagination as regards its position. Children have to travel a considerable distance to get to it as it is not central at all. They have to travel a considerable way without bus transport, and it is necessary for them to use roads without footpaths.

This causes considerable concern to the parents of that district. Much the same position prevails in the Wilson area where, for some reason or other, the department procrastinated in regard to the securing of a site; and as far as I know, it has not yet obtained one. Rather, it continued to build up the Bentley Infants' Primary School, which is a big school in its own right at the present time.

The children from the Wilson housing area who attend the Bentley School have to cross Manning Road—another road that

is used by fast-moving traffic, and one which has no footpath. This is hazardous, not only for the children, but also for the motorist and the heavy transport that is using it, particularly as children are apt to lose their powers of concentration on occasions. This hazard causes the parents a great deal of worry.

The Wilson area has been fairly well developed; but unfortunately the area that was first developed was that which is most distant from the Bentley School; and, as I said before, there is no centralised school site. Most of the people in that area are young couples with young families. It will be some considerable time before they are in need of close-proximity school accommodation. I suggest that the Minister take steps to see that a suitable site is secured and that there is close co-operation, and insistence on co-operation, between his department and the Housing Commission; and that in future provision for such sites be made in respect of new subdivisions.

The Housing Commission is able to make provision for shopping sites, doctors' surgeries, parks, and a dozen and one specialised purposes; yet it cannot find a few acres for a school site. I think it is most desirable to have a school site handy, particularly for an infants' school. Later on the children are more able to look after themselves, and it does not matter so much.

The case I have mentioned is a glaring example of insufficient provision being made. I raised this matter with the department before there was one house in the area. After this period of time, and after all this building has taken place, there is no finality in providing a school for the district. I would ask that the Minister watch this aspect in future.

Perhaps some areas have been luckier than Wilson or Cloverdale. The examples I have given typify the department's inability to obtain co-operation from the State Housing Commission, in so far as suburban development is concerned.

MR. I. W. MANNING (Harvey) [9.2 p.m.]: I desire to take this opportunity to make a few comments on the Education Vote in the Estimates. One of the greatest forward steps which have been made in education in this State in recent times has been the addition of an agricultural wing to high schools and some of the junior high schools.

The point I wish to make is that there is a very real need for agricultural wings of high schools to be built up in such a way that they can cope with the ever-increasing number of students. This type of education is becoming very popular, and the department will be going all out to cope with facilities to teach agricultural students. I think the time is ripe for us to establish more agricultural wings.

I was interested to hear the member for Geraldton say there was a need for such a wing at the Geraldton High School. There are many large centres—such as Geraldton, Esperance, Manjimup, Busselton, and Bridgetown—which do not, at the present time, cater for agricultural education. I think we could do the State a great service if we provided agricultural wings throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia in order to educate students in the different districts.

There is a vast difference between the approach to agricultural education in Narrogin and Harvey; and I know that this applies to Cunderdin and Denmark. The difference is brought about by the environment under which students are taught. Comparing Narrogin with Harvey, at Narrogin there are broad acres and there is any amount of room in which to work and teach; whereas at Harvey we are very cramped for space. It is somewhat characteristic of the district that we have to make each and every acre produce as much as possible. It is really intense farming of every type, and it forces people in the district to get the maximum development out of the land.

There is need at Harvey for additional land for educational purposes, and more land will have to be provided. I do not doubt that the Education Department will recognise that problem in the near future, and will take steps to provide more land.

Looking further afield, I feel it will be necessary to have high schools and junior high schools teaching agricultural subjects in the other centres I have mentioned. There is an ever-increasing demand to provide opportunities for students. Those people who are interested in farming would prefer to go to an agricultural college in their own district, and this applies to Geraldton as well as Bridgetown or any other centre.

Mr. Watts: If I remember rightly, the next one is promised for Morawa.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: That is very interesting, because that takes agricultural education into a district where there is a considerable difference between the type of agriculture undertaken in that district and that undertaken in the south-west. I think that would achieve something which I am advocating.

It takes time for these agricultural colleges to be established. I appeal to the Government to recognise this problem now, and to make provision for it. I would also ask the Government to make provision for expansion. We will feel the pinch of this at Harvey, as at the present time we have no room to expand. This forces us to an intense type of farming, but we have other fields of farming to cater for.

The success of agricultural education is largely due to the enthusiasm of principals and teaching staff of agricultural

colleges. It is noticeable that these people have approached their duties with a great deal of enthusiasm and are very interested in their subject; also, they have been able to pass on that enthusiasm to the students, therefore bringing about much success. Increasing popularity of agricultural education reflects credit on those principals and teaching staffs at our agricultural wings. I think that any encouragement the department gives such men will be well rewarded.

Another type of agricultural education which cannot be stressed too much is the bookkeeping side. At the Narrogin agricultural wing a good deal of attention is given to this subject. Strict attention is given to costing and detailed accounts of expenditure and revenue; and this is all-important to the practical farmer because, in too many instances in the past, a farmer has been in difficulties before his books revealed the nature of his difficulties.

If we start young agriculturalists off on the right foot and enable them to give close attention to their costing, expenditure, and revenue, we will have achieved something in agricultural education which is vitally necessary, especially these days when costs are very important.

MR. BRADY (Guildford-Midland) [9.10 p.m.]: I would like to make a few remarks in connection with this vote. I notice that the Minister has his pencil out, and I would ask him to make a note of two places in my electorate which I feel will require attention along the lines mentioned by the member for Beeloo and previous speakers.

I received a reply from the Minister to the effect that it is considered that Hazelmere—a new area which is developing—is provided with adequate school facilities. As a matter of fact, there is no school there at all. There is a school approximately three miles away in one direction. This area is growing rapidly; and should a railway line be established through to Welshpool *via* Midland it could mean that a siding would be set up at this particular location, and the residential area would develop. I would like to see the Minister set aside an area of five or six acres for the purpose of building a school, because this would relieve the position at other schools three or four miles away.

I would not be surprised to hear, in a few years' time, the people of Guildford saying that the Guildford School is totally inadequate for their requirements, as the whole area would not be more than an acre or an acre and a half, free of build-ings.

Another area which could easily grow to equal importance, if not more importance, is Wexcombe which is on the outskirts of my electorate. When visiting one of the local schools in my electorate recently, it was mentioned that when the standard

gauge railway came into being, the men employed on the railway may be required to live in Wexcombe. There would be no special trains running from Perth to Midland to provide for these men and they would have to live near their work.

If this occurs, the Middle Swan and Swan View schools will not be able to cater for the extra population. I would therefore suggest that the Minister have his officers look at the position with a view to providing a school at Wexcombe, or to extending the Middle Swan School. If the Minister will have a look at these matters, on behalf of the people of the Guildford-Midland electorate I will be very pleased.

SIR ROSS McLARTY (Murray) [9.14 p.m.]: I also propose to make a few remarks in connection with these Estimates. Members will be pleased to see the very considerable increase in this vote. The total estimate is £10,662,000, and there is an increase of £1,040,239. There are some people in the State who are very active in advocating that increasing amounts should be provided for education. If those people take a reasonable view I think they will be satisfied that the State Government is doing all it can to provide as much money as possible for education.

We have our university, for which a very considerable sum is provided. I often wonder why the university vote does not come under the Minister for Education, because it is just as much a part of our educational system as our primary and secondary education.

I take this opportunity of expressing appreciation to the Minister for Education for the great enthusiasm which he shows. If for a moment I will not be accused of party-political bias, I think I can truthfully say that our present Minister is one of the most outstanding Ministers of Education that we have had in this State. Over the long period that I have been associated with him I have known of his great enthusiasm in regard to education; and I know that if there is one portfolio that he does relish having it is that of education. I think it is only fitting that when one does such excellent work appreciation should be expressed in regard to it.

So far as I am concerned locally, as a district representative I must state that I think I have been very well treated. The schools in my district have been improved in all parts, and general satisfaction has been expressed. I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the work that has been done. I hope that the high school at Pinjarra, which services all the surrounding district, will become a five-year high school, and that the time is not far distant when that state of affairs will be brought about.

As I go about and see exhibitions of school work from time to time, I cannot help thinking how interesting school life is now made for the children. I remember my days at school; and through the intervening years I have noted the tremendous improvements that have been made in regard to education, and how much more children are interested in education than they were in earlier times. I think that has been brought about by the attitude of the teachers to the children; and they engage in more interesting work.

Also, one should not fail to express appreciation of the work of the parents and citizens' associations; and I have heard the Minister do this from time to time. It would be of interest to know how much money has been raised throughout the State by the various P. & C. Associations. A tremendous amount of work has been put into it; one sees these associations at shows, trotting meetings, race meetings, sales—and goodness knows what else!—working to provide additional money in order to educate their children. They have provided many amenities for schools, and those amenities have been of great value.

There may still be a few people who say that this is the responsibility of the Government; but, of course, while Governments endeavour to provide as much finance as possible, there are some things that they cannot do; and if it were not for the valuable work of the parents and citizens' associations throughout the State some of our schools would not have these amenities which we consider so necessary these days.

Mr. Sewell: They certainly collect a lot of money.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: They do. The Minister made some reference to two publications that have recently been provided in the schools, and I have copies of them here. The Director of Education sent them to me because of some remarks I made at the opening of the Serpentine Dam. I said that school children should be taught about the value of water, and to guard against its wastage.

I have had a look at the publication, and I agree with the Minister that it is excellent and should be—and I am sure will be—of great benefit to the children. I think it is another example of the progressive thoughts of the Education Department, and these publications are a further means of interesting our children in a very worth-while subject.

The same applies to the publication on Indonesia. In these days, particularly, it is a good thing that children should know something not only about their own country but also of what is happening in other countries of the world, particularly along the lines that they are developing.

Another pleasing feature is the number of schools—and I refer particularly to country areas—that are being provided with septic systems. This has been brought about through co-operation from all local authorities who were enabled to raise money in order that these septic systems could be installed. They are an absolute necessity, and without the brainwave which brought it about, a great number of country school would have been a much longer time without septic systems. I believe they are essential and I am very glad to see the progress that has been made with them.

When one thinks of education and its future one naturally thinks of one avenue which must play a most important part in education in the future: I refer to television. I suppose it will be only a matter of time, Mr. Minister, before we will have television sets installed in our schools.

Mr. Watts: I hope it is a long time.

Mr. O'Neil: So do I.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: I still think it will come about. We have wireless; and, of course, great use has been made of that. However, I do want to say a few words about television. The other evening I watched a programme, and I saw an announcer moving around a well-known part of Sydney.

Mr. Evans: Which part was that?

Sir ROSS McLARTY: A thickly-populated part. The announcer was questioning people regarding what they thought of TV; and, of course, there were a number of conflicting views. I have television in my own home, which I watch occasionally; and I cannot help but think that some of the programmes which we see are not desirable. I do not know why we should have to be subjected to watching shootings and murders taking place, and listen to most appalling English being used night after night.

I have asked people about it and some say, "That's the American way." I cannot believe that all Americans use this shockingly bad English. I met many of them during the war and when I travelled overseas, and I found them to be ordinary citizens—except for their American accent—who speak decent English. But if ever one hears English murdered one hears it on television!

Repeatedly one sees at the beginning of a film, "This film is not suitable for children." But, of course, there is no doubt great numbers of children watch such films. They see these shootings going on every night, with a murder here and a murder there, and bang-bang going on. One cannot get away from it.

Some teachers have already complained and have said it is detrimental to the children. I believe it is, and I think that the powers-that-be should exercise some

control over these things. The sooner we can get back to having our own good Australian films on television, the better it will be. I cannot help but feel that in Australia we have the talent to produce good films which would make a greater appeal to us and do away with this trash that is pushed up to us night after night.

Mr. Brady: Well spoken!

Sir ROSS McLARTY: The other day I was moving along quietly and I ran into a bunch of little boys with revolvers stuck in their belts. Immediately they saw me one of them ran up to me, pulled out his revolver, and said, "Stick 'em up!" I did not have a heart attack.

Mr. Bickerton: Did you "Stick 'em up!"

Mr. Evans: He thought you were a member of the "Tax-us" rangers.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: That is an indication of what goes on in the young children's minds; and I do not think it is good.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Probably you used to do that once, except that you probably said "Bail up!"

Sir ROSS McLARTY: From the point of view of the child I do not think it is good; and I do not think it is good from the point of view of the adult, either. He continually sees crime and how it is committed, and the devious means by which crime is committed by people acting as criminals. Somebody said to me, "Yes; but they are usually brought to book and found guilty."

Mr. Bickerton: The kids are usually in bed by the time he is found guilty.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: No they are not. The honourable member has not been visiting too many homes lately. I say again: I think more control should be exercised by the authorities in regard to the pictures which are being shown on television. More appropriate pictures should be shown, and surely we have not reached the stage where we can best be entertained by watching murders and crime.

Mr. Bickerton: I agree with you; and some of the advertisements are even indecent.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: It is said that growing old means an inability to absorb new ideas. I do not think I have reached that stage yet; but I cannot absorb these new ideas where one is expected to sit and watch crime pictures every night: pictures which are neither in the interests of the child nor in the interests of the community generally.

I would just like to say a few words about housing. The Minister mentioned this matter when he was introducing the vote. I know the teachers in my electorate have extreme difficulty in finding suitable accommodation, and this does not apply only to my electorate. I have discussed the matter with the Minister, and he has told

me of the very great sum of money that would be required to provide housing for teachers. Like other members I have received correspondence from teachers complaining about the accommodation they have and asking for better facilities. I presume that if they are provided with better housing they will be quite prepared to pay a higher rental. This housing problem does not affect only the married teachers; it also presents a very real problem to the single teachers, particularly the young people who are sent out into country districts. I think a teacher in this category has some reason to complain. I know that the Minister is quite concerned with, and is aware of this problem. I hope that some scheme can be evolved to provide teachers with housing accommodation, and thereby avoid a good deal of embarrassment which is caused at present.

MR. O'NEIL (Canning) [9.31 p.m.]: My gratitude is extended to the Minister and to the officers of the Education Department for the manner in which they have provided educational facilities in the Canning electorate. I am fully appreciative of the difficulty which this department faces from time to time, and I am also very appreciative of the manner in which the departmental officers have managed to overcome those disabilities, to a great degree.

I did not intend to say anything on the subject of television in schools, or on the subject of television generally, but the member for Murray provoked the Attorney-General into remarking that he hoped it would be a long time before television was used in schools. I completely support the opinion of the Minister.

Last year the member for Fremantle made some reference to television in schools. We must realise that the use of visual aids in schools plays a very important part in education, but such aids must be used correctly. A teacher trained in the use of visual aids, such as a movie projector, recognises there is a pattern to follow. The same pattern cannot be applied to television sets to teach students a particular subject matter, because generally a television film is shown only once.

Basically the subject matter in a film, in the case of a movie projector being used as a visual aid, becomes a matter for discussion in the class. The film is shown to the students, and further discussion takes place when the teacher endeavours to find out the points which the students have missed. The teacher will explain those points, and the film is shown on a second occasion to consolidate the lesson, and to clear up the points which had been missed. The same practice cannot be adopted with the use of a television set as a visual aid, because the film is shown only once.

The visual section of the Education Department has a wonderful library of films, and these are for the greater part used

in school telecasts. Here again they are only shown once. Throughout the metropolitan area, which is served by television, on a certain day one film would be exhibited in all schools. So there would be a limited usage of the facilities of the library in the visual education section. Most teachers realise that the movie projector, which is capable of being moved from classroom to classroom, as well as the still projector, which is possessed by most schools through the efforts of the parents and citizens' associations, is far superior to anything which can be provided through television. However, I think that television does have a proper place in the field of education in the home.

The member for Murray referred to acts of violence, murder, and crime depicted in television features. He suggested that this country should develop its own television films. One session which to my mind is most educational is the "Mickey Mouse Club" show for children. Although it contains some rubbish, apart from the entertainment value members will be able to see that there is a good deal of excellent educational material in this series. The member for Murray suggests more Australian productions on television in lieu of American material.

There is an Australian production shown during the children's session on television called "The Terrific Adventures of the Terrible Ten". This feature should be completely banned, because it is badly produced, and does not have any true relationship to conditions in Australia. It does not truly represent the life which our children lead. Looking at the cast, it appears that the whole feature is produced by one family. This sort of film is detrimental to the reputation of Australian productions. By all means let us have Australian films, but not of this type.

There is one other matter I want to touch on. I refer to parents and citizens' associations. Last year I mentioned the fact that in many well-developed schools the parents and citizens' associations were finding it rather difficult to put their talents to use, in raising money for certain purposes. In the big schools most of the teaching aids have been provided, and the parents and citizens' associations are looking out for much larger projects.

I mentioned one project last year, although I was not particularly enthusiastic about it. That was the building of school halls in primary schools by these associations. Whilst this is a reasonable project I feel that the Government has more need for its money in the field of education than to spend it in subsidising such projects. I did put up a proposition to the Minister which, although attractive, could not be agreed to because of a shortage of finance.

In brief the proposition was this: That a Government fund be established for the purpose of setting aside money to assist

with school-hall building projects, on the basis of subsidising 50 per cent. of the cost; that a priority list be commenced; and that before any parents and citizens' association could be placed on that priority list it must show that at least one-quarter of the total cost was held in a fund set aside for that purpose; and that details as to the manner in which the remaining one-quarter of the cost was to be raised be submitted; and further, that the Government provide assistance in priority order, as funds became available.

With what information was available to me, I found there were not many primary schools in a position to avail themselves of this opportunity. I assessed that the burden in any one year would not exceed £8,000 to £10,000. That amount would cover the cost of building a couple of classrooms, so the cost had to be considered by the Government.

I did write to the Western Australian Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of which Mr. Kahan is the secretary. I would like to pay a tribute to him for the great work he has done for the federation. I mentioned this proposal to him, and I received a letter dated the 21st March, 1961, in reply as follows:—

Many thanks for your note and its enclosure on Parents and Citizens' Halls. I won't hazard a guess as to the number of Parents and Citizens' Associations likely to accept responsibility for erecting a school hall of a capital value of £8,000-£10,000. I doubt if there would be many. Any parents and Citizens' Association likely to do so would need to remember that their school must not be totally deprived of assistance in its day to day needs.

Federation has at work now a sub-committee enquiring into ways whereby Parents and Citizens' Associations, with major projects in mind, may obtain financial aid without, as at present, requiring individual guarantors. In Victoria legislation exists whereby, under a Co-operative Societies' Act, Parents and Citizens' Associations (or equivalent bodies) can, by giving their aims and displaying their resources (actual and potential) obtain Government guarantees for overdrafts to erect school halls, swimming pools, etc. This sub-committee has not yet completed its investigations. I apprise you of this scheme in the hope that perhaps similar legislation might be contemplated here.

An extension of local government borrowing powers (as is used in getting septic tanks at schools) might also be considered.

With best wishes.

The correct name of the Act referred to in that letter is the Co-operation Act.

Shortly after making these inquiries I was approached by the Applecross Senior High School with a proposal that it was submitting to the Government for consideration. The proposal was for the construction of a swimming pool. I understand that the Tuart Hill High School intends to build a swimming pool also, but I am not sure of the size. It is negotiating with private guarantors, and with the permission of the department a swimming pool is likely to be built in the school grounds.

When the Applecross Parents & Citizens' Association submitted this proposal to me, the case was exceptionally well prepared. Details of the association's fund-raising potential were given, as well as what the association had done in the past. It also gave details of investigations made with regard to the raising of finance. I understand that the project will cost something in the nature of £20,000. The association was able to meet most of the conditions imposed by the people from whom it was to borrow the money, except to repay the sum in a period of 10 years or less.

The ability of this parents and citizens' association to do so was based on its potential fund-raising capacity. The association submitted details of the operation of the high school canteen and other activities it conducted. This high school is at present catering for children in the fourth year of high school, and next year it will cater for students in the fifth year. At present the school has been operating for three and three-quarter years, and at the time this proposal was submitted it had been operating for three and a quarter years.

Items of canteen equipment purchased by the canteen committee in a period of two and a half years, remembering of course that the canteen building was provided by the department but the rest of the equipment was provided and paid for by the committee, amounted to £1,460 5s. Items of equipment placed in the school in addition are—

Item	Value £ s. d.
Piano	150 0 0
Public Address System	391 1 4
Library Books	215 19 1
Bicycle Racks	429 1 2
Sporting Equipment	152 1 2
Lawn Mower and Fuel	88 16 6
Fertiliser Spreader	13 10 0
Garden Spray	5 0 0
Film Projector	269 1 0
Film Projector Trolley	9 12 6

That makes a total of £1,724 2s. 9d., and the departmental subsidy applying to some of these items amounted to £405 0s. 11d.

In addition, further expenditure was made on the sports ground as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Levelling and top dressing oval and three courts	1,320	11	0
Two turf wickets	142	11	4
Levelling, etc., of volley ball court	50	0	0

This, together with the £1,724 2s. 9d. mentioned above, makes a total of £3,237 5s. 4d. The total Government subsidy, £200 being received for the levelling and top dressing, amounts to £605 0s. 11d.

There were other items for which no subsidy was granted, these being—

	£	s.	d.
Typewriter for use of P. & C.	21	12	6
Three practice cricket pitches just completed, estimated	250	0	0

The total amount actually spent by the association in three and a quarter years was £2,903 16s. 11d. To this must be added £1,460 5s. spent on canteen equipment, which makes a total of almost £4,500 in a very short time. I think the parents and citizens' association must be complimented on its effort in this regard.

It is indicated in other documents attached to its proposal that the association is assured of an annual income which would assist it in the payment of the loan raised in connection with the pool and the servicing of that pool. This annual income would be about £1,700. The association indicates that if a charge of 1s. lesson fee were made in lieu of the transport costs which would have to be paid to another pool, an additional £700 would be raised. Therefore the guaranteed income which could be diverted principally towards the payment of the loan for the pool would be £2,400 per annum. This could be appreciably increased by fees charged for the use of the pool by other primary schools in the area.

Swimming classes will also be held, and a fete which is held annually invariably raises £500. There could be other special means of raising funds for the project, including admission fees to swimming carnivals, sales from stalls, etc. One could think of innumerable ways in which funds could be raised.

Perhaps the problem of supervision is regarded as serious or as one which is difficult to overcome. However, we have to remember that at the senior high school there is a caretaker resident in the grounds. He is employed by the department. There is no reason why the pool could not be surrounded by a cyclone wire fence allowing admission from the school grounds as well as providing access other than from the school. Consequently, if the pool were

used at week-ends for sporting functions it would not be necessary for participants to go through the school grounds.

The proposition sounds very good and commendable. However, it does appear that at the moment the Government is legally unable to assist such worthy projects. I feel that perhaps the suggestion of Mr. Kahan, the secretary of the West Australian Parents and Citizens' Association with respect to special legislation should be given consideration. It must be expected that schools be able to supply a certain percentage of the money and indicate that it would be available for that purpose before they would even be considered for assistance.

They must also be able to show as clearly as the Applecross Senior High School has shown that, in fact, they can meet the commitments which would be required for the repayment of principal and interest and also a sum something like £300 per annum for servicing, cleaning and chlorinating the pool.

I recommend the project to the Minister and trust that, with his usual generosity, he will give it consideration.

MR. KELLY (Merredin-Yilgarn) [9.49 p.m.]: I have a few observations to make in connection with these Estimates. I am very pleased to know that the department has undertaken a survey of accommodation for teachers, because this has been an outstanding problem for quite a number of years. The action of the Government will receive a tremendous amount of approbation from many quarters.

There are two teachers' houses in my own area which come into this category. One is the teacher's residence at Burracoppin. For some years now the problem has been not only a very poorly-sited house but a very poor type of house. When I say "poorly sited" I do so because most of the stormwater—we do have some rain up there sometimes—is directed through the house and, as a matter of fact, lodges for quite a considerable time afterwards right around it.

Most of the teachers occupying that house in the past few years have been married men with a number of young children, and it is very unpleasant that they have been subjected to these conditions, because the house is itself a small one, very old, and of poor construction. The present man has three children and there is very little room. When the children are confined to the house it becomes very trying for the parents.

I think the problem of flooding rests partly with the local authority, because the drainage has probably not been adequately provided for; otherwise the water would be able to escape much more quickly.

The other very poor building is at the No. 5 pumping station. It is a very ancient type of house and has been used

mainly by single people. Others who have occupied the house have done so for a very short time.

Another matter I desire to comment upon is the new hostel being built at Merredin. Good progress is being made with its construction, as the Minister well knows, and it should be completed in time for the contemplated opening date next year. The point I want to raise in connection with this hostel is that although I think it is designed to accommodate somewhere in the vicinity of 85 or 90 students—

Mr. Watts: Ninety-six.

Mr. KELLY:—there is every indication at present that accommodation for 96 will be required.

Mr. Watts: They tell me it will hold 100.

Mr. KELLY: From the number of inquiries which have been made about this hostel I feel that almost from the day of opening the Minister will be faced with the necessity of having to make further provision at a very early date if we are to cope with the vast territory which is to be covered by this hostel. It would be a pity if we had to slip back again to the position where many applicants would have to be turned away because there was not sufficient accommodation. If that were to occur the district would be retarded once again. I just thought I had better draw the Minister's attention to the possibility of having to provide further accommodation, within the limits of finance, at a fairly early date.

I think the member for Murray touched on the subject which is in the minds of most of us; and that is the programmes on TV. Undoubtedly there are a lot of very good programmes. Some would say there are no good programmes, but I feel there are quite a number which have a very high educational value.

I believe that television is passing through a teething stage. We are now receiving much of the film which America has been using in the past six or seven years. Even as far back as four or five years ago, the standard of programme in America was very much better than the standard which exists here at the moment. It is probably due to economy in the film world that much of this old film is coming to Western Australia, and it will probably be some time before the standard does improve. At the same time I feel there are possibilities with regard to Australian films, and that representations should be made by the State to the Commonwealth Government in an endeavour to have the type of programme improved at an early date.

I agree, too, with the member for Murray in his belief that the classification of films by making them "A" or "G" is so much hokey when it comes to

children—or even parents in very many cases—having any regard to film classification because neither children nor parents believe that those letters are an indication of a programme's detrimental or beneficial effect.

It is silly to mark a film as being not suitable for children and hope the kiddies will go out into the backyard and wait for the programme to conclude. It would not be human nature, and children would not be children if they were to take that attitude. As a matter of fact, I think a lot of children look forward to a little spice when they know that a programme is classified as not being suitable for them. This situation is definitely due for some overhaul.

Another matter which is due for some overhaul is assistance granted by the Education Department for the installation of lighting plants in the remote country schools. There are very many which are still using light which is little better than that of hurricane lamps. These lights are a hazard and should not be used in schools any longer than is necessary. Many of the buildings which are housing the head teachers and other teachers who are in control of the small schools are old weatherboard buildings, and the lights used are a definite fire hazard.

I have in mind that over a period of years various schools have applied to the department for assistance in the purchase of lighting plant. Many of them have the idea that because most farmers in the early days preferred the 32 volt plants, these are the ones which should be installed. But of course they are not acceptable to the department and have not been encouraged. Many applications made by parents and citizens' associations have been rejected because that type of 32 volt plant has been requested.

I understand that in recent times there has been an alteration in the departmental outlook and it is now possible for parents and citizens' associations to purchase 250 volt plants with some assistance from the department. These 250 volt plants have been installed in some schools. Lighting plants are necessary not only in the teachers' quarters but also in the school buildings; because apart from the necessity for light during school hours, a lot of the school buildings are used for meeting places, and a decent light would be a very great asset.

Many of the parents and citizens' associations would be faced with the necessity of finding about £350 by the time batteries were included for a 250 volt set. When we consider the assistance the department is prepared to give—about £50 plus the housing for the plant—we realise that quite a gap is left, and in the smaller areas the opportunities for the parents and citizens' associations to raise money are very

limited. The schools in such places have about 25 to 40 children attending, which means there would be only 18 or 20 families directly supporting the association.

I do commend to the Minister the possibility of making some alteration in the department's outlook in connection with the assistance it renders. The parents and citizens' associations do a marvellous job and they have saved the State possibly hundreds of thousands of pounds. I ask the Minister to look at some of the matters I have raised, because without undertaking an extensive operation, there is room to do something in connection with them.

MR. HALL (Albany) [10.2 p.m.]: Perhaps I can start on a brighter note than that on which the Minister opened, because I can suggest how he can save a few pounds; and I am sure he would like to do that! I refer to an assembly hall that will probably have to be established at the high school at Albany so that the pupils may have some place where they can assemble in inclement weather.

In order to assist the Minister, I point out that this matter comes under the youth and physical education section of his estimates. Through that section of the estimates he could assist the community youth centre which is being established within about 400 yards of the high school. This centre will be catering for youth on the physical and educational side in the Albany and surrounding districts. It is a project being commenced by the Apex Club, and it presents an admirable opportunity for the holding of high school assemblies.

This is a matter which will probably have to be faced by the Minister at some time, no matter who the Minister might be; and he might be able to find some of the necessary finance in the youth and physical education vote. If he did that he would achieve a double purpose. He would give the district the advantages of an assembly hall, and he would provide a big asset for the district.

The Apex Club of Albany—as, indeed, the apex clubs throughout the State—needs no praise for the efforts it puts forward; and from the way it is tackling this job, I am sure it will be an attribute to Albany; and in regard to it the Minister may be able to assist himself and assist a worthy organisation.

I wish to mention the question of physical education. I feel we do not attach sufficient importance to this aspect of education. We can see the youngsters taking part in athletic events; and from the way they are developing we can look forward to a much better Australia. I recently visited the interschool sports at Albany, and I was very struck with the keenness shown by the competitors. We should give them every possible advantage.

Some people might say there is too much play; but I sometimes think a child's mind becomes much brighter when the child takes part in athletics, because it goes back to the schoolroom with a better sense of comradeship and a better feeling generally.

Today we seem to be racing and getting nowhere. A little more money spent on the physical side of education would, in the final analysis, result in a benefit. The children of today will be the future parents of Australia and they may well lead us back to the path from which, I am afraid, we have wandered. All we can think about today is world domination and destruction. I am hoping we will find our way back to something better than that; and I think we can do it through youth on the physical education side.

I believe there will be a necessity for a three-year high school at Albany; but some of the departmental heads do not agree with me. They point to some of the bigger schools which have included the three-year arrangement, and say they have been successful. But I think that is an unwieldy arrangement, and it causes the pupils to lose the true sense of education and comradeship, and to become machines.

We could have a three-year high school and still use the annexe which the Minister has seen fit to have built there. The annexe will cater for technical education. I ask the Minister to give consideration to that aspect when the necessity arises to establish a three-year high school. It does not appear to be necessary at the moment, but it will be sooner or later.

Recently I asked questions and received answers in respect of a teachers' training college at Albany. There was a site selected on the Marbellup Road adjacent to some pensioners' cottages. Now another site has been selected facing Collingwood Road; and it is a much better site than the previous one. But according to the Minister's reply it will be some time before a training college is established. It may be that the Minister is better informed than I am—he should be—but do not let us put this matter too far back in our minds; we must keep pushing forward with the idea of having a teachers' training college at Albany, because it would serve a large area. I think the Albany district will have the necessary population to warrant such a college.

Another point I wish to deal with concerns the infants' school. We are making provision at the end of the journey by providing for three-year and five-year high schools and extra classroom expansion—and I pay tribute to the Minister for doing that to cater for the overwhelming number of students at the Albany high school, but the infants' school is standing still. The population of Albany and the surrounding districts, however, is not

standing still. It has gone up to 13,000 if we include the municipality and the shire council.

The infants' school is situated on the main highway leading into the town; and that is dangerous. Fortunately we have the co-operation of the teachers and the traffic constables, which makes it almost impossible for accidents to happen; but there is the possibility that they will happen. I ask the Minister to consider either classroom expansion for the infants' school, or the erection of a new school. A new school would have to be built in a safer position, or else a back entrance would have to be made available to avoid the necessity of the children crossing the main highway.

I notice the Minister has increased the grant for music. I do not know whether he gained any knowledge overseas of what can be done to foster musical education. Perhaps he can give us that information when he replies. The increase in this connection amounts to £5,859. Perhaps the Minister has a good reason for it. Many schools in foreign countries, I believe, expand the musical side of education.

The assistance to private schools seems to have gone up considerably this year. Perhaps the Minister can explain that.

Mr. Watts: I did explain it; it is because of the additional allowance made under last year's Act.

Mr. HALL: I thank the Minister for his interjection.

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Minister for Education) [10.10 p.m.]: I wish to refer to quite a few matters; and starting at the wrong end I would like to deal with the remarks made by the member for Merredin-Yilgarn when he mentioned the teachers' quarters, and more particularly those at Burracoppin. We are aware that they are very unsatisfactory. As a matter of fact, there are a number that are regarded as being in that category. One is at Burracoppin and another is at Dowerin. My memory does not cover the remainder.

Whatever may happen in regard to the general scheme that we are endeavouring to develop—and the only problem at the moment is the question of finance, because no fewer than 150 houses are required—we shall endeavour to deal with the worst of these cases first; and I think the honourable member may rest assured that some attention will be given to the case he mentioned.

In regard to the Merredin hostel, I can promise him nothing this year. A tremendous amount has been spent by the hostel authority, and I suggest that when it is completed and he sees exactly what is happening, he make his representations

to the authority which will investigate the matter and make recommendations, because that is its position under the Act.

I shall now come back to the other end and deal with the points raised by the member for Beeloo. I wish to refer to two matters he mentioned, including the School Sites Committee. As the honourable member doubtless knows, the School Sites Committee has on it the Principal Architect, a representative of the Town Planning Board, the Director of Education, and a representative of the Public Works Department; and it has functioned very successfully for a number of years.

When the ex-Principal Architect (Mr. Clare) was on duty, he, being also the chairman of the Housing Commission, was no doubt in a better position to deal with these matters than is the present Principal Architect. I do not know what decision they have arrived at in regard to a site at Wilson, but I will refer the matter to the committee to find out. The same remarks apply to the member for Harvey who wants more land for the Harvey agricultural wing. We will do our best to find out what land is available, and whether it is necessary to acquire it, and whether it can be done. That will be another matter for the School Sites Committee.

The member for Guildford-Midland referred to the rapid growth taking place at Hazelmere. We told him a few weeks ago that we saw no immediate necessity to make provision there in view of its close proximity to other centres where there was still room for the children. But if, as he anticipates, rapid growth takes place earlier than we expect, I assure him that the best efforts will be made to cope with it, as has happened elsewhere.

The member for Murray gave us quite an interesting talk on the question of television, as also did the member for Canning. I interjected in the course of their remarks that I hoped it would be a long time before television was in the schools. The member for Canning gave us a review of the position as he sees it; and I must say that I subscribe substantially to what he said. But I do look forward, as the member for Merredin-Yilgarn mentioned, to some improvement in a few years in television programmes in this State, and perhaps some better co-ordination of those programmes so that more use may be made of them.

I do not know that that would, actually, justify their inclusion in schools, but at least it would tend to make television sets more useful for children in the home than they are at present. That is what we have to look for. I admit that we cannot keep youngsters away from the present television programmes, and that many of them are very good; but there are some

which the children should not be allowed to see. That is going to be a matter for parental control. It would be better if some of the programmes were never shown. That is what the member for Merredin-Yilgarn was endeavouring to indicate to us, and I must say that I agree with him.

In regard to his mention of the lighting plant question, I cannot, from memory, give him correct information as to what has been approved in regard to some of the amenities for parents and citizens' associations and in regard to lighting plants, but if the honourable gentleman would like the information I will get it for him.

The member for Albany, of course, brightened the atmosphere slightly by making reference to one or two of his pet subjects. I cannot express the hope that the honourable member will be the Minister for Education in the near future—that would be quite wrong of me—but if he ever were the Minister for Education he would appreciate why the department has selected a site far in advance of the need.

It is because experience has shown that, many years ago, action of that kind was not taken; and when, in six, eight, or 10 years the position developed when the job ought to be done, the land would either have to be resumed at an enormous price, or required in some inconvenient place. So the sites committee got in early to avoid the rush—which rush was fairly obvious, from rapid development of the Albany townsite—and, very wisely, took up this site.

However, without any question, it will be a considerable period of years before it is likely that any teachers' training college will have developed, and the member for Albany must not lose sight of the fact that we are in grave difficulty here. We have about 1,000 students coming from the north of Perth and Perth itself who cannot be properly accommodated, and I am not allowing for 200 or 300 more.

Mr. Sewell: You will be getting quite a few from Geraldton.

Mr. WATTS: We will have to deal with one problem at a time. No doubt, however, we will be able to cope with the problem of the honourable member in the future. However, I sympathise with him in the difficulties that are associated with the Albany Infants' School. I suppose it was put there in the early days when Albany was a sleepy hollow, and it did not matter if it was on the main road. Now, of course, the situation, quite obviously, is not desirable.

We are in this position, however: that if we build rooms where we already have rooms, we are simply exhausting funds that could be better used where there is

no accommodation. I will tell the honourable member that we will have a look at those premises and see whether any improvement can be made in regard to avoiding that highway. That, I think, covers the major items that were mentioned.

Vote put and passed.

Vote: Crown Law Offices, £667,561—put and passed.

Vote: Electoral Department, £84,059—

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [10.20 p.m.]: I desire to speak to this vote in general terms in so far as the Electoral Department is concerned. There are two points I wish to raise particularly. Firstly, in respect of the estimate of £42,000 for the holding of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council general elections and by-elections in the coming year, I draw the Minister's attention to the fact that the public will probably have a spate of elections by the time the end of May 1962 arrives to last them for quite a considerable time.

Unfortunately, in a way, it will be found that the holding of the Commonwealth, Legislative Assembly, and local government elections will occur practically simultaneously every three years; and perhaps the position will be a little more severe every sixth year, when a Legislative Council election becomes due concurrently, as will occur next year. When a motion was moved in another place as to the possibility of trying to hold the Legislative Assembly election, the Legislative Council election, and the local government elections on the one day, I am led to believe the Minister in charge of that House replied that, to some degree, it would possibly be of more advantage to the Labor Party than to those parties forming the Government. However, I doubt whether that aspect has any bearing on the position.

The granting of every facility to the public to enable them to vote is the problem with which we are faced. I took the Minister to task at the last Legislative Council election when I discovered that the number of polling booths in the Beeloo subdivision had been reduced by one-third, mainly because it was considered they were not necessary. At least, however, they represented a large voting strength, and I pointed out to him also that in the country districts where elections had been held at quite a number of polling booths only six to ten votes had been recorded. I think the number of polling booths in question amounted to 21.

The only way the position can be covered successfully is to have polling booths for everybody when the occasion is opportune to combine the holding of

two or more elections, and not only would this effect a saving in the expenditure of £42,000—which could possibly be reduced to about £30,000—but also it would give an opportunity to everyone to have access to a polling booth.

As the position stands now, the people would be voting on the 9th December, and possibly in March-April, possibly again in April, and again in May. So if the people have not had an abundance of elections by then they never will have. Therefore, some serious consideration should be given by the Government to this position. The system worked reasonably well some six years ago without any considerable favour to either party. I recall that on that occasion everybody concerned seemed to be quite happy with the way the system worked; and, indeed, in South Australia, that has been the procedure followed for many years. Members of the Labor Party in that State have not gained very much ground on a similar voting franchise to that which exists here at present.

If this system were again adopted it would be a great advantage to all concerned if the Government gave some serious consideration to the matter by determining the election date or dates. After all is said and done, a campaign will have to be conducted currently; and, indeed, it becomes rather harsh for a member to finish a campaign on one general election and then go away immediately to campaign on another one. In fact, we are all tied up, to some degree, in Commonwealth election activities, and then follow our activities in the State election, after which we again have to go out on the band-wagon. If we have a serious look at this position it might be of advantage to all concerned to do something about it.

The Minister may or may not have some information on the other matter I wish to raise. It is in connection with the final report of the electoral commissioners. As all members are aware, the time has expired for objections to be lodged, and I was wondering whether the Minister has had an indication from the electoral commissioners as to when their final report will be available. That, of course, will depend on the number of objections that are received. Sometimes, particularly when there have not been many objections, I should imagine that the electoral commissioners would give the Minister some indication as to how soon their final report would be available.

They are the only two matters I wish to comment upon, except perhaps to say that I was rather disappointed about the accommodation provided for the Electoral Department, which is now housed in a more or less permanent place where, no doubt, it will remain for a number of years. I would have thought that provision would be made for the Electoral

Department so that some facility would be available, particularly when an election takes place, for the people who are interested in the progress of the election. Generally, there is a big scramble of members of the public around the Electoral Department to watch the progress of the polling figures.

I do not know whether many members have been present at the Electoral Department during election time on such occasions, but I have been present at such times in the old building where the Electoral Department used to be housed and have witnessed such scenes. However, I doubt very much whether people will be able to travel up and down the stairs in order to watch the latest figures of an election.

The department was successful in obtaining a vacant basement for this purpose on the last occasion, but now that the department is situated on the second storey of the new Rural and Industries Bank, which affords little access for the public, it will have to make some arrangements for the information of the progressive election figures to be placed on some master board in front of the R. & I. Bank or some other place. This is an item of planning that has apparently been overlooked by the departmental officers when making permanent provision for themselves in the accommodation they now occupy. The Minister may care, in the course of his reply to the debate, to comment on those items which I have raised.

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Attorney-General) [10.27 p.m.]: In regard to the last matter mentioned by the member for Beeloo, I understand it is in the mind of the Chief Electoral Officer—I do not think he contemplates anything being done with the Rural and Industries Bank—that at some place, which may be the chief polling place, he will do something along the lines suggested. I will discuss the matter with him to ascertain what are his final views on the subject.

The question of whether all, or both types of elections can be held on the one day is not one for me to decide; it is a matter of Government policy. I have no doubt the matter will be discussed and the Government will make a decision thereon. In regard to the polling places to which the honourable member made reference, he, of course, must not lose sight of the fact, with reference to the small number of votes in country places, that in many instances those people have travelled 15 and 20 miles to vote, and if there were no polling booth in the near vicinity they would travel further afield in order to exercise their franchise. In the metropolitan area it appears to be a hardship for anyone to travel 500 yards in order to record a vote.

The situation is that when polling booths are fixed the matter will be raised and, as I have made a note of the earlier representations by the honourable member, I can assure him they will not be ignored.

Vote put and passed.

Votes: Licensing, £11,691; Arbitration Court, £35,079—put and passed.

Vote: Department of Industrial Development, £267,921—

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [10.30 p.m.]: The vote for this department has been increased by £53,139 for the year. The expenditure for 1960-61 was £214,782, compared with a vote of £207,495. This year the estimate is £267,921.

The salaries item has been increased to provide for additional specialist staff. New additions include a sales promotion officer, journalist, chemical engineer, and a replacement for the industries promotion officer at present on loan from the Commonwealth.

The department's incidentals item has been considerably increased, being mainly due to the provision for publicity and promotional work being raised to £43,000 for this year from the actual expenditure of £17,858 in 1960-61. This provision covers such projects as the Sydney Trade Fair exhibit, which was such an outstanding success. The intensified activity of the promotion section, as evidenced by the salaries item, means a larger budget for promotional work, but this is being carefully controlled to ensure that full value is obtained for money expended.

The work of the Industries Advisory Committee—comprising Sir Lance Brisbane (Chairman), Sir Russell Dumas, and Mr. J. F. Ledger—has continued. The members are giving an increased amount of their time to the service of the State as they are continually meeting and advising visiting industrialists, and they have been instrumental in establishing new industries in Western Australia as well as giving advice and help to many established local industries.

In this regard I should add that the duties of these three gentlemen, as well as the officers concerned, have been greatly increased because of the tremendous upsurge of interest taken in Western Australia by a number of people who are coming from the Eastern States and abroad to see for themselves what is going on, and to assess the potential for the future.

On the question of staff, I referred earlier to the fact that progress has been made in building up a staff of the right type to handle the variety of activities of industrial development. It is impossible to forecast accurately where the emphasis

will occur from time to time, and it is therefore necessary to have a staff which is flexible and which can be used to meet the changing scene.

Freight concessions to decentralised industries will continue, the main item being a freight subsidy on pyrites railed to chemical fertiliser works for the manufacture of superphosphate. A sum of £44,000 has been allocated to this item. In addition to the straight-out vote within the department of Industrial Development there is, of course, an amount of freight concession carried on by the railways; so as to assist the mining industry, the railways have agreed to waive the difference between the rates applicable before the 1st September, 1960, and the rates applicable thereafter.

Interest will be met in respect of amounts advanced under Treasury guarantee to the following industries—

Albany Superphosphate Co. Pty. Ltd.
Blackwood Flax Co-op. Pty. Ltd.
Canterbury Court.
Great Western Consolidated N.L.
Lakewood Firewood Co. Pty. Ltd.
Mildand Railway Co. of W.A. Ltd.

Some of this interest will be recouped. Maintenance of the Collie Grain Distillery is to be continued, with little change expected in the annual costs.

Losses on assisted industries to be met during the year are expected to be Blackwood Flax Co-operative Co. Pty. Ltd. £10,000 (fifth instalment in respect of flood losses), W.A. Steel Products Ltd. £5,000, Tin and Strategic Minerals £3,000, and Spal Industries Pty. Ltd. £2,000. Most of these are accounts that have been standing in the books of the department and represent losses incurred some years ago. It has been the policy of successive Governments to meet those losses in instalments, rather than to absorb them in one year.

The South-East Asian Exports Committee has had £1,500 provided to cover incidental expenses, mainly travelling. The members of the committee—Mr. C. T. Pullen and Mr. B. M. Scott—devote a great deal of time and energy to the problems associated with export trade. The liaison officer to this committee visited South-East Asia as a member of the Trade Mission aboard the *Straat Banka* and gained valuable experience which will assist in the encouragement and expansion of exports to these areas. He also visited Darwin recently with the secretary of the Chamber of Manufactures in a joint effort between the department and the Chamber of Manufactures to promote trade with the Northern Territory. Already there are promising results from this survey.

To further assist trade there and to combat the import of timber into Darwin from overseas, particularly from the islands north of Australia, an arrangement has been worked out between the timber industry and the State Shipping Service to the mutual satisfaction of both parties, so that the "D"-class State ships can pick up timber in large quantities at Bunbury or Busselton, according to the type of timber offering, and ship it to Darwin.

Recognising the important part which secondary industry must play in the future development of Western Australia, the Department of Industrial Development is now able to function as an efficient and vigorous organisation in all spheres of industrial development activity. This is evidenced by the rapid rate of expansion of secondary industry in this State in the last 12 months and the unprecedented interest of outside industrialists at the present time.

Part of the object in building up the staff and bringing in specialist officers arose from the fact that we could not rely indefinitely on voluntary and honorary effort. We have leaned heavily in the last two and a half years on voluntary and honorary effort which was given very spontaneously and proved to be extremely effective. We found this effort to be very good in dealing with overseas industrialists. They prefer to talk to industrialists in this State who have had practical experience.

It is acknowledged that there is a limit to voluntary and honorary effort available in a community. We are trying to build up a solid and varied staff with specialist officers who can be used to supplement the voluntary effort through our industrialists, and so relieve them of some of the detailed burden.

The successful conclusion to negotiations with the Commonwealth for the standardisation of the main rail link between Kalgoorlie, Perth, and Kwinana coupled with the agreement with B.H.P. for the establishment of a fully integrated iron and steel industry, based on the rich Koolyanobbing iron ore deposits has been the high-light of recent developments. Other important achievements are well known to members, because of the various agreements which have been presented to Parliament during this session.

The policy of decentralisation of industry is being vigorously pursued. This is, of course, a subject which everyone talks about but finds it very hard to implement. The two departmental officers assigned to liaise with the Industrial Development Committees formed by many local authorities have met with an enthusiastic response and attention is constantly being given to the establishment of industries in country districts.

I must state at the same time that it is very difficult to measure in terms of numbers of industry and the amount of capital invested how successful this drive for decentralisation has proved to be. However, there has to be a beginning with all these projects. Gradually the officers deputed to do this work are gaining in experience, and local committees have been formed.

Mr. Hall: Are these local committees operating successfully?

Mr. COURT: Quite a few are operating very actively. Some, of course, have grandiose ideas which are completely impracticable. Those that get down to the smaller type of industry within the realm of realism are achieving some success. One of the greatest advantages in having these officers available to discuss matters with local committees is that they can very often guide the local committees as to the best approach they could make. At other times they can give practical advice relating to the raising of capital, methods of approach, and methods of costing.

A lot of the best work of these officers is not very obvious. It might only consist of assisting the local committees and local businessmen through discussion on the methods of expanding an existing small industry. They show the people how to achieve a little more productivity in their area, rather than to send some of the work outside that area.

The member for Albany knows that local people are surprisingly disloyal. If they stop to think they would realise that practically every country town could carry out more of the work than is now done in that town. There seems to be a lure in the big city. Even in the buying of clothing there is a fascination, particularly among the womenfolk, to buy in the capital city. The same applies to the repair of motor vehicles. It is amazing how many people wait to bring their car or truck to the city for repair. If they were to have the work performed in their own district, the district would be assisted. Some local committees have been doing good work in illustrating the importance of using local facilities. That is how industry generally starts off in a district—by using the basic service industries in that community.

Mr. Sewell: It would help if some of those committees kept their feet on the ground.

Mr. COURT: How true that is! They all have grandiose ideas, and they would all like to see the establishment of a steel industry in their district. There are certain basic requirements for the establishment of industries, and one of the jobs of government is to channel these industries into areas best suited for economic production.

One of the tragedies of an ill-planned decentralization scheme is an industry which fails. The industry that fails in a community brings discredit on that community as an economic area. For ever and a day, whenever one tries to attract industry to that town the people seem to remember the industry that failed. In the first place probably the industry should not have gone there. We are pressing this question very hard.

We have appointed two officers who are capable of rendering assistance. If anyone in the rural areas desires their services he has only to ask, and these officers will go out to discuss the matters with the local committee or the individual, to try to guide and help them.

One of the most important developments which has taken place within the department is the establishment of a number of contacts in the Eastern States and abroad in industry, commerce, and financial circles. In this rather competitive world of industry, commerce, and finance it is very important to have contacts in the Eastern States and abroad, so that we can get to grips with the people who have to make the final decision.

I am pleased to say that we have established a very strong system of communication not only in the Eastern States but also abroad, due to the good offices of some very fine people in the Eastern States and abroad who have seen fit to back Western Australia in its drive to expand its industries.

I would be remiss if I did not make some reference to exports, because this is the toughest nut we have to crack in the next few years. Without an export market it is quite obvious we cannot continue to expand industry and dispose of its products.

We have two obvious markets open to us: One is in the Eastern States which, for all practical purposes, we regard as an export market, and the other one is the African and Asian market. The Eastern States market is by far the easiest market for our local manufacturers to successfully compete in. Some of them do not realise the advantages available to them through back-loading freights, whether by sea, rail, road, and—to a certain extent with some specialised products—by air.

The freight disadvantage between here and the East is not as great as some people would have us think; and one of the jobs of the departmental officers is to visit the firms to ascertain their export potential and demonstrate to them how products can be successfully exported to the Eastern States and compete. That is a comparatively soft market in which to trade compared with the African and Asian markets where the firms have a head-on collision with industrial countries such as Japan,

Germany, England, Italy, France, America, and so on; and our local manufacturers have a tremendous scope in that field.

So far as the African and Asian markets are concerned we have made some progress. It is a job that has to be done in detail because a lot of our manufacturers and merchants have to get used to competing in markets which are so different from their own. One case where we have been successful is in connection with spun cast iron pipes. We were thought to have no chance in competition in the Asian markets. But due to a co-operative effort between the manufacturers of the pipes, the supplier of the pig iron, and the shipping companies, as well as the distributing agents, they were able to each make some contribution to such an extent that the price was sufficiently competitive to gain an order in Singapore and a further order in Hong Kong.

When we can successfully compete with that type of product in those countries, in competition not only with their local manufacture but also the countries of Europe and Japan and America, it shows that our people, if they put their minds to it and are given the necessary encouragement, can win in this market. It is important, of course, that we should select the product we set out to sell. It is not everything we produce that has a chance to compete in other countries; but still, many products can win in those countries if we try hard enough.

On the question of local promotion, there are the usual difficulties of local prejudice against the local product, and so on; but we have now a specialised officer with experience in merchandising whose task it is to go to selected firms and try to encourage them to produce their product in a form which will be acceptable to the local retail trade and enable them to compete against the Eastern States and overseas products.

It is not sufficient to have slogans enticing the people to buy locally-made goods. Some of that type of advertising is necessary, and a certain amount of propaganda goes on all the time. But in the final analysis the task is one that has to be done in person; and this officer devotes his time to selected industries and virtually acts as liaison officer between the manufacturer and retailer.

Efforts are made to find out from the retailer why he cannot sell a particular product. It might be the style, price, date of delivery, or credit period. It might be one of a dozen different merchandising reasons, and it is only when the retailer will be quite frank and constructive in his reasons as to why he cannot sell a particular product that the manufacturer can get to grips with that problem.

More and more of this liaison is taking place with increasing results. It is a slow job. We cannot afford to have a large team of specialist officers doing this sort of work; but we hope, with the co-operation we are getting from manufacturing, retail, and distributing trades, that we will be able to further improve the volume of goods manufactured locally.

The more we can get the name brands—that is, the well-known brands—manufactured in Western Australia, of course, the easier it will be, because the average woman shopper, whether shopping for food or clothing, seems to be attracted to a name that she knows through national advertising. The more of these people who will manufacture here, the easier it will be for us to get the local product on the market.

In conclusion on the Industrial Development Estimates, I just want to make this observation: In the last two and a half years most of the industries which have been attracted to Western Australia, and which have been publicised, are large, basic industries. There are many other industries which have been attracted here and local industries expanded which are equally important because they do give us a great diversity in our type of labour and also in the products we produce; but the emphasis at present is not so much in respect of these large, basic industries of which we now have a large quota and which will take some years to actually establish, but more on diversified industries to produce consumer goods.

The reason I stress this is that if we place all our emphasis on these basic industries, which are so important as the foundation of our industrial development, we will reach the situation where we will have an unbalanced labour force; because we must acknowledge the fact that the female work force will be increasing as our population increases both from natural increase and from migration; and if the whole of our industrial development effort is concentrated on iron, steel, alumina, paper, chemicals, and some of the other big industries that will develop in the mining field, we will create an unbalanced demand for labour, which would not be a good thing.

We have seen this occur in a smaller way in some of the towns on the goldfields and in Collie, where there is not a diversified demand for labour. It is not very long before some members of the family become a little disgruntled because they are unable to obtain any gainful employment. For that reason we are doubling our efforts to attract industries to give us diversified labour demands in order to provide employment for the female labour force which will be available in our economy.

I understand I should now deal with the North-West Vote.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Heal): That is correct.

Vote: North-West, £3,005,195—

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for the North-West) [10.53 p.m.]: I shall briefly deal with this question of the North-west and the Kimberleys because it has been the subject of some debate earlier this session in connection with a motion moved by the member for Pilbara.

The rate of spending from Consolidated Revenue in the north is quite interesting, and the following are the total figures spent from 1957-58 to 1961-62:—

Year	Amount £
1957-58	1,790,333
1958-59	2,191,071
1959-60	2,323,443
1960-61	2,655,558

This year the estimate is £3,005,195, or an increase of approximately £1.2 million pounds over those five years.

Members will know that the Grants Commission last week scrutinised very closely the amount of expenditure by this Government in the north. We had no hesitation in saying it was a reflection of the Government's determination to do its utmost from the State Budget for the north-west and Kimberleys, because until we do our utmost and strain our finances we do not have as good a case with the Commonwealth for further assistance at the national level in what we consider to be a national problem.

The expenditure throughout the department has been widely spread, and I think all the portfolios have made a very generous contribution, within the finances available, to the problems of administering and developing the north.

One of the queries raised by the Grants Commission was as to how it could test the reasonableness of our expenditure in the north. We could not provide a formula as is possible from Geraldton south, and it was almost impossible in the commission's opinion to relate the rate of spending under the different headings to any yardstick.

The only solution that was put forward by the Government was, firstly, that a detailed inspection by the present members of the Grants Commission would convince them that there was no extravagance on the part of the Government. In fact, we would like to spend more, because the provision of schools and hospitals in the area is a costly business, to say nothing of native welfare, agriculture, and a dozen other things.

A further suggestion was made by us that the rate of spending should be measured against what it cost the Commonwealth in the Northern Territory; and I am quite convinced that we would come out very well in such a test.

A third suggestion was that if the Commonwealth estimated what it would cost it to run the north—north of the Murchison River, and around to Wyndham—we felt it would be at least double what it is costing us now.

I feel the officers in the north-west are in the main dedicated people. They are doing a tremendous job on a shoe-string. It is a fantastic area which has to be administered when we take the whole area north of the Murchison; and although the expenditure has been increased to nearly double that which it was in 1957-58, it is still difficult to meet all the requirements, as the members for those districts know. There is always something more to be done.

We have only to study the correspondence which comes in every day, and visit the towns, to realise that many of the requests put forward are not unreasonable, having regard to the climate and other conditions. But there is a limit to the amount of funds any Government has. If we measured the expenditure in the north from Consolidate Revenue, loan funds, and road works, we would find that the amount per head is tremendously high compared with the average expenditure in Australia and the southern part of the State. But it was ever thus and must ever be in an area of that type.

A brief mention of the Ord is appropriate at the moment, because I think it is the most outstanding northern Australian scheme, at least in the post-war years. In fact, I cannot recall one before it that was better, or even as good. The general consensus of opinion of all those who have seen the scheme is that it has been very soundly based and conceived, and that the approach to it has been both logical and as sound as it could be. Western Australia has tried, through successive Governments, to follow this northern project in its logical progression of research station, and then pilot farm, and then related it to the actual construction of the diversion dam.

It is our hope that the dam will be finished on a very tight schedule by the end of the 1962 dry season. The indications from the builders and Public Works engineers, as late as last Saturday and Sunday, was that they would be finished on schedule. This will make available enough water from the 1963 dry season onward to irrigate up to 30,000 acres from the diversion dam.

It is not generally realised that a tremendous amount of work has been pressed on with by the Minister for Works and

his department in connection with the main dam site. A lot of boring and tunnelling to test the dam site, and a tremendous lot of survey work has been done so that no time will be lost at the appropriate stage when we want to make a submission to the Commonwealth. It is expected that the first of the ordinary-type farmers will be established at the Ord, and using water from the diversion dam, in 1963. The number will be fairly small, and that is deliberate. It will be about eight to 10 at first, and it is expected that the year after that there will be a further 10, and the year after that another 10, so that a large proportion of the 30,000 acres of the irrigation potential of the diversion dam will be used.

By the end of 1964 we have reason to believe that we will have sufficient data on which to present a sound case to the Commonwealth for the main diversion dam; and, allowing for the normal negotiation period, it should be possible to have that approved and the necessary details of tendering and so on undertaken so that construction can commence, if not in 1965, then in 1966. That might be a little ambitious, but we have to have a target date on these major projects if we are going to get anywhere at all with them.

So far as the remainder of the area is concerned, we have discussed that in connection with the motion moved by the member for Pilbara. We expect to have Mr. Baron Hay's report before the end of the year in respect of various matters related to the administration of the area, and suggestions in respect of more difficult parts, including the rehabilitation of the Pilbara pastoral industry, all items of which are so tremendously important in the overall economy of the north-west and the Kimberleys. I have pleasure in presenting the vote to the House.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [11.2 p.m.]: I listened very carefully to the figures quoted by the Minister in the speech he has just delivered, and also those mentioned during his speech on a motion dealing with the north-west earlier this session. Probably it was interesting to most people to hear how the expenditure for the north-west has jumped since 1956-57. It is also very interesting to analyse those figures and to realise what has happened from 1955-56 onwards.

When the Minister gives his figures he simply states the expenditure on the north-west, but he does not in any way relate that expenditure to the State total. But in my view that is the fruit in the pudding, and I would like to analyse the figures from 1955-56 up to the present day to show the percentage of expenditure from the general Estimates on the north-west as compared with the total expenditure of the State.

In the year 1955-56 the percentage spent in the north-west, as compared with the total State expenditure, was 7.1 per cent.; in 1956-57 it was 8.02 per cent.; and in 1957-58 it dropped to 6.45 per cent. That drop made me curious, so I went back through the Estimates of our revenue and expenditure and I found the reason for it: that was the year in which the *Kybra* and the *Koolinda* were sold, and consequently the Estimates for the State Shipping Service were down by a considerable amount. In 1958-59 the percentage rose to 7.07 per cent.; in 1959-60 it was 7.4 per cent.; in 1960-61 it was 7.1 per cent.; and for 1961-62 it is 7.8 per cent.

Those figures give a different picture altogether to the one which the Minister probably intended to paint. If we were to go back and analyse the figures for the year 1957-58 with the figure of 6.45 per cent., we would find that if we averaged the allocations to the State Shipping Service and added that average to the Vote the percentage for that year would be found to have been quite a bit more; it would have been 7.3 per cent. If we average the expenditure for the four years prior to this Government taking office we find that it is 7.37 per cent. for the north-west as against an average for the three years of this Government of 7.4 per cent., or a difference of only .03 per cent.—a very small difference.

Similar results can be found when we analyse the loan expenditure. It is very easy for a person to get up and quote a lot of figures to prove his point; I am certainly doing it, and the Minister in his wisdom did the same thing. But my analysis is giving a true picture; whereas the Minister's figures indicated that there was an increase, without showing where the money has come from and the amount that is being spent elsewhere.

Also, during his speech on the motion about north-west problems, the Minister said that members were not grateful for the extra money that was being spent. I do not know that north-west members have ever said anything either way—whether they were grateful or otherwise. I do not know that there has been any great criticism about the amount expended, but we certainly try to get as much as we possibly can for our respective districts, and we cannot be blamed for that.

Now let us have a look at the Loan Estimates, though I shall not deal as fully with these as I did with the general Estimates. The State expenditure on loan for the years 1956-57, 1957-58, and 1958-59, totalled £54,505,990. The north-west expenditure for the same years was £3,497,568, or 6.4 per cent of the total. The expenditure from loan funds in 1959-60 and 1960-61, for the State, was £49,881,526; whereas the north-west expenditure for

the same years was £2,610,814, or 6.5 per cent. of the total and an increase of .1 per cent.

I will agree with the Minister that expenditure on roads in the north-west has greatly increased. However, it is interesting to note that two different Ministers have given two different figures in this regard. The Minister for the North-West was not so lavish in his statements as the Minister for Works; the Minister for the North-West quoted a figure of 22.9 per cent. as being the percentage of the total amount of road funds which were spent in the north-west; whereas the Minister for Works quoted a figure of 26.26 per cent. It is rather hard to analyse the figures over the years to get a true picture of how the moneys are obtained and spent, but I readily concede that the expenditure on roads in the north-west has greatly increased, and we are seeing the benefit of it.

I now want to get back on to one of my old hobby-horses. I refer to the control of water in the Gascoyne River. At the present time a new levee bank is being constructed to hold back the flood-waters to some extent from the town of Carnarvon. From what I have learned from engineers, and from what I have observed, it appears to me that the levee bank will do a considerable amount of good, but there is no doubt that it will cause some concern to a number of people. The controlling of a river is not always best done at the mouth; control should be exercised further up the river, and on the Gascoyne River there are places where control points could be established.

As I have said before, one of these points is some 35 to 40 miles up the river, where it would be very easy to put in a low spillway so that flood-waters could be deviated down an old river channel and thus taken out to sea, having by-passed Carnarvon by some 12 or 14 miles. It could also be taken out through one or two other deviations in old river beds in the same area.

I shall now put forward to the Minister another suggestion which I think will prove to be quite a good one, and it was something I looked at the last time I was in Carnarvon. This would serve two purposes. The idea is to put a bank eastwards of the area known as Brown's Range parallel with the Gascoyne junction road to impound the water in an area which is known as Nickel Bay Flat. The water which goes into this area is fed from the Gascoyne River, some 14 to 18 miles from Carnarvon. It comes in across flat country, hits what is known as Brown's Range, and is deviated back into the river and through Carnarvon along the North-West Coastal Highway. At the present time the water in this area is 5 ft. or 6 ft. deep at its deepest part.

This particular area retains water over 12 months of the year without drying out; and if a bank, probably 5 ft. or 6 ft. high, were put in the area I referred to, it would stop a lot of the water flooding back into the Gascoyne River and so flooding the town. It would also serve as an extensive reservoir from which fresh water could be pumped on to the plantations. When the water rose to any extent, and became a danger to the levee bank, it would automatically flow to the south and down the old river-bed which I have suggested should be used as a deviation channel for flood-waters. In that way we would be developing an artificial lake holding many millions of gallons of water, which could be readily used on the plantations only a few hundred yards away.

I think that is something which could be looked at, and that it would be a profitable project. It could save the Main Roads Department a lot of money because in that area the North-West Coastal Highway and the Gascoyne Junction Road are subject to a good deal of erosion. In spite of what the engineers say, I still believe that a certain amount of clearing of the river mouth should be done; because one cannot dispute the fact that a clear channel will make for easy access of water into the sea. But if there are a lot of barriers the water must be deviated from bank to bank. The water deviated by the new levee bank now will go out to what is known as the north channel and will hit an island known as Whitmore at the mouth. This will cause deviation and will cause Babbage Island to be further badly eroded and the silt to be carried down to the jetty. So much silt was carried in this last flood that at low tide it was possible to walk half a mile along the jetty without getting one's feet wet. This will give members an idea of the amount of silt which has been deviated and deposited along the jetty.

I believe that had Whitmore Island not been there it would have by-passed the jetty and gone into the sea, without silting the area. There are a number of matters which should be investigated. I know at the present time the engineers are carrying out further surveys along the river to find out the respective levels to help in flood control. But I do not think any consideration has been given at any time to building a levee bank eastward from Brown's Range parallel to the Gascoyne Junction road.

I would now like to say that I have asked the Minister for Fisheries, several times, questions in respect of a tuna survey which is being carried on in Western Australian waters. The Minister said he had approached the Minister for Primary Industry to see if this survey could be extended to the Shark Bay area. The time seems to have dragged on and on and the

Minister does not seem to have worried in the least as to what is to become of that survey or how far north it will go.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That is not fair.

Mr. NORTON: After a considerable number of questions, the last of which was asked on the 11th October, and the first on the 9th August, the Minister said he had not received a reply from the Minister for Primary Industry. It seems to me that the Minister is letting time drag on and on, and before long we will find that the money has been expended.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I saw the Minister. You ramble on and take no notice of anybody.

Mr. NORTON: I would now like to quote an extract from the *Daily News* of the 7th November, 1960. It reads as follows:—

State Looks Tuna-Rich

The tuna-fishing industry in Western Australia is just waiting to be developed.

There are millions of these "chickens of the sea" waiting to be caught all round our coast line.

So says visiting South Australian fish expert Dick Fowler.

Fowler, who has just returned from his third world trip, said in Perth today that the United States consumed 250,000 tons of tuna a year.

Of this they had to import 100,000 tons—mostly from Japan.

The United States cannery could not get enough Australian tuna. Last year 700 tons were exported from South Australia—but that was just a beginning, Fowler said.

"Overseas, the tuna-fishing boats have to cruise thousands of miles to find their fish," he said. "In Australia they wouldn't have to go more than 100 miles.

"Japanese boats have to come from Japan to the north coast of Western Australia for their fish. We have them right on our doorstep."

Fowler said that the South Australian Government had brought out two United States tuna experts to show them the industry—which was in its infancy—and to ask them for guidance.

Since then the tuna-fishing game had never looked back.

Australia's total tonnage of tuna annually was only 4,000 tons, but this could be multiplied many times.

No matter how many tons we could catch there would be a ready market and, according to Fowler, our fish are as good, if not better, than those caught anywhere in the world.

The last statement is very true, especially if we look back at a report which appeared in the *Fisheries Newsletter* of June, 1959. This describes how the Japanese fleet has come into our Western Australian waters and, I believe, has been fishing within less than a mile of our coast at times. Mainly, however, it is fishing west of Carnarvon. The Japanese boats are catching from 10 to 18 tons of tuna a day. That is the tonnage for each boat; and they are selling that tuna in Japan at 5s. 7½d. lb. Whether it is a special species of tuna or not, I do not know, but the report states that the other tuna which they are getting is only selling at 2s. 3d. lb.

Surely we must have an excellent industry in this tuna fishing, especially as America wants all the tuna it can get. It would appear that it cannot get sufficient. We also find that America is buying Australian tuna through Japan, and yet we just do not seem to be able to supply America with our north-west tuna which, from this article, seems to be the best in the world.

This is something which should be investigated with a view to developing at Carnarvon an industry along similar lines to the whaling industry. If that were done and the government of the day thought fit, it could then hand it over to private enterprise to develop. But it would seem to me that here is something in regard to which we are losing millions of pounds a year. I feel it could be a bigger industry than the crayfishing industry. It could also be combined with prawns and scallops.

It is interesting to read in the last issue of the *Fisheries Newsletter* that the tuna industry in Australia has become one of the biggest fish industries. It has increased from 153 tons in 1950-51 to 5,000 tons in 1960-61. There could be a considerable increase if this industry were developed off our north-west shores. People have only to travel on our State boats at certain times of the year to appreciate the amount of tuna that is available. Large quantities of tuna can be seen from places just off Carnarvon, and it is there for the catching.

According to a report by the C.S.I.R.O. the opportunities for purse seine fishing are excellent. The report says that the period in the north in which the purse seine can be used is greater than anywhere else in Australia. One period of time during which the purse seine net can be used is 95 per cent.; whereas further south the period might be reduced to only 15 per cent. during which the purse seine can be used.

If the purse seine cannot be used there is always the opportunity to use the pole trawl, which gives excellent catches. There is no doubt that the Japanese have got on to something which they are harvesting

to the best advantage. It is up to us to either make a go of it ourselves, or to get the Commonwealth to help us through the Fisheries Trust Fund to establish a very worth-while enterprise and a very valuable export commodity for Australia.

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [11.21 p.m.]: I listened with a great deal of interest to the Minister for Industrial Development when he introduced his Estimates. As members will see, the vote has been increased by £53,139. I have no doubt that as years go by that vote will increase a great deal more in its percentage. The Minister told us tonight of the various industries he hoped would start in Western Australia. I would like to draw his attention to the fact, however, that it would be a bad thing for the State if the Government allowed all the industries it hoped to attract to the State to be settled in one part of it.

The Minister mentioned decentralisation, but of course we all know that has been a hobby-horse and a political football for a number of years. I would like the Minister at all times to take note of the potential of other districts when he is doing anything at all possible to open up industries. I refer particularly to matters discussed here last night in relation to iron ore to be exported from Geraldton. The Premier told us that he hoped to establish an iron ore processing industry at Geraldton at some future date.

A few years ago one would have been considered quite odd, or lacking in intelligence, if one had suggested the possibility of an industry being established in Geraldton. Today, however, it has become almost a reality. In this world of quick changes anything can happen. I would impress on the Minister the need to bear in mind the potential of all districts, and particularly of Geraldton, when he is thinking of establishing new industries. We have in that area lead and copper, and those of us who have faith in the district like to believe that there is a great future for both those minerals.

The member for Gascoyne touched on the fishing industry as he knows it in the north-west, off the shores of Carnarvon. That is another valuable industry which has meant a great deal to Geraldton in the past few years, and I think it could mean a lot more in the future. It is one of those industries we will have to watch very carefully. I agree with the Minister's suggestion that it is necessary to obtain highly-trained technical men to work in the department. It is a step in the right direction. Perhaps for too long we have depended on a certain amount of honorary advice and assistance.

There are two other matters which are of interest to the people of Geraldton, the first of which is the question of the wool

sales. Some years ago we anticipated having wool sales conducted at Geraldton. But the people who control our wool sales thought better of it and centralised the sales at Fremantle. The day is fast approaching, however, when the wool sales will be held in Geraldton, particularly in view of the improvements to the Geraldton harbour and the fact that the larger boats can now come in and pick up this wool. I think that is something to which the Minister could give his attention in order to see that Geraldton gets its fair share of the industries, since it grows the natural products, such as wool, and all cereals.

Another one is meat and a project is being considered at the present time for the formation of a municipal abattoirs. It is hoped that the farmers themselves will have an annexe in connection with these abattoirs to do their own freezing and the marketing of any surplus farm produce such as sheep, lambs, and beef. I only hope that these things will come to a head quickly and that the powers-that-be will do what they can to assist. I also hope that both the Minister and his officers will be a bit friendly towards Geraldton and the northern area and see that we do not miss any of the industries which we are entitled to have.

I notice in a report of the Great Western Mining Corporation that it has a reservation in the Geraldton area of some thousand square miles to explore for coal. The very fact that a company such as the Great Western has seen fit to explore for coal would seem to a layman to mean that there must be some future for coal as a power producer. I only hope that any work the Western Mining Corporation might do will bring success not only to that company but to the district generally.

Again, I would like the Minister to give all the help he can to see that those industries I have mentioned are established in the Geraldton area in order to put it on a stable footing.

MR. HALL (Albany) [11.32 p.m.]: Like the previous speaker, it is my intention to speak on the decentralisation of industry. The Minister told us tonight of the small committees he has established in different centres. These committees might do some good up to a point, but the people associated with them have to earn their own living, and in the time they have left they endeavour to develop or assist industries in their particular areas. I know in my own area they have tried to do their best, but their hands are tied on account of lack of time. I think the Government will have to make a more concentrated effort and do something about the decentralised areas.

It is my intention to quote a few statistics to prove my point as to what has happened in the past and to show that the situation will grow worse in the future. We

know that the bigger industries are concentrated in the metropolitan area, with the result that they attract youths from the country to the city. It is to the detriment of country towns when these young people leave. As I said to the member for Fremantle, industry is trying to put all its eggs in one basket. Everything is being concentrated in one corner and we are heading for trouble.

The number of factories in the metropolitan area is 2,433, and of the State total this represents 58.98 per cent. The land and buildings in that particular division represents £27,348,487, being 67.21 per cent. Of the work force, there are 29,731 males, representing 70.8 per cent. of the State's total employed male labour. The number for female labour is 5,529, representing 85.51 per cent. The value of the net production for that particular area is £48,982,321. Going into other areas, there are 187 factories in the Swan division, 514 in the south-west, 268 in the southern agricultural division, 322 in the central agricultural division, 173 in the northern agricultural division, and 147 in the eastern goldfields division. Grouped in the north-west there are central, Pilbara, and Kimberley, making a total of 81. Therefore, 41.02 per cent. of the factories in the State are outside the metropolitan area.

Those figures could be enlarged, but I am touching on them briefly so as to point out to the Minister the seriousness of centralisation. We cannot continue in that vein. There are two industries that stand out and which should be established in the Albany area. I refer to the scouring works and fellmongering works. There is no reason why we should scour only one particular type of wool; we should scour different types and make up the required blend that is desired by the purchasers overseas. We have the different types of wools in this State to make the blends. Wool can be brought from the north to the southern part of the State. Perhaps the percentage could be 25 per cent. from the north with 75 per cent. of southern wool.

The wool-scouring works are complementary to the fellmongering works and these two industries should be developed because the sheep population is supporting wool sales in Albany; and that is something which the member for Geraldton forgot to mention. This year there will be five sales, and each sale will mean £1,000,000 to Albany, in addition to telegrams, wages, and that sort of thing.

The point I am making is that the Minister for Industrial Development should make a concentrated effort to attract one of these particular industries to Albany, particularly as I feel it will only be a matter of time before this must take place. We have the quantity of wool in that

particular area to back up those two industries, and fellmongering is complementary to the wool-scouring works. There are other industries which could be established as a result of by-products. One is the use of skins. Skins and hides are now being taken from Australia to France and treated with a special chemical, after which the skins are made up into women's handbags, shoes, and so on, and sold on the American market.

I believe the Jandakot scouring works could have a similar process and treat the skins in the same manner. I hope the Minister for Industrial Development will make representations to some of the firms in the metropolitan area to see whether they will establish those industries in the decentralised areas in association with the wool-scouring works.

MR. RHATIGAN (Kimberley) [11.38 p.m.]: I was happy to hear the Minister's remarks on the Ord River diversion scheme. I would also like at this stage to pay a tribute to Mr. Kim Durack, who first initiated the experiments in agriculture in the north. I feel that the Ord River Dam diversion scheme will be the first of many, and I hope it will be a success. I feel sure it will be.

We have reached the stage in Australia where population of our north is a must. It is a national need, and the development of the north must be carried on. Whilst I am not passing any derogatory remarks in regard to the Commonwealth, its contribution of £5,000,000 to the Kimberleys is not enough. I feel sure that many more millions of pounds will be necessary. In my humble way of thinking, at least £20,000,000 would be the minimum with which one could open up such a vast area.

The best method of populating such places is through irrigation. I agree with the member for Murray that the foundation of the north will always be the pastoral industry; and in the East Kimberley particularly with cattle in conjunction with irrigation, we can have stock brought in from outlandish places—places well inland—and put on pasture near the abattoirs. Irrigation is the very factor that will make such a thing a success.

The main Ord River Dam—that is the main one which we hope will be completed at some stage with Commonwealth assistance—will hold seven times as much water as the Sydney Harbour. The water reserves of the Kimberleys, I am led to believe, are equal to the annual flow of the Murray, the Murrumbidgee, and the Darling rivers, which drain two-thirds of New South Wales, half of Victoria, and a third of Queensland. So irrigation and the provision of dams will be the solution to populating the north. However, at this

stage, I am not prepared to go into the pros and cons of the Ord River Dam scheme. Suffice to say it is a must.

Whilst I agree that the best housing facilities should be provided in the north, I cannot agree with the Government's decision to establish what I call the fabulous club at Kununurra. A club with decent amenities is essential, but why it was considered necessary to go to the extreme and create the class distinction which is to be found there is beyond me. The staff of the Public Works Department and Government officials, together with the staff of Christiani & Neilsen—the contractors—are permitted to use this club, together with a few local residents. However, the workers at the Public Works Department are not permitted to be members, even though they dine in the same building.

A curtain divides the entrance between the dining room used by the Public Works employees and the bar of the club. It is just a single curtain. The dining room is a beautiful one, but this club is provided out of the taxpayers' money. I never thought that I would see class distinction in the Kimberleys such as there is at Kununurra. Why did not the Government do the same thing as B.H.P. at Yampi? The club there is provided by private enterprise. The men and women at Yampi are entitled to be members of that club, and are members of it—every working person on the island. If somebody kicks over the traces he is blackballed from the club. The club has worked very satisfactorily and efficiently. But at Kununurra the taxpayer is barred from being a member of the club.

Mr. May: How do you get on?

Mr. Court: You have really embarrassed him now.

Mr. RHATIGAN: I think it is a disgrace, and it should not be. The very persons who are paying taxes are not to be members of the club. No-one can point to me a club in Perth as fabulous as the one in Kununurra. If there is one I would be interested to see it. It is an insult to the working people of Kununurra—a very real insult.

To get back to the V.I.P. house at Wyndham, when the Labor Government is returned to power next year it will make some use of that house. We are crying out for another classroom at Wyndham. But what have we got? We have a fabulous house, well furnished, for the Minister for Works and other V.I.P.'s to stay overnight in. It is an insult to the mentality of the people of the north for the Government to think it is getting away with anything like that. It is beyond comprehension.

Mr. Hawke: The Minister is unusually silent.

Mr. Court: He will reply in a moment.

Mr. RHATIGAN: I think the member for Murray will agree with me that the pastoral industry will always be the backbone of the north—there is no shadow of doubt about that; and conservation of water is the answer to our problems in the north.

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for the North-West) [11.48 p.m.]: So far as the member for Gascoyne is concerned, I can assure him that the proposition he put forward regarding an alternative method of controlling the flood-waters of the Gascoyne will be examined. I think I should make reference to one particular figure he omitted in connection with loan funds. He was making a comparison of the figures that had been spent over several years; but if I heard him correctly, he completely overlooked the year 1961-62. For the sake of the record, and in view of the percentages he quoted in respect of the other years, I think I should complete the story by giving the figures for 1961-62, when the total expenditure estimated by the State is £21,420,000, and the amount estimated for the north-west and Kimberley is £2,101,169—or that close to 10 per cent. that it does not matter.

I was glad he mentioned the road figures, because the percentage of funds being devoted to roads in the north is considerable, and this was instrumental in enabling the State to get £500,000 special Commonwealth grant to be spent on roads in the north this financial year.

On the question of a tuna survey, I think he was less than fair to the Minister for Fisheries, who has been very active on this question. He has been active in developing fishing activities further north. There is a tremendous potential in the fishing industry in the north, and up to date it has not been seriously undertaken by large-scale fishing interests. However, on this question of a tuna survey the Minister for Fisheries is very active and he is anxious to see it developed. It could be an important industry for the north, and for the fishing industry generally.

I want to assure the member for Geraldton that his plea for decentralisation is just as keenly in the mind of this Government as of the previous one. We find it just as hard, but we have had some success. He is the member for a district which is going to benefit greatly through a form of decentralisation from the export of iron ore from Talling Peak, an export project which is expected to be bigger than was foreshadowed.

I am sorry the member for Albany is not in his seat, because I would like to have something to say about his condemnation of local committees who are

seeking to attract industry for their respective towns. Some of these committees are doing a very good job. The fact that they are honorary and give their services to the district free does not detract from the efforts which they make or the results they achieve. I explained earlier that our main Industries Advisory Committee in this State is an honorary committee, giving of its services voluntarily. The members of that committee give something like two-thirds of their working time to the service of the State, and the committee does a first-class job under much more difficult circumstances than are met by a local committee. To despise or reflect on the capabilities of a local voluntary committee is quite unfair.

The member for Albany made great play on the fact that all industry is being attracted to the city. That is not so, of course. So far as is practicable, every Government tries to get industry away from the city, because of the complications which might arise. Some industries only wish to go to certain places, and the Government has to make up its mind whether such an industry is going to be lost to the State or whether it will be allowed to go into what it considers to be a logical and an economic locality.

Wool-scouring is a pet subject of the honourable member. We are constantly seeking people who will undertake this industry in Albany. But so far we have not had any success. However, we are not without hope.

The member for Kimberley seemed upset about the Ord River Club. I would like to tell members that the Ord River Club is a desirable acquisition to the district. Here is an attempt to introduce a new standard of living and working conditions in an area such as this.

Mr. Rhatigan: It is going from the sublime to the ridiculous.

Mr. COURT: The town of Kununurra is a properly-planned townsite, complete with street lighting and everything else. He being the member for the district, I am amazed that that town is not his pride and joy. It is the finest town of its type, not only in Western Australia but in the whole of Northern Australia. Surely the member for Kimberley is not decrying an attempt to put something into the north which is not only practical but is also aesthetically pleasing!

Mr. Rhatigan: I do not like to see waste of money.

Mr. COURT: This construction project will be finished at the end of 1962 according to the present schedule, and Kununurra then becomes a town in its own right based on an irrigation scheme. The construction force will move out of the town,

but Kununurra will still go on. If one listened to the member for Kimberley one would swear that this young town is studded with diamonds. The building to which he refers is a straightforward, cleverly-designed structure, in which materials have been used involving the minimum of maintenance costs. I am staggered that the member for the district is criticising this structure. He should be calling for bigger and better buildings for that part of the State.

Mr. Tonkin: Why cannot a decent residence be built for the school-teacher up there?

Mr. Rhatigan: Why is the club for a selected few?

Mr. COURT: The member for Kimberley keeps on about this so-called class distinction. He knows this is a construction project. We have the contractors, the senior officers of the Public Works Department, and other senior officers in the district, and they are all part of this developmental project at this time. The wages work force are provided for in a manner which, I suggest, is better than in most construction projects, and particularly in an area as remote as this. The honourable member cannot mention any amenity normally provided in a construction project which is not provided at Kununurra in good measure.

I discussed this matter with some of the men concerned. They did not suggest that they join the Ord River Club; they asked for a workers' club of their own. They acknowledged, in discussion, that this is a construction project, and that at the end of 1962 the work force would move out. Some will go out at the end of the dry season, 1961.

Mr. Rhatigan: Why not permit them to be members of the club?

Mr. COURT: The honourable member knows that the rules of the club are administered by the club, and it is not the intention of the Government to interfere in any way. The club is being conducted in a first-class manner, and this should be encouraged. When this construction period is ended, which we anticipated will be the end of the dry season 1962, the construction force, in the main, will move out, because there will be a hiatus before the main dam is commenced in the year 1965, 1966, or 1967. Not only will the professional officers move out, but other officers from the Public Works Department, and also the working force in general. The town will then be left as an ordinary farming community, including those people in such organisations as the Main Roads Department and members of the Public Works Department who are—

Mr. Rhatigan: But they will not be permitted to become members.

Mr. COURT: Obviously the honourable member has not studied the problem. At the end of this construction period those people will move out—the construction force, professional and otherwise—and the ordinary operating personnel will remain, together with those people who will be farming, and others in the district. At that time the Ord River Club will make up its mind what it is going to do about the normal operation of Kununurra, and who it is going to incorporate in its club. It will not be dictated to by this Government. It will make its own arrangements, as might be the case at Bruce Rock, Northam, or anywhere else.

Mr. Hawke: Who will decide this?

Mr. COURT: The club committee, as it does now.

Mr. Hawke: How does the club committee come into existence?

Mr. COURT: I do not know the exact constitution under which the club operates. The Government had to provide a hostel, some amenities, and facilities. There are facilities for the wages force, and the facilities at the Ord River Club. For the honourable member to create an incident out of this is quite wrong, and it does not become him. It is one of the better things which have been done for the north.

Mr. Rhatigan: It is the worst type of class distinction ever.

Mr. COURT: Regarding the mythical V.I.P. house at Wyndham about which the honourable member spoke, he is well aware that Wyndham is severely taxed for accommodation, because the build-up from this project has placed a strain on the administrative resources of Wyndham.

Mr. Rhatigan: Can you deny that the 6-Mile Hotel provides excellent accommodation?

Mr. COURT: If the honourable member will just listen for a moment I will tell him. Apparently I have caught up with the town more than the honourable member has. It is severely taxed in all its administrative facilities. After all these years the Government has had to encourage the local authority to get a power station, which is now being built, and various other administrative facilities in that town have had to be augmented by the Government.

For instance, we are assisting with water supply, and other houses have to be built to take care of Government employees that come into the district because Wyndham will be the focal point for the whole of the East Kimberley and particularly the Ord River development scheme without waiting for produce from the farms to flow out. For the last year or so the amount of material and equipment going through the port of Wyndham for the hinterland has been tremendous.

Mr. Rhatigan: I know that.

Mr. COURT: I am just trying to be patient with the honourable member. The facts are that because of this tremendous build-up, accommodation has been extremely short and the more the Government could do up there to take the strain off the ordinary facilities the better it was appreciated by the local authority and the local people. It was only last Sunday that the council asked me if I would confer with my ministerial colleagues to see whether they could co-ordinate the arrival of people into Wyndham because of the shortage of accommodation in order to try to avoid overlapping, and to take the strain off normal facilities which are severely taxed by the increasing number of civilians coming to Wyndham, as would be expected of a project of this magnitude. That, alone, justifies the provision of some accommodation by the Government to meet what is an emergency position whilst the town of Wyndham is developed sufficiently to meet the increased requirements of the hinterland.

Mr. Tonkin: When is the Government going to build a decent residence for the school-teacher?

Votes: Department of Industrial Development, £267,921; North-West, £3,005,195—put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture).

BILLS (3): RETURNED

1. Main Roads Act Amendment Bill.
2. Public Works Act Amendment Bill.
3. Kwinana-Mundijong-Jarrahdale Railway Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

*House adjourned at 12.5 a.m.
(Thursday).*