

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Section 6 amended—

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not sure, but I think one honourable member who is absent from the Chamber for only a moment might want to say something on this clause. I notice that he has now re-entered the Chamber.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I apologise, Mr. Deputy Chairman, but unfortunately I was unexpectedly called out of the Chamber. I am in full support of this clause, but I was mainly concerned about what the Bill does not contain rather than the amendments which are set out. However, I am afraid Standing Orders will not permit me to discuss what is not in the Bill.

Nevertheless, I express disappointment that the Builders' Registration Act still does not embrace the whole of the State. Many who are engaged in the building industry deeply regret that this is not so, and therefore it is to be hoped that in due course, during this session, the Minister will be able to introduce another Bill to cover all builders within the State, not only for the benefit of the builders themselves, but also to protect their clients.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

#### Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 8.35 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 6th October, 1965

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

## QUESTIONS (27): ON NOTICE

## WUNDOWIE CHARCOAL IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

## Part Ownership by a Private Company

1. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) What stage has been reached in the negotiations currently being conducted to allow a private company to become part-owner of the charcoal iron industry at Wundowie?

## Timber Mill: Sale, or Partnership by a Private Company

- (2) Are such negotiations covering also the timber mill which the board of management of the industry operates at Wundowie?
- (3) If not, are any separate negotiations being carried out or inquiries made to sell the timber mill to private interests or to allow any such interests to take up a partnership in the timber mill with the State?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Negotiations have reached a stage where a final decision is dependent on several important matters related to the future economics of

the industry and particularly transport costs. It is premature to say whether these outstanding matters can be satisfactorily resolved.

- (2) Yes, as an integral part of the industry.
- (3) Answered by (2).

## HOUSING IN ALBANY

## P.M.G. Employees: Provision

2. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Housing:

In view of the answer given on housing in the Albany area, on the 2nd September, 1965—that the Government would give consideration to the development in the Albany area—will he undertake to make housing available for 30 P.M.G. families being transferred to Albany on account of the movement of the southern administration section from Perth to Albany and the commercial section of the same branch from Bunbury?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

Not as a special scheme, but each transferred employee whose income does not exceed £1,570 per annum, plus £25 per annum for each child under 16 years, will be able to apply for commission housing upon an "await-turn" basis.

## ALBANY HARBOUR TUG

## Subsidy for Board

3. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What amount of finance has been made available to the Albany Harbour Board by way of tug subsidy?
- (2) What amount of assistance was made available to the Albany Harbour Board by way of finance for the years 1963, 1964, 1965, as tug subsidy?

## Usage of Tug by Vessels

- (3) Are all ships entering the Albany Harbour and desiring berthage compelled to make full usage of tug protection?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is "No," what shipping companies do not make full usage of tug power and protection?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Amount made available up to the 30th June, 1965—£44,683 0s. 8d.

- (2) Information available for financial years—

1962-1963—£12,246 10s. 2d.

1963-1964—£12,275 12s. 9d.

1964-1965—£12,920 0s. 7d.

- (3) No.

- (4) Generally, ships requiring berthage make use of the tug. The ships of the Knutsen Line do not make full use of the tug service as ship masters of this line only use the tug when they consider it necessary by prevailing conditions.

4. *This question was postponed.*

### RAILWAYS DEPARTMENT

*Payment to E. L. and B. D. Hovell*

5. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Did the Railways Department pay to E. L. & B. D. Hovell on the 3rd February, 1965, an amount of £16 8s. 6d.?

- (2) What was this amount paid for?

- (3) How was the figure arrived at?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) From the information given no trace can be found of this payment, but it is being further researched.

For the information of the honourable member I wish to add that since this answer was prepared a payment for the same amount has been found, but for a different name and date, and I will confer with the honourable member on the details.

### YORK GAOL

*Improvements*

6. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What improvements are expected to be made to the gaol in York?

- (2) When are they likely to be effected?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) Consideration is being given to this matter, bearing in mind the possibility that the needs might be provided for at Northam.

7. *This question was postponed.*

### OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL IN FREMANTLE

*Finance for Construction by City Council*

8. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware of Fremantle City Council's current difficulties in endeavours to raise finance for

the installation of an Olympic swimming pool within council boundaries?

- (2) Is he aware that such a pool—

- (a) could be available to the 24,179 pupils of the 62 schools mentioned in his reply to my question 18 of the 23rd September;

- (b) would confer great benefit upon our youth and future citizens and enhance our Australian reputation as a producer of world swimming champions?

### Government Assistance

- (3) In view of the Government's election policy promise to assist each school to the extent of £1,000 for the installation of a swimming pool, will he prevail upon the Government to provide £1,000 for each of the 62 schools mentioned in the question above with a view to this total being used to assist Fremantle City Council provide an alternative to Beatty Park Olympic Pool which is too remote from the 24,179 children mentioned above?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.

- (2) (a) I am aware that such a claim is made.

- (b) I am aware that some exaggerated statements have been made in this regard.

- (3) No. The subsidy for school swimming pools was not intended to assist local authorities to provide public pools.

9. *This question was postponed.*

### TWO PEOPLE BAY, ALBANY

*National Park: Establishment*

10. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has the area which was set aside for a national park, Two People Bay, Albany, been declared and proclaimed as a national park; and, if so when?

*Fauna and Flora Reserve: Establishment*

- (2) Has the area set aside as protection for the noisy scrub bird at Two People Bay been declared and proclaimed a fauna and flora reserve; if so, when?

Mr. CRAIG (for Mr. Bovell) replied:

- (1) and (2) It has been decided to amalgamate all existing reserves at Two People Bay to protect the

noisy scrub bird and to make one reserve for the purpose of protection of flora and fauna.

Action is being considered to determine townsite boundaries before declaring the reserve.

### WARREN-LEFROY WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

#### *Appointment and Report of Investigations*

11A. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has he given sanction to a body named the Warren-Lefroy Water Conservation Committee to operate?
- (2) When, how and why was the above committee set up?
- (3) Has he received any report from the committee as a result of its investigations?

#### *Public's Interest: Preservation*

- (4) Is he satisfied that the public's interest is being preserved in the area covered by the committee?
- (5) If he is so satisfied that this is being done, upon what data does he base his conclusions?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No, but a committee called the Warren-Lefroy Advisory Committee has been appointed.
- (2) This committee was appointed on the 8th April, 1963, under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act after consultation with the Manjimup Shire Council, with respect to local representation, and was in response to requests from that body and the Warren Water Committee for assistance in control of the use of private irrigation water.
- (3) Minutes of the meetings are received and resolutions are submitted for approval.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The minutes and resolutions of the committee, of which the Engineer, Irrigation and Drainage, is chairman, indicate that it is aware of the water supply problems and is taking reasonable steps to protect the interests of all parties.

### WATER SUPPLIES AT PEMBERTON

#### *Shortage*

11B. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has there ever been a serious shortage of water in the Pemberton area?
- (2) When did this occur, if any?

- (3) Can he give the House the details of the cause of this shortage?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) It has not been necessary to ration the water supply of the town of Pemberton in recent years, but letters from the Manjimup Shire Council indicate that it was perturbed that the increasing use of water for private irrigation was causing problems.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).

### GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY

#### *Homes: Acquisition in Kalgoorlie*

12. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the Government Employees' Housing Authority acquired any homes yet in Kalgoorlie?
- (2) If so, how many and for what departments are these intended?
- (3) Does the authority intend to acquire further or any houses in Kalgoorlie during this calendar year?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) The authority has taken over from various departments 13 houses, but has not since it was proclaimed on the 2nd August, 1965, purchased or called tenders for the building of additional homes at Kalgoorlie.
- (3) The authority is now reviewing departmental requests and prospects of acquiring satisfactory housing at Kalgoorlie.

### GOODS SHED AT KALGOORLIE

#### *Resiting for Standard Gauge, and Resumptions Involved*

13. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Railways:

In connection with the resiting of the goods shed in Kalgoorlie to facilitate standard gauge operations, is it intended that any houses and land in Forrest Street, Kalgoorlie, will be resumed?

Mr. COURT replied:

At this stage the standard gauge detailed planning in Kalgoorlie is not sufficiently advanced to enable an answer to be given to this question.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSELLORS

#### *Qualifications*

14. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What qualifications are required of a person who sets himself up as a public relations counsellor for public consultations?

- (2) What authority prescribes and enforces such qualifications?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) Not known.

### COTTON AT GASCOYNE RESEARCH STATION

#### *Staple Lengths and Quality*

15. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What were the staple lengths of each variety of cotton grown on the Gascoyne Research Station this year?
- (2) What was the quality of the staple of each variety of cotton grown on the Gascoyne Research Station this year?

Mr. NALDER replied:

	Inches
(1) Rex	1-5/32
Deltapine	1-1/16
Dunn 7	1-3/32
Empire 289	1-1/32
Acala 4-42	1-3/32
Acala 1517	1-1/8
Pima S.1.	1-5/32
Pima S.2.	1-3/16

- (2) With such small samples as were available from experimental ginnings it was not possible to have grades assessed by visual commercial method.

Measurement of fineness and fibre strength will be obtained but it will be some time before this detail will be available.

### WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE AT EXMOUTH

#### *Charges*

16. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What will be the charge for water per 1,000 gallons for domestic purposes in respect of houses occupied by—

- (a) Australian families; and  
(b) American families;  
at Exmouth?

- (2) What rate will be charged for sewerage at Exmouth in respect of houses owned or occupied by—

- (a) Australian, and  
(b) Americans?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Domestic water will be charged at the by-law price for both Australian and American families. For each financial year the prices are as follows:—

first 60,000 gallons at 2s. per 1,000
next 40,000 gallons at 2s. 6d. per 1,000
over 100,000 gallons at 3s. per 1,000.

- (2) The sewerage rate at Exmouth in respect of houses owned or occupied by both Australian and American families has not been struck, but is expected to be 3s. in the pound on the estimated net annual value of the property.

### TAXI PLATES

#### *Issue in Special Circumstances*

17. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Transport:

As it was stated in the *Daily News* on the 24th September, 1965 that in special circumstances and for a variety of reasons taxi plates are sometimes issued other than on a population quota basis as provided for in the relative Act, will he advise—

- (1) on how many occasions such plates were issued over the past two years;
- (2) to whom were they issued;
- (3) what were the "special circumstances" in each case?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Nil. There is no provision in the Taxi-Cars (Co-ordination and Control) Act, 1963 for the Taxi Control Board to issue any taxi plates, in excess of the population ratio of one taxi for every 700 persons within the metropolitan area, to meet special circumstances. The issue made under special circumstances as referred to in the *Daily News* on the 24th September, 1965 was prior to the commencement of the Taxi-Cars (Co-ordination and Control) Act, 1963.

- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).

### TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

#### *Racing: Publication of Horse Numbers*

18. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Are there any restrictions on or difficulties associated with the publishing by newspapers of T.A.B. numbers in connection with fields of starters and results of horse races in this State?
- (2) If not, can an approach be made to local newspapers to provide this service for punters?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) There are no restrictions but some difficulties. However, the matter will again be taken up with the local newspapers.

## TEACHER TRAINING BURSARIES AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS

### *Refunds and Claims for Yearly Allowance*

19. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

In the event of a student attending a private school who has been granted a teacher training bursary, being unable to continue with such bursary under such conditions which would require a refund of moneys already received, would he then be able to claim retrospectively the £18 yearly allowance recently provided for under the amendment to the Education Act?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Parents must make an application for the tuition fee subsidy at the beginning of each year. If a bursar relinquished his bursary during the first year he could claim the subsidy in lieu of the bursary for that year. However, if he relinquished his bursary in its second year he would be able to claim the subsidy with respect to the second year but, because of administrative difficulties, it would not be possible to make retrospective payment of the subsidy for the first year.

## VIRAL PNEUMONIA

### *Cases from 1962 to 1965*

20. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many cases of viral pneumonia occurred in Western Australia in the years 1962, 1963, 1964, and 1965; and of these, how many were fatal?

### *Deaths amongst Young Children*

- (2) What number of deaths occurred with children one to five and five to ten years of age?

### *Research*

- (3) Is any specialised research being carried out in order to reduce or eliminate this complaint among young children; and, if so, what stage has been reached?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) (a) It is not practicable to indicate precisely how many cases of viral pneumonia occurred in W.A. in the years mentioned, because the term is not a standard clinical diagnosis. It is, however, true that pneumonia is an important problem in young children and that many cases of childhood pneumonia arise

from virus conditions such as measles, influenza, and other upper respiratory infections.

- (b) Viral pneumonia is not classified separately as a cause of death.

- (2) (a) See (1) (b).

- (b) Deaths from pneumonia (including lobar pneumonia, broncho-pneumonia, primary atypical pneumonia and other and unspecified pneumonia):

### *All ages—*

1962—234.

1963—211.

1964—235.

1965—Not yet available.

### *Under 5—*

1962—41.

1963—41.

1964—28.

1965—Not yet available.

### *5-9 years—*

1962—1

1963—Nil.

1964—3.

1965—Not yet available.

- (3) Special virus studies, designed to clarify the causes of respiratory infections in children, are being undertaken at the Princess Margaret Hospital in collaboration with the Public Health Laboratories.

## RAILWAY FROM PERTH TO GERALDTON

### *Re-routing*

21. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Are there any plans or proposals, either short term or long term, to re-route the railway between Perth and Geraldton, and with particular reference to the Three Springs locality?
- (2) If so, what are they, and what is the contemplated timetable of alterations?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) No, other than some normal minor track realignments.
- (2) Answered by (1).

## SHIPPING

### *Commonwealth Line: Establishment*

22. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware—
- (a) of the 5th October, 1965, *The West Australian* comment: "Dispute Threatens Meat Sales to U.S.";
- (b) that overseas shipping companies are demanding 10 per cent. increase in shipping freights to U.S. markets as

from the 1st November, 1965, with prospects of further increases early next year?

- (2) Will he at the next Premiers' conference urge all State Premiers to prevail upon the Federal Government to establish a Commonwealth shipping line as an urgent necessity to—
- counter the existing overseas shipping line monopoly by creating competition;
  - ensure that farmers' produce is not priced off overseas markets;
  - assist the Western Australian economy;
  - assist Australia's adverse trade balance;
  - assist to prevent economic domination from an overseas source?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- Yes.
- The situation is being closely observed and the Government will take whatever action it considers necessary at the appropriate time.

#### AGED PEOPLE AT MIDLAND

##### *Homes: Establishment*

23. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- Is the Medical Department considering any plans for setting up homes for aged people adjacent to the Swan Districts Hospital, Midland?
- At what stage, if any, is the proposal?

##### *Census*

- Has a census of aged people in the district been taken?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- and (2). No; but the department is already providing a hospital service for aged people at this hospital as would be the case with other hospitals throughout the State. With regard to homes for the aged, I would refer the honourable member to my reply to him on the 24th November, 1964, on a similar question last session. The situation therein stated still applies.
- Not by the department.

#### MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY PROPERTY

##### *Midland: Use*

24. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- Has a decision been made as to the use of property previously used by Midland Railway Company in the town of Midland?

- Will he set out the use to which the property will be put?

##### *West Midland: Availability for Leasing*

- Is any of the property available for leasing near West Midland station?

Mr. COURT replied:

- and (2). The use of the land acquired from Midland Railway Company is under consideration. Part has been allocated for the rapid transit terminal.
- There could be some land made available, depending on the requirements of the applicants and discussions with the local authority.

#### RAILWAY STATION AT MIDLAND

##### *Opening*

25. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- Has a date been fixed for the proposed opening of the new railway station at Midland?
- If so, what is the date proposed?

##### *Car Park: Capacity*

- What number of cars will be catered for at the new station?

##### *Kiosks: Tenders*

- Have tenders been accepted for hiring the various kiosks?
- If not, when will tenders be let?

Mr. COURT replied:

- to (3) Building tenders will be called in due course and a decision on construction and opening dates will be made when tenders are being considered.

The present plan is parking for a minimum of 160 and possibly 240 private vehicles initially.

- and (5) Tenders have not yet been called.

#### BUILDING COSTS OF MAJOR WORKS

##### *Increases and Contributing Factors*

26. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- How much have building costs, in respect of major works, gone up in Western Australia in the last six months?
- If any, what are the main factors which have brought about this increase?

Mr. COURT replied:

- and (2) It is impracticable to give an answer which would suit all major works because location, nature, and a number of other matters have a bearing on cost variations.

The formula used to calculate rise-and-fall adjustments on some major Government contracts shows a 3.1 per cent. increase during the six months' period to the 30th September, 1965.

Virtually all of the increases in building costs in this case have resulted from wage rises.

## PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD

### *Establishment: Authority*

27. Mr. GUTHRIE asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Under what legal authority is the Public Examinations Board established?

### *Members: Appointment*

- (2) Who are the members of the Board?
- (3) Who appoints each of the members of the board?
- (4) For what period is each member appointed?

### *Powers and Functions*

- (5) What are the powers and functions of the board?
- (6) Are its decisions on policy matters subject to review or veto by any person or authority; and, if so, by what person or authority?
- (7) Does the board possess the power to abolish the Junior and/or Leaving Certificate examinations?
- (8) If the answer to (7) is "No," who has the power to abolish such examinations?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Statute No. 15 promulgated under the University of Western Australia Act, 1911-1964.
- (2) Ex officio: Vice-Chancellor or his nominee, Director-General of Education or nominee, Professor of Education.

Appointed: Seven members representing the University and nominated by the Professorial Board and appointed by the Senate.

Five members representing the Education Department and appointed by the Minister for Education.

Three members representing secondary schools for boys and elected by headmasters.

Three members representing secondary schools for girls and elected by headmistresses.

- (3) See answer to (2).
- (4) Appointed members have three-year terms.

- (5) The conduct of school certificate examinations and all matters related thereto.
- (6) Yes, by the Senate of the University.
- (7) No.
- (8) The Senate; but if this requires amendment to a Statute, then the Senate and Convocation, subject to the approval of Executive Council and the usual tabling.

## QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

### SCIENTOLOGY

#### *Victorian Report, and Action against Perth Organisation*

Mr. DAVIES asked the Premier:

In view of the fact that there is a central organisation of scientology in Perth and, according to Press reports a report tabled in the Victoria Legislative Assembly describes scientology and its techniques as evil, will the Government obtain a copy of the report from the Victorian Parliament with a view to investigating whether any action should be taken in this State?

Mr. BRAND replied:

I will have this matter examined.

## BILLS (5): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Constitution Acts Amendment Bill (No. 2).
2. Electoral Districts Act Amendment Bill.  
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and read a first time.
3. Education Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).  
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Lewis (Minister for Education), and read a first time.
4. Vermin Act Amendment Bill.  
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.
5. Electoral Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).  
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Toms, and read a first time.

## CATTLE INDUSTRY COMPENSATION BILL

### *Third Reading*

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



# AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

## Third Reading

**MIR. NALDER** (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [4.54 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

**MR. JAMIESON** (Beeloo) [4.55 p.m.]: I have been somewhat late in entering into controversy with the Minister, but feel I must do so because of the remarks he made last night. Perhaps it would have been wiser if his stay overseas had been for a week longer.

Parliament House has a standing order with suppliers of fruit, and the understanding is that we are to be supplied with the best quality available. The merchants from whom we obtain the fruit are reasonable and do supply the best they can possibly obtain. Members have eaten these apples and know the quality of them. Some have been very immature; some have been overripe and soggy at the core; and others have had burns on them inflicted by bad cold storage.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman): Order! Is the honourable member relating his remarks to the Agricultural Products Act?

**MR. JAMIESON**: Yes. It deals with this subject.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman): We are now dealing with the Fruit Cases Act Amendment Bill.

**MR. JAMIESON**: No; we are dealing with the Agricultural Products Act Amendment Bill.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman): I am sorry. That is correct.

**MR. JAMIESON**: I feel that the Minister, by proclaiming that he was quite satisfied with the quality of the products available to the public now, did the public a great disservice. Members know this, because they have sampled the fruit.

Today, from the supplies we have here, I selected some fruit which I have here to show members. This particular apple I have in my hand has obviously been burnt by bad cool storage. Here is another one which is obviously immature.

A member interjected.

**MR. JAMIESON**: I am not allowed to throw things in the House. It is against the rules. Obviously this apple is immature. When an apple is mature the remains of the flower dry off at the top and the greenness is lost. When it is immature it is still quite pliable and the skin is green, as is the rest of the apple. I remind members that these apples were in a mixed case and were supposed to be of first-class quality.

Here is another one, and I am not too sure of the reason for its appearance. It has a little sun blemish, is immature, and is a little burnt from the freezer as well. This particular one is fairly mature, but it has been blemished and knocked about a little bit. This other one is also blemished because of bad storage. No doubt we could find many more in this condition. I repeat that this is fruit from our own pantry, and we have requested first-class-quality fruit.

It is true that today, of all days, I had to forage through about a quarter of a case, at the most, to select these samples. No-one would accuse the staff here of being so silly as to put the worst apples on display, and yet this is the fruit that appears on the table. I draw the attention of members to the fact that for about the last six weeks the fruit has been like this. We are getting a bit away from the apple-picking season, I know, and we cannot expect apples to be of the same quality as that which obtained earlier in the year.

It is a fact, however, that many good apples have been left on the trees, or have fallen off because they have not been wanted. If members had taken a run into the hills a few weeks ago they would have seen the apples on the trees and would know that what I say is true.

**MR. KELLY**: Many more were dumped as well.

**MR. JAMIESON**: That is true. No doubt in your territory, Mr. Speaker, apples far better than some of these I have shown, and probably more mature, would have been fed to the pigs or cattle, or would have been got rid of in some other way.

**MR. FLETCHER**: We are getting them. What about the public?

**MR. JAMIESON**: The public are getting them, too, because they are buying them for home consumption from the fruiterers. I have bought some and they have been of a similar quality; and they are a high price. Irrespective of the price, the quality should be protected because of the abundance of apples which it is possible to grow in this State.

As we are getting this sort of apple, I am wondering whether some of them are not getting through in the overseas supplies; because, if so, we could be damaging ourselves very badly. I believe there is no need at all for growers to sell immature apples. If the apples are over-ripe, of course the situation is worse. The fruit growers have enough knowledge to pick the apples in such a way that the quality is even all the way through. But they have not been doing this in the past.

This seems to be peculiar to this type of fruit; because members know what happens if an orange with a blemish on it gets into a case. Before long such an

orange, even if it has only a small bruise on it, will go bad; and, of course, pears are even worse because they do not last very long.

Because apples will last a long while in storage, there seems to be a temptation on the part of those responsible not to be as selective as they should be, and not to grade them in the way it is desired or suggested they should be graded under this Act.

I suggest that all is not well with the promotion of apple sales to the consumers in this State, and more attention should be given by those people who are responsible for supplying apples to the metropolitan area, and indeed to all consumers, than they have given in the past.

I would hate to think that the Minister was getting away with the statement he made last night: that, in the main, everybody seemed quite satisfied now. That is not the case at all. Right before our very noses we have an instance of what is occurring; and those members who dine regularly at Parliament House must agree that we get one apple that is immature, one that is overripe, and then one that is quite all right. Then we get some with burn marks on them.

The other day the member for Balcatta cut one into pieces and it had freckle marks on it. He got practically no fruit at all from it by the time he had finished with it; but he can tell his own story.

For the Minister to imply that we get a good class of product—far better than before—is not right, and I think the remarks I have made are quite justified.

**MR. ROWBERRY** (Warren) [5.2 p.m.]: Because of the importance of this industry to the south-west of the State, and because of the near catastrophic conditions that obtained in the industry after the last harvest, I am constrained to speak once more on this Bill.

Under the Act a committee called the Apple Sales Advisory Committee was set up to do certain things. I am not satisfied, and have never been satisfied, that those certain things have, in fact, been done. I mentioned this matter once before in the House, and as a result I received a communication from the chairman of the committee telling me that certain things had been done and telling me certain things that the committee was empowered to do.

If there is one important thing that this committee should do, or attempt to do, it is to assess the quantity of apples which will be produced in this State so that prior arrangements can be made to ship them overseas. I am not alone in being concerned about this matter because, as the Minister should know—if he does not know he probably was out of the State at the time—a report was made by the Australian Apple and Pear Board emphasising

the need for the utmost accuracy—not just an approximation—in assessing or forecasting the export crops.

If this is not done, the industry is saddled with increased expenses through having to make last-minute arrangements for shipping space. This means increased freight costs and decreased returns to the growers.

I am surprised that more members on the Government side who represent apple growers have not, in the interests of their own people, brought these facts before the Government. It is because I am concerned about these things and because the apple growers in my district are concerned that I rise once more to bring these matters to the attention of the Minister and the House.

It may be said: What can we do by talking in the House? The last time I spoke, the committee was apparently so concerned that it sent me a full report of what took place in 1963. I would be interested to know whether, since then, the Minister has had any further reports or information. If he has, can the information be made available to me or to the House?

The committee was also set up to investigate and assess the demand for apples for consumption within this State; and also to prescribe the grades and quality of apples to be consumed within the State. I want to say again, for emphasis, that because of the extremely large crop of apples in the last season there was no need for immature or inferior apples to be unloaded on to the public. If the growers themselves will not protect their own interests, then this committee should have more power and should be given more funds so that more inspectors could be employed to see that the growers do not have the opportunity of unloading inferior fruit on the public.

We heard the Budget speech, and we know we are going to spend more money on policing the crayfishing industry; more funds will be made available for more efficient and continuous inspectors of that industry. I think our apple-growing industry is just as important to the State as the crayfishing industry, and it should have an equal call upon the public funds. If the fruit-growing trust fund has not been able to finance the employment of further inspectors, then the Minister should approach the Treasurer for extra funds for that purpose. This will undoubtedly be in the best interests of the apple growers themselves and of the public. If we continue to unload inferior goods upon the public, they will spend their money elsewhere and cease to buy those inferior commodities.

Another thing I would like to bring to the Minister's attention is that he is empowered by this Act to exercise or perform such other powers and duties as he may

consider necessary or advisable relating to the better marketing of apples. The Minister said that the Fruit-Growers' Association is satisfied with things as they are; and, as a result, wants a continuation of the legislation.

I would not say that the growers in my area, or in yours, Mr. Speaker, are perfectly satisfied. They are not satisfied that the industry is being protected in the best possible way. Because of that they are giving a lot of attention to setting up a marketing board similar to other production and marketing boards in the State.

I point out to the Minister that if he gets past the executive of the Fruit Growers' Association and deals with the individual members of the association—the growers themselves—he will find they are very much in favour of having a marketing board set up which will not only take care of the sale of apples but will also take care of the production of apples.

I say that because, had it not been for the partial failure of the Tasmanian apple crop last season, the apple growers of Western Australia would have been badly hit to leg, to use the vernacular. It was only because of the partial failure of the Tasmanian crop, and the failure of the apple growers to meet their export commitments, that Western Australia was able to export the greater part of its apple crop. Last year we exported 1,400,000 bushel cases of apples, which was a considerable increase on the previous year. If my memory serves me aright the export figure for last year was almost double that of the previous year.

I would like the Minister to take into consideration the points I have put before him: that it does not appear as if this committee or its inspectors are working as efficiently as they should—and that could be because there are not enough inspectors to cover the districts efficiently; and that the grades of apples which are getting past the inspectors are, under the circumstances, not fit to be on the market. There is no excuse whatsoever for inferior fruit to be on the market when we are destroying hundreds of tons of fruit—apples, especially. In those circumstances there is no excuse whatsoever for the public being called upon to eat inferior apples.

I would also like to raise for the Minister's consideration the need for legislation to set up a better scheme for the assessment of the probable crop with a view to regulating that crop according to the export market needs and the market needs within the State.

If these things are done, not only will the apple growers benefit, but so will the whole of Western Australia.

**Question put and passed.**

**Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.**

## **FRUIT CASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Third Reading*

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

## **FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Report*

Report of Committee adopted.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)**

### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), read a first time.

## **BILLS (4): RETURNED**

1. Local Government Act Amendment Bill.
  2. Plant Diseases Act Amendment Bill.
  3. Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act Amendment Bill.
  4. Jetties Act Amendment Bill.
- Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

## **CONDITIONAL PURCHASE LAND AND SALE OF LEASES**

### *Inquiry by Select Committee: Motion*

**MR. NORTON** (Gascoyne) [5.15 p.m.]: I move—

That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report on—

- (1) the allocation of conditional purchase land, its development, and the sale of leases prior to the issuance of a Crown grant for such land, and any other relevant matters which the committee may consider necessary, and
- (2) to examine the relevant Acts and regulations appertaining to the granting of leases, including pastoral leases, the development and sale of conditional purchase land, and make such recommendations as are considered in the interest and development of the State and the administration of the Act.

Over the past few years we have heard constantly of the large areas of land being made available by this Government under conditional purchase conditions. In fact, it is freely stated that over 1,000,000 acres are allocated each year in this way, and this statement is substantiated by figures which were given to me yesterday in answer to a question I asked on this

subject. I asked what was the total allocation of conditional purchase land for the years 1962, 1963, and 1964; and the total allocation for those years was 3,324,454 acres, which were allocated to 1,780 applicants; and included in that number were 273 absentee owners.

I do not know whether these people were allocated land under section 47 or section 49 of the Act, but I take it the allocations were made under section 47, which requires the owners to take up residence on their properties. I do not know the names of the five companies which were given grants of land, but I fail to see how a company could take up residence on a property, as is required under the Act.

We continually hear about young farmers, share farmers, and other people in the State who want to take up land and start farming; and at the same time we are constantly hearing of land that is being held and only partially developed with the conditions of purchase not being adhered to. This is borne out by an article which appeared in *The Countryman* of the 4th March, and a further article which appeared in the same journal of the 28th March this year. I think it would be as well to read the article of the 4th March so that it can be included in *Hansard* as it clearly sets out the position at Dandaragan; and Dandaragan is only a prototype of other areas in the State as I will show later on. The article is headed "Farmer's Complaint About Absentee Owners", and it reads as follows:—

At the recent Farmers' and Scientists' conference, a Badgingarra farmer claimed that 60 per cent. of the people holding farms in his area were not living on them.

The fact that 60 per cent. of the people holding farms in the area are not living on them is a reflection on somebody, but on whom it is a reflection I am not sure at the moment. That is one of the reasons for my moving this motion. The article continues—

The farmer, Mr. W. A. Slee, was tilting at the system of land allocation which, he said, seemed to favour the business and professional man in recent years.

In this he echoed the opinion of many W.A. farmers.

Mr. Slee, a Dandaragan Shire councillor, feels—

As members can see, Mr. Slee would be in a position to know what people were doing in respect of their land, because it would be in his interests, as a shire councillor, to know what was going on in his district. To continue—

—that Land Boards are giving preference to capital rather than capability and that, too often, those who are

granted the blocks hold them for years without making any significant improvement to them.

Often they sell out when values around them rise—and the prices they ask are usually beyond the means of the man who has the right experience, but limited capital. Many of those who buy such blocks as these, it is claimed, do so to use them as "taxation sumps."

Those who seem to miss out in every respect are the young men who have every intention of making farming their permanent livelihood. In this category are many who have gained plenty of farming experience either through working on farms or share-farming. Farmers' sons make up a percentage of these men.

I would think members of the Country Party would be able to confirm these statements. The article goes on—

The young men, who intend to raise their families on their farms, are the backbone of any rural community, says Mr. Slee.

They support local business and take part in civic and social community activities. They press for the maintenance and improvement of roads and other Government works and services in their areas. But the non-resident usually has much more to occupy him back in the city or on his original farm. And the employee or share-farmer who works his property does not have the same incentive to become interested in the district around him.

That is very true. Naturally if a person does not live in a district he is not interested whether or not a school bus operates in the area. If a genuine farmer is working on his own property, and there is perhaps 20 miles between his property and the school, and there is no other farmer with a family living on the route to the school, it is unlikely that a school bus service will be established. The same applies to telephone services, roads, and the like. The same pressure for these facilities cannot be applied if there is only one genuine farmer living in an area where there are several absentee owners. The article continues—

An absentee owner's farm, says Mr. Slee, is only as good as the man he has developing it for him—and he has slim chances of getting the best market to go more than 50 miles from town.

The problem of new land acquisition by absentee applicants has disturbed a number of the resident settlers in all new areas. But just how real is it? At the Farmers' and Scientists' conference, surveyor J. F. Morgan said he thought Mr. Slee's figure of 60 per cent. misleading and erroneous.

However, if one takes the Shire of Dandaragan (which includes the Badgingarra district) as an example, figures definitely favour Mr. Slee's case.

The figures in this article have all been verified, and are very illuminating. To continue—

A recent survey in this shire shows that of the farms released since 1952, only 38 per cent. have resident owners. Of the remaining 62 per cent. non-residents, a small number had a manager, and a few others had employees without manager status.

If we break out the figures given into their proper percentages we find that there are 38 per cent. resident owners, 31 per cent. live in distant areas, 17 per cent. live in Perth, eight per cent. live in adjoining shires, and six per cent. have not been located.

This complaint, and others which have come forward, have proved to me that what I have been quoting is not an isolated instance. When one looks at the other information which I have, one finds that in an area near Esperance—a small compact area—the owners of certain land are spread practically all over the world. I understand one person farming there is completely surrounded by absentee owners. I have the names and addresses of these owners and I shall read them to the House to give members some idea of how far apart these owners are living.

There is a man named Ray Yench of Cobar, New South Wales. He has no resident manager although he has 1,000 acres cleared and pastured, two dams, and a small shed. He has refused £18,000 for this block. I understand he has his work done by subcontractors while he farms the property by remote control from New South Wales. There is another location owned by a Mr. McDonald, of Port Lincoln, South Australia. There is no-one on the property and it has been only partly developed. Hector Stewart, of Tatura, Victoria owns another property on which there is no manager or buildings. Mollett and Co. of Uncley, Lincoln, England, owns a property in this area but I believe the company has a good resident manager and he is developing the property.

In addition, two professional men own properties in the district and I believe they go up there each weekend and develop the farms as a hobby.

I now want to read an extract from a letter which came from a resident on the Inkpen Estate; and in reference to that estate the letter reads—

Here you will find very few areas that can boast even the ghost of the conditions being carried out and at least half of the allocations have changed hands or are on the market and as for living in the district you

are just as isolated as if you were living in the middle of the Nullarbor as nearly all farms are held by absentee owners with no intention of living on them.

So it can be seen that there is a third area which possesses conditions similar to those in Badgingarra. I would like to read an extract from another letter. It is as follows:—

If Mr. Bovell honestly believes that the condition that conditional purchasers are required to live on their land for six months of each of the first five years, and that this provision is "rigidly enforced" as he states in Saturday's paper, then I suggest that he hop into his government car one day, and just take a drive anywhere round this area (if he can get over some of the roads with his car springs still intact, and without getting bogged) and see how many of the blocks have tracks (tyre marks etc.) leading into them, and how many of them have dwellings of any sort on them for his conditional purchase people to live in for their six, or any other months, of the year.

If the conditional purchase act is to serve its purpose, then let it be rigidly enforced on the theory of "one man, one block". If it is to be open slather, with those who can, grabbing all the land they can get hold of and holding it for future use of their growing families, or for speculation, or for anything else, then let the Government say so, but let the position be made clear, and get rid of the present hypocrisy.

A fortnight after the article appeared in *The Countryman*, the editor of that publication took a trip to Badgingarra and again wrote an article on the conditions he found in the district. It is not my intention to read the entire article. I will read the relevant parts of it on which I will comment, because I think they substantiate what is taking place. The article appears in *The Countryman* of the 25th March, 1965, and I quote—

It is not the aim of any Land Board to allocate new country to speculators. But the fact remains that many blocks have been granted to people who have had speculation in view, or have intended to develop "by remote control" as a means of reducing their taxable incomes.

Usually the speculator makes some rudimentary improvements to his block, while genuine farmers in his district prove the value of the new land by clearing, then sowing crops and pastures to pay for their development costs and earn an income. When it is established that the land is worth, say, £3 an acre in its virgin state,

with the potential of carrying perhaps, three sheep an acre—the speculator advertises. And in the last two years, there have been many scantily-improved blocks advertised, usually accompanied by the well-worn rural land catch-cry “Opportunity for development.”

I found this to be quite correct. I carried out my investigations in the reading room, where there are a number of periodicals available for one to examine to see what land is up for sale. In this case I took *Elder's Weekly* which advertises land for sale on its back page. I started at the 7th January, 1965, and went through to July.

I have drawn up lists of quite a number of the blocks which were offered for sale, but I am not sure whether I have got all the conditional purchase blocks in my list, because I believe that only a certain number of the conditional purchase blocks were shown as such. The advertisements either showed them as C.P., P.L., W.S.L.S., P.H., or with no description at all. Those with no description appeared to be the conditional purchase blocks.

In the issues from the 7th January to the 8th April I found that there were actually 55 marked as conditional purchase blocks of land for sale. Of these 55 conditional purchase blocks of land which were for sale there were 28 with no dwelling whatever on them. The remaining 27, which had dwellings on them, appeared to be quite well developed and up to standard with their requirements. Those with no dwellings on them were very sparsely developed, as I will show later on. Those blocks with no dwellings on them covered an area of 90,368 acres.

In reply to a question recently concerning the number of absentee holders of land under conditional purchase—that is, land issued under section 49 of the Act—we were told that there are only 599 absentee owners, and that they hold 167,831 acres between them. This is an average of only 280 acres per lessee.

So it is very apparent that these are in the dairying districts, and do not come within the wheat and sheep areas. The 28 properties I have quoted would not come within this category. It is interesting to note the tremendous acreage that has been up for sale in the three months in question. There could be more acreages for sale. This would be evident if one went through the various other lots of land which were advertised, and which were not designated as conditional purchase or otherwise.

I have a list of conditional purchase blocks which have been put up for sale since the 7th January, 1965. I will not read all of them, but will select a number for my purpose. I also have the actual valuations which were made prior to the transfer of the leases on these blocks, so

there is some evidence here of just how little has been expended on them, and also of the amount that has been asked or received for them. The first one I quote is from Albany. I understand the actual block was in the Cape Riche area. The advertisement reads—

2,754 acres conditional purchase land—light to medium country—500 acres fallow and 500 acres dozed. Small bore. No fences or buildings. Price £17,160.

The valuation of the improvements on that property was £2,000. Let us consider another property which was advertised in Badgingarra as follows:—

£7,000 will negotiate the purchase of this property with scope for development; 4,852 ac. C.P. 30 x 40 s.f. shed with material for 5,000-gal. tank and cement for flooring shed plus timber and iron for lean-to. No other improvements. Price £14,556.

The valuation of the improvements on that block was £1,000. There is another advertisement concerning Badgingarra which reads—

Badgingarra: 4225 ac. C.P., 200 cl., 400 logged, 2 miles of fencing, soak and some past., 30 x 15 steel and iron shed. Price £3 per acre on £6,000 dep.

The outlay on that up to date, when it was transferred, was £1,600. A property at Greenrange is advertised as follows:—

2,700 ac. C.P. of mallee country with light to med. soil, 1,000 ac. logged with some regrowth—

Apparently this property had been abandoned for some time because the regrowth had started. The advertisement continues—

—and 250 ac. ploughed, no other improvements. £15,000 cash.

The value of the improvements on that property was £1,000. The following advertisement appears in connection with a property at Borden:—

Ample scope for development. 2,900 ac. of light mallee, 760 cl., 400 part cl., 260 ac. fallow, some fencing; 2 dams, unequip.; living qtrs., 12 x 14 and shear. g.p. shed 50 x 30. Price £25,000 on C.P. basis.

There is no valuation set for the improvements on that property. We find that another property is advertised at Jerramungup as follows:—

Good opportunity for development, 3165 ac. C.P. of mallee and mort, 230 fallow, 200 pt. cl., no fences. New living qtrs., 4 rooms, timber frame, asb., iron roof. Price £9,495.

The outlay on that property was £3,000. We then find an advertisement in connection with a property at West Cranbrook as follows:—

Cranbrook West, 2,940 ac. pc 400 dozed and winrowed good country no buildings, excellent potential, £18,000.

A further advertisement in connection with a property at Wiialki reads—

4,783 ac. Salmon gum gimlet and mallee 17/1,800 ac. c.l. 7/800 ac. fallow 5 paddocks ring fenced 1 bore unlimited supply water. No buildings. Price £30,000.

Members will notice that most of the properties I have quoted have no houses on them at all. An advertisement of a property at Ongerup reads as follows:—

Opportunity 2,939 ac. C.P. of mallee 1,200 ac. logged, 430 fallow, some fencing sf shed 60 x 30 £6 per ac. £17,634.

There is another advertisement of a property at Merredin which reads—

Property with development potential 2,518 ac. C.P. teatree tamah and white gum, 700 cl. sf. shed 40 x 40. £12,000.

I could go on through this list and show that there are any number of these conditional purchase blocks with no residence on them whatever; and yet they are being sold at very high prices although they have no living conditions to offer.

It is interesting to note how the advertisements fall off in April. They drop away very steeply. In fact, only one or two advertisements appeared in the journal to which I referred, where previously there were quite a number of advertisements. In some advertisements we find the indication that they have permission to sell from the Lands Department, or the permission of the Minister to sell. Some just had permission to sell, or authority to sell from the Lands Department.

It would seem, therefore, that the article in *The Countryman* did quite a bit to stem the sale of these blocks. It would be interesting to see, in view of the amendments passed recently, whether the previous trend will return.

To continue the article which I was reading previously—

Then we have the case of the successful applicant who genuinely wants to farm his block. But after battling for some time he realises that he has not enough capital to carry on, and cannot produce enough equity to raise a loan. He must forfeit his block or sell out—and it is naturally the second alternative he chooses.

Obviously, the Lands Department would not allow the transfer of some of these CP leases because conditions have not been complied with. But there are ways out of this.

The buyer, who could be a man intending to live on the farm and work it himself, or a city businessman looking for a hobby-cum-investment, brings the development up to date before the vendor applies for the transfer.

This is alleged to be one of the ways in which absentee farmers (some of them from the Eastern States) have acquired big parcels of Conditional Purchase land—often far in excess of the 5,000 acres which would disqualify them from applying for a block through a Land Board. On transfer of the CP lease such farmers are said to use names of family members and the like.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons why such a big number of blocks in certain new districts are held by non-resident owners.

This much is certain—the State is losing money with every new area of land it allocates. The traffic in CP blocks has proved this.

Two cases have been brought to my notice and I think they are outstanding. One concerns a land agent in Canberra by the name of Cusack. I understand he has purchased in the vicinity of 22,000 acres of C.P. land in the manner described in the last section which I read. I understand that quite often when a person is up against it and he has to leave his property, he is offered a price for his improvements by such a speculator so that he can carry on and develop the land until it meets the requirements of the Act, when the original lessee transfers it to the other person. I believe the person who has this particular 22,000 acres has the land in the names of various members of his family, so he is not holding more than his quota. Nevertheless I am told he has full control of this 22,000 acres in the area.

There is another man—a Western Australian this time—who has control of 14,000 acres, which has been acquired by a similar method. I understand this man is making quite a good job of the development of the property; but, nevertheless, he is debarring genuine farmers from acquiring some of the land. If we are going to allow absentee farmers to take up this land, the districts concerned will not develop as they should, nor will genuine farmers in those areas get the services which are so badly needed by them, such as roads, schools, medical facilities, telephone services, postal facilities, and so on.

It is only right that these people should be looked after in this way and it is essential that the absentee farmers should comply with their conditions of residence so that the facilities can be provided. It is not the absentee owner who puts value on the land; it is the genuine farmer who proves his property and its capabilities. High prices are being asked for this land by speculators. After it has been proved that a property will run sheep and grow crops, a value on the land is established and the speculator walks in and puts the property up for sale, thereby probably making money at the other person's expense.

As far as absentee owners are concerned, it seems to me that either the conditions of the Act are not being policed, the conditions are far too easy, or the original price of the conditional purchase land was far too low. The other point is this: Are the inspectors doing the job they should? Are there enough inspectors to carry out the inspections of the land which is being leased today? Perhaps the Land Act is not what it should be.

If we go back to 1948 we will find that very few amendments to the Land Act have been made. I went through the index and ascertained just how many amendments had been made to the Land Act since 1948. An amendment was made in 1950. I am not sure what this amendment did, but it was only a small one. I might mention here that practically all of the amendments to the Land Act have, except on one occasion, been in a Bill containing one sheet. The second amendment made to that Act since 1948 was in Act No. 66 of 1953. That dealt with section 109A, which deals with pastoral leases. Act No. 7 of 1954 amended section 85 which deals with special settlement land. Act No. 41 of 1956 amended sections 3, 7, and 143. Section 143 was one which we amended this year; and I find that this is the only section that has been amended more than once since 1948. Including the amendment made this year, it has been amended three times.

Therefore it is obvious one of the weaknesses is the Land Act and it should be looked at. Act No. 51 of 1956 added a section 89B. This section allows the Governor to authorise Ministers to enter into agreements for the disposal of areas of Crown land. Act No. 48 of 1956 added section 15A, which deals with reservations in respect of marketable timber. Act No. 12 of 1958 made one amendment to section 8 to provide that the Governor may acquire land by purchase or exchange. Act No. 36 of 1958 amended section 29 which deals with reserves. Act No. 6 of 1960 amended section 143, the section which was dealt with this year. In 1962, Act No. 41 amended sections 2 and 47, the latter section dealing with conditional purchase leases, and raised the total holding of land from 5,000 acres to 10,000 acres, with the approval of the Minister. In 1963 there was an amendment dealing with pastoral leases which tidied up that section of the Act.

If one goes through the Act one finds that it seems to be in quite good shape, but there are too many loopholes; and that is one of the things the committee would have to inquire into. If we go through section 47 of the Act, which is the main one as far as conditional purchase land is concerned, we will find that practically all contingencies are covered, because it is quite a long section. First of all

it deals with the area of land a person can hold; then joint holdings, and who shall reside on the land; then it deals with the prescribed area, and the price. That is something which I will deal with later on. The section goes on to deal with the value of improvements in respect of land thrown open that contains existing improvements. The section then deals with the method of application, the term of lease, which is 25 years, rent to be paid, and so on.

Then we come to the most important part of the section, which deals with residence. This is a portion of the Act that is not being policed as it should be. The paragraph reads as follows:—

The lessee shall, within six months from the date of the lease, take in his own person possession of the land, and shall reside upon it and make it his usual home without any other habitual residence, during at least six months in each year for the first five years from the commencement of the lease, and if possession is not taken as aforesaid the lease shall be forfeited.

It goes on to point out that the only other persons who can represent the lessee are his wife or child over 16 years of age. Then we find a paragraph dealing with improvements in fencing and water supplies. With regard to water supplies, there is a small paragraph which reads—

The lessee—

shall provide an adequate water supply within the first two years of the term of the lease, if required by the Minister to do so.

How is the Minister to know of this? Thousands of acres of land are being leased; so how would the Minister know whether a property should have a dam or a water supply on it? In regard to fencing, that is something that does not have to be done immediately. The Act reads as follows:—

The lessee—

shall expend in prescribed improvements an amount equal to one-fifth of the purchase money in every year of the first ten years thereof,—

I will deal with that later—

and shall fence in at least one-half of the land within the first five years and the whole of the land during the said period of ten years: Provided that where a sheep-proof and cattle-proof exterior fence is erected, half the value of such fence shall be deemed to be part of the improvements required between the fourth and tenth years of the lease:



The improvements required under the Act are so slight that the fence would practically cover them from the fourth to the tenth year. If a property-owner erects a fence which is rabbit proof and vermin proof he is allowed two-thirds of that cost to offset his improvements; but that does not give a person any encouragement or direction to carry on with the improvements. The Act continues—

It shall be obligatory on the part of the lessee to commence within six months from the date of the lease and thereafter to continue the improvements to the satisfaction of the Minister.

I wonder if this is being policed? This is something else which the committee could find out.

The next portion of this section deals with grant in fee simple, something which we recently dealt with in section 143 of the Act. Actually section 143 is the one that gives the Minister the right to transfer prior to completion of the improvements. A person can get a Crown grant in five years provided he has complied with the improvements, which are very small indeed as regards conditional purchase properties.

Section 47 states clearly that the lessee must reside thereon for a period of six months in every year for the first five years; but when one comes to section 49 one finds that—

Any lessee of conditional purchase land subject to the condition of residence may, on application to the Minister, and on payment of a fee of twenty shillings, be relieved of the condition of residence provided that in such case the improvements shall be of the value of double the amount of the purchase money.

In the case of a lease acquired on the recommendation of a Land Board, such application may be granted or refused in the discretion of the Minister.

In other words, if the lessee does not want to remain on the property he may pay a fee of £1 and then carry out just double the required improvements to the land, and he can get away with it that way. He will get the land freehold within five years. By doing this he does not have to build a house and the amount of the double expenditure would not be as much as the cost of building a house.

Members will recall that earlier this session we amended section 143 of the Land Act. That amendment was to allow the Minister to give permission for the transfer of a lease prior to the granting of a Crown grant. The period used to be two years but it is now up to five years. Whether this is going to be effective or not, I do not know. I very much doubt whether it will achieve the objective

sought, because if we look further into section 143 of the Act and go to paragraph (5) we find it reads as follows:—

The special cases which may be approved of by the Minister and which are referred to respectively in subsection (3) and in subsection (4) of this section may be so approved notwithstanding that none of the conditions for a transfer or subletting set out respectively in subsection (3) and in subsection (4) of this section has occurred, been complied with or performed.

So that proviso, in my opinion, makes it easy for the Minister, if he so desires, to transfer land, even if the conditions have not been complied with.

I will quote some prices of various blocks which went before the land board earlier this year. The blocks are in the Kent location. The price of the land per acre is practically identical with what it was 30 years ago. In the Kent location the highest price paid was for location 1463, which was 9s. per acre. The area of that block was 3,806 acres, so the total cost to the lessee when he wished to transfer it would be £1,712 14s. plus interest. The value of the required improvements each year would be £342 11s. If the land was held under section 49 of the Act the figure would be just double; that is, £685 2s. That means that by the end of the five-year period the person holding land under section 49 of the Act, which does not require residence, would be better off than the person who had resided on his land. The person who resided on his property would pay £3,425 8s., and the person who had exemption would pay £4,138 2s. The difference between those two amounts is not the price of a very mediocre house. In fact, it might be the price of a couple of unlined rooms.

The prices for the various locations were as follows:—Location 1571, 5s. 6d. per acre; 1573, 8s.; 1575, 8s.; 1590, 6s.; 1604, 6s. 6d.; 1606, 6s. 3d.; 1608, 6s.; 1609, 6s. 9d.

The estimated cost of clearing, logging, ploughing, and so on, in this particular country, is as follows:—logging, 10s. per acre; burning, 2s. 6d.; first ploughing, £1; second ploughing, 18s.; and root picking, £1 5s. So to get the land twice ploughed would cost £3 10s. per acre. This would mean that a person who had a block valued at 9s. per acre would be required to clear and develop only 100 acres per year. Under section 49 of the Act, a person would have to develop 200 acres.

The acreage of the cheaper blocks would be 67 acres, 81 acres, 71 acres, 67 acres, 67 acres, 55 acres, 60 acres, and 60 acres. So actually very little has been done in respect of any conditional purchase land. Additional costs which are set down are: seeding with drill including a small seed box for clover, inoculating seed and returning the bags to shed, £3 8s. per acre;

topdressing, 5s. per acre—manures would be extra—firebreaks, logged and ploughed, 5s. per chain; and super and seed would be extra.

So it is easy to see that the costs of clearing and the cost of the land to the remote control farmer and speculator would make it easy for the requirements to be complied with, other than the residential requirements.

As I said before, I feel that greater inspection should be made of the land; and, if necessary, more inspectors should be employed. A shilling an acre could be added on to the initial price to cover the cost of inspections, and the extra shilling would not be noticed by the people purchasing the land because the land is so cheap and in many cases worth perhaps 10 times more than is asked for it under conditional purchase. That is amply illustrated by the advertisement I read earlier tonight.

I have been a member of a land board, and was on the board for a number of years in Carnarvon. I know what is required of a land board. I feel that the process of a land board is far too stereotyped. One is given a series of 18 questions to ask each applicant—age, address, marital status, and how much money he has. The last question is whether there is any other information which would assist the board. I think a board should be allowed to ask searching questions other than those in the form.

I feel that far more searching inquiries should be made into the financial position and capabilities of applicants. A board should know whether the applicant is a person who understands farming and knows what he is taking on. It should know whether his financial position is as stated in the answers to the questions on the form. All those things cannot be done on the spur of the moment, and I think that all answers should be substantiated. This is one of the terms of the motion which should be looked into more closely, because I feel that land boards do not get sufficient evidence. As has been suggested, the financial side of a person's application is looked at rather than his practical experience.

I feel that where a person has not quite sufficient money the Rural and Industries Bank should be in the position to accept a mortgage on conditional purchase land and so help the young farmer. Land boards should scrutinise every applicant closely, and if necessary obtain a statutory declaration that he intends to reside on the land and not farm by remote control.

Land board sittings, as far as the boards are concerned, are very monotonous meetings, particularly if large numbers of applicants are giving quite a lot of evidence—which is a good thing. Each member of a land board has to take down evidence in his own handwriting, and he has to

take it down as given. After hearing all the witnesses he has to analyse the evidence, and that becomes a very monotonous job. Land board hours should be restricted and ample time should be given for the hearing of applications. There should not be any rushing through them. I do not know what time is taken, but I feel that when a land board is away from Perth its main object is to get the hearing over and do the best job in the time available. This is not sufficient, particularly where we want land developed to its greatest extent.

There is one case I wish to refer to concerning the land board in the Cape Riche area. There were quite a number of applicants for a particular block of land, and it was eventually allocated to two sons of a farmer from a nearby area. Neither of those boys had any financial backing and their father was only just struggling on his conditional purchase lease. Yet those boys were allocated that land, whereas another applicant was a young married man with ample money who could have gone in and developed the land. He was a man who had worked on farms all his life and knew farming thoroughly right to the last item.

I think the land board erred there. There was probably such a large number of applicants that when it came to the stage of deciding which applicant should get the block, through lack of concentration the board could have overlooked the most suitable person.

In conclusion, the Land Act, as far as conditional purchase is concerned, should be fully examined and tightened up. I think I have explained that fully. The methods of allocation should be examined and the prices of land should be revised and brought into line with present-day values. To the cost of the development should be added the initial cost per acre. A shilling per acre should be included to cover the cost of inspections, if that is warranted.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr. NORTON: I was about to say, prior to the tea suspension, that the Land Act was introduced in 1933, when clearing was done by hand and horses and drays were still in use, and I think the evidence I have put to the House warrants the motion I have moved.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture).

## LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [7.34 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this amending Bill, which looks somewhat more formidable than it really is, is to effect a simple and, in the opinion of the Retail Grocers' Association, a most desirable amendment to the Licensing Act, 1911-64.

At present section 39 of the Act provides that—

- (1) The holder of any gallon license or two gallon license, or a brewer's license, or a spirit merchant's license—
  - (a) shall keep a book and shall enter therein forthwith, after every purchase by him of liquor, for sale under his license, the date of purchase, the quantity and kind of liquor purchased, and the name of the seller;
  - (b) shall keep a book and shall enter therein forthwith, after every sale under such license, the date of sale, the quantity of liquor sold, and the name of the purchaser; and
  - (c) shall produce to any police officer, inspector of licensed premises, or inspector of liquor, on demand, such books and the invoices of all liquor purchased, and copies of the sale notes or invoices of all liquor sold.

Penalty: Fifty pounds.

Paragraph (b) of that section is modified by a proviso which reads—

- (1a) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of this section, the holder of a gallon license shall not be required to enter in the book to be kept pursuant to that paragraph, the name of the purchaser of the liquor.

That amendment to the Act was made in 1964, and I submit that upon the making of it the remaining requirements of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 39 are an anachronism and ought to be removed, and the purpose of this Bill is to effect that removal and to do one other thing.

As there are now no two gallon licenses issued there is no sense in having that term in the Act. Therefore, my Bill, if passed, would remove that term from section 39. I am informed that all of this verbiage is necessary in order to give effect to my purpose. The sections have to be re-enacted in a different way in order to achieve what I have set out to achieve. All I want to do is to provide that the holder of a gallon license only—and this amendment will have no effect on the holder of a brewer's

license or a wine and spirit merchant's license—shall not be obliged to keep a book and enter therein, after every sale, the date of the sale and the quantity of liquor sold.

When previously he had to enter the name of the person to whom the sale was made, there might have been some slight justification for the requirement, but as he is now no longer required to do that there seems to be no sense in requiring him to record the sale at all. Having to do this involves a considerable amount of time on the part of the licensee and a ridiculous waste of time on the part of members of the Police Force who, in my opinion, could be better employed on something else.

I put it to you, Mr. Speaker: What gallon licensee would write in his book that he had sold less than a gallon of liquor? So if he did sell less than a gallon he would record in the book a gallon or more, and what hope would one have of checking it?—because no name is entered to indicate to whom the sale is made. So I think it is foolish to retain that provision in the Act.

Police officers are wasting a considerable amount of time in travelling around visiting the premises of various retail grocers who hold a gallon license and reading through all the sales of one gallon of liquor that have been effected, but not knowing to whom the sales have been made. What possible value can that be to anybody? From time to time the Retail Grocers' Association has endeavoured to ascertain why the Police Department required the retention of this provision, and I am assured by the secretary of the association that at no time was any reason given. I have pondered over it myself to see what useful purpose it served and, frankly, I cannot think of one. I repeat that there might have been some slight justification for it when it was necessary for the licensee to enter the name of the person who bought the liquor, although that did not prevent the licensee from entering a fictitious name in the book.

Mr. Cornell: Or the purchaser giving him one.

Mr. TONKIN: That is so. Although it may not have led to that possibility, that requirement might have yielded some result; but as there is now no reason to enter the name of the purchaser in the book, what possible use is the information that is now supplied? It only takes up the time of the retail grocer in entering up the book, which no doubt he would do at night from memory and so the entries could be of doubtful value, and when the police officer checked the book he could only check that on such and such a day one gallon or two gallons were sold and he would have no idea to whom the liquor was sold. What value is that to the Police Department?

I repeat that, having regard to all the gallon licensees in the country and the number of sales they would make, that is just a hopeless waste of time of the police officers who are already in short supply and whose time could be better employed doing some useful work.

The Retail Grocers' Association has requested that this amendment be made and I think it is commonsense that it should be made. I have spoken to persons engaged in the liquor trade who are not retail grocers and they can see no good reason for retaining this provision and, in the absence of a reason for its retention, there is no argument against its deletion. I do not think there is any great need to labour the point. The Bill is simple, perfectly straightforward, easy to understand and, in my opinion, easy to justify.

What is the use of having in our laws requirements which mean nothing; which are only irksome to apply and which are also costly? Whilst this provision remains in the Act it means a cost to the retail grocers who hold a gallon license and it means cost to the Police Department. So far as I can see, the provision is of no possible value to anybody and should be deleted. That being so, it is not unreasonable to ask the House to agree to the amendment.

In addition to that, it is as well to remove from the Statute the reference to a two-gallon license, because I am told that there are now no two-gallon licenses issued. So repealing subsections (1) and (1a), and re-enacting them as set out in the Bill, will give effect to the purpose I have outlined because it will remove from the gallon licensee only—not from the brewer, and not from the wine and spirit merchant—the obligation to enter in the book the date of the sale and the amount of the sale. He is no longer obliged to write down the name of the purchaser. No argument can be advanced why this should be done. For that reason no concern should be occasioned to anyone by agreeing to the proposal before us.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development).

## PAINTERS' REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed, from the 22nd September, on the following motion by Mr. Graham:—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Works) [7.46 p.m.]: The Bill as submitted by the member for Balcatta seeks to amend the Painters' Registration

Act in three particulars, one of which has two legs. At the outset I can say that the Government is prepared to support the Bill with the exception of one of the amendments; that is, the one in clause 4.

The proposed amendments to sections 2 and 4 of the Act appear to be quite reasonable. The first merely defines the term "union" as 'The Operative Painters' and Decorators' Union of Australia, West Australian Branch, Union of Workers. If this amendment is agreed to it will clarify the interpretation.

The second amendment, which is contained in clause 3, carries out something which is legitimate; because, in brief, section 4 of the Act deals with the fact that an unregistered painter must not carry out painting work to a value in excess of £50. The amendment sought by the member for Balcatta will prevent an unregistered painter from recovering by court action any charge which is in excess of £50; furthermore, the charge of £50 is to include the cost of the materials used. I can see no reason why this amendment should not be legitimately included in the parent Act.

The final provision in the Bill—it is one with which I cannot agree—deals with an amendment to section 12. This section sets out who may be registered as a painter. In brief, registration falls into three categories. Firstly, a person may be registered as a painter if he has passed through a training period and a prescribed examination; secondly, if he has in some place other than Western Australia attained a degree of proficiency or standard of training, and passed a prescribed course which is equivalent to the standard in Western Australia; and, thirdly, if he is a member of an association of painters recognised by the master painters' association of Australia.

The Government is opposed to the principle of this amendment. Initially this was a legitimate provision, and when the Act first came into being, all painters making a living as such or following a certain course of action were entitled to be registered. It may be that this provision had a place in the legislation at the time, but at the present stage it should not continue to find a place in it. I propose during the Committee stage to move an amendment to clause 4. With the proviso which I have outlined in regard to clause 4, I have pleasure in supporting the Bill before us.

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta) [7.52 p.m.]: I thank the Minister for his comments. Needless to say I am not as happy as I would like to be, because of his reservation in respect of the last-named provision in the Bill. It is my intention, with the concurrence of the House, to proceed to clause 4 at the Committee stage and then to ask for progress to be re-

ported, as I would like an opportunity to go into the matter further. For that reason, instead of waiting for the Committee stage, I want to make a few comments now.

The provision in clause 4 relates to the right which Parliament saw fit to grant to persons whose qualifications were acceptable to the master painter's association of Australia—of course, that is not the correct name of the organisation—the right of registration. All that clause 4 seeks to do is to give that organisation its proper name. Initially it was my fault, because I failed to insert the correct title in the original measure. The Minister said that initially this provision was a legitimate one.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I said it might have been a legitimate one.

Mr. GRAHAM: I suggest to him that, in the first place, any person who was painting prior to the coming into operation of the Act and who could establish he had been a painter, whether or not he was qualified, could obtain registration; and many hundreds did.

The Master Painters' Association of Western Australia and its equivalent in all the other States, which are affiliated with the Federal body, have been most jealous of the standard and the reputation of their trade or profession. It was at their instigation that the legislation was introduced in order to protect their good name, as well as to protect the public. It was felt there could be some people who had been engaged on most involved and extensive painting operations in those days, who had not served an apprenticeship in Western Australia, or who had not passed an examination of an equivalent standard; but there was no question about their ability and their experience. Therefore, if some person came from New South Wales, Queensland, or some other State, and was acceptable to the Federal body—in other words, to one of the organisations affiliated with the Federal body—then he would be recognised in Western Australia. That was what was intended.

In addition to that, there are painters in the country districts to whom some consideration is shown. I might mention in this respect that the master painters in Western Australia are keener about the continuation of this provision in a workable manner, than the operative painters, who desire to be more exclusive, and who endeavour to keep as many people as possible out of the industry.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You are getting on to a different matter.

Mr. GRAHAM: I know. I would like the debate in Committee to be held over, if possible, so that the Minister can give consideration to the point I have raised.

I would now like to read a note which I received from the Secretary of the Master Painters' Association of Western Australia in respect of this particular point. It is as follows:—

Country Members: It has been found that some of these, although registered with the Association for many years prior to the Act coming into force, cannot now be registered with the Board unless they sit for an examination. Most country areas did not have any facilities for the training of apprentices and painters in those districts learnt their trade from older hands and undertook an apprenticeship with them. No certificates were issued and, therefore, cannot be produced as evidence to the Board. This places the "old hand" in an unenviable position. Therefore, to overcome this, may I suggest that these "old hands" from the Country who desire to be registered and can prove that they were members of this Association prior to the Act coming into force may do so without having to sit for the examinations.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You created this Act and set up a statutory body—the Painters' Registration Board—with authority to deal with these very matters. If clause 4 is passed in its present form you will take away the control from the statutory body which you have set up.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is not quite right, because the Act as it now stands provides that a person shall be entitled to be registered as a painter if he has completed a prescribed course, if he is a member of an association recognised by the master painters, or if he has in some other place other than Western Australia attained a degree of proficiency as a painter which the board considers is comparable with that ordinarily attained by persons who have completed a course of training and passed the examinations, etc.

That might cater for the persons in the category which I mentioned earlier; that is, those coming from other States. But here in Western Australia a person who has been engaged as an operative painter or as a master painter in, say, the town and district of Bunbury for the last 20 or 30 years; who has proved himself to be acceptable to the Master Painters' Association; and who has proved that his standards conform with the association's outlook cannot be registered so as to enable him to carry on his trade in the metropolitan area, unless he sits for an examination which, I suggest, is impossible for him to pass.

Which member in this House could sit for and pass the Junior Certificate examination in a month's time? I am sure none could pass it. But there is no question that many of us did pass it years

ago, and in most instances our education went far beyond that standard. In addition, we have gained a wealth of experience and knowledge.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Don't you think the board should have control over the persons who should be registered?

Mr. GRAHAM: I would say so if this Act had State-wide application, but it applies only within the boundaries of what is known as the Metropolitan Water Board area. So there are people in our State who are not subject to it and this is required in the Act to provide for people outside that very limited area who might desire to operate in the metropolitan area.

The Master Painters' Association is not likely to go to excesses because, after all, it sought a standard; and, secondly, every additional person who comes in as a master painter in the metropolitan area is an additional competitor.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I do not think that is the point. I see the point you make, but I do not think it is the one at issue.

Mr. GRAHAM: I consider it to be a most important one, as does the Master Painters' Association of Western Australia. However, I do not desire to delay the House any more in connection with it. I have mentioned these points in the hope that the Minister will be good enough to give some consideration to them between now and the time we deal with this clause in Committee. With the co-operation of the House it is my desire that we proceed to clause 4 and then report progress.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee*

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. W. A. Manning) in the Chair; Mr. Graham in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Section 4 amended—

Mr. GRAHAM: Unfortunately there was a clerical error in a couple of places with regard to numbers and I therefore move the following amendments:—

Page 2, line 16—Delete the subsection designation "(3)" and substitute the subsection designation "(2)".

Page 2, line 18—Delete the subsection designation "(4)" and substitute the subsection designation "(3)".

Amendments put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

*Progress*

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Graham.

## LOAN ESTIMATES, 1965-66

*In Committee*

Resumed from the 16th September, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. W. A. Manning) in the Chair.

Vote: Railways, £5,085,000—

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [8.6 p.m.]: The General Loan Estimates offer an almost unlimited field for discussion, and if I were a new member I would yield to temptation and cover quite a wide field including, of course, relevant references to the public works requirements in my own electorate. However, having reached the veteran stage in these debates, I propose to limit what I have to say to four or five subjects.

I think I might say, for the benefit of new members—even though they are all on the Government side—that speeches in Parliament in connection with the requirements of individual electorates are not very effective. Occasionally a member might by that method score a win. If he were to do so he would have something to crow about. I offer the advice, for what it is worth, that members hammer away at departmental officers and the appropriate Ministers if they are really anxious to see some practical results from their representations on behalf of their districts for improved public works and an increased number of such works.

As the years go by we find the total number of millions embraced in the loan programme of the State, plus Commonwealth expenditure in Western Australia for public works, to be increasing fairly rapidly. On the basis of the figures which the Treasurer has given to us on this occasion, we find there is a total amount involved under those headings of somewhat more than £75,000,000 for the current financial year.

The main headings of the general loan moneys, as allocated, by the Loan Council, total £27,551,000, including £3,600,000 for housing. In addition there are loan repayments to the State from loan investments which are returning some financial return on investments of £2,014,000. There is an amount of £5,137,000 for local authorities and for semi-governmental authorities which do not borrow under their own statutory legislation, mainly, I suppose, because they have not any legislation of that character under which to borrow.

Then there are semi-governmental borrowings where the statutory authorities have, by legislation, their own borrowing powers, and it is estimated they will raise during this financial year an amount of just over £10,000,000.

The total estimate of Commonwealth moneys to be spent in Western Australia for capital works is £30.09 million which, as members will immediately realise, is a very large sum of money for the Commonwealth to be expending in a State with a population as small as ours. However, as we know, the area of country in Western Australia is very great. The State is far less developed than most of the other States, and consequently our requirements

for capital investment of governmental moneys—both from State and Commonwealth—are indeed very great.

As I have said, the total amount of moneys under all these headings is slightly over £75,000,000. When we contemplate the activity which the expenditure of this huge amount will generate and the benefit which the circulation of all this money will bring to trade and commerce, we can to some extent realise what a great advantage it is to all sorts of enterprises—public and private—to have such a very large sum of money circulating in Western Australia during a period of 12 months.

The employment-providing capacity of all this expenditure is naturally very great. The wages and salaries paid out of these funds almost immediately in most instances go into circulation and help factory production and activity, the warehouses, retail shops, and almost every other type of business within the State. Indeed, it is somewhat nerve-racking to think of the loss of activity which would be occasioned to the economy if, by some mischance or some shocking breakdown in the total economy of Australia, this money were not available.

The Commonwealth is to make available during this current financial year £10,150,000 for construction work on the standard gauge railway line. I would like to refer to *Hansard* No. 3 of the current session, page 170. On Tuesday, the 10th August, I asked the Premier what was the original estimated total capital cost of constructing that line from Kalgoorlie to Kwinana. The Premier replied that it was £41,210,000, including rolling stock and locomotives.

The second question was—

What is the latest amended estimate?

The following is the reply by the Premier:—

£55,129,747 (including rolling stock and locomotives).

Members who have kept in mind the two figures will realise that there was an increase in the amended estimate, over and above the original one, of £14,000,000. In anyone's money that is a staggering increase.

We were told through the newspapers at the time this amended increase became known to the Commonwealth Government that the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Menzies) was—to, perhaps, put it mildly—very disturbed. Those who know the Prime Minister will agree with me that when he is disturbed he is really disturbed.

Seeing the Commonwealth is making these millions available for the construction of the standard gauge railway line in Western Australia one can understand his state of mind and, to some extent at least, sympathise with him. No-one has

ever told us what he said in the letter which he sent to the State Government. I have heard of a few things he is supposed to have said privately, and if he put some of those things in the letter, it is a pity the letter cannot be tabled, or that each of us cannot be given an opportunity, in confidence, of reading it.

Mr. Brand: He expressed concern.

Mr. HAWKE: I have a suspicion that the original estimate was put together fairly quickly and was possibly kept fairly low in order that the Prime Minister and his Federal Treasurer would not be unduly shocked by the size of the total estimate of the proposed works. Whether that be so or not, does not really matter; the main and important fact is that the work is under way and the Commonwealth is committed to it; and even though the Prime Minister might become shocked at this increase in the original estimate, the money will be made available to meet the total cost, and in due course the State Government will have to pay back a lot of the money to the Commonwealth Government and will also have to pay interest upon it.

Mr. Brand: The original estimates, of course, were agreed to by the State and the Commonwealth.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes, of course they were; and I understand, quite naturally enough, some Commonwealth officers were involved in them. However, I would think that of necessity they would have to rely to some extent upon local knowledge and local information regarding construction costs in Western Australia, and consequently we—or those who represent us as a State—would have to assume somewhat greater responsibility for this huge increase in the amended estimate than would the Commonwealth officers who were involved.

On the same day and in the same series of questions I asked—

What was the original estimate as to the anticipated total capital cost of the proposed deviation of the 3 ft. 6 in. railway line in the vicinity of Spencers Brook through Northam and Toodyay to Bellevue?

The answer the Premier gave was—

£7,496,000 (on basis single dual gauge track).

The next question was—

What is the latest amended estimate?

This is the answer—

£9,674,000 (on basis double dual gauge track as agreed by Commonwealth).

Here, in connection with a purely State railway activity, the increase in the estimate, above the original estimate was more than £2,000,000. It is true the amended estimate took in a double dual gauge

track as against a single dual gauge track, upon which the original estimate was based. I am not quite sure what is involved there; I have no knowledge as to whether the putting in of double dual gauge as against single dual gauge would make a difference of £2,200,000, or thereabouts.

What I do question tonight—although I do not want to go deeply into this—is the wisdom of having this deviation of the narrow gauge railway line. I myself do not think it is justified. We are going to involve ourselves in a capital expenditure of £9,674,000 to deviate the narrow gauge railway line from near Spencer's Brook through Northam out to Toodyay and down to Bellevue; whereas we have, as all members know, an existing narrow gauge railway line from Spencer's Brook down through Clackline, Baker's Hill, Wundowie, and so on into Midland Junction and, of course, the city.

I cannot say—nor has anyone been able to tell me—how this very great expenditure on deviating the narrow gauge railway line into the areas I have mentioned can possibly be justified financially or otherwise. Clearly there will be far less traffic carried on the narrow gauge railway line from Spencer's Brook to Midland Junction when the standard gauge railway line is open than is being carried now.

A great deal of the freight which is now carried on the narrow gauge railway line between Perth and Kalgoorlie, for instance, will presumably be carried on the standard gauge railway line because of the economic handling which the standard gauge line will offer as against the narrow gauge one. I know this would have applied irrespective of whether the narrow gauge line was deviated; but when we think that almost £10,000,000 is being expended to deviate the narrow gauge line from its present route to the new one which I have briefly described, it seems to me we are building a new narrow gauge railway line which will carry very little freight traffic over the years; because, as I understand it, the freight traffic between, say, Midland Junction, or Perth, or Fremantle, whichever you please, to Northam and down the Great Southern is not very great in total quantity per year.

However, I suggest the Treasurer might have a look at that aspect himself, even though it seems to be too late now for anything effective to be done to alter anything which is proposed.

Mr. Brand: There is a great advantage in the grade that is offered by the construction of the deviation.

Mr. HAWKE: It is quite true the justification offered mainly for this deviation of the narrow gauge railway line is in connection with grade. But when we consider that almost £10,000,000 of loan

money is to be spent to put in this deviation, I think we can say that the interest on the £10,000,000 would, perhaps, more than wipe out the advantage of any savings which might be made in connection with grade.

I could appreciate the argument which the Treasurer has mentioned if all the freight which is now carried over the narrow gauge railway line between Northam and the metropolitan area, was still to be carried over it; but once the broad gauge or standard gauge railway line is constructed, then the total quantity of railway freight to be carried between Northam and the metropolitan area on the narrow gauge track will be very small indeed compared with what is carried at present.

The Treasurer told us the payment from the Commonwealth this year in connection with the Ord River irrigation scheme, is to be as I understood it, £556,000, to which the State presumably will add an equivalent amount from its own loan moneys. This, I gathered, was to be the final Commonwealth payment under the present arrangement or agreement between the State and the Commonwealth Governments in connection with this scheme.

We, as a Parliament, have not been kept very well informed as to what is happening in connection with this scheme; as to what is happening in relation to the negotiations being carried on between the State Government and the Commonwealth Government. One of the things that I remember clearly was a published statement by the Minister for the North-West several weeks ago in which he publicly spoke strong words to, and against, the Commonwealth Government, and sort of finished off with a traditional Minister-for-the-North-West flourish by telling the Prime Minister, in effect, if not directly, that if the Commonwealth did not see fit to make the millions available which are required for the completion of this scheme, then the State Government could obtain the money from private sources.

We have not heard anything more about that since then. I imagine the reaction of the Prime Minister to that one would have been to say to himself, if not to the Premier of Western Australia, "Well, let the Minister for the North-West go ahead and get the money privately. That will relieve the Commonwealth Treasurer of the necessity of finding more money for the Ord River scheme". So I would like the Treasurer, when he replies to this debate, to tell us what progress the Minister for the North-West is making in his then-expressed belief that he, or the State Government, could raise, from private sources, all the money required; and I would be anxious to know, as I am sure all members of this Committee would be,



whether this money which is to come from private sources is to come from within Australia, or from America, or from Holland, or from West Germany, or from England. I would also like to know whether it is really a practical proposition and whether it has the backing of the Government, or whether it was thrown up by the Minister for the North-West in an attempt to stampede the Commonwealth Government into giving him the decision which, at the time, he was seeking from that Government.

Mr. Brand: I think the Minister for the North-West simply said that private interests were showing interest in the Ord River development; and that is so. But as a Government we have not encouraged this for the simple reason that we would desire to complete the arrangement with the Commonwealth.

Mr. HAWKE: I can appreciate that, too. However, what we as members of this Parliament are anxious to know at this stage, or very soon, is: What are the practical steps available to the State Government to take to continue the work of developing this scheme? I understand that at least another £20,000,000 will be required after the expenditure of approximately £1,000,000 on the scheme this year.

A sum of £20,000,000, in terms of Commonwealth expenditure is not very much; but in terms of State expenditure in Western Australia it is a very large sum of money. I know it does not have to be found in one year, or in two or three years for that matter; but I think everybody in Western Australia would be keen to know whether this scheme is to be carried on further until the end of the current financial year, and then to stop at that stage, while the State Government continues to exert its best efforts to persuade the Commonwealth Government of the value and the worth-while nature of the scheme from a national development point of view.

Mr. Brand: It is our intention, as soon as this cotton crop is completed, to put a further case to the Commonwealth based on the facts and the experience of this good year.

Mr. HAWKE: At least that is something. I can quite understand there are vested interests in other parts of Australia whose personnel do not want to see this scheme developed to the full extent planned. I have no doubt there are interests in some other States of Australia which want to see the money, or an equivalent sum of money expended over there for the purpose of further developing cotton growing, rice growing, or whatever it might be in that part of Australia as against doing it in the northern parts of Western Australia.

We know, too, the bigger Eastern States have great voting power in the Commonwealth Parliament. This could be a proposition in connection with which, of

course, there might not be any voting in the Commonwealth Parliament; because unless the Commonwealth Government, as a Government, is prepared to go ahead, and unless it is assured of the support of a majority of members in the Federal Parliament, that Government would not be likely to introduce any legislation to authorise further Commonwealth expenditure upon the Ord River scheme. So it might be a question of whether some Ministers in the Federal Parliament from other States, and some private members supporting the Menzies Government in other States, could together make up a sufficient block in the Government parties to be against the Commonwealth Government financially assisting the Ord River scheme to its full development. That might easily be the situation. However, we have no option but to wait and see how the whole situation develops as time goes on.

The comprehensive water supply scheme is a subject about which I have spoken on several occasions. As the person who was the Minister for Works when the original legislation for this scheme was introduced, naturally I took and have continued to take a keen personal interest in it. I understand that after strong efforts and pressure, if I might use the word, by the State Government upon the Federal Government, the second-mentioned Government finally agreed to come in on this scheme again.

Originally the Commonwealth Government of that day agreed to subsidise the scheme on a pound for pound basis with the State, and a great amount of water conservation and distribution was carried out on that basis. The original scheme as approved and ratified by this Parliament was completed and the original liability or commitment of the Commonwealth ended there. Subsequently, when the State decided very greatly to expand this scheme and go far beyond what was originally proposed by this Parliament, approaches were made to the present Federal Parliament to continue the original basis of assistance—namely, a pound for pound subsidy arrangement.

However, the Federal Government refused to agree to the proposal and for some considerable time the State had to finance the additions to the comprehensive water scheme from its own loan moneys. Naturally the rate of progress slowed down by 50 per cent or thereabouts, but the State Government continued to make representations to the Federal Government. Some members of the Federal Parliament from Western Australia were doing the same thing in the Parliament at Canberra and privately with Commonwealth Ministers. The result was that finally the Commonwealth Government agreed to come in again and provide financial assistance but, in my opinion, on a very lousy and real Shylock basis.

The Commonwealth Government agreed to make available a total, in all, of £5,250,000 over a period of eight years. This money was to be repayable and was to carry interest which the State Government would have to pay to the Commonwealth Government.

I object very strongly to the Commonwealth Government making a financial arrangement of this kind with the State. I am not criticising the State Government in any way for entering into the agreement, because this was the only basis upon which the State could get the Commonwealth Government to agree to make further Commonwealth finance available to assist in the further expansion of this water scheme. As far as I know—and I have made a lot of inquiries over the years about this—the Commonwealth Government does not borrow any money. It does not take a share from the Loan Council raisings for its own public works requirements; it finances its public works activities out of revenue—out of the taxation which it raises from the industries and the people of Australia. Consequently it gets its money for nothing.

It does not have to borrow any money for capital works; it does not have to repay any money used in the construction of capital works; and it does not have to pay any interest upon these moneys. Therefore it appears to me to be totally wrong for any Commonwealth Government, irrespective of its political colour, to tax the people of Australia and raise millions of pounds per annum from them and then, as in this instance, say to the State Government of Western Australia, "We will make available to you £622,000 a year—if that be the right figure—for a period of five years. You will have to pay the money back to us in due course and over the whole period of the loan you will have to pay interest to us upon the money which we will make available to you."

Shylock was an amateur, as we see when we compare his activities with those of the Federal Government. Shylock did not know a thing; he was just a beginner, a novice. In his day he was, perhaps, the best among the moneylenders—and when I say the best I mean the sharpest, the smartest. But by comparison with Shylock Menzies and Shylock Holt, the Treasurer—if I might use that description without being offensive—he was just a child; because Shylock did not have the ability to tax people and get money from them for nothing and then lend it to all and sundry at 10 per cent., or whatever the interest might be, and so make millions of pounds out of it. I am sure the Treasurer would not say I am exaggerating. I will not press the Treasurer for an answer, because he might have to attend another Loan Council meeting, and what he might say to me by way of interjection could be quoted against him by the Prime Minister or the Federal Treasurer.

Mr. Brand: It is a fact that it constitutes a heavy burden on the State.

Mr. HAWKE: However, it seems to me to be a lousy way, in a financial sense, to deal with a State which has great developmental problems, and especially in connection with a scheme such as the comprehensive water scheme. This scheme has no hope at all of ever paying directly to the State Government. It has to be constructed and carried on at a considerable loss. Even if the Commonwealth Government were continuing to make financial assistance available by way of a straightout subsidy on a pound for pound basis; even if this were so, the total scheme in its operation for the State Government would still lose heavily.

The indirect benefits to the State would be not much greater than the indirect benefits to the Commonwealth from the development brought about by this comprehensive water scheme. Clearly the scheme has greatly increased wealth production in Western Australia; and, as it continues to expand and permanent good water supplies are made available to more and more farmers, so the wealth production will continue to be increased as a result of the scheme.

But as all this additional wheat is produced, as more sheep are produced, and as more wool is produced, so will the financial returns to the Commonwealth Government be increased as they will, of course, similarly and in different ways, be increased to the State Government. So I think the Commonwealth Government has been terribly hard on Western Australia in regard to this scheme.

If we had been seeking from the Commonwealth Government a straightout subsidy for a scheme in Western Australia which would pay directly in the financial sense, then I could agree with the Commonwealth; because I think even though the Commonwealth gets all its money for nothing, as it were, it would not be a fair proposition for a State Government to expect the Commonwealth to make straightout subsidies available for developing some scheme which in itself would be financially fully reproductive to the State Government. However, that does not apply to the comprehensive water scheme, and I cannot imagine it would ever apply to a water supply scheme mainly associated with rural production.

I was interested in the total amount of money to be made available this year from Commonwealth sources in connection with road construction, maintenance, and so on. My main interest in connection with roads, however, is road safety, and what I have to say in that regard could, I think, be better said on the Revenue Estimates debate rather than on the debate which is now taking place.

There is one other item in these Estimates about which I want to say a few words. This has to do with the housing

of Government employees. The information given to us by the Treasurer is to the effect that £223,000 is available in the current year for the housing of Government employees; and this is available from credit balances in hand as at the 30th June this year. We were further told the statutory authority in this field will borrow £100,000 during this financial year, and presumably will have available £323,000 in all during this period.

I know the Treasurer did not necessarily mean all this money will be expended during the present financial year; doubtless the authority will wish to carry over some credit balance into the next financial year. I am sure all country members of this Parliament who have large towns in their electorates will know that many Government employees—especially those who are subject to periodical transfer—come up against very severe housing problems from time to time.

As members know, my town of Northam is particularly subject to this sort of thing. We have a considerable number of railway employees there, together with a fair number of school teachers, policemen, and so on; and if the Minister for Police has his way, on the basis of an answer he gave to a question today, we are likely to have more warders up there, because he is talking about expanding the Northam gaol sufficiently to take in all the prisoners who get landed in the York district.

Mr. Guthrie: Perhaps it is the people from Northam who go to York and cause the trouble.

Mr. HAWKE: I do not think the member for Subiaco and I have very often agreed on anything; and we certainly cannot agree on this. I think I am safe in saying that 80 per cent. of the people who come to me with housing problems are Government employees, and this is largely because they are subject to transfer. It could be thought when one Government employee is transferred away from a town the one coming in to take his place would have no trouble in getting the house which the one going away previously occupied. The situation, however, is not that easy; it is much more involved, particularly if in a country town there is a housing shortage. In a country town where there is a housing shortage it is amazing how quickly quite a few people seem to know someone is under transfer, and that he is going away. As soon as this news becomes available endeavours to get that house come from all directions. The occupants who have not left are almost distraught by the number of callers and requests they receive, and by the entreaties and pleadings which come from people who are already in the town and who desperately need housing accommodation, or need more adequate housing accommodation than is available to them at the moment.

The problem for such people is extremely difficult. I would hope this housing authority which is charged with providing accommodation for Government employees, particularly those in country towns, will be able to make fairly adequate progress during the current financial year.

There is one other angle to this situation, but I am not sure whether it comes under the Loan Estimates or the Annual Estimates. However, I shall give it a brief mention to enable the Treasurer to look into the matter in the reasonably near future. This matter relates to the provision of hostels for school children at country centres. I was in Merredin recently, and learnt that at the beginning of the last school year or the beginning of this school year there was a shortage of accommodation for school children from surrounding and faraway districts who wished to live in Merredin during the school year, and spend the year at the Merredin Senior High School—if that be the correct name.

We have the same problem at Northam. The school hostel there is far too small to meet the demand which is made upon it. No doubt most other big country towns are faced with the same situation. These hostels are very well managed, and the welfare of the children who are accommodated in them is safeguarded to a degree which, perhaps, would not be possible in other situations. Parents who are able to accommodate their children in these hostels have a feeling of relief and security. Therefore it seems to me that far more money should be made available by the Government to enable this type of accommodation to be provided on a much wider scale than has been possible up to date.

I would not know of a more deserving direction in which to make Government finance available. Therefore I would appreciate it very much if the Treasurer would make a note of the fact that I have brought this matter forward. I hope he will have discussions with the Under-Treasurer, and with other officers and authorities who are involved.

MR. GUTHRIE (Subiaco) [8.54 p.m.]: Strangely enough, although the Leader of the Opposition said he and I never agreed on anything—

Mr. Hawke: Not always.

Mr. GUTHRIE: —he might discover that he and I agree on one aspect, because he has anticipated something which I wanted to say in regard to loan funds. It is of some interest to me to learn—from the information which was supplied by the Treasurer in answer to a question which I addressed to him on the 15th September—about the allocation of loan funds between the States and the Commonwealth.

This year approximately £94,000,000 was allocated to New South Wales; approximately £75,000,000 to Victoria; approximately £37,000,000 to Queensland; approximately £40,000,000 to South Australia; approximately £27,000,000 to Western Australia; and approximately £20,000,000 to Tasmania.

It will be noted that there is not a proportion based on population or size of State. For instance, Queensland receives less than South Australia, and Western Australia does not receive that much more than Tasmania. I have had this explained to me. I am not quite sure whether I know the position correctly, but as I understand it the situation has some bearing on loan funds going back into the dim and distant past, when the other States got a lead over Western Australia during the war years. This was one of the States which succumbed to the Commonwealth's plea to reduce loan borrowings during the war period, and as a consequence Western Australia has suffered. It is most noticeable that Queensland suffered likewise. I understand that South Australia was quite merciless in this respect, and it has gained and will continue to gain at the expense of Queensland and Western Australia—the latter two having very large areas to develop. This is the first feature to which I draw the attention of the Committee.

The second feature is one which has already been touched on by the Leader of the Opposition: that the Commonwealth itself borrows nothing, or next to nothing. In the financial year of 1961-62 the Commonwealth borrowings totalled £385,000; in 1962-63 they totalled £8,590,000; in 1963-64 they totalled £38,851,000; and in the financial year just closed they totalled £4,412,000.

As the Leader of the Opposition stated, the Commonwealth finances its capital works out of revenue. On the other hand the State is compelled to finance its capital works out of loan funds, and to this extent the interest and sinking fund bill in the present financial year will be close on to £19,000,000. Last year it was £17,000,000 or 19 per cent. of the total revenue raised by the State of Western Australia. Nearly one-fifth of the revenue which the State derives goes out in servicing loan funds.

The figures for the last five years and the estimate for the coming year indicate that the total revenue expenditure of Western Australia in 1961-62 was approximately £76,000,000, with interest and sinking fund commitments amounting to £13,600,000 or 18 per cent. of the total revenue; in 1962-63 the total revenue expenditure was a shade under £80,000,000, with a total interest and sinking fund bill of just slightly under £15,000,000, or again 18 per cent. of the total outgoing; in 1963-64 the total State revenue expenditure stepped up to £85,340,415, while the interest bill crept up to just under £16,000,000, or an increase to 19 per cent. of the outgoing.

In 1964-65 the total revenue expenditure was £92,400,000 in round figures, and the total interest and sinking fund payments amounted to £17,300,000, or again 19 per cent. The total estimated revenue for this financial year will be something of the order of £102,000,000, and the interest bill will be just under £19,000,000, or 19 per cent. On the other hand, the interest bill of the Commonwealth is negligible. This drift, if it continues, must ultimately—I say this in all sincerity—destroy the Federal conception of government.

Ultimately we must reach the stage when the powers of a State Government will be negligible; but the State will be completely dependent on the Commonwealth Government for almost everything. We will reach the stage where the State will not only—as the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out—pay interest on moneys which the Commonwealth raised from revenue, but it will have an interest bill approaching 25 per cent. of its total revenue in days to come and the load will get greater and greater. In fact, it will reach the stage where the whole of the national debt of Australia will be a debt owing by the States and nothing by the Commonwealth.

I do not think that was ever envisaged in the scheme of things by the planners of the Constitution. In fact, I am sure it was not. The situation is that if we build a hospital we are paying for it almost forever. However, if the Commonwealth builds a post office or a repatriation building, it is paid for on the day it is finished and opened. There are no further commitments on the revenue of the Commonwealth other than for the general maintenance of that building. To me that is entirely wrong.

The Commonwealth is drawing money each year from the people by way of taxes and using it for those purposes and is not facing up to the fact that a certain percentage of capital expenditure by all Governments should come from loan funds; and we are being forced to go more and more to the Commonwealth for special grants for such things as the north-west development, education, roads, and water schemes. Again, is that right?

In regard to some of these matters I would suggest the Commonwealth has a primary obligation to provide money, not as a loan, but as a grant, as part of its responsibilities. Certain aspects of the schemes in the north-west will undoubtedly play a part in the defence of Australia; and the defence of Australia is entirely a Commonwealth responsibility. It is, to my mind, a Commonwealth function to provide a proportion of the costs, the proportion being a matter for agreement.

When it comes to education I do not expect that the Commonwealth should be required to make contributions unless for

something associated with the technical development of the Commonwealth and related to defence; but I will come back to education in a moment. I intend to talk on education at greater length on the Revenue Estimates.

With reference to the defence of the Commonwealth, water schemes may or may not be a part, but surely it is not necessary for the Commonwealth to keep on taxing the people of Australia to the tune of £2,500,000,000 as now and draw off all the cream and then say to the States, "There is no field left for you to tax." If the Commonwealth faced fairly and squarely what its responsibilities were it would find that its revenue requirements should be so much less; and I suggest it should be possible for a convention to determine certain fields which can be the fields of the States, in regard to income-raising, and fields which can be the responsibility of the Commonwealth, without infringing the provisions of the Commonwealth Constitution, in relation to excise or section 92. It is only a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence.

When all is said and done the Commonwealth once started the petrol tax which was spent entirely on roads. Now it is a revenue-producer. Is there anything wrong or heinous in suggesting that the Commonwealth should entirely retire from the petrol tax field? I do not suggest for a moment the State would have power to impose a petrol tax; it would not, because no doubt it would be an excise tax. But it would leave a field of income or revenue funds in the hands of the community that could perhaps be taxed by some other method, of which we have seen some recently, and of which we heard some yesterday. This tax could be imposed on the motor industry in place of its contributions through petrol taxation which would then provide the States with a field from which they could get money that would enable them to perhaps carry out some of their capital works out of revenue or, alternatively, make available more moneys for loan funds generally.

The Commonwealth would have its share of the loan market, and the answer may well be that the loan market may not stand all of this; I do not know. But at least it is worthy of examination. There should be a fairer cut-up of the cake.

If anybody is going to be entitled to pay for capital works out of revenue, surely it is fair that the Commonwealth and the States should do so conjointly. This is something which should not be entirely in the hands of one partner and not in the hands of the other partner. After all, it is the same people and the same taxpayer.

I would point out to the Committee that if this drift continues the State will be more and more in the hands of the parliamentarians in Canberra. It must be

accepted that the Parliament in Canberra will continue to be dominated for all time by the people who live on the other side of the border of Western Australia and South Australia because, for all time, we must accept that that is where the majority of the Australian population is going to lie. That is going to be the part of Australia which will return more and more members to the Parliament of the Commonwealth and the task will become more and more difficult.

To me, it will be an extremely sorry day if, for instance, education becomes a Commonwealth function; and that is what we are being forced into today. It is entirely wrong. Surely there are people in the Eastern States of Australia who appreciate or have sufficient national pride to realise that Australia as a whole must be developed and not one part of it. We have seen in recent weeks, and in recent days, the happenings to the north. Nobody could imagine a person in Melbourne sleeping tight if there were a foreigner encamped on our north-west coast.

To my mind the whole thing falls around this question of State-Commonwealth powers. Sixty-five years ago or 70 years ago the then statesmen of Australia met together and they wrote a Constitution, but they had no idea whether that Constitution was going to work or was not going to work, because they had had no experience. We do know that the then Premier of Western Australia viewed it with considerable suspicion and only came into it on certain terms; but surely the commonsense of it is that after 70 years—70 years of its experience and 70 years of the exposure of its faults—we should now face up in a national and statesmanlike manner to a rewriting of the powers between the States and the Commonwealth, or agreement at least on fields of taxation.

I would never advocate that the States take back their income-taxing powers. The imposition of two income taxes could produce extreme and definite problems. But I suggest there could be certain fields of revenue which the Commonwealth could vacate, and vacate for good and all and leave them to the States, without any great harm to the Commonwealth.

I do not suggest for one moment that any Commonwealth Parliament should be asked to take the odium of having to tax the people of Australia to provide revenue for the States; the revenue should be raised by the States, which should be left in a fairer position. The States should get a fairer cut of the cake of the loan funds and a fairer cut of the cake of the revenue funds which are available for capital works.

As I have indicated, the matter that concerns me most is in the field of education. I do not propose to take up the time of the Committee tonight to talk about

education because it will be more appropriate when we are dealing with the Revenue Estimates. I propose to elaborate then a little further on the line I have taken tonight on the aspect which I have discussed.

**MR. FLETCHER** (Fremantle) 19.10 p.m.]: We seem to be dealing rather expeditiously with the Loan Estimates this evening. However, they do afford us an opportunity to ventilate issues which touch upon our electorates and also upon the State as a whole.

Unfortunately there is often a necessity to read a considerable amount of correspondence. As other members will be aware, as members of Parliament we receive requests by way of correspondence to which we reply. We ask questions associated with those requests and, as a consequence, as I said earlier, it is necessary to read a considerable amount of correspondence in this Chamber.

The member for Subiaco mentioned the national debt. I had reservations about reading correspondence on this matter, but since the member for Subiaco was in order then I assume I am also. I think the correspondence will interest the Treasurer and also the member for Warren who is interested in the matter of banking.

The correspondence I will read will demonstrate that there would be more money available for more worth-while projects if, as the member for Subiaco said, someone else was not drawing off the cream. That was the expression he used. Relevant to that remark, I will ask members—including the Treasurer—to listen to this correspondence forwarded to me by Mr. Cadwallader. He frequently writes on economic matters in the Press. However, on this occasion he wrote to me. If I cannot get an intelligent audience anywhere else I will get one from my colleague immediately on my left.

Mr. Rowberry: Hear, hear!

Mr. FLETCHER: The letter reads as follows:—

#### Money-Lending by Banks

An Asian money-lender who lends a basket of rice to a humble farmer at 20 per cent. interest has performed a more commendable action than the average banker in countries where banking has been highly developed.

The Asian money-lender does lend something tangible, something of value that he cannot afford to lose. Moreover, bountiful nature has arranged for a single grain of rice to stool out and grow ten stalks, each stalk producing ten heads with ten grains of rice in each. Nature has actually provided for the payment of interest, not usually injected into our modern economic system except in small amounts, such as Savings Bank Accounts and Fixed Deposits.

The modern banker after interviewing his customer and obtaining very good security, will, with a well filled fountain pen enter up in the bank's ledger the amount agreed on, and the interest to be paid.

The loan has actually cost the bank nothing as it did not come out of any of the other customers' accounts, nor does the bank stand a chance of losing anything as the excellent security has more than covered the transaction.

Surely, the Credit of the Nation belongs to the shareholders of the Nation and not to the shareholders of a private institution that has been allowed to create and destroy the Nation's money supplies.

Now I ask the Treasurer: Is that pertinent or is it not? I will read that paragraph again—

Surely, the Credit of the Nation belongs to the shareholders of the Nation and not to the shareholders of a private institution that has been allowed to create and destroy the Nation's money supplies.

Mr. Brand: Who wrote that?

Mr. FLETCHER: Mr. Cadwallader.

Mr. Brand: Who is he?

Mr. Jamieson: An authority on finance.

Mr. FLETCHER: He is an authority on banking and frequently corresponds with intelligent people, including the member for Fremantle. To continue quoting—

In "The Merchant of Venice" written by Shakespeare nearly 400 years ago, Antonio the merchant asks:—"Or is your gold and silver ewes and rams?" In other words can money breed? Capital, invested in necessities such as food, clothing or shelter, could no doubt draw other money to itself, and this probably has given rise to the expression, money begets money.

The only person in the community privileged to create and destroy money is your local banker, and he will take very good care to enter it up as a debt against his customer or even the Nation.

On the figures entered up in his ledger he has been allowed to draw a high rate of interest, high, in view of the fact that the loan by the bank actually cost nothing.

Apparently man's heritage is to be irredeemable debt.

Let me interpolate here to say that figures were quoted by the member for Subiaco and the following figures I think will also interest the Treasurer:—

With the volume of money in Australia standing at just over £4,000,000,000, we are expected to

liquidate or pay interest on a National Debt of more than £4,000,000,000, and Private and Municipal Debts of possibly £7,000,000,000.

If in Asian countries the children are still struggling to pay off the principal borrowed for their parents' wedding, the same holds good in all countries where banking has been very highly developed. National Debts are never paid off. They are "converted" after much advertising to a higher or lower rate of interest.

The face value of our Note Issue is approximately £420,000,000, and of Silver and Bronze Coinage, say £50,000,000.

Our Legal Tender then amounts to about £470,000,000. If we value the notes at 2s. 6d. a dozen to print, and the silver and bronze coinage at £50,000 when melted down and sold, we can realise the hopeless position we are in.

The next heading reads, "Comments on 'Money-Lending by Banks'" and the article continues—

No fair minded or well informed banker could find fault with the above article as all statements made therein can be substantiated.

Anybody with a mathematical brain would have no hesitation in questioning any bank's Annual Balance Sheet, as no effort has ever been made to show how a banker assesses his profit on created credit. Profit, normally being the difference between cost price and selling price with "overheads" added on.

Creation out of nothing does not enter into the Balance Sheet of any industrial concern.

A man with a trained legal mind, aware of the fact that banks buy gold simply by making out a cheque for the commodity, and by the same method can gradually require all the capital assets of the civilised world, must realise that ours is not a Christian Money System.

And what is more, the Bible is used to bolster up that dishonest money system, and with the help of the "Sword of Damocles", the overdraft, as a reminder, that their customers must not speak too loudly or too long, are able to make a good profit out of what is generally considered the most colossal and lucrative fraud the world has ever known. Surely a man's heritage need not be irredeemable debt.

Mr. Burt interjected.

Mr. Dunn: Who is Mr. Cadwallader?

Mr. Burt: Douglas Credit.

Mr. FLETCHER: The member for Murchison earlier interjected that my comment related to Soviet policy simply because I questioned private banks.

Mr. Burt: That is right.

Mr. FLETCHER: I do question them, too, and I do not belong to that fraternity. I question them because they are taking off a disproportionate amount of this State's and this country's economic cream to the detriment of the community; and the correspondence I just read illustrates that very well, as does, I believe, my reply. I replied to Mr. Cadwallader on the 15th September, as follows:—

Dear Mr. Cadwallader,

I thank you for your leaflet on the subject of Banking—it is splendid in simple explanation of a subject which is usually deliberately clothed in economic parlance or verbiage—implying, of course, that the "man in the street" should not question the experts on this subject.

The modern day Banker has now found an even more remunerative field to exploit in Hire Purchase.

A person seeking a loan at a bank at perhaps 6 per cent. is now referred down a passage in the same building or street to E.S.A.N.D.A., or some other banking subsidiary where he can obtain the loan he has been refused by the bank, for 8 per cent. or more.

Thanks again.

Best wishes,

Harry A. Fletcher, M.L.A.,  
Fremantle.

Members of this committee know that this is so. One can go to a bank; and although the bank apologises very nicely and regrets that it cannot accommodate one, one will then be shown down a passage to a little innocuous sign and instead of a loan being obtained from the bank it is available from the subsidiary at a higher rate of interest. Expensive loans on expensive money make less money available to the State; less money for the Premier to play with, and less money for the public to spend.

Mr. Dunn: Not a subsidiary, but a separate business organisation.

Mr. FLETCHER: I am not addressing my remarks to the member for Darling Range; I am addressing them to our Chairman and Ministers.

Mr. Dunn: Nationalisation of banking should not have happy memories for you.

Mr. FLETCHER: That is entirely different. The Commonwealth Bank does not indulge in such a practice, and nor does the Rural and Industries Bank. Those banks are assets to this State and their profit goes back to the people of the State, and not to private shareholders. That is

the theme of my comments this evening. That was the purpose of the question I asked the Premier recently in relation to control. There is a strict control on the price at which wages men and salaried men are paid, but there is no control on the lending of money by banks or the sale of goods by private enterprise. There is no control at all.

Mr. Brand: I am told that even the Soviet Union is doing away with some controls.

Mr. FLETCHER: I will get back to matters associated with my electorate.

Mr. Brand: That is good. The debate has been a bit heavy for me.

Mr. FLETCHER: I do not think it is heavy. I think that if the Premier were honest he would agree with what I have said.

Mr. Brand: No; you can't catch me that way.

Mr. FLETCHER: I know you will not agree; it is politically expedient not to. It is well known that one can get better accommodation from the Commonwealth Bank and the Rural and Industries Bank than from a hire-purchase organisation. Fringe banks do live on the community at a high rate of interest. It is a higher rate of interest than is charged by a Government bank.

Mr. Brand: We are talking about two different matters.

Mr. FLETCHER: However, back to the Loan Estimates.

Mr. Rowberry: You must be creating some interest.

Mr. Brand: He is a member of your party. If he cannot interest you, he cannot interest us.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. A. Manning): The member for Fremantle.

Mr. FLETCHER: I am not attempting to entertain. I am putting forward a case on behalf of this State and on behalf of Fremantle.

Mr. Brand: I am listening.

Mr. FLETCHER: I can be more convincing.

Mr. Brand: Don't spoil it!

Mr. FLETCHER: I will not provoke. Item 3 on page 4 of the Loan Estimates deals with "Fremantle-North Fremantle-New River Bridge construction and associated works including land resumption." Associated works would include dredging, and creating more foreshore. On behalf of some of my Fremantle constituents I would like to say that slipways should be established on the foreshore rather than in the fishing boat harbour. I received a letter on this matter and I ask the indulgence of

the House so that I can put the case as it has been very precisely presented to me. The letter is from a family of boat builders, and it is addressed to myself as follows:—

We have been running a family boat building business at 31 Riverside Drive, East Fremantle, for eight years, on a site which is Crown Property.

This site while it has been suitable for the building of boats has had a very bad drawback in that, we have been unable to erect a slipway in the river to enable us to carry out complete repairs to boats.

During the eight years we have built some 40 boats for the crayfishing industry. Due to the fact that there is now to be no more licenses issued for crayfishing boats, the actual boatbuilding is going to be very limited. However, there will be adequate business in the boat repair field, provided that we can obtain a good lease or a freehold property.

I would point out, Mr. Chairman, that this is a photostat copy of a carbon copy of the original letter, and as a consequence I am having some difficulty in reading it. To continue—

The W.A. Government has for some time, it is believed, been considering suitable sites for the six boat builders who occupy similar position and leases on Crown Land as we do. It has been suggested that sites be made available in the new fishing harbour at South Fremantle, but the position at present indicated as boat builders' sites are most unsuitable for the following reasons:

1. The breakwater does not give any protection to the proposed site and heavy seas continually pound on the shore.

2. The water depth drops rapidly from the shore, and costly concrete foundations and slipways would have to be used. Could some action or decision be arrived at by the Government at an early date as we have already been informed that we have to move from our present positions. While this state of uncertainty continues it is impossible to make any future plans or take steps to maintain or develop our only means of livelihood.

The river foreshore is obviously the most suitable place for the building of boatsheds and slipways, and there appears to be large stretches of suitable sites at North Fremantle just east of the road bridge, and in East Fremantle between the entrance to H.M.A.S. Leeuwin and the Army Wharf.

He goes on to give figures of the area of frontage required and which could become available as a consequence of dredging



which is to take place in the area mentioned in connection with item 3 on page 4 of the Estimates. To continue from the letter—

Our requirements are for a 70 ft. to 100 ft. river frontage, with a depth in the block of 150 ft. to 200 ft. It is believed that recently the Government assisted a steel ship building firm in obtaining a site in North Fremantle. This firm it is understood is now moving to Kwinana area. Is there any chance of this land being reallocated to the boat builders now being forced to leave Riverside Road.

We feel that the delay in any final decision on the allocation of land to the boatbuilders on the river front is causing unnecessary hardship and holding the industry back from establishing an adequate and efficient repair organisation for the fishing industry. In view of the latest regulations on boat safety there is a definite shortage of safe slipways and repair facilities.

I think the Premier will agree that I am on safe ground there. I hope the two builders will soon be on safe ground at North Fremantle rather than in the fishing boat harbour. To continue the letter—

Could we please ask you Sir as The Member for Fremantle in the State Parliament to represent this case on our behalf and that of the boatbuilders at present victimised by this decision.

Thanking you in anticipation of your support,

We are,

Yours faithfully,

ANTE and MLADEN SAMBRAILO.

The case presented in my own words, as distinct from theirs, illustrates that there is a steep decline into the water and there is a surge into the fishing boat harbour through the moles. I have asked that those moles bypass each other to prevent the surge into the harbour, which is causing inconvenience. However, if we wait for that to be done then these men who have been in the industry, as they said, for eight years and have built 40 boats, will be considerably disadvantaged. Not only that, but the local authority will be disadvantaged because it has the buildings on its foreshore of the town of East Fremantle.

I ask the Minister for Works to expedite the bypassing of the moles. I have asked questions of the Minister regarding this matter and he has replied to them. I shall not weary members by reading my intelligent questions, and the Minister's replies to them; but I have put forward a case not only on behalf of the boatbuilders who are concerned but also on behalf of the town of East Fremantle. I shall not weary members by reading the letter I wrote regarding this matter, but I sent a letter to the Town Clerk and a

copy to the Chamber of Commerce for the simple reason that not only do I represent an area in which the much-maligned waterside workers live and work, but I am also *persona grata* at meetings of the Chamber of Commerce.

I sent a copy of the letter to the Chamber of Commerce for a reason. This Government has assisted big overseas firms to the extent of millions of pounds and this was a case where the interests of a small businessman were involved. There was a principle in the case. It was a family business which has been established in this State for 40 years. The family have worked as boat-builders for that period and I asked the Government, by way of a question, whether it would give financial assistance to this firm to re-establish itself at no cost to the firm concerned. I did that because it is not shifting of its own volition; it is being shifted because of reclamation.

Mr. Brand: What firms have we assisted to the extent of millions of pounds?

Mr. Tonkin: Hawker Siddeley.

Mr. FLETCHER: Yes.

Mr. Brand: Millions of pounds!

Mr. FLETCHER: I could quote another instance when a channel was dredged for a certain oil company at a cost, I believe, in the vicinity of £6,000,000 so that big ships could gain access to Cockburn Sound. Soon after that I asked a question regarding an aquarama and slipway being built in the vicinity of the existing ones because a constituent of mine, who probably would not vote for me in any case, had £25,000 to spend.

Mr. Brand: They vote for you.

Mr. FLETCHER: He wanted £1,500 worth of dredging done. I asked the Minister for Works—not the present Minister—to assist by allowing £1,500 worth of dredging work to be done to help local enterprise, but I was refused; and that gentleman, who had £25,000 to spend, had to do the work at his own expense. I cite that case as an example of the discrimination which is shown in favour of big overseas interests. As I mentioned, millions of pounds' worth of assistance is given to big companies but £1,500 worth of assistance could not be given to a local businessman, even though he had money to spend in establishing himself.

To get back to the boat-building firm I was discussing, this is an opportunity for the Government to redeem itself by assisting a local enterprise. I sent a copy of my letter to the Chamber of Commerce to show that I also represent business interests in the Fremantle area.

Mr. Brand: Don't you consider the deepening of the channel, or the construction of a channel to be of importance inasmuch as it enabled the refinery to be brought here in the first place?

Mr. FLETCHER: I am not denying that.

Mr. Brand: Then what are you talking about?

Mr. FLETCHER: All I am saying is that if it is good enough to assist overseas interests to the extent of millions of pounds it is good enough to assist local businesses—and this matter affects the Minister for Works, who has just returned to the Chamber, because of the questions I have asked him in relation to it.

Now that the Minister for Works is back, I would point out that on page 6 of the Estimates there is an item for improvements to harbours and rivers, and there is an increase in the estimated expenditure for the year 1965-66 of £60,665. It is possible, I hope, that some of that money will be devoted to having the ends of the fishing boat harbour bypass each other to prevent the surge which I have already mentioned. There is another matter which affects the Minister for Works and which I would like to discuss before he again finds occasion to leave the Chamber.

Mr. Brand: It is a pity to spoil a good speech by being nasty now and again.

Mr. FLETCHER: I wrote to the Minister for Works in regard to a certain matter, and he replied to me on the 14th September, 1965, as follows:—

On the 9th September you wrote to me regarding the access road to North Wharf and Port Beach. I have been advised by the Commissioner of Main Roads that it is proposed that construction of John Street will probably commence in March of next year.

Because of the necessity for certain resumptions and for the completion of the planning of this area, it is most unlikely that it will be possible for the Main Roads to commence work prior to that time.

The Minister might wonder why I am intruding into his territory, but it is also part of the area covered by the Fremantle City Council.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You are entitled to do that.

Mr. FLETCHER: The Fremantle City Council is also very interested in this matter, and that is why the member for Fremantle made approaches to the Minister about it. They were also made on behalf of my constituents, who are disadvantaged in their endeavours to gain access to Port Beach and Leighton. The Fremantle City Council has an interest in the matter because Port Beach and Leighton are the most convenient beaches for the citizens of Fremantle.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You might stand for the seat of Cottesloe one day.

Mr. FLETCHER: I could think of a suitable answer to that, but I am not being provocative tonight. The situation

in regard to access to these two beaches is becoming progressively worse, particularly in the summertime, when people in cars are endeavouring to get to and from Port Beach and Leighton; and until such time as the works I have mentioned to the Minister are expedited inconvenience will be caused to the community.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Would you say that the houses in which people live should be resumed immediately? You want the work done more quickly, don't you?

Mr. FLETCHER: Exactly; and so does the council.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: So do we, and so does the department. However, you can't wave a magic wand and get the thing done immediately; and resumptions are involved there also.

Mr. FLETCHER: While the Minister is on the question of resumptions, let me say that, when I did represent that area, people who had retired, or were near retiring age, some of whom had a total equity in their homes, were turfed out of those homes and were paid only £1,300 or £1,400. They were then forced to acquire other homes at higher prices which meant they had debts around their necks.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: But that is what you are asking for now.

Mr. FLETCHER: I held meetings and wrote to the Government in an endeavour to get for these people a resumption price equal to the replacement value of those homes; but the Government would not agree to it. It became niggardly and bargained with these people and tried to obtain residential property, particularly, at a very low figure.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The Hawke Government would never give replacement value.

Mr. FLETCHER: I have quoted a case in this Chamber before where the then Minister for Works, now the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who is now sitting right opposite the present Minister for Works, on one occasion to my knowledge, before I became a member, agreed to provide a brand-new house for a man with whom I was working. This man had built a brand-new house and after it was built it was found to be in the way of electricity development. A brand-new house, on identical lines, was built for him, and even shrubs were planted around the new house. It was done by the then Minister for Works who was also Minister for Electricity. That person shifted into the new house and the other one was demolished.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: When you become Minister you will be doing that.

Mr. FLETCHER: I merely cited that as an example in answer to the argument of the Minister that the Hawke Government did not give replacement value, which is

distinct from the treatment which has been received by the people in the North Fremantle district. However, I do not want to argue with the Minister. I merely want him to give early consideration to the people in Fremantle—earlier than the time he announced in his correspondence.

I also asked some questions on single-unit accommodation. I could read those questions to the House and quote the details, but I can see the Premier shaking his head as much as to say, "Sit down and be quiet!"

Mr. Brand: I never said anything of the kind. I was just waiting for you to finish so that I could leave the Chamber.

Mr. FLETCHER: When I raised the subject of single-unit accommodation in the Fremantle area the Minister, in reply to my question, said that there are only about 91 applications on the files. Of course there is, because I told those unfortunate people, who are in a long queue waiting for single unit accommodation, that it is hopeless applying because there is only a block of such units at South Perth and at Swanbourne, which I think is in the Minister's electorate or just outside it. I believe there is also one now coming into existence at Carlisle.

A block of such units is urgently needed in Fremantle. The Minister did say that Fremantle would get consideration, and I hope that that consideration will be given in the next financial year. Because of all the nice people who reside there, and because of the favourable climatic conditions there, many people retired to the Fremantle district.

Mr. Rowberry: It has a salubrious climate.

Mr. FLETCHER: Yes; that sums it up. In short, it is sufficiently pleasant to attract many old people to it, but this aggravates the position of many of the pioneers who already reside there which has already been made difficult by the present development in the locality which is mainly attributable to the Fremantle City Council and not necessarily to this Government.

Mr. Brand: Not necessarily.

Mr. FLETCHER: I said that the present development was attributable principally to the Fremantle City Council; and, as a result, many of the old residences are being demolished which, of course, means that those who were residing in them are forced to seek alternative accommodation. Many of those affected are pioneers or the descendants of the pioneers of this State, and they are deserving of better treatment than that which they are receiving from this Government.

Mr. Brand: We are always faced with the problem of whether to provide houses for young people with families or to meet

the problem of providing single-unit accommodation. I agree that there is a great requirement for single-unit accommodation at the moment and we have sympathy for those people who are affected, but if there are insufficient funds—and this problem is State-wide—there is certainly a problem for young people with families which we have to meet with the funds available.

Mr. FLETCHER: Earlier this evening I read to the House some correspondence which the Premier thought was funny to show that there would be more money available for single-unit accommodation and other purposes if the money allocated to this State was devoted to more worth-while purposes. This information was contained in a very enlightening pamphlet which was sent to me and it showed quite clearly that there would be more money for housing, public works, and other undertakings if some people and institutions were not receiving a disproportionate share of the money available. At that time I pointed out the desperate need for single-unit accommodation in the Fremantle area.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What do you think of the work being done on the Fremantle Hospital?

Mr. FLETCHER: I am extremely pleased with it. The Minister has raised a subject in which I am very interested, and I take this opportunity of saying to him that I am pleased with the acquisition of the day hospital. However, that is only touching the fringe of all that is required.

I wrote an article on the subject of geriatrics some time ago which I read to this House. It is recorded in *Hansard* and I will not bother the House by reading it again. I also sent a copy of it to *The West Australian* early this year, but that newspaper did not publish it, despite the fact that it was very pertinent in view of the medical congress which was held in this State only recently and which raised the subject of geriatrics.

I was questioning the need for the establishment of all these expensive hospitals when there existed in practically every street of the metropolitan area and in the country trained nurses who are not at present practising but who could make their services available under the supervision of the local general medical practitioner for the purpose of caring for aged people in their own homes rather than having to create a situation where aged people are occupying beds in Government and private hospitals to the detriment of those who may urgently need a bed for surgery or because they are suffering from some serious illness.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The Silver Chain and Meals-on-Wheels do that work.

Mr. FLETCHER: I agree; but the Silver Chain nursing service can only touch on the fringe of the existing needs of aged people. Because of the rapid advances that are being made in medicine people now have a longer life expectancy. Antibiotics and other drugs have made it possible for aged people to recover fairly rapidly from various illnesses, which enables them to live longer. Consequently, there is a greater demand for creating ways and means to enable aged people to be cared for in their own homes rather than in institutions.

On page 12 of the Details of the Estimates of Expenditure from the General Loan Fund, under item No. 55, I notice that the estimate for loans and grants to local authorities and other public bodies for this financial year is £375,000, and among them I notice that infant welfare centres, social centres for the aged, and homes for the aged are mentioned. I have referred to this particular item as an excuse for reading the following correspondence from the Fremantle Day Nursery (Inc.). This letter, which is addressed to me, reads as follows:—

20th September, 1965.

Dear Sir,

Knowing that you are aware of and keenly interested in the establishment of Day Nursery facilities in Fremantle, we have taken the liberty of asking you to actively assist this project by introducing a deputation of members to the Chief Secretary.

I understand that the portfolio of Chief Secretary is no longer in the hands of the Minister for Works, but has since been transferred to the Minister for Police. Continuing—

We realise that your parliamentary commitments limit the time that you will be able to make available for us, so please arrange the appointment to suit your convenience.

This is the important part of this letter—

It is our wish to present to the Government an appeal for financial assistance to complete and conduct nursery premises in Fremantle. This urgently needed facility will provide the means whereby widows, deserted wives and others in financial difficulty, can leave their children in expert hands and go to an employment which will augment their finances and enable them and their families to enjoy a decent living standard.

I urge you Sir to give your kindest consideration to this request.

The day nursery that is being established in Fremantle I am hoping will be a model and the forerunner of many such institutions to be established throughout the State for reasons on which I will presently elaborate. The Fremantle City

Council has made £15,000 available, and £2,000 has been made available from another source. The council has also made a grant of a block of land for the establishment of the building, but we need many more thousands of pounds before we can establish a day nursery in the Fremantle district.

The Minister might question the purpose of a day nursery, but I ask the Committee and the Minister to envisage a situation where a working man with perhaps three children is faced with the position of his wife having to go to hospital, either for a confinement, or as a consequence of illness. Her husband is then faced with the prospect of losing time at work by staying at home and looking after his children in the absence of his wife. If a day nursery were established, however, he could take the children to that nursery on his way to work and pick them up on his way back home after work. This would mean that there would be no economic loss to the home, apart from which the children would receive expert care and attention.

I think the House will agree that day nurseries are necessary if only for that reason. There are, however, other reasons which would justify their establishment. For instance, a mother could be attending Fremantle Hospital and have two or three hours to wait. During this time she could leave her children at the day nursery; as she could if she were going into Perth for some reason or another.

There is also the question of deserted wives and others in financial difficulties who, of necessity, must go out to work, and who would find it necessary to leave their children at such a nursery while they themselves were working. They could do this in the knowledge that the children would be well looked after under expert care and supervision. I would commend this to the Minister for Works in the absence of the Premier.

Since the Minister for Education is back in the House I would like to congratulate his department. I would ask for the Minister's attention in this matter. I was saying that the Minister's department was the only department which on one occasion extended me the courtesy of writing to me as a consequence of something I had said on an occasion like this. I have had correspondence from the Minister for Transport on another matter, and he was most obliging. But I am now speaking of occasions like this, when we rise to speak on estimates covering our electorates very closely. The department of the Minister for Education wrote to me saying that one of his officers had noticed that I had raised a certain issue, and that every effort would be made to rectify the matter. I ask other Ministers to emulate the action of the Minister for Education rather than

let me fulminate here on matters which touch my electorate so closely without anything being done about them.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I think you are showing favouritism.

Mr. FLETCHER: Seeing that I am patting the Minister for Education on the back, I must also add that the Minister came down to see the White Gum Valley School some two years ago and told me that certain additions would be made. I have great pleasure in advising members that this is now being done. The Minister was born in that area and perhaps that is the reason for his taking such an active interest in it—an interest which other Ministers could well emulate.

Mr. Lewis: I hope you will lend your support next Saturday.

Mr. FLETCHER: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is quite capable of doing that as an East Fremantle Club member. There are other matters in connection with Fremantle which I could raise, but I will leave those until the Annual Estimates are considered, because then I will be able to deal with them in greater detail.

MR. HALL (Albany) [9.55 p.m.]: I would like to draw the attention of members to what I consider to be a most unfair set of Loan Estimates. They show a complete disregard and lack of thought—and this has been my experience with all Governments—particularly when one considers the vast expansion that is taking place in the southern portion of the State, and particularly in the Albany electorate with its vast hinterland.

When I view the estimates in connection with harbour expansion for 1964-65 I find that an amount of £1,112 was made available for the Albany Harbour works. This year there is no figure mentioned at all; it is a complete blank; it is completely obliterated from the estimates.

In 1964-65 an amount of £13,260 was set aside for the Bunbury Harbour, whereas this year £147,000 is provided. For the Busselton Harbour £15,338 was provided in 1964-65, whereas this year £2,500 is provided. But Busselton is at least mentioned. I find that £64,947 was provided for the Esperance Harbour works in 1964-65 but this year the amount has gone up to £344,500.

Mr. Evans: It is a very progressive area.

Mr. HALL: That may be so. I do not know exactly what will be spent at Geraldton, but I can imagine that by the time £1,000,000 is spent we will need another £5,000,000 or £10,000,000 to make any sort of a harbour at all. It will probably be necessary to use atomic blasts. We find that in 1964-65 the large amount of £500 was spent on the Albany Harbour.

Without going into the comparable costs of the respective harbours, let us consider the facts as they appear. As members

know, the population in the Albany area today is a little over 14,000. The amount of shipping that has entered the harbour has greatly increased. In 1964-65, 158 ships entered the harbour, while in the previous year 149 ships entered. Then again in 1962-63, 138 ships used the harbour, while in 1960-61 it was used by 133 ships. So it can be seen that the harbour is being used by progressively more ships with larger tonnages.

There was a slight fall in grain production which could have been responsible for the falling off of the grain to be shipped this year. So great is the expansion in the area and so high is the cereal production that £100,000-worth of trucks have been purchased to carry the extra grain.

Nobody can deny that the north needs developing. Of course it does. We all know it contains large quantities of minerals, but this is an extractive industry, and will finally result in nothing but a Japanese quarry. Irrespective of how much we sell in the way of minerals we are still left with only a hole in the ground. It is little more than a Japanese quarry. On the other hand we can always rely on primary production. It is there all the time and it will continue to produce and reproduce. There is no doubt that it is primary production which will carry the State for many years.

If we were to undertake some research we would find that any money which has been expended in Albany has been well spent, because no maintenance or dredging is required. We could make a comparison with the costs which are applicable to Bunbury Harbour, because both Albany and Bunbury are on a similar population basis.

Let me point out what has been done this year. From the financial statements and the schedule to the returns of the Albany Harbour Board, we find that the loan capital in 1960-61 was £1,741,388; in 1961-62 it was £1,824,035; in 1962-63 it was £1,818,888; in 1963-64 it was £1,809,512; and in 1964-65 it was £1,799,217.

I now make a comparison of the tonnages which are shipped through the two ports. We should disregard the mineral sands which are shipped through Bunbury, and which represent the highest tonnage unit. I repeat the highest tonnage unit of shipment. Yet in the Albany area there are acres of mineral sands lying in a state of dormancy, and I shall quote the figures to indicate the area and the acreages. We find the Americans coming to this State and seeking to extract the mineral sands in order to capture further markets for this commodity. This is certainly an extractive industry, but why should not all the mineral sands deposits be utilised? Why is the shipment of mineral sands not made through the port of Albany? I have taken this matter up with the American Consul in an endeavour

to have it recognised, so that zircon and rutile can be extracted, because these materials are in keen demand for the manufacture of rockets. Why has the Government attended to the extraction of mineral sands only in the south-west portion of the State, when it can be done very lucratively in the southern portion of the State? I am making reference to these matters to indicate that the tonnages of shipment going through the port of Bunbury are largely made up of mineral sands.

Another aspect of the tonnages which are shipped through Bunbury is that railway sleepers, milled and manufactured in the Albany area, are sent to Bunbury to be shipped. About 500 tons a day are taken to the railhead at Albany—which is only 150 yards from the wharves—and railed through to Bunbury for shipment. The economics are not just or equitable.

If we were to take into account the maintenance and upkeep costs for the port of Bunbury, and subsidies for the rail freights, we could ship through the port of Albany at a much cheaper rate, because in Bunbury there is a continual need for maintenance and dredging of the harbour. In these days we are continually advocating the reduction of freights and shipping charges, yet we keep pouring money, for dredging and maintenance, down the drain year after year. The costs of dredging at Bunbury are colossal.

In this year's estimates nothing is allocated to Albany Harbour for this purpose, but a sum of £10,000 has been allocated for dredging what is merely an estuary which only holds a few crabs and a few fishing boats! A sum of £10,000 is required for that purpose, without taking into account the money needed for harbour development and the building of the second and third berths. There is a constant drain on the State's finances for dredging and maintenance, and nothing has been paid off in sinking fund and depreciation. On the other hand the Albany Harbour Board has progressively reduced its interest and depreciation fund. These facts cannot be refuted.

There is also another aspect of this matter: When Mr. Tydeman retired as Manager of the Fremantle Harbour Trust he said that more berths and more space were required in Fremantle Harbour. Why should the Government continue to persist in congesting this and other ports, when ports in other parts of the State—such as Esperance and Albany—can be utilised for shipping with great advantage to the economy of the State? I think something is due to Esperance for development of the harbour, because it will come into its own eventually. Already the grains grown in the surrounding areas are being shipped through that port. Esperance is entitled to reap its just reward from the production in that zone.

I have quoted the figures relating to the Albany Harbour Board for the years since 1960-61, and as a comparison I now refer to the figures of loan capital for the Bunbury Harbour Board for the same periods. In 1960-61 the loan capital was £1,954,964; in 1961-62 it was £2,298,785; in 1962-63 it was £2,631,118; in 1963-64 it was £2,971,402; and in 1964-65 it was £3,097,650. It will also be noticed that that board borrowed £100,000 in 1964-65 and used £50,000 of it to pay something off the colossal amount of interest that was owing. It will be seen that depreciation and interest payments are not being met.

Compared with the treatment given to Bunbury the treatment of Albany is disgraceful. No consideration is given to a port which is contributing to the economy of the State, and serving a vast area. In the Albany area the population is increasing, capital is being attracted from the Eastern States, and conditional purchase land is taken up readily. All this development is going on with no matching development being undertaken in the port. It is imperative in these days for a harbour to possess the facilities for the fast turn-round of ships. The faster the turn-round the greater is the attraction of the harbour to ships.

I cannot emphasise too much the fact that an area such as Albany, which is developing so much, warrants better treatment. No matter what we think about the glamour of the northern part of the State and the extraction of iron ore which is being undertaken there, we cannot disregard the development around Albany. After all, extraction of minerals results eventually in holes in the ground, and they represent nothing else but Japanese quarries.

One can take any mining town in this State, in the Commonwealth, or in other parts of the world, and it will be found that it finishes up in the same position. Today, in the mining town of Collie, the companies do not want deep mining, and Kalgoorlie is not as lucrative as it used to be. All these mining towns have a limited period of life, but the primary industry—which is the backbone of Australia, and particularly Western Australia—remains with us permanently through production from the soil.

Recently I asked a question of the Premier concerning the establishment of a naval base in Western Australia. In his reply he indicated that one could not be established as far away as Albany, because of a lack of an industrial complex. Let me remind members that an enemy would be looking to the destruction of industrial complexes, and a nearby naval base would be endangered. It has been said that the whole of Australia could be destroyed with three nuclear bombs. The industrial complex in the Cockburn area

would induce an enemy to destroy it, and the establishment of a naval base there would be of no advantage.

Let me refer to an incident which occurred in the last six months. Overnight the Russian whaling fleet was discovered at the door of Albany Harbour. It was going through the whaling or the whaling stock, as we call it, causing disruption and disturbance; but unbeknown to all, it was taking soundings and photographs, and collecting all the data it could possibly compile along the coastline of Western Australia right around to Bunbury. The chap who went out to look at this overall picture also reported three or four weeks before this to the effect that he had sighted submarines. This has also been mentioned in the Eastern States and an attempt was made to ridicule it.

This particular lad flew over and buzzed the particular whaling fleet, so obtaining a complete bird's eye view or observation of what it was trying to do. The policy would be to cause a disturbance to the industry, which is its practice, but that was not the real purpose. I would say there is nothing to prevent these people at any time in the future attacking from that direction, and we would know nothing of it. An entrance through the southern gateway or southern portion of Western Australia would cut off the lifeline of the north-west. Make no mistake about that. These tactics can be applied.

I strike a note of warning now that they are not only there to disrupt the whaling, but are there to obtain information. They laid up in Frenchman's Bay for three hours on the pretext that they had a sick man ashore, but the whaling boys said they saw them taking photographs, compiling data, and generally getting the information they required. They were also found in the northern portion of Australia; and if the black hordes came through the north and the Russians through the south, they could starve the north out tomorrow as the primary industries in the southern portion of the State would be cut off. There is no doubt about that at all. The member for Warren treats that with some contempt.

Mr. Rowberry: No.

Mr. HALL: If we do not establish this naval base and segregate it from industrial complexes we will have an inextricable mess. It is no good saying that Albany is too far way; nothing is too far away. The southern portion of the State is the lifeline of this State, including the north. The north exists on the southern portion of Western Australia. Without food and supplies the north could not exist; so I ask the Premier to give more thought to the matter and not just turn it down because it will be away from the industrial complexes.

I made reference a while ago to ilmenite sands. I would like to quote an extract obtained from the Mines Department to give some idea of the density of the sands. I refer to Cheyne Beach and other areas where, to the best of my knowledge, a spade has never been turned. Recently I contacted Laporte and that firm is trying to do something; but what, I do not know. It may wish to shift the sands from Albany to Bunbury.

Mr. Williams: That would be a good idea.

Mr. HALL: I hope they get the bright idea and establish another industry in Bunbury—I mean Albany. I agree with the member for Bunbury that this firm does not get the right treatment, because a lot of the goods for that firm come through the port of Fremantle and are road freighted down and commodity freighted back. That is an injustice to the zone and the port, because it takes away from the zone the equity to which it is entitled.

Let me get back to the holdings in the areas I previously referred to. I would remind the Committee that as far as I know not one spade has been turned in the soil. Perhaps a spade may have been turned, but that is about all. The sands have never been segregated. The first one is at William Bay, 264 acres; Cheyne Bay, 300 acres; Hassell Beach, 300 acres; Lease 143/63, 300 acres; Lease 144/63, 300 acres; Lease 145/63, 300 acres; Lease 526/56, 300 acres. Then there is a small lot. I will not quote them all, but some of them contain 292 acres, 172 acres, seven of 24 acres, and others 300 acres. At Mt. Many Peaks there is 1,500 square miles. Those areas show just what the density of these sands are.

When one approaches the Mines Department it does not seem to have the complete data which I think it should have. Nevertheless, research has been carried out in many instances by the firms concerned; and, I repeat, those firms are entitled to keep their information to themselves.

In regard to further harbour development I think we should look at the future expansion of Albany with a view to its modern development, apart from the establishment of a third berth and the early completion of Foreshore Road, which is estimated to cost £220,000. The engineer has put up to the department the route for this road and I believe some consideration is being given to it. However, every day or every year that we delay, a considerable financial burden is being placed on the Albany Harbour Board. This is because the financial position is changing every day. We are now considering the Loan Estimates and we find that everything has gone up. This development is like the balloon; it is still up in the air. If something is not done soon the repercussions

will be that considerable extra costs will have to be met to develop Albany Harbour by the provision of such modern equipment as cranes, and so on, and this will be to the disadvantage of the Albany Harbour Board.

The Government does not grasp this, because the north-west is taking the greatest proportion of the finance available for harbour development. If there is any more delay it will cost three times what it would have cost in 1962-63. This is something which cannot be refuted.

The other point I would like to stress to the Treasurer is in regard to the southern portion of the harbour. I believe Mr. Tydeman had in mind the reclamation of the shallows in order to bring through a second channel for the purpose of establishing an airstrip on the southern side of the harbour under the lee, which would give protection and would allow for air transport to be co-ordinated with road and rail transport. This co-ordination of transport is something which will have to be tackled, as we must reduce shipping, road, and rail costs.

A second entrance to the harbour would give a faster turn-round of shipping; and with the advent of a naval base, which I think would be in Frenchman's Bay, where the depth of water is satisfactory, where there is sufficient land, and where there is an abundance of fresh water—

Mr. Gayfer: Even if you put an airstrip across?

Mr. HALL: No; the airstrip is on the lee side of the harbour, while the entrance is through Frenchman's Bay, which was used by the British Fleet.

The Americans investigated Oyster Harbour as a submarine base also because of the shallows where submarines could be taken up and serviced. Therefore there is no need to bring that in because it has been investigated. They came down to Albany during the last War for protection when they could not be accommodated in any other part of Western Australia. Therefore the initial step has been taken to establish a naval base.

The surveys should also take in the widening of the existing channel. That would probably be a further movement or, perhaps, the first movement, and would allow two boats to enter instead of the present one. The reclamation on the north side should be carried out forthwith. We had the spectacle of Mr. Davison, the great industrialist who came here looking for cheap industrial land. What cheaper land is there than reclaimed land? If that land were reclaimed alongside the railway it would be very convenient because there is rail and road access and water is available. I could think of no better site than that. If members studied the ports of London they would find that that is the situation there. Time is saved in the handling of cargoes.

The reclamation would also help in connection with the railway yards. Congestion has already occurred in the last three grain seasons. There has been a complete conglomeration and congestion of the rail traffic. The marshalling yards must be extended. I have asked the Minister for Railways questions about this matter and he said that consideration has been given to it; but there has been no movement.

Mr. Gayfer interjected.

Mr. HALL: That is a section on the other side. I agree that a certain percentage of grain will go through Esperance. I mentioned that in the earlier part of my speech. Consider the land near the Stirling area. I do not see any falling off of grain. Esperance is entitled to the development there. I agree with that.

Let us get back to the marshalling yards, where there is congestion. When we get over that problem we must then think of the resting of the railway station in keeping with modern times and development. I have raised this matter before and I think the Minister for Railways has some plan; but unfortunately he is lost in the north-west. We cannot see him in the southern portion of the State. I know he is very efficient and capable; but he is spending a lot of time up there, perhaps because he feels he will get his peanuts and finance there.

I would agree with the extractive industries—or the Japanese quarries as they are called—if they adopted the principle suggested by the Leader of the Opposition. If we exported a fair amount until we received a sufficient return to set up our own industries and create our own employment, then I think we could afford to dig holes in the ground. We would be creating our own steel and iron industries or whatever else is associated with that development and entice people into the State to earn revenue.

But what are we doing today in the extractive industries? When we send the iron ore out of the country we are sending employment to other countries. That cannot be denied. The product is coming back in the form of motorcars and this also is creating another form of unemployment. This cannot be denied. We are exporting employment.

Another subject on which I would like to touch is decentralisation. We hear so much about this, but probably decentralisation is not the proper word to use. On the 7th September, I asked the Minister for Industrial Development the following question:—

Has the Government any determined plan to assist in the matter of decentralisation of industries to provincial and country towns and northern development, other than export of iron ore; and, if so, what are the details of the proposed plan?



The Minister replied in part—

Decentralisation is a policy of the Government and the most widespread decentralised development in the State's history is currently being undertaken.

Industry cannot be directed to particular towns and regions but every opportunity is taken to encourage decentralised industry having regard for local needs, raw materials, and other appropriate factors.

That is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard! Mention is made of raw materials; yet, despite the fact that not an ounce of wool is produced in Fremantle, five scouring works exist in the area. Would it not be better to have scouring works in close proximity to the agricultural areas where the sheep population is increasing? A small percentage of another type of wool could be brought in to make the blend and the wool could be scoured near the agricultural areas.

The establishment of such enterprises in the country would have many advantages, including stability of employment with a consequent lack of necessity to change personnel, and the retention of skilled workers in the industry. In the city, of course, opportunities for employment are greater, and because of the diversity of industries, men shift from job to job.

Consider the position of the woollen mill. We have seen it go through bad patches because of imports and certain trends in the textile trades; but today that mill competes with something like 40-odd mills in the Eastern States; and although it has had a slight recession, so has every other mill in the Eastern States and in the world. Today we find that it is on the up and up. It is advertising for adult males for the first time I can remember, and the balance sheet is on the mend. There are 1,300 miles between Albany and Melbourne, but the mill is able to compete on a comparable basis on the Eastern States markets and has a fair percentage of the Western Australian market. I commend the Premier for placing orders for State requirements with that mill. The action is worthy of commendation, and it is very sensible to stimulate our own economy.

The other point I would make on decentralisation is that there is congestion of the populace in the metropolitan area. I do not think the Government really likes it; but it is a trend; and we must do something to establish industries in country centres which will create other smaller industries in those centres and in nearby areas. For instance, I visualise industrial development in Albany leading to the establishment of subsidiary enterprises there and in Mt. Barker, Denmark, and Gnowangerup. With the natural harbour

and port of Albany to serve them those places would have an equity in their own areas; and I can see that happening too.

For the first time, in 1965, we find we will have five wool sales. Our price this time topped the poll as they say. That is a good thing for that portion of the State. It puts us in a better category. The people there get their prices and buyers are attending the sales. The sheep population has increased greatly—I would say by more than a third. I do not need to emphasise again how economically important this primary industry is to this portion of the State and the State as a whole.

That could never be denied, and that is why the people from the southern part of the State are entitled to get equity from their zone. The Premier has dealt with this matter and I know he wants all the money from the southern portion of the State to develop harbours. I know the member for Geraldton is anxious about this also. I would say the fault is with the Government because of its failure to recognise the need for a harbour in the southern portion of the State. This fault will echo through the corridors of time, and will re-echo as a mistake which occurred in the 1965 Budget. It will not be denied and it will re-echo.

I have nothing more to say this evening. I will speak again on the general Estimates and I hope the Premier has listened to sound reasoning and will see the common-sense of putting some money into a worthy port in the southern portion of the State.

#### Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Rowberry.

House adjourned at 10.32 p.m.

## Legislative Council

Thursday, the 7th October, 1965

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