

advantageous points, not only along the roadside, but also at beaches, reserves, and on parklands. However, a lot more needs to be done not only on the roadsides but also in the built-up areas. Far too often do we see tin cans, cigarette packets and chocolate wrappings thrown away, but if more receptacles were provided, I feel sure more people would use them.

I do not suppose we will ever reach the position where everybody will use such receptacles but people could certainly be educated to do the right thing. I think we all know that many overseas countries are far more strict when it comes to policing the disposal of rubbish.

I was talking to a friend of mine who had just returned from a trip to Europe and in conversation with me he said, "I must not throw this match away. The last time I did such a thing was in a continental country. I was with several people at a sports meeting and they all looked at me with such horror that I was ashamed of what I had done and I picked up the match and put it in my pocket."

I believe we must develop the same sort of attitude in this country if our efforts are to be effective. I might say that I am aware that the Chamber of Manufactures is also quite concerned about the litter problem in Western Australia. The car manufacturers are giving some prominence to this aspect and, as I mentioned earlier, I feel sure that a great deal more can be done in this direction.

I am glad a campaign is to be launched at a national level to improve the look of the countryside and to do away with the unsightliness which is caused by the depositing of rubbish. I trust that this committee which is to be formed at a national level will transmit its enthusiasm to all the States and that we in Western Australia will play our part, with the assistance and guidance of the Tourist Development Authority, and any help that might be given by the shires and the schools.

I would invite all members of our community to play their part as individuals and to do all they can to help in this direction. There is no doubt that a tidy town week is a commendable idea. I would like to see one day or perhaps one week set aside for the purpose of tidying up communities throughout Western Australia. It would help in no small manner if each one of us played his part in a small way, if only in his particular residential area.

It is said that many hands make light work and if we all helped in supervising the cleaning up of our particular residential areas we would have a much tidier community in which to live.

I have already mentioned the question of education rather than penalties, but it is not always easy to educate people. It

is not easy for a person to pick up a can he has thrown in the gutter and place that can in a receptacle. People generally get lazy and their one desire is to disown any piece of rubbish they might have thrown away.

In a lighter vein, I would like to quote a well-known limerick which might in some small way help in educating the public in the disposal of litter. The limerick reads as follows:—

A Tutor who tooted the flute
Tried to teach two young tooters to
toot,

Said the two to the Tutor,

"Is it harder to toot, or

To tutor two tooters to toot?"

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. H. C. Strickland.

House adjourned at 7.57 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 20th August, 1969

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

LANDS AND SURVEYS DEPARTMENT

Annual Report: Tabling

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [4.32 p.m.]: In tabling the report of the Department of Land and Surveys, I take the opportunity to express appreciation to the Under-Secretary for Lands (Mr. C. R. Gibson), the Survey-General (Mr. John Morgan), the officers of the department, and those associated with the Emu Point (Albany) Reserve Board, the Reserves Advisory Council, the Bush Fires Board, the National Parks Board, and the King's Park Board, for submitting the necessary information to enable the annual report to be tabled so early.

QUESTIONS (40): ON NOTICE

1. HOUSING

Rental Accommodation

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

What is the date of lodgment of applications for rental dwellings in respect of which allocations are currently being made at the following centres:—

- (a) Geraldton;
- (b) Northam;
- (c) Merredin;
- (d) Bunbury;
- (e) Narrogin;
- (f) Albany?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

| | Four Sleeping Unit | Three Sleeping Unit | Two Sleeping Unit | Pensioner |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| (a) Geraldton | August, 1968 | July, 1968 | August, 1968 | October, 1968 |
| (b) Northam | August, 1968 | September, 1968 | August, 1968 | October, 1968 |
| (c) Merredin | June, 1968 | April, 1969 | May, 1969 | January, 1968 |
| (d) Bunbury | October, 1966 | March, 1968 | March, 1966 | March, 1966 |
| (e) Narrogin | No applicants | September, 1968 | September, 1968 | September, 1968 |
| (f) Albany | October, 1968 | March, 1968 | July, 1968 | November, 1965* |

* Transfer of listing from another district. This is the only pensioner couple waiting at Albany.

2. LAND

Sale in Dianella Area

Mr. TOMS asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What was the net amount received by the State Housing Commission for the 83 lots disposed of by public auction conducted in February, 1968, in the Dianella area and referred to in my question of the 14th August, 1969?
- (2) What amount of commission was paid to the auctioneers?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) \$457,325.
- (2) \$12,763.

3. TRANSPORT

Prosecutions

Mr. McPHARLIN asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many prosecutions were made under the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act during the period 1st July, 1968 to 30th June, 1969?
- (2) How many convictions were secured during this period?
- (3) What was the amount of money paid to the Road and Air Transport Commission as a result of these convictions?
- (4) What amount of money was paid out by the Road and Air Transport Commission in solicitors' fees and court costs?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 2,286 charges were brought before the court during the period stated.
- (2) 2,284.
- (3) Orders were issued by the court for a total of \$51,266.
- (4) \$25,054.

4. EDUCATION

Free Textbooks

Mr. CASH asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that in the South Australian Parliament the Estimates for the years 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69 provided re-

spectively, \$560,000, \$254,000 and \$550,000 for free text books for primary schools?

- (2) What would be the estimated cost of providing free text books for children attending primary schools in Western Australia—

- (a) in the initial year of such a scheme;
- (b) for the second year; and
- (c) in the third year assuming that the average life of a free text book would be two years?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 1970 as the initial year, and providing only textbooks.
 - (a) (i) Government schools—\$541,000 approximately.
 - (ii) All schools—\$652,000 approximately.
 - (b) (i) Government schools—\$70,000 approximately.
 - (ii) All schools—\$82,000 approximately.
 - (c) (i) Government schools—\$575,000 approximately.
 - (ii) All schools—\$688,000 approximately.

5.

TRAFFIC

Heavy Haulage Vehicles

Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is there any minimum distance permitted between two or more loaded heavy haulage overwidth and/or overlength vehicles on our—
 - (a) metropolitan;
 - (b) outer metropolitan or country, roads or highways?
- (2) Is he aware of the additional difficulty, danger and inconvenience other drivers experience as a consequence of needing to overtake two or more vehicles described in (1) particularly when these vehicles are in close proximity one to another?

- (3) If no regulation exists will he amend the regulations to—
- ensure that such vehicles are a suitable distance apart; and/or
 - adopt such other procedures which will permit opportunity to overtake in safety?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes. Regulation 509 of the Road Traffic Code provides that a driver of a "long" vehicle (more than 24 ft. in length) shall, wherever conditions permit, keep his vehicle not less than 200 feet behind the other vehicle.

Subject to conditions of a special permit, two escorted oversize vehicles may travel in convoy not more than 150 feet apart. This is applicable throughout the State.

- (2) Yes.

- (3) (a) Answered by (1).

- (b) The matter is presently being examined to ascertain if additional safety features can be introduced.

6. EDUCATION

Slow Learning Children

Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health: Is it intended in the near future to build new residential facilities for the Bunbury Slow Learning Children's Group or assist them in some other way with the present building and/or staff?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Arrangements for extensions are being considered, having in mind the availability of Commonwealth and State funds. Matters are at present being discussed with the Slow Learning Children's Group.

7. HOSPITAL

Bunbury Regional

Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- What is the possible maximum daily bed average over 12 months for the Bunbury Regional Hospital?
- What has been the daily bed average for each year since the opening of Bunbury Regional Hospital?
- What was the daily bed average for each month or quarter during the—
 - first 12 months of operation?
 - last 12 months of operation?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- 100 per cent. occupancy; i.e., 114.
- 1966-67—72.1
1967-68—77.5
1968-69—85.3

- (3) (a) 1966-67—

Quarter ended 30/6/66—69.1.

Quarter ended 30/9/66—72.2.

Quarter ended 31/12/66—67.5.

Quarter ended 31/3/67—69.7.

Quarter ended 30/6/67—78.9.

1966—

July—71.9.

August—68.3.

September—76.5.

October—68.3.

November—69.5.

December—64.7.

1967—

January—67.4.

February—69.6.

March—72.0.

April—80.9.

May—78.5.

June—77.4.

- (b) 1968-69—

Quarter ended 30/9/68—90.9.

Quarter ended 31/12/68—78.5.

Quarter ended 31/3/69—83.0.

Quarter ended 30/6/69—88.7.

1968—

July—92.1.

August—91.2.

September—89.3.

October—80.1.

November—80.7.

December—74.3.

1969—

January—84.4.

February—88.1.

March—77.0.

April—85.9.

May—91.6.

June—88.5.

8.

WATER SUPPLIES

Metropolitan Area

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- In view of the rapidly expanding housing development in the metropolitan area, can he assure the metropolitan public that there will be no water shortages brought about by this development?

- (2) Can he assure the metropolitan public that the existing catchment areas are adequate to cope with the water demands of the metropolitan area and its future development?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The rapidly expanding housing development will not cause any general shortages in the metropolitan area. There may be some temporary difficulties in fully supplying areas being developed.
- (2) The existing hills reservoirs are adequate to cope with the present demands of the metropolitan area, but not those of all future development.

The Metropolitan Water Board has a programme for the provision of further hills reservoirs; the next two to be built being a pipe-head dam on the North Dandalup in the 1971-72 financial year, and a major dam on the South Dandalup to be completed by the winter of 1973.

It has always been accepted that there is a limit to the amount of water that may be provided from hills storages and the board has therefore for many years made use of ground water in periods of peak demands, and will increase its use of ground water supplies.

9. FIRE BRIGADE

Canning Shire

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) In view of the concern shown by the Canning Shire Council which now has an annual building value of \$13,179,465, what has the Fire Brigade Board done to develop a station in the urban areas of Willetton, Ferndale or Lynwood?
- (2) Has the Fire Brigade Board given consideration to the development of a station in or near the areas suggested?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "Yes", when can it be expected building will commence?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) Metropolitan fire brigades are currently meeting the needs for fire protection in the area and the W.A. Fire Brigade Board is aware of the need to provide for Willetton, Ferndale, and Lynwood in the near future.

The board's officers are currently engaged in planning the overall future fire station requirements in this sector of the metropolitan fire district.

10. *This question was postponed.*

11. DILLINGHAM CORPORATION

Cockburn Sound

Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) Will he table a copy of the agreement entered into with Dillingham Corporation under which it was to make a feasibility study for a dockyard in Cockburn Sound?
- (2) What decision has been made on the report of its studies by Dillingham which was in the Government's hands in February last?
- (3) Will he make the report public?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) The subject matter of this question is identical to question 10 of Tuesday, the 25th March, 1969.

The answer then and now is that it is not proposed to table the papers which, as is to be expected in a matter of this kind, include much of a confidential nature.

I am in a position to say, however, that there is no formal agreement. The arrangement with Dillinghams is covered by a letter which authorised them to undertake at their cost a feasibility study to determine whether a dry dock proposal was economically and otherwise viable. Beyond that the Government's commitment only extends to an undertaking to be ready and willing to undertake negotiations with Dillinghams if the feasibility study indicates that a project would be economically and otherwise viable. This assurance they sought as a firm indication that we would not abandon our negotiations with them when we saw the result of the feasibility study and proceeded to negotiate in another quarter without giving Dillinghams a fair and reasonable opportunity to arrive at an acceptable proposition.

- (2) A firm decision has not yet been made on the report. At this stage it is used as a useful but confidential document for purposes of further studies as to the practicability of eventually making the project a viable one.

- (3) No.

12. DILLINGHAM CORPORATION

Cockburn Sound

Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) When Dillingham Shipyards (W.A.) Pty. Ltd. announced in June last that it would apply to the Tariff Board for registration as a Commonwealth-subsidised shipyard was he aware of the intention?

- (2) Has the application been made?
- (3) If "Yes", what particular area of operation was indicated?
- (4) Has Dillingham Corporation had leased to it any part of Cockburn Sound waterfront?
- (5) If "Yes", what length of waterfront has been leased, where is it situated, what are the terms and conditions and when was the agreement made?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I understand advice has been submitted to Tariff Board of intention to submit a case for recognition as a shipyard carrying on business in Western Australia.
- (3) See answer to (2).
- (4) No, but a subsidiary, Dredging Industries (Aust.) Pty. Limited, was given a lease of a 5-acre lot of land with frontage to Cockburn Sound for the purpose of carrying out dredging contracts for the Fremantle Port Authority.
- (5) This lease, for a term of three years, expired on the 31st March, 1967, the tenancy being continued on a monthly basis. The length of waterfront concerned is 6 feet over 5 chains the land being described as Kwinana Lot 54 and being situated immediately north of the B.H.P. site at Kwinana.

13. WATER SUPPLIES

Pickering Brook-Carilla

Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

Could he advise what plans, if any, are being considered for the reticulation of water to the Pickering Brook-Carilla area?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The Metropolitan Water Board has no plans at present to reticulate the Pickering Brook-Carilla area.

14. LUDWIG ORGANISATION

Premier's Statement

Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) What were the nature and purpose of his talk with D. K. Ludwig to which he referred in a radio statement upon the day of his arrival back in Perth?
- (2) What was the outcome of his talk?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) The discussion held with Mr. D. K. Ludwig was simply to urge upon him the importance of an early decision to finalise the

financial arrangements for the Robe River project, because of the time limit which had been set by Japanese interests for the first delivery of pellets.

15. LUDWIG ORGANISATION

Robe River Project

Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) When did he receive the first intimation from the D. K. Ludwig organisation that its withdrawal from the Robe River iron ore project could occur?
- (2) Was the first advice unexpected or had a situation been developing which had caused him to anticipate the possibility of the withdrawal of the Ludwig organisation?
- (3) When did the Ludwig organisation give him reasons for the contemplated withdrawal?
- (4) What reasons were given?
- (5) Was there disagreement about ports?
- (6) Was D. K. Ludwig concerned about his announcement on the 21st April that Japanese steel firms had told him that they expected to sign a \$1,250,000,000 contract with Cliffs W.A. Pty. Ltd.?
- (7) Can he explain why it was reported from Tokyo that his statement about the Robe River iron ore negotiations had puzzled the Yawata Steel Co., a spokesman of which company had said, "We can only assume that Mr. Court's statement was made for domestic political reasons"?
- (8) Was the Ludwig organisation disturbed by his announcement on the 5th July that "Mitsui might increase its shares, but it won't be at Australia's expense. It will have to be at the expense of the D. K. Ludwig organisation"?
- (9) On what date did D. K. Ludwig tell the Government that it did not intend to raise the capital for its share in the Robe River project?
- (10) What reasons were then given for Ludwig's decision?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The first indications, but not direct from the D. K. Ludwig organisation, came shortly after the major sales contract with the Japanese steel mills was successfully negotiated.

(2) The first official advice was not unexpected in view of the indications shortly after the negotiation of the sales contract referred to in (1) above was concluded.

(3) On the 9th July, 1969 Ludwig cabled that he had advised Cleveland Cliffs of his determination not to proceed with a share in the Robe River project.

(4) On the basis of his analysis of all factors relating to the project, including the current international money market and his views about proved reserves.

However, it should be noted that the buyers were satisfied that the proved reserves are adequate to meet the sales contract and it is customary for further reserves to be proved as a project proceeds.

(5) Not to my knowledge.

(6) I presume the member refers to myself when he says "his announcement". If so, the answer is "No". Mr. Ludwig or his representatives made no suggestion to me of his concern nor would he be entitled to be concerned about the statement.

(7) I cannot be responsible for what someone says in Tokyo.

The statement made by me was made on the advice given me by the Japanese steel mills representatives which included Yawata Steel Co. and with whom I had, of necessity, to be in close touch during these important negotiations.

The accuracy and justification of my statement was borne out by the signing of the contract by the time and in the form I announced. The statement was not for local political reasons, but to give official advice to the public of the position and put an end to a series of misleading conjectures which were not assisting the final stages of negotiations.

(8) Not to my knowledge. In any case, it now appears obvious they made their decision to withdraw before this Press report.

(9) and (10) Answered by (3) and (4) above.

16. MURESK AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE Beef Research

Mr. McIVER asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What is the total acreage of Muresk College?
- (2) Is a portion of the college acreage to be retained by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of beef research; if so, how much?

(3) If "Yes", would this not be detrimental to students who are entering the new upgraded course which is being provided by the Institute of Technology?

(4) As the college is now equipped to farm the total acreage, would not a reduction in acreage hamper the student intake and make the orientated course less effective for farm management training because of over capitalisation on the remainder of the farm and the need for larger acreages to-day to return profits?

(5) If portion of the property is to be retained for beef research, has the department adequately considered the control of the primary noxious weed "Patersons Curse"?

(6) Would the fact that Patersons Curse increases under cattle grazing not jeopardise the research project?

(7) If "Yes", would he clarify the position?

(8) Has not the York Shire Council protested strongly in relation to the density of Patersons Curse on the property; if so, what action is contemplated to remedy the spread of the weed?

(9) Considering the views against retention of a portion of this land, could not another property be acquired by the department within a reasonable distance of Perth, which would be more suitable for research purposes?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Muresk—2,220 acres.
Springhill—1,827 acres.
- (2) The Springhill property of 1,827 acres is to be retained by the Department of Agriculture for beef research.
- (3) No.
- (4) No.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) No, subject to adequate control measures being taken.
- (7) Answered by (6).
- (8) A control programme will be instituted in association with the beef research project.
- (9) I am not aware of any views against retention of the Springhill property for beef research purposes.

17.

LAND

Northam

Mr. McIVER asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Would he advise if the Housing Commission is contemplating selling land in sections A and B, loca-

tion P.5, Chidlow Street, Northam, and portion of lot 2, location P.5, a total of 39 acres?

- (2) If so, would he please give reasons for the sale?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) The commission is not contemplating the selling of this land.

18. DAM SITES

Gascoyne River

Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has the feasibility study of dam sites on the Gascoyne River been completed?
(2) If "Yes", what are the findings of such study?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) A feasibility study of a dam at the Kennedy Range site is being examined by Public Works Department engineers. Preliminary indications are that a dam at this site would be extremely costly and there would be difficulties of salinity and supply.
Investigations into a dam at Rocky Pool are still in course.
(2) Answered by (1).

19. COURTHOUSE

Carnarvon

Mr. NORTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has any firm decision been made to build a new courthouse at Carnarvon?
(2) If so, when is it anticipated tenders will be called?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) The project is listed for consideration on the draft loan estimates for 1969-70, but commencement will be dependent upon availability of funds.

20. EDUCATION

Textbook Subsidies

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the particulars of textbook subsidies paid by the Education Department to secondary school students attending Government and non-Government schools?
(2) Why are secondary school students studying at technical schools excluded from benefiting from textbook subsidies?

- (3) Will he give consideration to the inclusion of secondary school students at technical schools in the scheme which is operating and extend to these students the same amount of subsidy as is being paid to students of secondary schools?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) (a) Students in years one to three of a secondary course—\$5 per annum.
(b) Students in years four and five of a secondary course—\$10 per annum.
(2) The decision to exclude students enrolled with the Technical Education Division was based on the announcement by the Premier in his policy speech that the textbook subsidy would apply to students attending Government and independent secondary schools.
(3) This matter is at present under consideration.

21.

ROAD

Welshpool-Fremantle Closed Access Highway

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the schedule of works on the Welshpool-Fremantle closed access highway for the year 1969-70?
(2) What is the estimated cost?
(3) Is it intended to construct the bridge over the Canning River this financial year; if not, what is the proposed date of completion?
(4) What are the alternative routes until such time as the bridge is completed?
(5) Is it intended to construct an underpass or overpass for River-ton Drive, giving a direct link between a divided residential area?
(6) What arrangements have been made for traffic and pedestrian interchanges along this closed access highway?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The Fremantle-Welshpool road is not controlled access over its full length. However, works planned over the whole length in 1969-70 are—
(a) Construction and sealing of dual carriageways 36 ft. wide on the Carrington Street-Stock Road section (1.0 mile) and the Bateman Road-Bull Creek section (1.1 mile).

- (b) Construction and sealing of a single carriageway 36 ft. wide on new alignment between Central Road and Barbican Street (1.0 mile).
- (c) Installation of traffic lights at intersections with Carrington Street, North Lake and Stock Roads.
- (2) Estimated cost—\$563,000.
- (3) No, and no decision has yet been made.
- (4) Via existing bridges.
- (5) This is being investigated.
- (6) Verbal agreement has been reached with the local authorities for the provision of a pedestrian overbridge at Rossmoyne High School.

22. EDUCATION

Slow Learning Children

Mr. McPHARLIN asked the Minister for Education:

When is it anticipated that a school for the Slow Learning Children's Group of W.A. (Inc.), Wheatbelt Branch, Kellerberrin, will be built at Kellerberrin?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Construction will commence on site within a fortnight and it is anticipated that the project will be ready for occupation at the commencement of the 1970 school year.

23. TRANSPORT

Permits

Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is it not a fact that the railway finances would be affected by the granting of permits and licenses and the easement of transport conditions generally?
- (2) What arrangements exist with regard to liaison between the Railways Department and the Transport Advisory Council concerning the issue of road transport permits or licenses?
- (3) As in transport circles easement to the north-west and a development towards freedom of choice is being discussed, could it be assumed railway finances are in a healthy state?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) If this was done indiscriminately, yes. However, we have reason to believe that railway finances may actually be improved if the railways ceased to carry certain commodities over certain journeys. This rests on the belief that

W.A.G.R. costs for these commodity/journeys are substantially in excess of earnings. Further, and this is of vital importance to the user, there is evidence to suggest that many of the commodity/journeys in question could be carried by road at less cost to the user. Whether or not we proceed on this basis will depend on the development of costing techniques within the W.A.G.R. and the results obtained. It will be at least a year before we can substantiate the belief. I would point out that overseas as well as here the realisation is emerging, in respect of all transport systems, that all revenue is not necessarily desirable revenue.

- (2) No formal arrangements exist, though the Transport Advisory Council on which the W.A.G.R. is represented by the Commissioner for Railways, is assisting the Director-General of Transport in developing policy recommendations. The authorisation of road movements rests entirely with the Commissioner for Road and Air Transport in terms of the Road and Air Transport Commission Act.
- (3) No, but the whole of our thinking is directed towards achieving a healthy financial state in the W.A.G.R. As is implied in the answer to (1) we believe that a healthy state will not necessarily be achieved by forcing all traffic on to rail. There is a distinct possibility that we will do best for both parties involved, the State and the user, by carefully adjusting the rail role to those jobs which its technology and geographical layout enables it to handle advantageously. If recommendations about the north-west are made to me I anticipate they will provide for the W.A.G.R. to play a very large role indeed in that long hauls, such as between Perth and Meekatharra, are precisely what the railway does well and from which it can make a good profit.

24.

RAILWAYS

Tambellup-Gnowangerup Line

Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to close the Tambellup-Gnowangerup railway line?
- (2) Will he list the amount of revenue derived from this branch line for the years 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68, and 1968-69, taking into consideration a normal grain season?

- (3) For the same years what was the profit or loss in connection with this line?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) A final decision has yet to be made.
 (2) The line is credited with revenue as under—
 1965-66—\$44,757.
 1966-67—\$38,477.
 1967-68—\$38,369.
 1968-69—Not yet available.
 (3) 1965-66—\$52,080 loss.
 1966-67—\$58,333 loss.
 1967-68—\$71,144 loss.
 1968-69—Not yet available.

25. CHILD WELFARE

Child Minding Centres

Mr. HARMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare:

- (1) How many child minding centres are licensed in Western Australia?
 (2) How many are operated by—
 (a) organisations, etc;
 (b) private citizens?
 (3) How many children are cared for in the categories (a) and (b) above?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) 31.
 (2) (a) 3.
 (b) 28.
 (3) (a) 130.
 (b) 328.

26. HOSPITAL

Kalgoorlie Regional

Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

With reference to his reply on the 6th August, 1969 when should a decision be known as to the construction of a casualty and theatre block at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

A definite decision is not available, the department's programme of work being confined to projects for which loan funds have already been allocated.

27. PUBLIC SERVANTS

Salary Increases

Mr. BURKE asked the Premier:

With reference to recent salary rises announced for the clerical division of the State Public Service, would he indicate when salaries for the professional and general divisions of the service are likely to be increased?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

General division salaries are now under negotiation between the Public Service Commissioner and the Civil Service Association.

With the exception of legal officers, claims have not been received on behalf of the various occupational categories in the professional division.

28.

TRANSPORT

Commonwealth Assistance

Mr. BURKE asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Was any decision taken by the meeting of State Transport Ministers recently held in Darwin to approach the Commonwealth to secure financial assistance for the States to assist in overcoming the critical problems confronted in public transport?
 (2) If "Yes", would he provide the Parliament with details?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No, although the subject was raised and some informal discussion ensued.
 (2) Answered by (1).

29.

EDUCATION

Libraries

Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What amount of money has been received from the Federal Government for the provision of libraries in schools in this State?
 (2) To which schools has the money been allocated and how much has been involved in each case?
 (3) What schools will benefit under the programme for the current financial year and how much will be involved in each case?
 (4) What criteria are used in establishing allocation of moneys?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) \$503,200 is available for the calendar year 1969. Advance payments of \$168,000 have been received to date.
 (2) For buildings and furniture—
 John Forrest S.H.S.—\$71,924 (contract price).
 Scarborough S.H.S.—\$88,494 (contract price).
 Perth Modern S.H.S.—\$85,000 (estimate).
 Geraldton S.H.S.—\$75,000 (estimate).
 Armadale S.H.S.—\$62,000 (estimate).

For schools, materials and equipment—

Issues have been made to all schools with groups of secondary pupils but amount involved in each case is not known.

- (3) Planning is on a calendar year basis and 1970 programme is still under consideration.
- (4) Allocation of books and materials was based on need following a survey of actual library books in each school. Provision of library accommodation is based on need for library space in each school.

30. EDUCATION

South Fremantle High School

Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the estimated enrolment at the South Fremantle High School for 1970?
- (2) What increase will this be on the February 1969 enrolment?
- (3) Are any additional classrooms to be constructed for the beginning of the 1970 school year to alleviate the present overcrowding, including use of the library room as a classroom?
- (4) When are prevocational facilities to be provided?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Approximately 1,000.
- (2) 50.
- (3) and (4). A prevocational centre, which will provide accommodation equivalent to at least one normal classroom, is listed on the 1969-70 building programme.

31. EDUCATION

South Fremantle High School

Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that some first and second year classes at the South Fremantle High School at present contain in excess of 40 students?
- (2) Is a number of students per class of over 40 considered excessive for high school students?
- (3) What is the desired number of children in first and second year high school classes?
- (4) What is the average number of students in first and second year classes in high schools within the State system?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes. Several classes have more than 40 children for some subjects. The average is 38.

- (2) No. Modern educational thinking favours variable class size according to the subject taught. It is the average size which is significant.
- (3) The department is working towards an average of 35 as a desirable objective.
- (4) Figures for the average number of students in first and second year classes within the State system are not available. Class groups for different subjects are of variable size and statistics are based on the size of English classes. For secondary classes as a whole, 2.7 per cent. are over 40, 57.5 per cent. lie between 31 and 40 and 39.8 per cent. are 30 and under.

32.

EDUCATION

Institute of Technology

Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has a decision been taken by the board of the Institute of Technology regarding student fees for next year?
- (2) If "Yes", what will the fees be and what are the variations from this year?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2). The fee structure for the institute prior to the incorporation of the other colleges of advanced education was based on \$10 per hour of weekly tuition with a maximum fee of \$100 per annum, with the other colleges having fee structures either below or above that figure. For 1970 a uniform fee structure to cover all courses and all locations will be based on \$10.50 per hour of weekly tuition with a maximum fee of \$105 per annum. The only exception is the residential fee charged at Muresk, which is to remain very similar to the fee structure for the last two years.

33.

HOUSING

Rental and Purchase Accommodation

Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many dwellings in the following categories does the commission plan to construct in the 1969-70 financial year—

(a) Fremantle and Cockburn—

Rental—

- 2 bedroom houses;
- 3 bedroom houses;
- 4 bedroom houses;
- 2 bedroom flats;
- 3 bedroom flats;
- 4 bedroom flats;

Purchase—

- 2 bedroom houses;
- 3 bedroom houses;
- 4 bedroom houses.

(b) Kwinana—**Rental—**

- 2 bedroom houses;
- 3 bedroom houses;
- 4 bedroom houses;
- 2 bedroom flats;
- 3 bedroom flats;
- 4 bedroom flats;

Purchase—

- 2 bedroom houses;
- 3 bedroom houses;
- 4 bedroom houses;
- 2 bedroom flats;
- 3 bedroom flats;
- 4 bedroom flats.

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

It is planned to complete housing units as follows—

(a) Fremantle and Cockburn—**Rental—**

- Two bedroom houses—Nil.
- Three bedroom houses—4.
- Four bedroom houses—1.
- Two bedroom flats—137.
- Three bedroom flats—276.
- Four bedroom flats—Nil.

Purchase—

- Two bedroom houses—Nil.
- Three bedroom houses—53.
- Four bedroom houses—13.

(b) Kwinana—**Rental—**

- Two bedroom houses—Nil.
- Three bedroom houses—21.
- Four bedroom houses—Nil.
- Two bedroom flats—114.
- Three bedroom flats—80.
- Four bedroom flats—Nil.

Purchase—

- Two bedroom houses—Nil.
- Three bedroom houses—44.
- Four bedroom houses—6.

The balance of this question refers to two, three, and four-bedroom flats for purchase. From the way the member for Cockburn framed the first half of the question I presume that these categories should have been omitted. However, the answer in each case in respect of purchase flats is—

- Two bedroom flats—Nil.
- Three bedroom flats—Nil.
- Four bedroom flats—Nil.

In addition it is proposed to complete eight one bedroom rental flats in Kwinana.

34.

PROBATE*Receipts*

Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Treasurer:

- (1) What revenue has been received by the State Treasury from probate duty for the financial years 1967-68 and 1968-69?
- (2) For the above two years what has been the duty collected under the various headings laid out in the schedule of duty?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) 1967-68—\$5,197,899.
1968-69—\$6,364,180.
- (2) This information is not available.

35.

DROUGHT*Water Drilling: Committee*

Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is a committee to be formed to advise on water drilling in the drought areas?
- (2) If so, who will comprise the committee?
- (3) When will it commence its deliberations?
- (4) What are the powers of the committee?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Water drilling in drought areas will be co-ordinated and directed by the Farm Water Supply Advisory Committee.
- (2) Members of the committee are—
J. P. Gabbedy (Rural and Industries Bank).
S. T. Smith (Department of Agriculture).
J. E. Stanley (Public Works Department—Country Water Supplies).
K. Berliot (Geological Survey Branch).
- (3) A programme for drilling has already been prepared.
- (4) The committee will deal with investigation, boring and with loan finance where necessary.

36.

HOT ROD MEETINGS*Insurance Cover*

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Is it a fact that the State Government Insurance Office has declin-

ed to cover the Hot Rod Association's meetings at Forrestfield for public risk?

- (2) If "Yes", when and for what reasons was the cover sought declined?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) The honourable member asked this very same question without notice yesterday. I am unable to enlarge upon the answer given to him at that time.

37.

DROUGHT

Grazing Land

Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is it a fact that in the South-West Land Division of this State over a period of years a large number of properties partly developed have fallen back into Government control?
- (2) If "Yes", will he give urgent consideration to making all properties suitable for immediate grazing available to farmers with stock in the distressed areas?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) No. A few partly developed leases have been forfeited, and in most cases these have been re-allocated.
- (2) Urgent consideration is being given to all requests for rights to graze stock on Crown land.

38.

HELICOPTER

Landings in Corrigin Shire

Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he aware of the movement of a strange and allegedly unmarked helicopter which is making frequent landings on farmers' paddocks in the Corrigin and surrounding shires?
- (2) Is he aware that this unheralded, unwelcome guest is causing grave concern to the farmers in whose paddocks it is landing and causing disquiet to sheep and alarm to cattle, and in one case nearly causing a serious accident?
- (3) Could he inform the House if such transgression on farming lands is allowable under law?
- (4) If not, would he use his influence to have this practice cease?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) No, but since the member's question I have ascertained that the Department of Civil Aviation has, and is continuing, to enquire into the matter.
- (2) No, although I can appreciate such activities would cause farmers concern.

- (3) There is no statutory penalty for the landings. The farmers concerned have the common law right to sue for damages for trespass on their land.

- (4) Answered by (3).

39.

EDUCATION

Paynes Find School

Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that the Paynes Find School has at present only four students?
- (2) As these children are four of the five in the one family for which this school has remained open for a number of years and in view of the huge cost per student, does he not consider it is time other arrangements were made for this family?
- (3) Is he aware that the father of these children has a number of mineral holdings in the Paynes Find area over which he has granted lucrative rights to interested nickel mining companies and is in a financially strong position which would, if necessary, allow him to send his children to boarding schools?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) The latest official return (1st August) shows an enrolment of six pupils with an estimated enrolment of eight in February, 1970.
- (2) In view of the present low enrolment the headmaster will be asked to inform parents that unless there is an increase in enrolment when the school re-opens in third term it will be necessary to close the school.
- (3) No.

40.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Ministerial Appointments

Mr. BURKE asked the Premier:

- (1) Would he please advise the number of ministerial appointments to positions within the State Public Service in the 12 months ended the 30th June, 1969?
- (2) What were the positions to which appointments were made, i.e. department and salary range?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) There were 118 Ministerial appointments made to Public Service departments in the 12 months ended the 30th June, 1969.

(2)—

| Department and Position | Salary Range P.A. \$ | No. of Positions |
|---|----------------------|------------------|
| Agriculture— | | |
| Assistant Co-ordinator of Agricultural Industries | 7,410 | 1 |
| Child Welfare— | | |
| Group workers | 3,362 | 15 |
| Group workers | 3,105 | 15 |
| Group workers | 2,864 | 2 |
| Typists | 1,702-2,200 | 6 |
| Kindergarten teacher | 2,550 | 1 |
| Group Co-ordinator | 4,252 | 1 |
| Education— | | |
| Film Editor | 3,362-3,502 | 1 |
| Cadet Technician | 1,802-3,012 | 1 |
| Piano Tuner | 3,362-3,502 | 1 |
| Fisheries— | | |
| Assistants | Junior rates | 3 |
| Cadets | Junior rates | 3 |
| Forests— | | |
| Technical assistants } | Junior rates | 4 |
| Female assistants } | | 3 |
| Clerk Typist } | | 1 |
| Technical assistants, Grade 3 | 2,522-2,852 | 5 |
| Technical assistants, Grade 2 | 2,072-3,502 | 3 |
| Forest guards | 2,522-2,852 | 2 |
| Forest rangers | 2,072-2,502 | 5 |
| Laboratory Assistant | 2,056-2,391 | 1 |
| Publicity and Extension Officer | 4,572-5,057 | 1 |
| Senior Forester | 5,227-5,572 | 1 |
| Microbiologist | 5,668-6,770 | 1 |
| Lands and Surveys— | | |
| Manager, Reception Centre | 4,505-5,026 | 1 |
| Typist Receptionist | 2,100 | 1 |
| Welfare Officer | 3,222 | 1 |
| Welfare Officer | 2,200 | 1 |
| Clerk Typist | 2,100 | 1 |
| Mental Health— | | |
| Clerks and assistants | Junior rates | 4 |
| Clerks | 3,362-3,502 | 1 |
| Psychologists | 3,560-5,480 | 3 |
| Mental Health Officer | 3,020-4,070 | 1 |
| Typist | Junior rates | 1 |
| Premier's— | | |
| Assistant Public Relations Officer | 5,970 | 1 |
| Public Health— | | |
| Typists | Junior rates | 3 |
| Typists | 2,280-2,655 | 2 |
| Technicians | 3,362-3,787 | 5 |
| O. & M. Assistant | 4,050-4,530 | 1 |
| Clerk (Handicapped) | 2,680 | 2 |
| Physicist | 3,165-4,990 | 1 |
| Dental Officer | 5,930-7,320 | 1 |
| Field Officer | 2,522-3,222 | 1 |
| Physician | 9,970 | 1 |
| Public Works— | | |
| Laboratory Assistant } | Junior rates | 1 |
| General Assistant } | | 1 |
| Technical Assistant } | | 1 |
| Engineering Assistant | 3,362-3,501 | 1 |
| Field Assistant | 3,362-3,501 | 2 |
| Survey Assistant | 3,362-3,737 | 1 |
| General Assistant | 3,647-3,737 | 1 |

QUESTIONS (3): WITHOUT NOTICE

1.

DROUGHT*Assistance to Farmers*

Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

Following Cabinet meetings held yesterday evening and this morning, has the Government made any firm decisions on proposals to assist farmers in various districts who are experiencing serious difficulty in regard to stock feed and water?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

Certain decisions have been made and a public statement will be made later this afternoon.

2.

DUKE OF KENT'S VISIT*Parliamentary Sitting*

Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

Is it intended that a sitting of Parliament will be held next Tuesday?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

I understand that, because of the visit of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, it was decided by Cabinet that the House would not sit on Tuesday next.

3.

ROADS*Expenditure by Local Authorities*

Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Works:

Following his recent announcement in this House that he had agreed to the Commissioner of Main Roads allowing a higher proportion of administrative expenditure by local authorities to be allowed as road expenditure, will he advise the House the final decision and details of this concession to local authorities?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

I thank the member for Dale for advance notice of this question. I can advise that details of the proportion of administrative expenditure to be allowed as road expenditure, together with details of how loan repayments can be deemed to be road expenditure under the Act, have been circularised to local authorities within the last week. For obvious reasons, at this juncture I do not propose to give details of this arrangement, but I have here an extract from the circular that was sent to local authorities relating to the matters about which the honourable member is asking information.

WOOD CHIPPING INDUSTRY AGREEMENT BILL*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY*Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 19th August, on the following motion by Mr. McPharlin:—

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

May it please Your Excellency: We the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of

Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MR. RIDGE (Kimberley) [5.4 p.m.]: While many members are expressing natural concern over poor seasonal conditions in their electorates, I am, happily, able to inform the House that in Kimberley we are experiencing one of the best seasons ever. Good general rains over the last wet season ensured the pastoralists of excellent results, and each of the three abattoirs in the region expects to kill a record number of cattle.

At Kununurra the story is just as encouraging, and the yield from the cotton crop, which is now in the process of being picked, shows every prospect of setting a standard we have been waiting to attain for some years. Sorghum trials have shown encouraging results, and the farmers are now venturing into cattle fattening, which must be destined to play an important role in the economic future of the area.

We all know that a lot has been said and written about the need to integrate the pastoral industry with the irrigated agricultural industry, and we all accept that this is very desirable, but while places like Kununurra, Dunham River, and Camballin, can make a very real contribution towards achieving this aim, I think we should broaden the horizons of agricultural activity in the pastoral areas.

This can be done by amending the Land Act to allow agricultural pursuits to be followed, at least to the extent that lessees are able to cultivate the land and grow fodder for their own use. Obviously my views differ from those of the member for South Perth, who recently stated he is opposed to granting soil rights to pastoralists.

Mr. Grayden: That is a different thing altogether, though.

Mr. RIDGE: I do not agree with the honourable member. At present the cattle industry in Kimberley is subject to an archaic sort of cattle hunt each year, which is partly brought about by the limitations of the Land Act; and the sooner we ease these restrictions and so allow more capital to be deployed on modern management techniques, the sooner we will be ready for closer settlement in pastoral areas. In various parts of the country, conditions are ideal for growing fodder under irrigation or natural rainfall, and if we put our natural resources to work quickly we will be better prepared to share the expanding world market for beef products.

The member for South Perth was also concerned about American interests obtaining an economic stranglehold over

small farmers on the Ord. I have not been able to find evidence of his fears having any substance and, in fact, from all the inquiries I have made, it appears that the oil millionaire to whom he referred has never as much as entered into serious negotiations for properties in the region.

On the other hand, the Americans are displaying a lot of interest in certain West Kimberley stations—we know this because Parliament recently approved the Camballin agreement—and, whilst it is very easy to be critical of these transactions, it is well worth taking a close look at some of the advantages to be gained by the injection of millions of dollars into the direct development of pastoral leases.

If we can control the water in our rivers, convert more pastoral land to agricultural development, improve our port handling facilities, and generally upgrade the economy of an area that has been pleading for development, then every Australian will benefit.

We have had 85 years in which to realise our hopes, and whilst Australians are not short of vision we are short of money, and if we stand in the path of overseas investors we might wait for as long again before we can induce the country to give of its wealth. We now have people who have faith in our land and in our future, and by entering into a partnership with them we have the prospect of advancing the region by a decade or more.

It concerns me that no organised research work has been carried out on fruit and vegetable growing in the area. The lack of a fresh and regular supply of these commodities at reasonable prices concerns everyone in the north—particularly parents—and while the air freight subsidy on perishables is alleviating the situation to a certain degree, the only solution to the problem is to work towards local production. I appreciate that there are many problems to be overcome, but they are problems that a Government instrumentality would be best equipped to conquer, and if we are not prepared to become deeply involved then more financial aid and technical guidance should be extended to the few people who are already engaged in fruit and vegetable growing on a commercial scale.

Like the member for South Perth, I think we could be far more realistic in our attitude towards the quick release of land for various purposes. To people with initiative and enthusiasm who are prepared to invest their life savings in homes or business ventures, nothing is more frustrating than a protracted delay in making land available, and, for the likes of a fruit grower, a 10-year lease is not

very encouraging when it might take this long before he is able to pick his first commercial crop.

I think I am correct in saying that the first significant gold strike in Western Australia was at Halls Creek. Unfortunately it petered out fairly quickly, and since then the pastoral industry has remained the backbone of the economy in Kimberley. However, when touring through the electorate now it is easy for one to gain the impression that the mining industry is on the brink of important discoveries. Field exploration crews are very active in the area and the enthusiasm with which they are going about their job is generating a great deal of confidence.

Some weeks ago I had the opportunity to inspect the work that Pickands Mather is undertaking in the Halls Creek district, and, while we hear very little of this group, it is interesting to note that in six years the company has spent something in the region of \$4,000,000 on what is claimed to be one of the most sophisticated mineral exploration programmes ever undertaken in the world. I mention this because we hear a lot of criticism directed at big mining concerns, but in this instance the company has provided the State with invaluable information without having had any return from its outlay, and, along with most other people, I wish the company eventual success.

I regret I cannot be complimentary on the question of native welfare, and, as this is related to the matter of native reserves, I should like to say that I have not yet seen a native settlement that we would be proud to show overseas visitors and say, "This is how we look after our aborigines." Most of them consist of substandard buildings in dirty and unimaginable surroundings, and although I do not advocate spoon-feeding these people, we have a moral obligation to set examples which are fit to bring out the pride that their race is capable of displaying.

My humble observation is that the Department of Native Welfare is bogged down with administrative procedures and although a certain amount of this is obviously necessary, the natives are looking for practical guidance which does not appear to be evident at the moment. One excellent scheme that we have is the situation where the Medical Department and the Australian Inland Mission conjointly employ itinerant nursing sisters to visit missions, reserves, and stations. These girls are predominantly infant health sisters, but they have extended their activities to cover home science and mothercraft as well as acting in many other capacities. They are idolised by the aborigines, because they move among the people and do something practical for them.

As a form of encouragement for the people on reserves, I would envisage having some mobile technical educational units visit settlements to give elementary instruction in furniture making, fence building, poultry raising, gardening, and a multitude of other skills, not aimed at providing the people with employment, but basically directed at helping them to improve their personal living standards.

I can also see a need for more trained social workers who are able to spend the bulk of their time in the field—and I stress work in the field, because it would be most undesirable to tie them down with red tape. Most of us appreciate that the introduction of the pastoral industry award has created, or at least magnified, many problems. It would be an understatement to say that the aborigines who are affected by the award are in a state of utter confusion. It is important to appreciate that most of these people have never had an education as we understand it and their sense of monetary values is very limited. All of a sudden, however, they find themselves earning something like \$40 a week, and, whilst this may be admirable, it is unfortunate that in countless instances they have very little conception of the added responsibilities that have been thrust upon them.

Mr. Harman: Are you satisfied that these people are being paid \$40 a week?

Mr. RIDGE: Yes, I am satisfied that they are being paid \$40 a week where they are entitled to it.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Some of them cannot accept their responsibilities.

Mr. RIDGE: I think that this problem and many others were not really recognised before the award was handed down, and this makes it all the more important for us to try to salvage the situation quickly.

We need welfare workers to give these people advice and guidance on how to spend their money, so that people will not take advantage of them. We must teach them the nutritional values of various food lines and we must see that their wages are not squandered on gambling and drink. It is also necessary for us to show them the value of saving money and how they should save it for a rainy day, which could conceivably be the wet season when they might find themselves without employment.

I know of one recent instance where a native took his taxation group certificate to a local storekeeper and asked for it to be cashed. He thought it was a cheque. This is not at all funny; it is pathetic; because not one in a hundred of these folk would know how to fill in a taxation return. It may be said that the employer should fill in these returns, but we must appreciate that station managers often employ up to 200 people.

I was told of an instance recently where natives were being paid the basic wage and, as a result, the department would no longer be responsible for the payment of hospital accounts. This is fair enough, because the natives must learn to accept responsibility. None of them, however, would understand the advantages of belonging to a hospital benefit fund and, what is more important, they would not know how to go about joining such a fund.

Unfortunately, the award has also resulted in a fairly substantial number of aborigines becoming redundant, and the result has been that they have made a move into towns, or onto missions which are already battling to make ends meet. Departmental officers have been actively assisting these people with claims for social services and unemployment benefits, but our most important task is to try to find them suitable employment, and we would do well if we tried to encourage the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service to open a Kimberley employment office. This is necessary, because it is difficult to explain to an illiterate native that before he is eligible for unemployment benefit he must register at the nearest employment office. The nearest employment office in the case of the Kimberley is several hundred miles away at Port Hedland.

Mr. Harman: Do you think this is a Federal or State responsibility?

Mr. RIDGE: The honourable member should know that employment offices throughout Australia are provided by the Federal Department of Labour and National Service.

Mr. Harman: There are about 200 people unemployed at Bunbury. Do you think the State Government would be unconcerned about them?

Mr. RIDGE: The State Government would certainly be most concerned. I am merely asking that the State Government use its influence with the Federal Government to see that an employment office is established in the Kimberley region.

Perhaps I should have said this earlier, but I say now, in all sincerity, that the Department of Native Welfare has many capable and devoted officers in its employ, and I hope I have not conveyed the impression that I am critical of these people; far from it. My criticism is directed at our lack of ability to recognise the plight of the Australian aboriginal.

I was very pleased to read a recent Press report which indicated that the Minister for Health had said—

A hospital which native people could call their own might be a better idea than an integrated hospital. The Minister went on to indicate why he was prompted to make this statement, and, in doing so, he echoed the sentiments

of a great many people, both coloured and white, who also hold the view that our policy on integration is in need of an overhaul.

By way of an illustration of the need for us to crawl before we walk, I refer to a situation which arose at the Mowan-jum Mission, which is some six miles from Derby. There we have a complete tribal group who have managed to stay together despite the closure of two previous missions where they had stayed.

These people have achieved a high degree of integration into the community by virtue of the fact that they have worked in the town, have used the shopping facilities daily, have attended school regularly, and have participated in social, sporting, and cultural activities. Despite this, they still want to stay at the Mowan-jum Mission; so much so that they have asked for assistance with housing on mission land that could be excised from the property to give them, and other families there, an opportunity to purchase their own homes.

Unfortunately, representations over the years have been to no avail, because the department maintains a policy of scattering houses in townsite areas only. Scattered these houses certainly are; at Derby most of them are a good mile or so from the nearest European housing settlement.

Mr. Brady: They have good schools and educational facilities.

Mr. RIDGE: I do not blame the Minister or his department for this state of affairs, because I know how hard the various divisional officers have worked to secure land in more acceptable areas. But these people at Mowan-jum are fine, intelligent natives, and, while they might reject settlement in the town, they do so because they believe that, rather than subject their children to the worst of the white man's habits, they can better train them for social change by bringing them up in western surroundings, but with the background of their own traditional cultures.

Mr. Brady: Don't you think you should give the mission authorities credit for what they are doing?

Mr. RIDGE: I give them full credit, and I do not refer to this particular mission only. It must be appreciated that the people concerned want to be assimilated, but they want this to happen in their own good time. They are prepared to accept social changes which are self-determined, and surely this is better than the acceptance of changes which are simply imposed upon them.

Before moving onto my next subject, I would like to ask the Minister to give particular consideration to the establishment of working boys' hostels in various northern centres. I ask this, because we have a number of mission trained lads

who are anxious to make a career for themselves in trade and industry, but unfortunately the type of training they are seeking is available only in the towns.

I know that work is available in many instances, because I have personally canvassed prospective employers, who invariably ask where the lads propose to live. Perhaps the youths could find accommodation with friends or relatives in town reserves, but what sort of a chance would we be giving them if, when they finished work, they returned home to a slum environment?

The obvious answer is to provide hostel type accommodation similar to that provided for school children, because the future of the race is dependent on such young people. If we want to bring out the best in relation to their ability and at the same time train them to accept and be accepted in our society, we must lift our sights in order to broaden their horizons.

In referring to education, I would like to say that no other single factor is of such great concern to the people in my electorate. The current situation is undoubtedly affecting more stabilised settlement in the region.

For a start, let me make the rather rash statement that I consider the general standard of education in many of our northern schools to be pathetically low. I would go further and say that this is brought about by our policy of mixing aboriginal and white children in classrooms, apparently without any consideration for the respective capacities of the two groups to absorb tuition.

We must appreciate that between the children there are barriers which are brought about by a lack of ability to communicate as a result of language differences and an extremely wide gap in their environmental backgrounds.

Once more a policy revision would be necessary to overcome this problem and the most basic requirement is to set up remedial classes for children of a depressed level and to establish special preschool training centres for aboriginal children.

The children would, with specialised instruction in basic skills, be better prepared for eventual classroom integration, but even then we should recognise the particular problems of education in this area and reduce the student-teacher ratio to the extent that more personalised instruction could be made available.

I make these suggestions without any prejudice, because I appreciate it is not only the white children who are suffering; the aboriginal children are placed in an equally unenviable situation by having to compete with children on a completely

different plane of sophistication; and segregation is only implied to the extent that it would prepare the children for smoother integration.

We would also do well to have a look at the high school situation in the area. At present the only high school in the Kimberley is at Derby, and although any town would be proud to have a similar amenity, it is grossly unreasonable to expect parents from Wyndham, Kununurra, Broome, and other distant centres, to send their children to Derby when for little, or no extra, cost they could send them to the metropolitan area to pursue their education.

The idea of sending children to another tropical town has been rejected by parents, and to understand this reasoning it is necessary to appreciate that the climate is very demanding and the environs are not conducive to scholastic attainment if the children are not kept under reasonably strict parental control.

Coupled with this is the fact that not everyone can afford to send their children away to be educated, and the result is that many young people who could make a contribution toward trade and industry are compelled to take unskilled jobs with little or no prospect of advancement. The only alternative is for parents to pull up their stakes and leave the district completely. Many people do just this, because of the very real fear they have for their children's education.

Unfortunately the education regulations prescribe that a class II school is to have an average daily attendance of 150 pupils, with a minimum average attendance of 25 secondary students. In about three schools in the Kimberley electorate we have been slightly below these figures, and the main reason is that we already have many children attending high schools in Perth or Geraldton. The department, however, is not prepared to take these numbers into consideration.

While I do not expect the Education Department to base its upgrading policy on the supposition that towns might grow, surely in reasonable circumstances it is the basic right of every child to have the opportunity of a high school education, regardless of the financial position of the parents, or of their geographical location.

Accordingly, I implore the Government to reconsider its policies in relation to this and other aspects of education. I hope it will come up with a design which recognises the problems and needs of the area, because we must assure the people who are developing the north that we are prepared to help them overcome adversity.

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [5.29 p.m.]: In speaking to this debate I would like to mention two items which I think are most important. The first of these refers to the

taking over by large companies of farm and station properties, which constitute the natural wealth of the State. I believe that this practice has also extended to poultry farms.

It seems to me that before many years have passed, a large number of estates in Western Australia will be controlled and governed by overseas owners. Whether they be American or British does not make any difference. We will reach a system of serf farming, which stems back to Europe and the older countries of the world, where farming was carried on in this manner for hundreds of years. As far as I am concerned, we do not want that type of farming in Western Australia.

Another point I wish to mention is that no action has been taken by either the State or the Federal Government to control prices of goods and services. We know that Western Australia is more or less enjoying prosperous times—the term “affluent society” is commonly used by various Ministers—but I am afraid the prosperity is shared by just a few. The other evening we heard the member for Roe describe conditions in his area which, in the main, is devoted to farming, and he said enough to startle even the hardest-hearted person when he spoke of the conditions prevailing in some of the farming areas of the State. The position of some of those farmers and graziers is very bad, not only because of loss of feed, but because of loss of topsoil by erosion.

In regard to rents, we find that throughout this State various landlords—not all of them—are most vicious and greedy types. They are never satisfied until they take the last cent from the wage or salary earner. As a result, people are placed in the position of having to pay exorbitant rents because of the necessity to house their families. If the Federal and State Governments intend to do anything about these high rents in the future, then they are keeping it to themselves.

Because of the world wheat marketing situation, it seems to me that farmers, generally, will be forced to take a lower price for their wheat; and if the costs of goods and services to these farmers are not reduced, I cannot see how they will be able to carry on, and this State will suffer as a consequence.

As far as the season is concerned, I must say that the Geraldton district has been treated much more fairly by Providence than have other areas. However, quite a few of the graziers and sheep farmers will find themselves in an awkward position in regard to feed if early summer rains do not eventuate. Rain at that time would help quite a lot. At this stage I would say the crops are in a reasonable condition. In fact, some of them are better at the present time than I have ever seen them. I am referring to crops on

the lighter land; but if rain does not fall soon, I think those farmers will have a bad time.

I wish to mention another matter which concerns both the Federal and State Governments. I refer to the conservation of water. This is a subject that has been brought up in this House by me on a number of occasions when speaking to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. We find that the Government is going to use boring plants in an endeavour to find water, but why were they not used before this? Surely we know the soil types in this State that are suitable for the sinking of dams because they will hold water. There are other places where this is not the case, and it is necessary to bore for water. I heard the Premier mention that boring will take place; and this is an operation which should be carried out irrespective of whether we need water or not at the present time. This is something that I have always advocated.

In my electorate the two main rivers are the Chapman and the Murchison. However, much more use could be made of the Chapman River than is being done at the present time. In fact, it is not being used at all except by a few farmers who own properties through which it runs. From the Murchison and the other three rivers, millions of tons—not gallons—of water run into the sea without any attempt being made to conserve that water. As far as I am concerned, water conservation is a must.

Money can be found for such things as aeroplanes that will fly for only a short time, and other useless things such as buildings in Canberra, but a few million dollars cannot be found for the conservation of water in this State.

As members know, the Geraldton Harbour has been a source of worry and trouble to Governments over the years, and that is the case at the present time. It is still necessary that the harbour be deepened so that it can accommodate large ships for the cartage of iron ore and the produce of the district to overseas markets.

The export of iron ore from Geraldton is progressing. Iron ore is coming from the Koolanooka Hills, and this is something that we welcome. However, to my mind, the export of iron ore does not hold a candle to the export of primary products such as wheat, sheep, meat, wool, and so on, when it comes to the wealth of the district. We know that as a mine or quarry is worked, it becomes poorer and poorer, but fortunately that is not the case with our farms.

What is going to happen in the future in regard to the Geraldton Harbour and the export of iron ore? Perhaps the Government may have the answer. However, if it has, it has not told the people of the

area concerned. The same position applies to the known fields of natural gas and oil in the Dongara area. I read in *The West Australian* yesterday of another gas find on the Irwin River, near Dongara. Whether, in the long run, this gas and oil will be exploited for the benefit of the people remains to be seen.

The Minister for Industrial Development recently went to Dongara and gave quite a lengthy resume of conditions as he, no doubt, saw them, in regard to gas. I understand that the Minister was present as a result of an invitation from the local authority. I would say he gave the correct answers, because at this stage we do not know just what amount of gas is necessary for a commercial field or what the economics are.

Naturally the people in my electorate wish to see the erection in the district of a large power station operating on natural gas. But I understand from those who have a knowledge of the subject, that natural gas is not used for this purpose. Nevertheless, it would appear that the electorate represented by the Premier could, over a number of years, be just as valuable—perhaps more so—as the Pilbara electorate as a result of iron ore deposits. That, of course, is in the lap of the gods; and it remains to be seen whether it will be in the lap of large overseas companies.

Referring to Government institutions in Geraldton, I would like to tell members, who have heard me speak on this subject before, that the old hospital is being utilised as a regional gaol. I applauded the Minister at the time for taking this action. I know by the general feeling of the public that this step has been a success. I again congratulate the Minister and his department, as this has been a forward move in the treatment of prisoners who commit lesser crimes in our society.

Additions have been made both to the Government and the private hospitals. The regional hospital is kept in good condition, and all hospitals are well staffed. As far as I can ascertain, there have been no complaints of any sort in regard to the staffing, the running of the hospitals, and the manner in which they are kept.

The same situation applies to our schools. We are most fortunate in Geraldton, both in regard to Government and private schools. The nuns at the Stella Maris Convent are going in for an extension programme which will cost in the vicinity of \$400,000. The Treasurer will know the amount of money that has been spent on the Geraldton High School in the last two or three years. This school is well staffed and conducted and every year sees an increase in the number of students attending. The position is the same with regard to St. Patrick's College, which is run by the Christian Brothers. More pupils from far and near attend St.

Patrick's than is the case with the high school; and this is something which should be encouraged. It would seem that in the future—certainly in our time—Geraldton will be looked upon as a centre of education and culture. That is all to the good.

At the present time, certain demands are being made in regard to an integrated steelworks. The money is available and the raw product is available, but the people do not want the industry to be established on the southern side of the town. It should be located on a northern site because it is known how people have suffered from dust in other places in regard to iron ore and other minerals.

When the Minister was in Geraldton recently on an official visit to open the new fire station—it is indeed a fine and up-to-date fire station—he mentioned that the new regional gaol was still on the stocks, as it were, but that it would be located on the banks of the Chapman River.

I am of the opinion—and other citizens agree with me—that the old Victoria Hospital building and land would be ideal for a home for aged people, both male and female. It would be a great thing if it could be used for that purpose instead of as a regional gaol, which is the position at the moment.

The university college is still talked about, and in my opinion its provision is very necessary. Our technical school does not enjoy full status. I know the Minister has been told by people in Geraldton—especially carpenters, business people conducting engineering works, and so on—that the way the technical school is being conducted at the present time is the cause of great satisfaction. The instructors and teachers are doing a good job as far as the young boys—and sometimes the girls—are concerned.

At this point I wish to pay a tribute to the engineers and staff of the Main Roads Department. I think I mentioned last year that the Main Roads Department had planted trees on the roadsides, particularly where the roads had been truncated. In the old depression days, the roads were like a dog's hind leg. Plenty of trees of various varieties have been planted in these areas and it is noticeable now that they will be of great benefit in the future as they continue to grow.

We know that employees of the Main Roads Department and the P.M.G.'s Department sometimes bulldoze everything aside when roads are being made and telephone cables are being laid. However, those departments are rectifying the position and trying to remedy the situation as far as roadside verges are concerned. There is an attempt to preserve the natural trees.

I urge the Minister for Works to give consideration to the deepening of Geraldton Harbour. The Minister knows the

full story. I also ask the Minister for Education to keep in mind the establishment of a university college in the Geraldton area; and I remind the Minister for Police—who is also the Chief Secretary—of the need to obtain more money from the Treasury as early as possible so that a regional gaol can be built in my area. Those are the three most urgent needs in my district at the present time.

Between the time that this House resumed and the end of the last session of Parliament, there has been a hue and cry in connection with the throwing out of the Termination of Pregnancy Bill. The Bill came to this Chamber from another place. Since that time a large number of letters have been published in the Press and many statements have been made at meetings of private organisations.

Quite frankly, I have been disgusted with the tone of some of the letters. The writers seem to have worked themselves into a state of mind where they think that the members of this Parliament have done a great disservice to humanity, and that we were not agreeable to any sort of reform. The use of the word "reform" in connection with the Termination of Pregnancy Bill is repugnant to me, because I cannot see that the Bill was a reform.

I do not want members to get the idea that I would not agree to the Criminal Code being amended to bring it more up to date. However, I certainly would not agree to a Bill such as the one introduced in the last session of Parliament. When I read what is happening in Japan and various other countries—including Great Britain—I am quite definitely against such legislation.

The Speaker of this House, together with the Leader of the Opposition, have been criticised. However, Mr. Speaker has received most of the criticism because he ruled the Bill out of order. I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, that as far as I am concerned—and I am sure that the rest of the members of this House agree—you had the respect of members before you were elevated to your present position, and you certainly have the respect of the members today. To my mind, you did the correct thing.

We have a Constitution and we have Standing Orders. Those people who have been making so much noise must belong to various clubs and associations of some sort. They may be able to brush aside their rules, but we cannot do that in this Chamber. I think that you, Mr. Speaker, are to be commended. When your attention was drawn to one clause of the Bill you found that other clauses did not stand up to the requirements of Standing Orders and the Bill was thrown out.

I noticed that in one instance the word "cowardice" was used in reference to members of Parliament. We all know that

such reference is stupid. It seems to me that members of Parliament were at some of the meetings. They knew the true position regarding the Bill and should have defended the action taken by Parliament. That is my opinion, but those members have their own reasons for not defending Parliament. Some of them may have done so, but it was not reported in the Press. I make my statement on my reading of the Press reports, and the reports on radio and television.

That was not the first time a Bill of that nature had been discarded in this House. I had a personal experience during the Hawke administration when I had the privilege of being Deputy Speaker in this House. I was in charge of the House one night when a similar Bill—certainly not of the same nature—involving money was being discussed. That Bill had managed to get through the various Government departments, including the Crown Law Department, but I suppose there will always be certain mistakes made because of the human element.

On that occasion a point of order was raised by the then Leader of the Country Party—the member for Stirling (Mr. Watts)—because the Bill had not received a Message and it was therefore out of order according to our Constitution. There was no alternative but to rule the Bill out of order and there was not a murmur of discontent in connection with it.

It seems to me that the Criminal Code fully covers the matter of abortion. As I have said, I have no objection to the Criminal Code being amended or improved. However, I do not agree with the rough and shoddy method which was attempted last session. Section 199 of the Criminal Code reads as follows:—

Any person who with intent to procure the miscarriage of a woman, whether she is or is not with child, unlawfully administers to her or causes her to take any poison or other noxious thing, or uses any force of any kind, or uses any other means whatever, is guilty of a crime, and is liable to imprisonment with hard labour for fourteen years

That is the penalty.

Mr. Jamieson: Would you give us your interpretation, under that section of the Act, of the selling of the contraceptive pill.

Mr. SEWELL: I said I would agree to certain amendments to the Criminal Code, because we know that in the last few years—ever since the war—contraceptives have changed and, perhaps, should not come under that law.

Mr. Jamieson: Under section 199 of the Act a chemist or a doctor could go to gaol for seven years.

Mr. SEWELL: Section 259 of the Criminal Code—which I think is very important—reads as follows:—

A person is not criminally responsible for performing, in good faith and with reasonable care and skill, a surgical operation upon any person for his benefit, or upon an unborn child for the preservation of the mother's life, if the performance of the operation is reasonable, having regard to the patient's state at the time and to all the circumstances of the case.

Mr. Jamieson: That is a lot of gobbledey-gook.

Mr. SEWELL: Section 265 reads as follows:—

It is the duty of every person who, except in a case of necessity, undertakes to administer surgical or medical treatment to any other person, or to do any other lawful act which is or may be dangerous to human life or health, to have reasonable skill and to use reasonable care in doing such act; and he is held to have caused any consequences which result to the life or health of any person by reason of any omission to observe or perform that duty.

It will be noticed that there is no mention of the medical profession. If that section is amended at any time, I think it would be in order to mention the medical profession. We live in times when we must have alterations to our laws, and I suppose this is quite an old law.

Another matter which has been mentioned by various people, and which is out of all proportion, is the oft repeated reference to backyard abortionists. If those people know who the backyard abortionists are, why do they not report them? I have moved around this country as much as anyone else and I do not know anyone who actually knows an abortionist. Perhaps during the depression years it would have been possible to find one, or to hear about one, but not today with modern contraceptives.

Pregnancy because of rape has also been mentioned. I would ask members in this House if they have ever heard of a case where a woman has become pregnant because she was raped. When people make these statements in letters to members they should be able to back them up. Personally, I have never heard of such a case and perhaps I never will, because the doctors know what to do in such cases.

As I have said, I am not averse to the Criminal Code being amended to bring it more up to date. But I am certainly opposed to the method attempted during the last session of Parliament. I am also certainly opposed to any mention of

cowardice as far as members are concerned when legislation is brought before this House and thrown out by the man in charge of the House. People who make such charges are just stupid.

The Speech made by the Governor, when he opened Parliament, was the poorest I have heard in 20 years. So many things need rectifying. There has been no control over the price of goods and services, or land. There is now an attempt to control the price of land which, of course, may or may not be effective.

I have raised various matters in connection with the Geraldton district. The Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition agree with me that the Beamish case was handled in a disgraceful manner by our authorities, and the Government should do something to rectify the matter. No doubt should be left in the minds of the public that Beamish was or was not guilty.

MR. GAYFER (Avon) [5.58 p.m.]: I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words on the occasion of the Address-in-Reply debate. I will speak on a number of subjects but the first and foremost matter I would like to bring to the attention of the House is a certain happening in the South Beverley area, which I do not quite understand.

Early in January a fire escaped from a certain position on a farm, at which position State Electricity Commission employees were working. That fire practically burnt out the entire district. As a matter of fact, it went through eight farms and caused considerable damage estimated at some \$10,000 by the farmers concerned.

Fences had to be re-erected immediately and the farmers had to supply fodder for the stock because the paddocks had been burnt out completely. The fires had to be fought continually over a period of three days.

The farmers, through the Beverley Shire Council, requested that an inquest be held into the cause of the fire. Such an inquest, when demanded by the shire council, cannot be refused. The inquest was subsequently held at Beverley and the result—or the finding—was that the fire originated accidentally as the result of the activities of a party of State Electricity Commission workmen.

It is from here on that the fun seems to begin. The S.G.I.O. is the insuring office for the State Electricity Commission, and for six months there has been an argument between the assessors of the State Government Insurance Office and the farmers concerned as to exactly what recompense should be given the farmers for the damage which was caused by the fire.

Mr. Bertram: That is not long, is it?

Mr. GAYFER: In my opinion, it is a terrifically long time, especially if one has to find money to erect fences, supply feed,

and get one's farm organised into a going concern. It seems entirely wrong to me that the insurance office should not at least make an offer of payment in the first place to allow the farmers some relief from their present anxiety. The farmers have made submissions, and I think three assessors have gone out to see them, but for three months the State Government Insurance Office claimed that it had not in fact received claims from the farmers. The insurance office could not have looked too far, because the claims were with the S.E.C. The point has now been reached where the S.G.I.O. has made an offer and the office is waiting for a further claim from, or acceptance of that offer by, the farmers.

Surely our State Government Insurance Office should be like many other insurance companies with which we in the country deal, and at least come to some quick and amicable solution to a problem of this nature without haggling about the point for months and perhaps trying to get out of it under the guise that the fire was caused accidentally as a result of the activities of the S.E.C. workmen. No fire is caused purposely; naturally it was an accident. No farmer is holding any of the workmen personally liable; but the company is there for the express purpose of insuring against this type of thing, and I think the Minister in charge of the insurance office should have a look into the matter to see whether a *pro rata* payment could be made to the people concerned until such time as the matter is settled amicably.

Mr. O'Neil: Perhaps the S.E.C. should insure with a private company.

Mr. GAYFER: It might possibly be the point; I would not know. However, I can assure the Minister that I think a private company would have fixed up this business more quickly than has the S.G.I.O. This is not the first and only complaint I have had regarding the slowness of movement of the State Government Insurance Office.

Mr. O'Neil: Have you taken up this matter with the insurance office?

Mr. GAYFER: No, I have not, because solicitors are working on behalf of the farmers concerned. There has been an inquest, and claims have been put forward to the S.G.I.O. and, finally, I think this is a matter which could have been resolved without my intervention in this place. However, I think the matter is worthy of comment.

Mr. O'Neil: I think you could have asked me to inquire into it.

Mr. GAYFER: For what reason?

Mr. O'Neil: As well as doing it here.

Mr. GAYFER: All right, I will ask the Minister later.

Mr. Graham: You wanted the Press publicity.

Mr. GAYFER: No, I do not particularly want any Press publicity; I could have got it earlier if I had wanted it. We do not all get up at a quarter past eight in order to get Press publicity.

Mr. Graham: There was somebody who chickened out and would not get up last night.

Mr. GAYFER: Nobody chickened out.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Graham: Somebody would not speak because there were Ministers absent last night.

Mr. GAYFER: I might do a bit of hedging now for the same reason.

Mr. Graham: That would be typical of you, too.

Mr. GAYFER: I fully appreciate that the Minister for Industrial Development is going to tell me that both the Premier and the Deputy Premier are engaged at a conference, perhaps concerning the particular subject I wish to talk about at this stage. That is why I am reversing my comments and starting at the bottom.

Mr. Court: As long as you understand.

Mr. GAYFER: I do understand, and I have no complaints. I would like to mention another matter relating to the erection by Government departments of buildings in shire council areas without the consent of the local authority concerned. I refer to a building in the town of Quairading which was constructed by a Government department and for which a permit has not yet been issued by the local governing authority. I am well and truly aware that the provisions of the Local Government Act allow a Government department to proceed with a building in spite of the fact that the local authority may not have issued a permit for any such purpose.

However, I also know that under the same Act if any road works, street works, or other types of works concerning streets, shall be carried out without the permission of the local authority, then the authority can demand that the department concerned fill in the hole—or whatever it may be—until such time as permission is granted. I quote section 510 of the Local Government Act in broad.

I think that in connection with the construction of this particular building in the town of Quairading—considering that permission was not asked of the local authority, and that it was overridden in the matter—only one recourse is open to the Government; that is, to shift the house to another area which is mutually agreeable to the Government and the local authority. I think also that the type of house to be erected should be a basis of discussion between the two parties.

Mr. Lewis: What sort of house is this?

Mr. GAYFER: A transportable house.

Mr. Lewis: Does it infringe the building by-laws of the local authority?

Mr. GAYFER: Yes, because it was erected without a permit.

Mr. Lewis: But did it infringe the building by-laws?

Mr. GAYFER: I repeat: it was erected without a building permit.

Mr. Lewis: Why was the permit refused?

Mr. GAYFER: I think the department concerned could have ascertained why the permit was refused.

Mr. Lewis: Well, it wrote and asked for a permit but it has not yet received a reply.

Mr. GAYFER: A permit has not been granted.

Mr. Lewis: Why?

Mr. GAYFER: Because it is a transportable home. A juggernaut suddenly appeared at the edge of the town, and the building was erected. This is not the way to win friends and to establish good public relations with a local authority.

Mr. Lewis: Is there a transitional house alongside it?

Mr. GAYFER: Does that really matter?

Mr. Lewis: Yes.

Mr. GAYFER: There are plenty of transitional houses in the town. Possibly there are too many for the likes of the shire council. I still maintain that any Government, if it wants the co-operation of local authorities, should at least have the courtesy to ask them to grant a building permit before erecting a building. As far as the Local Government Act is concerned, I think it is a pretty bad state of affairs when we have to use sections of the Act to override the wishes of a local governing authority.

As I said before, I think there is only one recourse and that is to adopt the wisdom of Solomon and shift the house to some other mutually agreed upon site. There is not much involved in shifting the house. It is a transportable building. The workmen returned three weeks after the building was erected and installed the septic system. So, apart from the septic system, there is no reason why the building could not be shifted.

Collins' dictionary tells us that a drought is a long continued spell of dry weather. I suppose that if this is the case it could be said that much of the State is either drought-bound or verging on the position of being drought-bound. The member for Roe, the member for Mt. Marshall, the member for Merredin-Yilgarn, and others associated with these areas, have made extensive studies

throughout their electorates to ascertain the extent of the shortage of water, the lack of rainfall, and what effect these matters are having on the farmers concerned, at present.

When I say "at present" I do so because a fortnight or three weeks ago there was some degree of hope that rain would fall and that many areas would be changed from drought areas into at least borderline cases with a chance of having the feed position improved. However, during the last 10 days—and especially after the hot winds which blew through the country last weekend—the position has deteriorated. The member for Roe has explained to the House how he and I made a survey by aeroplane, which gave us a pretty good idea of the water position. By flying at 600 to 700 feet we found it possible to gauge the texture of the countryside and to estimate the position regarding feed and crops.

Since that day—10 days ago—there has been no rain and things have definitely deteriorated in a large part of the State. Just prior to entering the Chamber to-night I was handed a telegram from the Bruce Rock Shire Council which reads as follows:—

Please inform Minister defined portion district on map sent you drought area as farmers buying stock feed.

That is the first intimation I have had that the council is claiming its area as a drought area.

Mr. Nalder: Have you received word from Corrigin?

Mr. GAYFER: I understand that at four o'clock this afternoon the Corrigin Shire Council was to hold its third meeting in order to ascertain from all groups of farmers whether or not they thought the whole area or parts of it were drought-bound. The council wished to make an announcement to the Minister jointly with the Bruce Rock Council. However, a telegram has arrived from Bruce Rock, and I expect to hear from Corrigin after the tea suspension.

Of course, the drought is accentuated because the country areas at present have received, by and large, only a third of their annual rainfall. I say "by and large" because the member for Wellington would not quite agree with me. I am talking in particular of wheat and sheep-growing districts where the rainfall is, unfortunately, far from adequate to service the needs of the areas. There is a possibility that drought feeding may have to take place in the near future.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. GAYFER: Before the tea suspension I was talking about the drought conditions which are prevailing in Western Australia, mainly in the wheat and sheep

areas. I also referred to the decision by some shire councils to call their areas drought-affected. Whatever decides whether or not an area is drought-affected does not really matter: what counts is the fact that the predicament the farmers are in has every indication of what is normally known as a drought—that is, by the accepted definition that one reads in any dictionary. Because of this certain remedies have to be, or should be, effected, and in this regard we can look to what has happened in other States of the Commonwealth which have been similarly affected.

What type of relief is provided is usually the decision of whatever Government happens to be in power in the State that is affected. That is the situation that has applied in Australia over many years, and it is interesting to note that in the Eastern States during periods of drought, various forms of relief have been offered to farmers who have found themselves caught up in something that is beyond their control. Consequently this State, through its Government, its Cabinet subcommittees and other committees, is presently investigating all avenues of assistance that can be afforded to the farmers.

Last Saturday several announcements appeared in the Press emanating from one, Mr. Muns, who is the member of a committee appointed by Cabinet to investigate the drought position and the relief that can be afforded to the farmers so affected. I must admit I was rather surprised to see Mr. Muns had become the spokesman for a Government committee. I understand that there are several other people on that committee who are outside the Government circle, or departmental circles, and I cannot see why, if Mr. Muns can make an announcement, these people in their turn should not make counter-announcements, or further announcements, if there is anything that Mr. Muns has left unsaid.

I tried to find out who Mr. Muns was, because up to this stage I did not even know that such a man existed. I was told that he is the Secretary of, I think, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association.

Mr. Bovell: As far as I am aware Mr. Muns has no authority to speak in that regard—he has no official authority.

Mr. GAYFER: That is the point I was leading up to. I would think that in the selection of the personnel of these committees it would be right and proper for the spokesman to be somebody designated by the committee to speak on its behalf. In fact, the recommendations of such a committee probably should go back to Cabinet, and I imagine it is the Minister for Agriculture who should have made any statements that needed to be made. Consequently I am not too sure

at this stage whether in fact the statements made by Mr. Muns are now or are going to be the policy of the Government, or whether in fact they are only the decisions of that committee.

I understand also that at the present moment the Government is considering certain statements that it may make in respect of the findings of this committee. That was the information given to the Leader of the Opposition in reply to a question he asked earlier this evening.

Be that as it may, the farmers' problems have to be very forcibly brought to the Government's attention and, in my view, the Government must take a close look at the various forms of relief that have been offered in other States as well as the demands of the farmers in this State.

At present 20,000 tons of oats are left in Western Australia and these oats are fast moving out into the agricultural areas. It is not uncommon to see on our roads large numbers of trucks plying backwards and forwards carting grain in their bulk bins. The oats at Fremantle are being outloaded from the Co-operative Bulk Handling depot and this work has been greatly assisted through the provision by British Petroleum of a loop-line. This enables the oats to be loaded into trucks on a narrow-gauge line which is not normally available at the terminal, the terminal having only a broad-gauge line for the inloading of grain.

I think on Thursday last some 490 tons of oats were carted by rail and 97 tons by road. I understand also that all orders received on a particular day are being filled by the staff of Co-operative Bulk Handling, even if they have to work back at night in order to load the trucks. Full co-operation is being given by the railways, too, and the trucks are being moved out every weekend. Even if orders are not filled on a Saturday the staff will work through into Sunday in an effort to get this valuable grain to the country areas.

However, there are only 20,000 tons of oats left and at the rate at which the grain is being sent to the agricultural areas it will not be long before there will be demands for supplies of other grains to provide sustenance for the sheep. Of course, wheat is available at \$1.71 a bushel and perhaps it can be said that the position could be fixed up tomorrow. However, the farmers have a certain axe to grind, if I can use that expression, in that they should be expected to pay the sum of \$1.71 a bushel.

Various suggestions have been made by the farming community, and the Farmers' Union, to have the grain released at a more equitable price. At a meeting of farmers at Babakin on Monday night a resolution was passed—and reference to this appeared in this morning's issue of

The West Australian—that wheat should be made available at a cost of \$1.10 to the farmer, and the difference between \$1.71 and \$1.10 should be met jointly by the State and Federal Governments. Likewise, at other meetings, similar suggestions have been put forward in regard to the release of grain at a subsidised rate. Some farmers have made the point that \$1.35 is a fair price to pay for wheat, the protein value of wheat being more or less double that of oats. They say that because of this the price for wheat could reasonably be expected to be double that of oats.

However, the suggestion supported by most farmers in regard to the release of grain is that it should be sold at a price of \$1.10 less freight plus handling costs; and it is difficult to understand why this suggestion cannot be implemented. I fully understand that the Government is more than likely exploring every avenue into the release of grain at the most equitable price. Nevertheless, the legislation governing the release of grain, and the controls set up under that legislation, are of such a nature that it appears it may not be possible for this to happen. To supply grain at \$1.10 a bushel would mean, virtually, the introduction of a redelivery scheme. I understand that something similar occurred here many years ago.

Farmers, faced as they are, generally, with a surplus of grain, are most desirous that their grain should be released back to them at the figure at which they originally sold it. To me that seems to be a very reasonable argument but, as I have said, the ramifications of the suggestion are difficult to understand and it appears there are many obstacles in the way of bringing such a suggestion into being.

I understand that two years ago in the Eastern States a similar suggestion was put forward and, with the exception of one State, all the States agreed that for wheat consumed by stock the ruling home consumption price of \$1.71 was to be paid. Whether or not, as a result of a surplus of grain in Australia—a surplus that is causing our bins to almost burst at the seams—the Eastern States will say, "All right. It was different in our day; now it is another story and we will agree with your Western Australian representatives that this can be done," I would not know. Whatever happens, farmers will need wheat to feed their sheep—there is nothing surer than that.

If this type of assistance cannot be given, and it is impossible to get the Australian Wheat Board, or the Federal authorities, or whoever is in control of the position, to agree to the release of wheat on this basis, this Government will have to take a good look at the Victorian Act, because I think that covers the situation extremely well.

The implementation of the Victorian Act will be a very expensive practice. In order to bring that home I had better refer to that Act. Today I received a telegram from the Eastern States, which was a reply to a question I had sent to Victoria to ascertain whether or not wheat was, in fact, subsidised by the Victorian Government. This telegram states—

The Victorian Government decided early in March to introduce a State subsidy on the major feed grains and the proposals were 25 cents per bushel for wheat and 15 cents per bushel on barley and oats retrospective to the 1st July, 1967.

On the 22nd March, 1968, the Federal Government provided a grant of \$1 million, which allowed an additional subsidy of 15 cents and 10 cents respectively, making a total subsidy of 40 cents per bushel on wheat and 25 cents per bushel on oats and barley as well as subsidy on the wheat, oats and barley content of prescribed processed stock food used by farmers in declared drought areas to feed sheep and cattle in Victoria.

Let us assume that 10,000,000 sheep will have to be hand fed for at least six months until more grains of the coarser varieties become available.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Do you think it will be that number?

Mr. GAYER: It is possible, but nobody knows at this stage. Some of the reports I have read, and some of those mentioned by other members, have indicated that there are 11,000,000 sheep in the drought-stricken areas at the present time. The drought areas are increasing, as shown by the telegrams that are coming forward. I understand that Gnowangerup has telephoned to say that the whole shire district is classified as a drought area. Let us assume that 10,000,000 sheep have to be fed on the standard ration of about two-thirds of a pound of grain a day. This could result in a subsidy to the tune of \$8,000,000. I admit that such a huge amount of finance will cause some people to take a second look at the position.

Mr. H. D. Evans: What will happen in the next six months?

Mr. GAYER: It is hard to say. Let us assume that some crops will be harvested in the intervening period, and that there will be relief in some areas by the acquisition of oats and barley and by the feeding of stock with new wheat and other grains. In some districts the crops are only just struggling. Even though there is no feed at the present time and very little, if any, water, there is the possibility that some areas may finish up with a crop of sorts.

The vast sum of \$8,000,000 will tend to frighten the State away from making assistance available on this scale. This is a monumental amount. I would point out

that according to the old hands, since 1914, when there was a severe drought, the drought which is being experienced at the present time is the worst that has been experienced. This is the worst drought in the last 50-odd years. I think the proportion of wealth that is being ploughed into the State by the farming community could, to a certain degree, be taken into consideration when this type of subsidy—if a subsidy is thought to be necessary—is being considered.

Rather than have the stock die through lack of finance, even though the terms of repayment may be spread over 12 months at 5 per cent.—as I noticed they were in one announcement, although in other States the interest rate was $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but bank rates have gone up recently—in the long-term view any assistance that is given can be regarded as an insurance policy for the preservation of the stock which, if preserved, will give a greater return to the State than the amount of assistance rendered.

I feel sure that the money advanced will be returned to the State much quicker than if the farmers are forced to pay terrific prices for stock feed wheat—especially if they cannot afford the money. If they do not have the money, and no assistance is given, they will have no alternative but to sell their stock or to let the stock die.

The Victorian Act dealing with this matter is known as the Drought Relief Act, 1968. It was proclaimed on the 18th April, 1968, and it is No. 7675 of the Victorian Statutes. One of the provisions is—

4. (1) Any farmer who on or after the 1st July, 1967 and before the commencement of this Act has purchased wheat which has been used to feed cattle or sheep in Victoria is entitled to financial assistance at the prescribed rate.

(2) The prescribed rate of financial assistance for wheat used to feed cattle or sheep in Victoria is in the case of wheat purchased before the 1st December, 1967 31 cents per bushel and in the case of wheat purchased on or after that date 40 cents per bushel.

I understand that the increase of 9c per bushel resulted from a rise in the home consumption price around the period mentioned.

Another section of the Act states—

5. (1) A farmer who has purchased oats or barley on or after the 1st July, 1967 and before the commencement of this Act and who has used the oats or barley to feed cattle or sheep in Victoria during the period of the drought is entitled to financial assistance at the prescribed rate.

Subsection (4) of that section states—

(4) The prescribed rate of financial assistance for oats or barley used to feed cattle or sheep in Victoria is 25 cents per bushel.

Mr. Bickerton: Is there any provision in that Act for the farmer to pay a levy of some sort in prosperous times?

Mr. GAYFER: The drought relief bonds to which the honourable member refers have only been introduced in some of the States in recent years. Possibly the lesson to be learned in Western Australia is the same lesson that had to be learned in the Eastern States before the introduction of the drought bonds.

There is a school of thought that some of the farmers in Western Australia have not practised fodder conservation on their farms. This is a difficult matter to judge, in view of the fact that the period of drought already experienced is far beyond any period experienced previously. Furthermore, the stocking rate has gone up at an incredible pace since early this year when the suggestion of wheat quotas was made.

I think that possibly this year—if we had had a good season—sufficient grain would have been held back to feed the increased numbers of stock in the country areas.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five more minutes.

Mr. GAYFER: I think that the implementation of any drought relief should be made retrospective, as it is in the Victorian Act, because some isolated pockets in the drought areas have been affected for quite some time and there has been considerable expenditure by those affected up to the present. However, I leave that subject at this point, and I implore the Government—in making its decisions in respect of drought relief—to have a good look at every Act which is in force in the Eastern States, because those States have had much more experience in handling these matters than has Western Australia. I admit that the relief made available varies from State to State, but whatever happens I am sure that the greatest possible assistance will be given to the farmers on this occasion.

The water problem in the country areas has to be seen to be believed. I understand that some Ministers will be flying over these areas tomorrow. They will see dam after dam with little, if any, water in them. I am sure that the Ministers will be amazed at the green grass which is growing at the bottom of most of the dams; and that is the only green they will see in these areas.

At the present time the water level in Mundaring Weir is four feet below the top of the retaining wall. I understand it will take many inches of rain to fill the

reservoir. The draw of water through the goldfields pipeline and the comprehensive scheme will be terrific, because I cannot see where else the water which is so urgently needed will come from.

In view of the increased stocking rate on farming properties, and the urgent need for water, the Public Works Department should take a close look at the conditions which apply in the city. Possibly it could introduce a rationing system to conserve the amount of water that is in the dams at the present time. A similar method was adopted in Victoria, and I daresay the same thing will have to be done in Western Australia.

There is nothing surer in the country areas than that the people who are relying on town water dams will be in for a pretty tough time, if rain does not fall in the near future and the dams are not replenished. As a consequence of this, I feel sure the draw on the metropolitan dams will be considerable. This is certainly an aspect which will have to be watched by everyone in the State, because water will become a very valuable commodity in the next few months.

I intended to speak on a couple of other matters, but for the present I will let them rest. I conclude by endorsing the Speech of His Excellency.

MR. JAMIESON (Belmont) [7.57 p.m.]: Last evening we heard several members address themselves to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech. I was somewhat concerned—although possibly I should not have been, because we have become accustomed to his pattern of speech—with the attitude of the member for Stirling. We have often heard his back-slapping speeches of the Government, and he seems to indulge in this every time he gets on his feet. Last night he saw fit to chide the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for what he termed as his impatience to get into government. This clearly indicates that the political education of the member for Stirling has a long way to go, and until and unless he has spent some time in the Opposition his education will not be complete.

Unfortunately for the Government none of its supporters have sat in the Opposition, with the exception of its members on the front bench and possibly one other. Surely it is the job of an Opposition—if it has any substance in its opposition—to point out to the Government where it is making mistakes and where it has failed in its administration. I would say that the present Labor Opposition, from time to time, has endeavoured to do this fairly in this Chamber.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There is nothing wrong with a member talking as the member for Stirling did. It is just the same as you have done, but in reverse.

Mr. JAMIESON: The Minister should wait a while. His patience will probably wear out very quickly when I get onto other subjects associated with this particular aspect. The member for Stirling was over-concerned about the Opposition; and he has to spend some time in the Opposition to appreciate the situation. He went on to laud the efforts of the Minister for Industrial Development and all that he and the Government have achieved.

Mr. Mitchell: Quite rightly, too.

Mr. JAMIESON: In reply to the honorable member, I would say that nobody would be so stupid or naive as not to appreciate the drive of the Minister for Industrial Development, and the amount of effort and time he puts in. However, I would remind you, Mr. Speaker, that if it had not been for the efforts of the Minister for Industrial Development when he was in Opposition, when the Labor Government was in office, there would have been no Opposition. He was the only member to represent the Opposition; and, should anyone doubt my statement, he should have a look at *Hansard*. I do not deny him that right, but I deny him the extent of his zeal at the time. This is clearly illustrated by his actions to sabotage the State in an effort to get a Liberal-Country Party Government on the Treasury bench. No-one could be more zealous than he was, especially at a time when the then Government had a group overseas endeavouring to attract industry to this State.

He was going around on his own private circus, with a socialistic tiger in a cage, crueiling the efforts of the group that was overseas. He did not care how many people in this State were out of work. His main concern was to make sure of the return of a Liberal-Country Party Government, irrespective of what damage was done to the State. He embarrassed certain people to a great degree. He embarrassed Mr. Ledger and Mr. Goyne Miller, to say nothing of the then Deputy Premier.

Mr. Court: It is news to me.

Mr. JAMIESON: The first two gentlemen I mentioned are past the embarrassment stage now. The former is now Sir Frank Ledger, as a result of the good offices of the present Government; and Mr. Goyne Miller has, no doubt, because of the time lapse, forgotten any illfeeling he might have had. The Minister for Industrial Development knew, when he was hawking this socialistic tiger around, that he was not conveying to the people

the correct situation that existed in this State. He knew he was misleading the people of Great Britain—

Mr. Court: That is not true.

Mr. JAMIESON: —because it was known to him that the control of the legislative programme in this State never was and never has been in the hands of a Labor Government. The administration has been, but Parliament, never. So he had no reason to believe that his predictions would eventuate, and that it would be unwise for people to invest in Western Australia because a socialist Government was in office. All the things he said were so much eyewash. He said these things and caused people to become unemployed.

Mr. Court: That is not true and it is quite unfair. The real sabotage of your Government's mission was brought about by your Premier and the letters he wrote to the *London Times*.

Mr. JAMIESON: The Minister was the saboteur—there is no doubt about it. He went around everywhere in front of the mission to make sure it did not have any success.

Mr. Court: I could not have done, as I never went away.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It is not true.

Mr. Craig: That was 15 years ago; what about looking to the future?

Mr. JAMIESON: Go back to the vineyards.

Mr. Craig: You live too much in the past. You are dated in your thinking. Be on the spot and look to the present time.

Mr. JAMIESON: I am.

Mr. Court: Look at the Bill your Government introduced. Every member of this House should read the Bill in its original form.

Mr. JAMIESON: I would remind the Minister that that Bill needed the support of a party in Opposition for it to be passed in the Legislative Council—and it was passed.

Mr. Court: In a mighty amended form. Members want to read the original.

Mr. JAMIESON: The Minister felt it was obnoxious, but had it remained on the Statute book it would have given everybody a chance. Talking of sabotage, I will now turn to housing. The then Minister for Housing—now the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—was faced with all sorts of sabotage attempts by the Opposition of the day to prevent his achieving his objectives. I would remind members of the Wandana incident and the debate that took place in the House. Those flats were called all sorts of things by the members of the Liberal Party—contraceptive apartments and other names.

I do not suppose there is any other high-density accommodation than the Wandana flats that has been run more successfully

for people who want that kind of accommodation. In regard to other high-density projects, the Federal Liberal members at the behest of Liberal Party members in this Parliament saw that sufficient pressure was brought to bear in Canberra so as to prevent the Minister from proceeding. That actually happened. So I do not know why the member for Stirling—who at one time aspired to get into this esteemed Chamber as an Independent Labor candidate—is worried about an overzealous effort on the part of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to assist the Labor Party to occupy the Treasury bench.

On the 12th March this year, a former Director of Industrial Development—one who would thoroughly know what he was talking about—wrote to the newspaper. His contribution is well worth reading. He wrote about the mineral developments that are taking place and the ability to sell iron ore overseas, as well as referring to the nickel concentrates.

Mr. Fernie is not a person one would call an ardent Labor supporter, but he was well aware of the situation and wrote of the efforts of some people, who now claim all the kudos for a great leap forward, who held the State back for so long. Some of his views are well worth repeating. He said—

Possible motives were:

This was because Senator Spooner would not grant a permit to export iron ore as it was considered it did not exist in sufficient quantities for the needs of Australia, despite the fact that in 1889 and 1890 departmental officers of the Mines Department indicated there was so much iron ore in the north that it was worthless. They said there was too much of it to bother about. Members would have noted the Colonial Sugar Refining Company's pamphlet quoting those gentlemen, and saying that iron ore was worthless; yet the Commonwealth Government was prepared to hold the State back. Continuing to quote—

Possible motives were:

The application was made by a State Labour Government.

There was a desire in some Federal quarters to preserve a monopoly for B.H.P.

The phobia in Liberal circles against State enterprise despite the fact that a joint State and private enterprise project was envisaged.

The general distrust of charcoal as a blast furnace fuel, ignoring the possibility of Collie coal in new processes and imported coke.

Had we been allowed by the Liberal-Country Party Government administration at the time to proceed with the export of iron ore, we would have had an industry

in the south-west of which we could be justly proud at this time and we could have deployed some of the people from the metropolitan area and taken a practical step along the way to make sure that the metropolitan area did not become congested.

The last paragraph is significant and is well worth reading. It is as follows:—

Whatever the motives for the refusal the result was the loss of four valuable years to promote iron ore exports to Japan at very favourable prices and also a lost opportunity to establish a decentralised iron and steel industry in the South-West.

All to the credit of the Liberal-Country Party Opposition at the time, and its Federal counterparts.

Mr. Dunn: What was the rate?

Mr. JAMIESON: It was twice the f.o.b. price we are receiving at present. That was the rate at which it was to be sold, and that is also dealt with in the article.

It is obvious that a great deal of co-operation was not given by the Opposition at the time. I would say that while in this Chamber we indulge in some practices the Government might not like—members opposite might not like to sit there and take our criticism from time to time—at least we are not saboteurs of our State. We never have been and never will be. We will be prepared to act to the best of our ability in the interests of all the people of our State, and not just a few, as members of the Government side seem inclined to do.

I would now like to make a few comments on land prices. Much has been said on this subject and, indeed, the following was contained in the Governor's Speech:—

Honourable Members will be aware of Government measures to release additional land for housing and to restrain land prices. There is already evidence that these actions are proving effective.

I wonder how effective they can be if the Administration is dinkum in its attitude on this particular subject. According to the Press, a couple of Ministers have made statements on this matter. The Minister for Local Government has told people not to hasten to buy land, but to wait. Wait for what? People cannot wait, because they want to have a home and therefore they must have land. The Minister for Housing released certain areas of land at prices which were not particularly attractive to those who are not on high margins.

The member for Stirling said that he does not know how the people manage to pay for these blocks, but they do, and therefore they must have the money. Of course they have, because mother goes out to work! The next-door neighbour must

look after the children or perhaps a neighbour in the district looks after the children of three or four mothers, in order that those mothers may go to work to obtain enough money on which to live.

What happens if one of the partners of the marriage, or one of the children, becomes sick? Of course in those circumstances the financial situation becomes very unstable and the family runs into debt and cannot meet all its financial obligations, particularly when the price of land is so high.

I believe the example of the Government is a very false one when it is advising the Governor on the one hand to say one thing and, on the other, it is taking action not in keeping with the contents of the Governor's Speech.

I have here a copy of a letter sent to the Minister for Housing, and I want to refer to it to indicate, by this specific case, what the Government is not doing to reduce the price rise of land. I will not use the name of the person concerned, but anyone who wishes to see the letter is quite welcome to do so. The address is 33 Towie Street, Cloverdale, which is on the edge of the airport boundary.

The person concerned took occupation of the home in the latter part of 1955. On the 6th September, 1966, he asked for a valuation because he contemplated buying the home. The overall sale price given to him by the commission was \$8,030, which was made up of \$6,330 for the house and \$1,700 for the land. The deposit was to be \$530. He realised at the time that he could not raise the deposit of \$530, so after discussing the matter with an officer of the commission at the counter, he decided, having been told it would be all right to do so, he would let the matter rest and would possibly enter into a contract to buy the home when his financial position was a little better.

Accordingly, on the 26th June, 1969, having paid a \$12 valuation fee, he was given the then current price of the home. The overall sale price had by then jumped to \$11,500 as against the previous valuation of \$8,030.

Mr. Tonkin: In what period?

Mr. JAMIESON: Between the 6th September, 1966, and the 26th June, 1969. The overall sale price was then \$11,500. Of this amount the value of the house was \$7,000, as against the previous \$6,330, while the value of the land was \$4,500, compared with the previous \$1,700.

If the Government is going to indulge in that sort of practice, how ridiculous it is for it to say that it is trying to do something for the people.

Referring again to the letter, the writer had in the meantime installed many improvements. He had established lawns, paths, and driveways, and everything else

as one would if one intended to remain on the premises. But, he finally finds that the price rise—which is \$3,470—is astronomical. Being a fellow of figures he went into the matter very thoroughly and part of his letter is well worth recording as follows:—

I think that the effect of this present unchanged policy is making the Government a party to land speculation and profiteering, and this is proved beyond doubt by the two offers I have received.

But let us look at the final situation concerning this man. He said—

Just as a matter of interest I have calculated that paying at the rate of \$57.70 per month—

This is the rate at which he would now have to pay off the home—

—it will take, taking into account interest payments, 24 years of payments to get the value of this property back to the original offered price, i.e. I will have paid out \$16,617.60 and my equity will be as it would have been if the original offer had been taken up.

It will take him 24 years to get back to that situation.

If the Government is going to indulge in this sort of activity and thus price people out of the market for homes, it cannot expect the private section of the housing industry to do anything but follow its example; and that is exactly what is happening. It is reported that many of the home-building firms have as many as 50 completed homes they have not been able to quit. Of course they have not been able to quit them, because the deposits are too high. The ingoing is beyond the capabilities of those on wages.

The letter I have been quoting was by a costing officer in the Government and he says that probably he would be able to meet the \$57.70 a month if he stretched his budget, but there would be nothing left; and there is no encouragement for him to do this. What finally happens in such instances is that those concerned despair of going ahead with the proposal to buy the home and consequently they remain as tenants of the Housing Commission. The commission is thus forced back to the position where it is responsible for maintenance and a dozen and one other things which it could have shed to a person who would have looked after his own interests and equity if the commission had been a little more sensible about the proposition.

The principle of selling at valuation might have been all right in the old days when there were no great increases; but the fact is that if this man did not accept the present offer by the 11th July, he

would then probably have to get another valuation and would thus be getting further and further behind the eight-ball.

I would now like to mention another subject which has interested me in recent times. I refer to the automatic penalties imposed by the regulations under the Traffic Act. When the automatic penalties were first mooted, little did I think they would be so comprehensive. I thought the common offences committed by motorists might be included in the list and standard penalties imposed. However, the Government—as it usually does—has gone too far.

Penalties are imposed under the Traffic Act, and I agree that those penalties are necessary for the occasional person who is hopeless to control. The automatic penalties range from \$2 to \$20 and possibly to \$40 for the worst offences. We are not growling about that. Failing to give way to an emergency vehicle brings a penalty of \$40 and that cannot be argued. However, some of the lesser offences should not have been included among those which attract automatic penalties. For instance, regulation 706 automatically imposes a penalty of \$2 if two perambulators are pushed, side by side, on the footpath. How silly is that?

Mr. Graham: Which one is fined?

Mr. JAMIESON: I do not know; I suppose the one nearest to the right. Surely this is a stupid situation, and such offences should not have been included in the list of automatic penalties.

Mr. Craig: Those penalties have always been mandatory, and they have been carried forward into the infringement notice scheme. The penalties have been in existence for years. The member for Belmont might be pushing a pram one day and might want some protection.

Mr. JAMIESON: I might be in a wheel chair if I have to carry the Minister for Police around much longer.

Mr. Court: The Minister for Labour would like to know how you would get on if you had twins.

Mr. JAMIESON: Regulation 1305 provides for an automatic penalty of \$2 for playing games, or using roller skates with small wheels and no efficient brakes on a footway.

Mr. Craig: It all depends on which game you play.

Mr. JAMIESON: Yes, I know. The traffic regulations should be such that people can be moved on; or, if somebody is particularly objectionable, action can be taken against him. But to have an automatic penalty of \$2 is ridiculous. Of course, once a name is taken, because of the provisions of the overriding clause, the penalty becomes automatic. If an offender

does not want to pay the \$2 he can go to court. If a child was taken to court for playing on the road, or for that type of offence, I imagine the worst that would happen is the court would tell him not to do it again. That would probably be sufficient in 99 per cent. of the cases but regulations such as the one I have mentioned should not have been included.

I agree that the usual traffic offences should have been included but I do not think it was ever the intention of Parliament that there should be an overall cover of the pettifogging offences.

In the country the penalties will be imposed by the traffic inspectors, and sometimes personalities creep in. In the past we have repeatedly had instances, in country towns, where somebody falls foul of somebody else and the local traffic inspector uses the letter of the law to take action against whoever has upset him.

Mr. W. A. Manning: Where did that happen?

Mr. JAMIESON: This has occurred in two or three towns. Not Narrogin, the puritan town, but I could name several others where it has occurred. I am sure it would not take place in Narrogin, because the member has his eye fixed on the traffic inspector all the time.

I would like to say a few words on some other items concerning traffic. I am concerned with the number of traffic regulations in force and I think they could be simplified. We should have a better code, and even the Premier said today that it is time we used visual signs rather than word signs. It is time we used signs which are easily recognised and appreciated by people whether or not they understand English, and whether or not they want to understand it. People should be able to interpret visual signs.

Another matter concerning traffic relates to drivers' licenses. Rather elaborate examinations are held for people who apply for their initial license. The examination covers road traffic regulations, and I doubt very much whether half a dozen members in this House could pass one of those examinations, because most of us have been driving vehicles for a considerable number of years, the interpretation of the regulations has changed in many instances. There is no way for us to keep up with them, so we do not know them.

If it is essential for the regulations to be maintained, and if we expect drivers to obey them, I suggest that we put some responsibility on the people who are renewing their licenses so that they know the regulations. Possibly, people could be picked at random, when they are renewing their licenses, and be required to pass the present-day examination. At least

that would make us keep up to date with the regulations and the requirements of the traffic laws.

I am sure that many people who have held drivers' licenses for a number of years would not be able to pass the test which is now given to a person applying for his initial driver's license. It seems rather deplorable to expect a new driver to know the traffic laws and yet a driver who has held a license for many years does not need to be conversant with the rules. Let me say that the knowledge acquired over a period of years could save the experienced driver from being involved in an accident in an emergency. That might not be the case with a new driver. What I have said may or may not be so; it would be pretty hard to estimate.

The Government, and the town planning authorities, should give some consideration to the matter of grid road systems. I have repeatedly observed, in the Belmont area, where a grid road system has been brought into operation because of a subdivision, that it is not very long before the intersections claim a couple of lives. For quite a long time many of the roads were only partly made. Since they have been completed they have become a hazard. After several accidents, officialdom comes along and puts up a "Stop" sign or a "Give Way" sign.

I consider that we have to look ahead to some extent. Before a grid road system is put through, there should be some degree of planning of the traffic pattern so that accidents will not occur. As I have mentioned previously, on five occasions recently it has been my experience to find casualties occurring on roads which have now been completed but which were previously made only in part. This is not good enough.

We try all means, and certainly we spend a great deal of money at the Mt. Lawley Driving School trying to educate people. I have often mentioned that more money per head of population is spent in this direction in this State than in any other State. The problem is that we are not achieving anything, but are only holding our own with regard to casualties on the roads. That is not good enough. As I have said, this is a matter which needs to be studied.

Another matter of vast importance to the State, I consider, is the matter of natural gas. From time to time we read about the various strikes of natural gas. Indeed, mention is made of this subject in this evening's Press. Pressure hydrocarbons have been in evidence for a long time in this State. Firstly, considerable pressures were encountered around Dongara and, at a later stage, considerable pressures were encountered around Gingin. This was some time ago.

A great amount of testing has never been undertaken for two or three reasons. One reason would possibly be that the companies concerned, which want to receive the best Commonwealth assistance, are very wary of testing an area once pressure substances have been struck, because, at that stage, the subsidy cuts out within the perimeter of the strike. At this stage, however, sufficient is known of the Dongara and the Gingin fields to make a pipeline of natural gas to the city a possibility. In South Australia, despite the fact that the natural gas was probably twice as far away from the capital than is the case in Western Australia, the Government proceeded at haste to ensure that a pipeline was laid to supply industry. We in Western Australia should be doing just that, because it is vital for us to start industrial development to the north of the city.

The Minister for Industrial Development has been asked questions on this subject and I understand that the Blue Circle Cement Company is interested in trying to start an industrial area north of the city. I have also heard suggestions that one of the companies which has bauxite concessions is looking to see if there is any possibility of establishing port facilities north of the city so that it will not have to come further down and crowd out other sections of industry.

Surely it is not sensible to develop a city in one direction only. As far as the development of industrial areas is concerned, however, unfortunately the city seems to be spreading south. Certainly we do not want to mix industry with housing, but surely it is sensible to locate industries in areas which are not too far away from residential areas so that the people who work in such industries may have reasonable access to their work. I suggest that the Government should make a very clear determination on the subject within a short space of time and establish an industrial park to the north of the city. The Government should plan to ensure that not only industry but houses, too, are able to use natural gas.

It looks as though this State has been blessed with a supply of gas fuel and, indeed, with liquid oil, when that commodity is completely proven. However, areas which range from the northern-most section of the State—that is, north of Wyndham—down to Busselton have all been proven to some degree. It is true that every hole which is bored will not bring in a gas or an oil supply. That would be expecting too much in any world situation. However, whether it is near Rottnest Island or anywhere else, the companies are finding traces of oil which indicate a sufficiency of supply. We will be provided with this commodity for many years to come. I doubt whether any other part of the world has the potential supply that has been shown to exist in the various fields in Western Australia.

Mr. Court: I hope you are right.

Mr. JAMIESON: There seems to be no limit from Barrow Island right down the coast. It is only a matter of getting on to the particular spot. Each and every hole which has been drilled in a likely source seems to have produced what the company anticipated. This applies particularly to offshore drilling.

Mr. Court: I hope you are right because the greatest use for natural gas lies in the metallurgical field, and we have plenty of mineral to be processed.

Mr. JAMIESON: This would be good. For this reason we should have our own aluminium industry north of the city. I hope the Government will concentrate on this suggestion and not just allow the oil companies to proceed at will to determine their leases. That is all they are doing. Probably anybody else would do the same thing, if he could.

Some years ago I asked for details of the assessment of Mt. Horner. The Minister for Mines told me that no final assessment had been made. As far as I know no final assessment has yet been made. Proof of the abundance of pressure substances at Mt. Horner lies in the fact that the well is sealed with a Christmas tree and there is a prohibition of smoking for hundreds of yards around. Yet, still no assessment of this strike has been made to the Government. Surely this is not satisfactory. The Government should have a clearer picture and should be contemplating a scheme which would bring natural gas to the city.

I wish now to refer to a subject that was dealt with last night by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition; namely, the question of Darryl Beamish. This case has been rehearsed considerably over the years and I consider it is high time the Government took some steps in regard to it.

I do not think anything would be achieved by using our own jurists. It would be better to bring in somebody from overseas—perhaps from Malaya or from another country—to examine this situation thoroughly. This should be done to relieve the conscience of the community, if for no other reason. The fact is that the various courts of appeal and of review which have sat on this case in Western Australia seem to have had the support of the local jurists whereas the international jurists feel that some travesty of justice has occurred.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes.

Mr. JAMIESON: I suppose this situation is not unreasonable; because the people who deal with the courts probably feel that they would be caused some shame if the decisions of the court were upset. However, I remind members that, under our law, it

is not the decision of the jurists as to the guilt of a person but the decision of the jury. At the various reviews which I have mentioned the jurists have taken unto themselves the power of a jury and have made a determination of guilt on new evidence. Surely this is not reasonable. It was never intended that the law in Western Australia should apply that way and, consequently, I consider that we should do something about it.

I understand that two people were involved in the various confessions of one, Cook, and both of them appeared before a court of review. I understand that one of the persons has now been released. It is high time the Government took some action to finalise the Beamish affair. The community at large is not satisfied that Beamish is guilty. Some suspicion that there could have been a miscarriage of justice is entertained by most people. Consequently I consider that the only way out now is to bring in somebody who knows nothing about the situation.

If the matter is taken up by local jurists, or jurists in other parts of Australia, it would be found at this juncture that they had all made some determination on the case. Consequently it would be far better for everybody concerned if an outside person could be brought in who would thoroughly review the situation. I am quite convinced in my own mind that had Beamish received another trial on the grounds of the new evidence available, the jury would have made a decision that would have been quite different from the original decision. It would not have been the jurists who made this decision, because judges have no rights at all in these circumstances. Where new evidence is concerned, a jury should determine the case. That is our system. It is not a requirement of the judiciary to make a judgment; it is more of a requirement to determine a sentence once a judgment has been made by a jury. So I suggest there is great need to review this case.

Finally I want to refer to the indiscretion of the Acting Premier a week or so ago in making the statement that there were no drought areas within the State. In making such a statement he holds the whole Chamber up to ridicule, and if anyone should have known—with the advisers he has—the true situation, it should have been he. He should have known the true situation better than the individual members who rose to their feet in this Chamber and drew his attention to the matter, because he was in a position to obtain the exact information, and if he did not have it at that time he should have asked his advisers for it.

Mr. Craig: You know that the Minister said that no shire had advised him that drought conditions existed.

Mr. JAMIESON: Whilst the Leader of the Opposition was speaking on the situation, the Acting Premier interjected as follows:—

You are trying to panic a situation. What areas of the State are suffering from drought conditions? Name them, please.

Mr. Court: That is fair enough.

Mr. JAMIESON: Despite the fact that the Acting Premier stated that there were no drought areas in the State, a day or so later we saw on the front page of the *Daily News* a photograph of two dead sheep lying near a fence.

Mr. Craig: They were probably posed for the photograph. You are talking about the sheep that were photographed on the front page of the *Daily News*?

Mr. JAMIESON: However, it was a most indiscreet act on the part of the Acting Premier to make such a statement and not to have more of the information which was available to him. Now the Premier has indicated this afternoon that he will make a statement on the situation later in the evening. The Premier should have revealed the true situation by making a statement in this Chamber, because this is the forum of the people of Western Australia.

It should have been the responsibility of the Premier to disclose the facts rather than leave it to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to request him to make a statement on the position. The action of the Premier was despicable, because he should have made a statement revealing the true situation so that all members of the House could pass the information on to their electorates and to the people who are so vitally concerned. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, because my time must have nearly expired.

Mr. Court: There is good reason for the Premier making the statement; it was in the interest of all the farmers.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Murray) [8.43 p.m.]: The Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech gives members an opportunity to speak on various matters which affect their electorates, and to speak on practically any other subject. There is one item, however, which I feel everyone is most conscious of, particularly those members who represent rural electorates, and who are farmers themselves.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much noise in the Chamber.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I refer, of course, to the drought and to the extremely dry conditions prevailing in many parts of the State. Let me hasten to add, however,—

The SPEAKER: Order! I must call for more silence. It is impossible to hear the member for Murray. If members wish to

talk among themselves and they cannot speak quietly they must leave the Chamber.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Let me hasten to add that my electorate is enjoying an excellent season and I will say a little more on that point later. Because farmers are facing serious sheep losses, I do not think this is the time for recriminations or the time to blame anybody for the state of drought in some parts of Western Australia. This is a time for action by the Commonwealth and State Governments. I believe that already valuable time has been lost.

Last year we spoke with a great deal of pride about our sheep numbers—well over 30,000,000. At the moment we are in danger of having these numbers seriously depleted. Already many buyers from the Eastern States are operating in different parts of the State, and truckloads of sheep are moving east. I think that feed, water, and finance are the three essentials required in the farming districts affected by drought today. I have no doubt that the Government has already taken action, but I sincerely hope it will tackle this serious problem with all expedition.

The dry weather pattern could not have appeared at a more inopportune time for farmers. Apart from drought, our great wheat industry is facing serious marketing problems. The wheat industry has played a great part in the development of this country. I feel that a serious situation in regard to wheat production may develop and will affect not only wheat farming, but also many other spheres of agriculture.

Restrictions on production appear to be necessary, but it seems remarkable that while we have difficulty in selling some of our foodstuff overseas, we are confronted with photographs of starving children, and asked to make donations to "Rice Bowl" appeals, "Save the Children" fund, etc. This is a question of economics, but at the same time I cannot help but feel it is morally wrong. It is a matter, however, that is beyond our control. I think that perhaps the World Bank or some other world organisation should be prepared to tackle problems such as this.

As I said earlier, if these restrictions appear to be necessary they will have a great effect on our export income. Let us hope, therefore, that these problems are only temporary and that before long an improvement will be effected in the marketing situation. I know that over the last few years we have been fortunate in some ways, because other countries have suffered from droughts and floods and other adverse conditions. This year, however, many countries throughout the

world which previously bought wheat from Australia have made themselves self-sufficient and in many instances have a surplus of grain.

The wheat market overseas looks anything but bright, and this is a matter that is exercising the minds not only of members of Parliament, but also of farmers throughout the whole of the country. Farmers in particular are deeply concerned about the dismal marketing picture and the uncertainty of not being able to expand. We have the know-how, the machinery, the land, and all that is required to go ahead and produce a great deal more foodstuffs in general, but the market overseas does appear to be a little chaotic.

Although the Wheat Marketing Board, the Dairy Products Marketing Board, and the Meat Board have done a tremendous job in searching for markets overseas and in publicising and promoting these products, we find ourselves at this time in somewhat of a predicament. It seems to me we will have to look more towards markets in South-east Asia and Asia generally. The Dairy Products Marketing Board, in particular, has done a remarkably good job in South-east Asia in promoting the sale of various forms of milk powders and condensed milk etc.

The board has established a number of factories in various countries, such as Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore, and these are generally managed in partnership with the country in which the factory is established. Such a move, in itself, is enabling us to market a great deal more of our milk products.

It is rather interesting to note that in 1952-53 the Australian farm income was 27 per cent. above the income of a wage and salary earner. In 1962 it was 4 per cent., and in 1969 the percentage is much lower, and the indications are that in a great many sections of primary industry it could be lower still. I feel that government policy should be designed to assist rural industry to adjust to the varying market outlook. I think that farmers and their organisations will find it necessary to unite and work together for the benefit of our primary industries and the marketing of the products overseas.

I would like to refer to one or two matters in my electorate which have given me a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure. For many years, members representing the south-west part of Western Australia, have spoken in this House and have stressed the need to have the Old Coast Road built from Mandurah to Bunbury. I am very pleased indeed to see that this road will now be completed and that we will have a black-topped road within a few weeks. This, of course, gives me a lot of satisfaction. The road will be

a source of great pleasure to the thousands of people who use it, because it is one of the scenic highways of the State.

While looking through some journals I was interested to find *The Enquirer*—which was *The West Australian* newspaper in the early days—announced on the 2nd November, 1842, that the new road, the Old Coast Road from Australind to Mandurah—Bunbury was referred to as Australind—had been completed.

It is remarkable to find that in August, 1969, we are saying exactly the same thing. The paper of the day went on to say it had been reported that a gentleman had covered the distance from Fremantle to Bunbury in the astonishing time of 33 hours. He had, according to the newspaper, bivouacked for the night. It was also reported that two other gentlemen had covered the distance in 22 hours. Apart from this, it referred to the fact that the ferry across the river at Mandurah was to be launched within a few days. This ferry had been paid for as a result of subscription from the residents.

I would like to commend the Main Roads Department for its excellent workmanship on this road. I have travelled on the road in question pretty often, and I went down the other day to see what stage the work had reached. I was very pleased indeed with the work that had been done, and again I commend the Main Roads Department for the manner in which the road has been constructed and for the way in which it has tidied up the verges and the trouble it has taken to preserve the trees near the roadside.

Quite apart from this, the department has endeavoured to retain a chain of natural bush on each side of the road. This continues pretty well along the entire road from just outside Mandurah. The first section of the road was completed by the Mandurah Shire Council some eight years ago under the compulsory bitumen scheme. The shire council has 20 miles of this road, and this section, which is not as wide as the new one, will probably have to be widened to take the increasing volume of traffic. I would recommend this road to everyone, because it is one of the outstanding scenic highways of the State. It skirts Lake Clifton for several miles and for most of the distance one sees beautiful wildflowers and natural bush.

As a rule, when one job of work is completed it generally leads to something else being required and this, unfortunately, is the case with regard to the Old Coast Road. It is obvious that a considerable amount of traffic will use this road and that the bridge over the Murray River at Mandurah will not be able to handle this traffic efficiently.

As some members would know, the bridge at Mandurah is in the centre of the town, along the waterfront, where most of the

visitors and tourists congregate. The Main Roads Department is, however, conscious of this fact and I understand it has tentatively set aside a piece of country about a mile upstream from the present bridge. A slight deviation will be necessary for the coast road to link with the bridge, and it will continue across the east end of Mandurah.

This will be a major project and will cost a considerable sum of money. However, I know that the Main Roads Department and the Minister for Works are well aware of the situation and as soon as they feel it is necessary for this to be done, I am sure we can be confident that it will be done.

Enterprising people in the town are readily aware of the route the road will take and, to keep pace with the town planning scheme, shopping centres are spoken of as having been designed and this will, of course, mean the development of a much greater and larger town in that area.

Another matter which gives me a great deal of pleasure is the fact that the town-site of Mandurah is currently being served with a reticulated water scheme. The question of a water scheme for Mandurah and Yunderup goes back many years; I understand more than 20 years ago there was agitation, particularly from the settlers along the Murray River in the Yunderup and Ravenswood areas.

Water is fairly scarce in these areas. The underground water is very poor in quality and quantity. To aid the development of the area it was necessary to install a proper reticulation scheme, but it was not possible to create sufficient interest among the Mandurah people.

I believe things reached such a stage that money was set aside, the pipes were purchased by the department and the area was to be provided with a water scheme from the dam which now provides Pinjarra with water.

The people of Mandurah who obtained water from their own bores, felt they were not ready for the scheme and, as a result, it was not proceeded with. Accordingly, we had to wait a good many years during which time the agitation continued. I would like to feel that I played some part in convincing the Minister and the Public Works Department of the necessity to carry out a comprehensive boring scheme in the area in an endeavour to find potable water.

A number of very deep bores were sunk at Mandurah, one of which went down as far as 2,000 feet. It was hoped to find water comparable with that obtained for Laporte Titanium (Aust.) Ltd. at Bunbury. But this was not to be. Although the water found was reasonable, it was not considered fit for drinking as it contained about 100 grains of salt to the gallon.

The Government continued with its boring programme and eventually good bore water was obtained near Ravenswood and it was from there that the scheme to Yunderup was inaugurated and opened three years ago by the present Minister. Now we find that places like Ravenswood, Murray Bend, and even the islands on the Murray River, have the benefit of a reticulated water scheme.

Year by year the scheme has progressed and it has now reached the Mandurah area. In reply to a question I asked this week the Minister informed me that the scheme which is to serve the whole of Mandurah is expected to be completed by 1972. This is very good news indeed, and it will help the development of the town considerably; and there are plans for the building of flats and multi-storied buildings. The town cannot depend entirely on the local underground water scheme. The local authority has embarked on a deep sewerage system, and in this respect the town will be well provided for in the near future.

A matter which perhaps might not be of any great interest to members generally—but it is of great importance to me and those I represent—was the recent appointment of the new Chairman of the Milk Board. I represent a fairly large number of milk producers, whose properties extend from Mundijong almost to Harvey. These people have been very interested in the appointment of a new chairman. The term of office of the previous chairman was to expire in December, but owing to ill-health he decided to retire earlier.

We do not know very much about the new chairman, but I wish him every success in his appointment. I feel certain the industry will extend to him all the co-operation that is required. I understand this person has specialised in public relations, and that he gets on well with people. These are two attributes which are very necessary in the person who holds this position.

The milk industry is in a very sound and very stable position, and over the years a great deal of progress has been made. I have looked at the various systems which have been adopted in the other States, and I am quite confident that none of the milk producers in Western Australia would prefer any of the systems that are adopted in those States. In this State the producers receive a higher quota than the producers receive in any of the other States. The people who come into the industry in Western Australia are given a quota of 60 gallons; but in Victoria they are given a quota of only 10 gallons. In New South Wales it is a closed industry, and it has been so for a long time.

I understand that in Western Australia 20 new producers will be entering the industry within a few months and this is

very good news indeed. There has been a marked expansion in the whole milk industry, and over the years milk quotas have been increased considerably. All in all, there is a feeling of prosperity in this industry.

One thing which has worried farmers throughout the State is the increased cost of production. They do not begrudge the people engaged in industry or the salary earners receiving increased rates of pay. However, when farmers, whose incomes are declining, read in the newspapers that some group in industry has been awarded a substantial increase in wages and salaries, they realise that somewhere along the line it will affect them adversely. They are placed in the invidious position that they, themselves, cannot pass on any increase in the cost of production. Is it any wonder that the farmers are somewhat perturbed by the existing situation?

When the last price increase was granted to milk producers, the then Chairman of the Milk Board told them that the increase would have to last them for the next five years. The price of milk is based largely on the cost of production, and I am sure no industry or union would like to be told that an increase in price will have to last it for five years.

About four years ago the Minister for Works opened the new dam at Waroona. Due to a number of very dry years the people in the district had, for some years, been rationed in the use of irrigation water. This had a limiting effect on production. The Government considered a number of schemes to increase the water supply, such as increasing the height of the banks of the local dams. Finally it decided to scrap these proposals, and proceed with the building of a new dam. The capacity of this dam is more than the capacity of the two smaller dams in the district put together. The new dam has proved to be of great benefit, and it has given the producers a degree of security in their production without fear of water rationing.

Previously I have asked a number of questions, and have mentioned in my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate about the desirability of extending the irrigation scheme north of Waroona to serve a group of farmers. I went to the trouble to find out from the Public Works Department that there was sufficient water in the Waroona Dam to serve this area. The department was anxious to sell the water from the new dam, and to extend the service in the district. I made approaches to the Minister for Agriculture, but I was told—I do not blame the Minister; he was merely passing on information—that this land was not suitable for irrigation.

Some time ago I spoke on this topic and put forward the suggestion that a channel be built from the dam and pipes be laid to serve the area, to enable the farmers to tap the pipes for sprinkler irrigation. In many parts of Australia—in fact, in many dairying districts in Victoria and New South Wales—dairy farms of up to 300 acres have installed spray irrigation along these lines, because in these instances the land was not considered suitable for flood irrigation. I am sure that was what the Department of Agriculture meant when the Minister for Agriculture conveyed the information to me. The land in respect of which I had made approaches was somewhat more porous than land in other areas.

Under the spray irrigation system the water could be turned on at regular intervals and by the use of this system a great deal of the land north of Waroona could be brought under irrigation. Members who during the summer months have visited the country stretching from Waroona to Bunbury must have seen the green paddocks, and must have thought that they were veritable Gardens of Eden. I would ask the Minister for Agriculture to consider again whether it is possible to extend the water supply to the north of Waroona for the purpose of spray irrigation.

In my view flood irrigation is a rather wasteful method. Many millions of gallons of water are lost through this method; in other instances too much water is applied in one place and not enough in another. There is too much wastage in a number of directions. For that reason I think the spray irrigation system has a lot to commend it.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It is pretty costly.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: No. All that the Government has to do is to construct the necessary channels or pipe lines, and the farmers will do the rest by installing the irrigation sprinkler system. This is not costly; the pipes are extremely light and are easily shifted. As I have said, I have seen many dairy farms on which 200 to 300 acres have been under spray irrigation by this method.

I am also pleased with the work the Public Works Department has done in the Serpentine-Mundijong area. On many occasions this has been one of the most flooded areas in the south-west due, I think, to the rising water table, brought about by total clearing in the country south of Armadale and along the tributaries which feed into the Serpentine River.

There have been numerous washaways, and local authorities have been put to a great deal of expense in regard to roads and the provision of new bridges.

I am pleased to say that in response to a number of deputations the Public Works Department has spent a great deal of money during the past 18 months in widening drains and putting in new drains. Last year when we experienced an average winter, even the loudest critics of the Government were quite happy and pleased with what had been done. I was more than pleased when the Minister informed me in answer to a question I asked the other day, that it was the intention of the Government to carry on this year with further extensions to the drainage work. The land is too valuable to be continually flooded, as has been the case over a number of years. I again commend the Public Works Department for its co-operation and understanding in keeping ahead with this work and making such a good job of it.

While I was in Tasmania earlier this year, being a wholemilk producer of many years standing, I was naturally interested in that State's system of milk production. I talked to members of the Tasmanian Parliament and to members of the Farmers' Union in Hobart in order to compare the system in that State with our own. I found that in the wholemilk industry in Tasmania, it is possible for farmers to buy quotas. Quotas can be bought and sold—something which is not done in any other State.

There has been some agitation in parts of the wholemilk industry in Western Australia for action to be taken to enable a farmer to buy quotas. This is something which has been frowned upon by the Milk Board and by a good many producers, as well as members of the Farmers' Union. Therefore I made inquiries in Tasmania and found that whereas that State used to have about 600 wholemilk producers, since it has been possible to buy and sell quotas the number of producers has been reduced by half. This might be of some benefit to certain areas in this State.

The price which obtained in Tasmania was \$120 per gallon; and quotas are controlled by the Milk Board. I think the Farmers' Union and the milk producers will have to give some thought to this matter. So far they have not been able to come to any decision, but I am aware the matter is exercising their minds.

We have all heard of u.h.t. milk—ultra heat treated milk. This was first tried in Tasmania and it is a good quality milk. The milk is heated to a very high temperature and cooled rapidly. It is then placed in an ordinary plastic container or tube and one can throw it into the boot of one's car, or leave it on a shelf and it will keep for six months. It is a wonderful idea, but what militates against its being used widely is the cost. I think it would be useful in bush camps and isolated places

in preference to condensed milk. In one way I am glad it is so expensive, because I think to some extent it could be a threat to the milk industry.

In Victoria I had the pleasure of spending some time with the members of the Victorian Milk Board. In that State they have a three-man board, as we do, with the exception that all members there are appointed. Here two members are appointed and the third is elected by members of the Farmers' Union. I was impressed with the amount of publicity and promotion work that is being achieved by the Victorian Milk Board.

In Western Australia there is a lack of milk promotion, although the producers here were prepared to contribute towards a promotion or publicity scheme. Two years ago seminars were held at Waroona at which people from the Eastern States, Western Australia, and England spoke at length on the desirability and importance of milk publicity and milk promotion.

I found in Victoria that people engaged in the industry are very conscious of the need for publicity and promotion; and the Milk Board gave \$20,000 to the Milk Publicity Committee. It took this action because its members felt that the scheme paid good dividends. The Milk Board has also done a great deal to encourage the sale of flavoured milk in Victoria. From a butterfat point of view, the quality of this milk is immeasurably better than the quality of our milk. The minimum butterfat content of milk in bottles in Western Australia is 3.2 per cent., but in Victoria flavoured milk must contain a minimum of 3 per cent. I think this is why Victoria can sell more whole milk. The board in Victoria has also installed a number of refrigerated dispensers in some of the high schools and in factories enabling people to obtain a cup of flavoured milk for 6c.

I have been conscious of the need for publicity, because if butterfat producers in the southern part of the State were to rely entirely on butterfat, they would have a very difficult time. I am well aware of the fact that a good many of those people would like to obtain a quota on similar terms to those engaged in the wholemilk industry; but the only way these people can enter the wholemilk industry is by the industry selling more milk. I have already said there has been a great expansion; and, with further publicity and promotion in the wholemilk field, we will sell more milk and bring more butterfat producers into the industry.

Eighteen months ago I wrote a letter containing my views on this matter, particularly in relation to the need for something to be done for the butterfat producers, but the letter I received in reply was, I think, fairly typical of the then chairman. It stated that we were then going along quite nicely; that some increase had been made in the quota; and

everything was all right, thank you! I think this was a pretty poor way to deal with the matter. I hope that the new chairman will be sympathetic, because such an attitude will be of benefit not only to those in the industry, but to those outside whom we would like to assist.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Williams): The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: In the few minutes remaining to me I would like to refer briefly to Western Aluminium N.L., and the possibility of its establishing a refinery in the Pinjarra area. I would wholeheartedly welcome the establishment of such a refinery and I believe this would be the opinion of by far the majority of the residents of Pinjarra, and overwhelmingly the opinion of those in towns like Waroona and Mandurah. However, in Pinjarra some residents might have reservations on the subject, particularly the farmers, who feel the even tenor of their lives might be disturbed. They feel that Pinjarra, which has been a sound and well-established town, will be completely changed if this project eventuates.

The Minister spoke at length on the refinery when he was in the area recently. He explained the situation and what would occur if Western Aluminium were to go ahead with its project. I accepted, and was delighted with, his speech, as was everyone else at the well-attended meeting. I was therefore amazed when the member for Cockburn referred to the speech, portions of which were published in the local paper, and said it was all bosh.

This perhaps was not so remarkable because members on his side of the House have made similar statements about the new mining towns of the north. However, the Minister for the North-West who has forecast these developments, both in Parliament and outside, has been proved as ever correct. In fact, the development of these towns has exceeded all expectations. I now sincerely trust and hope that his expectations for Pinjarra will be fulfilled.

I am aware that Western Aluminium has taken options over a large number of properties in the area, and only this week it took up the options in two cases. The amount involved is something like \$750,000. The company has, I believe, handled the situation with the respective farmers in the district exceedingly well. I have heard no-one speak ill of the company, and I do commend it for the public relations it has displayed, particularly in view of the fact that it has not made a decision. At the moment a feasibility study only is involved, but I sincerely hope it proceeds with the project, because it will benefit not only Pinjarra and Mandurah, but the whole of the south-west.

I feel this is a classic example of decentralisation. The whole of the south-west will reap a great deal of benefit from this project if it eventuates. However, I do not wish to say much more about the matter now because, at this stage, as far as I am aware, there is still that "if." I will be delighted if the company makes a decision to proceed with the project. The prospect is very exciting, and the district is experiencing a sort of suppressed excitement in connection with it. Everyone is talking of the possibilities involved for the district in perhaps the not-too-distant future. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

MR. MOIR (Boulder-Dundas) [9.25 p.m.]: Earlier this evening I listened with considerable interest to what the member for Avon had to say about the unfortunate situation prevailing in parts of our agricultural areas. I know he is a very knowledgeable man concerning agriculture and, perhaps, other things as well, and it was really interesting to hear what he had to say about the present situation.

While he was speaking I could not help thinking it was a pity he did not occupy another position where, with the knowledge he has, he might be able to do something about the situation. I mean, it is a pity he is not the Minister for Agriculture, because it is quite evident to us that the Minister for Agriculture—the Deputy Premier—has until recently had no concept of the seriousness of the position. That was indicated clearly here on the 6th August when he interjected when the Leader of the Opposition was speaking and said—

You are trying to panic a situation. What areas of the State are suffering from drought conditions? Name them, please.

Later on, after further exchanges, the Deputy Premier said—

That is a different situation altogether. You said "drought." The Government admits there are some areas of distress, but not areas of drought. There is a difference.

The Leader of the Opposition asked—

Are they not due to drought?

To which the Deputy Premier replied, "No." Nothing could be plainer than that. Further on he said, interjecting again when the Leader of the Opposition was still speaking on the subject—

The Government has everything under control.

Mr. Tonkin: Under control, all right!

Mr. MOIR: I think it is quite apparent to everyone that the Government has everything far from under control. As a matter of fact I doubt if it has barely started to face up to the situation.

I am absolutely amazed at the attitude of the Deputy Premier, who gave as reasons for his statement the fact that his departmental officers had so advised him, and the fact that none of the shire councils he had canvassed on the subject would admit there was a drought.

The member for Merredin-Yilgarn could have told him there was a drought, as also could the members for Mt. Marshall, Roe, and Avon. I do not doubt for one moment that the Minister was told of the situation, and told in very emphatic terms.

Mr. Court: You have to be fair to the Minister for Agriculture. He canvassed the shires and not one of them would declare its area a drought area.

Mr. Tonkin: Has he not eyes of his own?

Mr. Court: You were in Government and you know what has to be done in this respect.

Mr. MOIR: We know the word "drought" is a very nasty word, but when a drought is being experienced, is there any sense in saying there is no drought?

Mr. Gayfer: Only parts, or wards, have been declared even today, but the number is increasing.

Mr. Court: You know the reason for the attitude of the shires. You were a Minister.

Mr. MOIR: Just a bare 12 or 13 days later the shires, one after the other, are declaring their areas drought areas. The drought did not develop in that short space of time.

Mr. Court: There is a reason for the attitude of the shires. You know very well what it is. They are all anxious to get the maximum benefit possible.

Mr. MOIR: Anyway, presumably the Deputy Premier has other avenues of information besides shire councils. After all, not all the shires would consist of farmers alone.

Some farmers were involved, but perhaps business people were included and they would not feel like taking it on themselves to say there was a drought in their area.

Mr. Court: You must admit that the Minister, in his exchanges with the Leader of the Opposition, did say there was distress. There is good reason why the word "drought" was not raised in its official context.

Mr. Tonkin: There is no official war in Vietnam but we are fighting.

Mr. Court: The Leader of the Opposition knows how the shires feel. They have to state that there is a drought before they can receive the maximum benefits.

Mr. MOIR: I have limited time in which to speak. If the Minister for Industrial Development wishes to speak on the Address-in-Reply debate he has a perfect right to do so. However, I want to speak during my allotted time. Just after the exchange to which I have referred took place in this Parliament—probably at the very time the exchange was taking place—*The Esperance Advertiser* was being set up for print. I will read a few extracts from an article published in that paper, as follows:—

Conditions in some parts of the mallee are reported to be the worst since 1924.

Large numbers of sheep are dying as paddock feed has been eaten down to the sand.

Several farmers are reported to have used root rakes to heap dead sheep ready for burning.

Farmers are buying large quantities of seed oats to feed their dying sheep and frail cattle.

Of course, this concerns me very much because that area is part of my electorate. Even if I did not represent those people I would still be concerned, as any responsible resident of this State must be concerned when people are having a very unfortunate experience.

Here let me say, Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Mitchell), that I took very strong exception to your remarks when you spoke the other night and accused the Opposition of shedding crocodile tears over the plight of the farmers. I think that was very unworthy indeed.

Most people in this State over the years, know that the present Opposition party, when in Government, did quite a lot for the farmers. One instance was the extension of the comprehensive water scheme. A tremendous amount of Government money was applied by the Labor Government to extend the comprehensive water scheme. I think the farming community gave credit to the Labor Government for doing that. There were many other urgent projects probably far more to our political advantage, which could have been dealt with, but they were not proceeded with because the Labor Government was State-minded and Western Australian-minded, and was concerned with the people of Western Australia.

The urgent necessity was to get water into those areas which were so dry at times during the summer months. Farmers had to cart their water for miles and miles. I know that some people on the other side of the House will probably ask what the member for Boulder-Dundas, who comes from a mining electorate, knows about farming. I had personal experience of farming before I went mining and I had to cart quite a lot of water in the area

where I farmed. So I, for one, appreciate what the Labor Government of that day spent on expanding the comprehensive water scheme.

Another project greatly to the credit of a Labor Government, and subsequently to the discredit of this Government, was that the Hawke Labor Government set up a hydrological section in the Mines Department. I had the honour to be the Minister in charge of the Mines Department at the time and the hydrological section was set up to locate sites suitable for boring for water. We had three boring plants when that Government went out of office. The boring was done on the basis that if no water was found, good enough for the stock the farmer did not have to pay. If water was located in certain quantities, and of a certain freshness, then the farmer paid for it.

We were overwhelmed with requests for the boring plants to go to different areas. I think the first place to which we sent the drills was the Kalannie area. It was a notably dry area for underground water supplies but I am pleased to say that although we had quite a few failures we did have some success.

When the Hawke Labor Government went out of office the hydrological section of the Mines Department was phased out. I was very disgusted to learn, after some time, that it was being phased out while the geological section was still trying to locate sites for boring. The drills were very expensive and very efficient machines but they were phased out. However, private contractors were brought in to do the boring. I know that subsequently this Government set up a water board committee to allocate loans to areas for dam-sinking and the finding of water, but that operated over a very restricted area.

I can well remember that while Esperance was in my electorate I made representations on behalf of the people in that area who had very poor water supplies. However, the answer was always "No; perhaps some time in the future." The present member for Roe, who now represents that area, has probably also made representations without success.

We now see that the Government is setting to work and is again starting to bore for water. The Government has had almost 11 years in office and it could have carried on with what the Labor Government had done because the project was in full swing when it went out of office.

I do not doubt that if we had not been unfortunate enough to be defeated in 1959 more boring plants would have been used and we would now be able to attract people with the necessary experience for locating suitable sites. Probably quite a

large section of our agricultural areas, which are short of water now, would have had adequate supplies.

I now turn to another matter on which the Government should be criticised. I refer to local government on the gold-fields. Everybody should know by now that some time ago the boundaries commission sat on a complaint lodged by 50 ratepayers of Boulder. The boundaries commission heard evidence and reported to the Minister, and the Minister dissolved the Boulder Town Council.

I asked the Minister concerned in this House whether he would table the relevant papers so that I could see what was in the report and the reasons for the commission reaching its decision. I was not present at the hearing but I am assured by people who were present—including legal men—that the commission did not have a case for dissolving the Boulder Town Council.

Nevertheless, it was done. The Minister immediately said, "The Boulder Council will be dissolved from the 30th June. It will be incorporated in the Kalgoorlie Shire Council." One can understand the concern that was felt in the district when that happened.

Some time elapsed; the Minister made no further statements; and a deputation of the members of the Boulder Council came to Perth to see the Minister. I think it is well for every member of this Chamber to take cognisance of what happened; because what happened in my electorate could quite easily happen in theirs.

The deputation met the Minister, who had made a statement that he was prepared to allow two representatives from the Boulder area to serve on the new Kalgoorlie Shire Council. I repeat: two representatives. Of the area that was involved, the old Boulder Town Council area had 52 per cent. of the voters of the new section against 48 per cent. of ratepayers in the existing shire boundary. Consequently the majority of the people were going to be taken over by the minority. From memory I think there were 11 representatives on the Kalgoorlie Shire Council at that time, and yet only two additional members were to come from the Boulder area. When the deputation met the Minister and pointed out how unfair this situation would be to the ratepayers of Boulder, the Minister said, "Well, I will disband the Kalgoorlie Shire Council, too, and you can have elections for the whole of the area." The members of the deputation replied that they thought that was fair enough and back they went to Boulder.

Because of what has happened since then, however, we do not seem to be reaching a stage where we will have any local representation on either of those two local authorities. Now they are both

dissolved. The personnel and the employees of both the old Boulder Town Council and the Kalgoorlie Shire Council are still operating but they are doing so with a considerable air of uncertainty. They do not know what is going to happen and the people of the areas do not know either.

Nominations were called for the new council and somewhere in the vicinity of 30 or 31 nominations were received from all over the area. Elections were to be held on the 12th July. Certain members of the Kalgoorlie Shire Council took out an injunction and issued a writ against the Minister.

I asked questions in the House as to what was going to happen. The Minister said that requests had been made to divide the areas into wards but that the Department of Local Government would not agree to that although negotiations were still going forward. The Minister did not say what negotiations were going forward or with whom the negotiations were being made.

The Kalgoorlie Shire has been dissolved and, as there are no members of the Kalgoorlie Shire, I do not know how they could negotiate. Of course, the Boulder Town Council does not exist, and certainly the members who were previously on that council did not negotiate. They do not even know what the negotiations are about. All they were told was that proposals were put to the Minister by the people who took out the writ to the effect that wards would be set up. The suggestion was that there should be six members for the shire area, a further two members—one for the pastoral areas and one for the mining areas in the shire—which would give eight members, and that there should be four members for the area that was previously the Boulder Town Council area.

In the words of one of the ex-Boulder town councillors this suggestion was regarded as a gerrymander and I agree with him. Fortunately, the Minister for Local Government did not agree to that suggestion. However the situation today is that nobody knows what is happening.

I asked questions in the House only recently and was told that elections would be held and that some determination was expected in a fortnight's time. The Minister said that an Order-in-Council would be made. I understand that when an Order-in-Council is made it takes some seven weeks before elections can be held.

That is the deplorable situation with which we are faced in the Kalgoorlie Shire area and the Boulder Town Council area. A large proportion of the Kalgoorlie Shire council and the whole of the Boulder Town Council area are in my electorate.

The most puzzling thing is that the Minister assured the members of the deputation that nominations would be called and elections held for the whole of the area. When the deputation came away from the Minister its members said, "If the Minister had made the announcement that he would dissolve the Kalgoorlie Shire Council as well, we would have been quite happy."

It should be understood that a majority of people believe that the ratepayers could possibly be better off through the two councils combining. There is not so much objection to what has come about, but there is objection to the way it has been brought about. Had the Minister made that statement at the time he dissolved the Boulder Town Council, the ratepayers would not have been worried to the extent that they have.

However, what do we find? We find that after a letter appeared in *The Independent* newspaper, the Minister saw fit to write a letter to that paper in which he made a most extraordinary comment. The letter is headed, "Goldfields Councils" and appeared in *The Independent* on the 27th July. It says—

My attention has been drawn to articles which you published on July 13, 1969, which contained the following erroneous statements:

1. . . . after a protest from Boulder, it was decided that the Kalgoorlie Shire Council should also be dissolved . . .

2 'later, the Minister for Local Government, yielded to further pressure and dissolved the Kalgoorlie body as well.'

In fact, the decision to terminate the terms of office of members of the Shire of Kalgoorlie was made at the same time as the proposal to dissolve the district of the Town of Boulder, and this was approved by Executive Council before any representations being made to me by members of the council of the Town of Boulder.

It would have been manifestly unfair to have deprived the ratepayers of Boulder of representation, and at the same time provide for their being governed by members of the existing Kalgoorlie Shire.

It was intended that the Commissioner would act as 'caretaker' for the minimum period necessary to enable a truly representative Council to function.

L. A. LOGAN,

Minister for Local Government.

I find that hard to believe. Had the Minister made the statement which he should have made when he dissolved the Boulder Town Council there would have

been no deputation. The deputation comprised the Mayor of Boulder, the town clerk, and two council members. Would they have come to Perth if the Minister had made that statement? The Minister never made the statement until he made it to the deputation. Yet, he wrote to the Press a letter which, I say, is completely untrue. I consider that the action of the Minister in this respect is deplorable.

There is another aspect to this situation. A Local Government Assessment Committee was set up by this Government, the members of which sat for some considerable time and travelled all over the State assessing local governments. The committee made a report to the Government that certain councils and shires should be amalgamated. In respect of the goldfields, it made the recommendation, which is contained at page 22 of the report, that the four local authorities consisting of the Town of Boulder, the Town of Kalgoorlie, the Shire of Kalgoorlie, and the Coolgardie Shire Council should be amalgamated.

All the Minister was prepared to do was to amalgamate two of them. When he took steps to amalgamate, why did he not amalgamate at least three? As the committee pointed out, at the time of its assessment Kambalda, which is in the Coolgardie Shire, did not exist, and of course the town of Kambalda now places a different aspect on the situation so far as the Coolgardie Shire is concerned.

One would have thought that in the interests of better local government the Minister would have adopted the Local Government Assessment Committee's recommendations to the extent of amalgamating the three local authorities that govern Kalgoorlie and Boulder, because I do not think that would have created much dissent amongst the ratepayers. However, the action he did take certainly raised tremendous dissent among them. In fact, the two areas—Boulder, and the area in Kalgoorlie that comes under the shire—were very wrathful over his action and strangely enough a number of people in the shire area were very wrathful about the unfair treatment meted out to Boulder.

The Minister is greatly to blame for what happened. I believe he is to blame because the ratepayers in that area have not had any local government representative since the 30th June, and are likely to be without one for some considerable time yet. That is a shocking situation. If the Minister adopts a similar attitude towards other local authorities I can expect more members to rise in their places in this Chamber to protest against his actions in the same way as I am this evening.

Whilst speaking of Kalgoorlie and Boulder, I want to point to something that does not seem to be fully realised by many

members. That is the tremendous growth of Kalgoorlie, Boulder, and their surrounding areas. All members know, of course, about Kambalda, but I doubt whether they are fully aware of the expansion that has taken place there; of the large number of buildings that have erected; and of all the facilities that are required to establish a township. A great deal of money has been spent on such facilities at that centre.

Shortly the construction of a hotel is about to commence at Kambalda, which will cost \$1,000,000. As it continues to expand, Kambalda will become a large country town; in fact, it will be one of the largest in the State.

Other discoveries of nickel have been made in areas surrounding Kalgoorlie, but not of the same magnitude as the discovery at Kambalda. Discoveries have been made at Scotia, Carr Boyd, south of Coolgardie, and Widgiemooltha; and I see that recently mining has been resumed at a place called Cowarna on the trans-Australia line. However, I am sure we will not see big towns springing up around those places, because a lesson has been learnt by establishing a town on the mining site at Kambalda. I know that the workers, at least, are dissatisfied about living in the town of Kambalda which is a company town and a very expensive place in which to live. For example, those living there pay \$23 a week for accommodation. To hire a hall in that town for the purpose of holding a function in the evening costs \$127. So it is pretty expensive for anyone who desires to hold a function in the town of Kambalda.

Mr. Young: It costs \$127 to hire the hall for the evening?

Mr. MOIR: Yes. The Leader of the Opposition was present, together with other goldfields members, at the function at which I was present and he was amazed to know what the hiring charge was.

Mr. Williams: It probably has a nickel floor.

Mr. MOIR: That could be true. The function that was being held was for a worthy cause, and I know the company made a donation towards defraying the expenses.

Mr. Young: Is the hall paid for yet?

Mr. MOIR: It will not be long before it is.

Mr. Harman: The hall is owned by the Western Mining Corporation.

Mr. MOIR: Yes, that is so. I know that people who live at Kambalda have shifted into Kalgoorlie and Boulder because they have to travel only a distance of 35 miles to and from work along a beautiful road. Therefore, it does not take them very long to travel that distance, and it would probably take them

less time to travel it than it takes people in the metropolitan area to travel to and from work, because they do not have the same traffic hazards.

Nevertheless, I have to admit that several people have been killed on that road because of the speed at which they travel along it, the principle reason being, no doubt, that it has such an excellent surface.

I do not think that any of the new nickel mining companies will be building towns on the sites of the mines. No doubt they will build houses for their key personnel, but the remainder of their work force will either have to live in Coolgardie if they are working on those mines in the vicinity of Coolgardie, or at Kalgoorlie or Boulder if they are working on those mines situated on the north-east of those two centres. Therefore, I do not think there is much chance of our again seeing any large company towns being established in those parts.

With the growth of these new towns some concern has been expressed over the adequacy of the water supplies. I feel quite certain the Minister has been concerned about the development that has taken place and the additional supplies of water that will be needed to serve the people in those areas, because it does not matter whether new towns are established on the mining sites, or whether additional houses are built in Kalgoorlie or Boulder, the occupants of them will still require water.

One of the main reasons, of course, that it is more advisable for workers to be housed in Kalgoorlie or Boulder is that the necessary facilities required by the workers already exist in those centres. There are doctors and dentists, shopping centres, picture theatres, and many other facilities, whereas in the new towns these facilities have to be provided. As country members are well aware, it is very difficult to obtain a doctor who will practise in a town of 4,000 or 5,000 people, because doctors are keen to practise in large centres where better medical and hospital facilities are available to them. Even now, in Kalgoorlie and Boulder people find it difficult to get adequate medical attention because of the shortage of doctors.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: But would you not agree it would be useless to transport a doctor to Kambalda to treat a patient? The patient would surely travel from Kambalda to the nearest large centre.

Mr. MOIR: I do not know what the position would be in regard to a person at Kambalda who required medical attention. I understand there are some Kalgoorlie doctors who visit Kambalda on certain week days. What I am trying to indicate is that I would not care to be living at Kambalda and become seriously ill in the middle of the night and so be

obliged to travel to Kalgoorlie to receive medical attention or to be admitted as a hospital patient. I know there is an ambulance and a first aid centre at Kambalda, together with other attendant facilities, but we all know that emergencies occur, and people would be far better off if they were domiciled in large centres where all the necessary facilities are available.

In Kalgoorlie there are two large hospitals, together with various doctors' and dentists' clinics, and so on. In returning to the question of water, I believe that the Minister for Water Supplies will have a real problem on his hands supplying water to these new towns.

At this point let me refer to the drought. The Minister will have a tremendous problem on his hands supplying water to those rural areas that require it. In citing Salmon Gums as an example, I know that in that district water will have to be carted from Norseman, and in serving Kambalda, the Norseman mines, and the people of Norseman itself, there would not be much water in reserve at Norseman. I am certain that the people there are quite prepared to accept any water restrictions imposed upon them so that water can be supplied to those people who are now in dire need of it, just as I am certain, as the member for Avon has pointed out, that the people in the metropolitan area would be only too willing to have water restrictions imposed upon them so that water could be supplied to those people who are in great need of it.

I recently received a copy of a report of the annual general meeting of the Chamber of Mines held at Kalgoorlie on Tuesday, the 27th May. Some of the figures contained in the report are very interesting. We have heard a great deal of talk and propaganda about what the north and the large iron ore discoveries mean to us. While they may mean quite a lot to us I do not think they mean as much as we imagine they do. The benefit of any large project depends to a great extent on the number of people it employs; on the wages it provides; and on the fact that these wages circulate into the economy of the State.

I am sure members will be intrigued to know that up to the end of 1967 the goldmining industry employed more men than all the other mineral producing industries of the State put together; and that includes coal and everything else.

In 1967 the goldmining industry employed 4,027 people. The other mineral producing industries, which cover alumina, bauxite, coal, iron ore for export, iron ore (pig), manganese, nickel, petroleum, tin, and others, together employed 3,823 men. In 1967 there were 204 more men employed in the goldmining industry than in all the other mineral producing industries in Western Australia put together.

These figures would be authentic, because almost all of the mining companies are members of the Chamber of Mines and they send their returns to that body. The department would also check these returns. In 1968 there was a decline in the number of people employed in the goldmining industry and the figure dropped to 3,887, a decline of 140, while the number employed in all other mineral producing industries increased to 4,123. So in 1968 more people were employed in recovering other minerals than were employed in the goldmining industry.

There is no doubt, however, that it would be possible for the goldmining industry to employ more men than it is at present. I am quite cognisant of the fact that one of our big employers of labour—the Great Boulder mine—has more or less gone into mothballs and that its activities are now directed to the treating of nickel.

In the paper the other day I saw the labour figures for the Commonwealth Employment Bureau in Kalgoorlie and I noticed that in July last year 305 jobs were vacant, while last month there were 444 vacancies. I know that all the people offering for work are not capable of taking on any job they might be offered, so we must bear that point in mind. As I have said, many more people could be employed in the goldmining industry than there are at present, but I do not know whether many more men could be employed in the nickel mining industry than is the case at present.

A matter that concerns me quite considerably is the question of travel on the new east-west train; and I refer particularly to the section from Kalgoorlie to Port Pirie. I have made a couple of trips on that train and for the benefit of the Minister for Railways I will indicate that it is a most uncomfortable trip. I would far rather travel on the *Kalgoorlie Express* than on the new train.

I admit that though the appointments are really beautiful, the air-conditioning is lamentable; it leaves a lot to be desired, and it causes distress to quite a few people.

At first I thought that perhaps it was the elderly people and those suffering from chest trouble and bronchitis who were discomforted, but I made a survey among the workers on the train, a number of whom were young men, and they all assured me that they were affected in the same way.

Mr. O'Connor: Did you notify the department?

Mr. MOIR: I am notifying the Minister. I asked the Minister some questions in the House recently and his reply disappointed me. I asked him what system of air-conditioning operated on the Perth-Port Pirie express and he told me; but I

also asked whether the air was recirculated throughout the train or whether it was drawn from the outside and the Minister replied that the air was recirculated.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. O'Connor: I said 80 per cent. was recirculated, and 20 per cent. was new air.

Mr. MOIR: I then asked the Minister what steps were taken to recondition or purify the air, to which he replied as follows:—

Air is recirculated with limited admission of fresh air from bleed points, i.e., 80 per cent. recirculated air: 20 per cent. new air. There is no purification.

So on that long train, which possibly carries hundreds of people, the passengers are breathing the same air over and over again, because there is no fresh air.

One young fellow whom I asked about this said it affected him very badly. When I asked him whether he suffered from chest trouble he said he did not, but he still found it necessary to stick his head out of the window in order to breathe in some fresh air.

The people occupying cabins in the train cannot do this, of course, because everything is air-conditioned and sealed. When the Minister gave me the answers to which I have referred, I asked him whether he had received any complaints and he said that there were some complaints respecting temperature, humidity, and various odours, but these complaints had been made verbally to the technician on the train.

Mr. O'Connor: The complaints to which you referred were the first indication I had.

Mr. MOIR: In his answer the Minister did not go on to say—as I would have expected him to—that the matter would be investigated and that some remedial action would be taken.

Mr. O'Connor: We have to co-operate with the Commonwealth on this.

Mr. MOIR: If the Commonwealth Government is satisfied with these conditions that is no reason for the State to be satisfied with them.

Mr. O'Connor: Some of its wagons are involved.

Mr. MOIR: If the Commonwealth Government is prepared to subject its passengers to this sort of thing there is no reason for us to do the same. Let us have some system of change at Kalgoorlie so that the Eastern States passengers travelling from Kalgoorlie to Perth can do so in comfort. I am sure they will bless the Government for any step it might take in this direction.

Mr. Gayfer: The last idea of comfort on that line was not too good.

Mr. MOIR: This is a new train and I admit it is beautifully appointed, but one does expect to travel in comfort on such a train. I would far sooner travel on the *Kalgoorlie Express* than on this new train.

Mr. O'Connor: Is the air conditioning your only complaint?

Mr. MOIR: There is one other complaint I have apart from the air conditioning, and it refers to the fact that the Government has seen fit to introduce a charge of 25c for a cup of tea and a biscuit. So if one is travelling with one's wife it costs 50c for two cups of tea and two biscuits.

Mr. Brady: They will be able to pay the interest on their loan after all.

Mr. MOIR: I think the Government should have a look at this matter. I have travelled on the *Kalgoorlie Express* for many years and passengers have always been given a cup of tea and a biscuit in the morning, apart from which they have always been provided with the morning paper.

Mr. Gayfer: You were not paying him; you were tipping him.

Mr. MOIR: The Treasurer was not paying for this. I have travelled on the train for many years, and I paid for the meals out of my own pocket. I hope the Minister for Railways will have a good look at this matter. It is a black mark against what otherwise is a very good service.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Cash.

House adjourned at 10.10 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 21st August, 1969

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. N. E. Baxter) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (5): ON NOTICE

1. and 2. *These questions were postponed.*

3. ARCHITECTS BOARD *Election of Members*

The Hon. J. HEITMAN (for The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS) asked the Minister for Mines:

Would the Minister supply the names, and the date that they were elected, of the six members of the Architects Board who are elected by the registered architects?