

will always carry out that principle; it will redound to your credit, of course, and to the dignity of the House.

I will conclude with a little prayer that in the time I remain in the House the Lord may grant me grace to accept things which I cannot change; that He will grant me the courage to change things which I can change; and that He will give me wisdom to know the difference.

I support the motion, but before I resume my seat I would again pay tribute to the officers of the House, and to the many public servants with whom I have had to deal. I have always been received with the utmost courtesy and have been given the greatest consideration. I extend those remarks also to the Ministers on the other side of the House. Of course, Ministers say "No" to a lot of requests which I make, but they say it in such a polite way I do not feel like going back and telling them what I really think of them.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. N. McNeill.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [8.52 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 13th August.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 8.53 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 7th August, 1968

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

#### QUESTIONS (38): ON NOTICE

##### MOOCHALABRA CREEK

##### *Damming*

1. Mr. **RIDGE** asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) In consideration of an anticipated upsurge in the development in the Wyndham area as a result of the proposal to proceed with the main dam on the Ord, will he advise if his department has investigated the possibility of improving the town water supply by damming Moochalabra Creek?
- (2) If "Yes," when does he anticipate that work on the project will commence?

Mr. **ROSS HUTCHINSON** replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A commencement on the scheme is under consideration for the 1968-69 works programme which, as yet, has not been finalised.

#### GAOLS

##### *Wyndham and Derby: New Buildings*

2. Mr. **RIDGE** asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is it intended to build new gaols at—
  - (a) Wyndham;
  - (b) Derby?
- (2) If "Yes," when could the work be commenced?
- (3) If "No," will he authorise an appropriate authority to report on the structural, health, and security aspects of the existing buildings?

Mr. **O'CONNOR** (for Mr. Craig) replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) A regional prison is programmed for Port Hedland. It is intended that probably within six months the police gaol at Derby will be closed and prisoners will be transferred to Broome. The buildings were inspected 12 months ago by the Comptroller of Prisons and every endeavour is made to have them inspected once yearly by an official of the Prisons Department.

#### POLICE VEHICLES

##### *Refuelling Services*

3. Mr. **HARMAN** asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) At what centres in the metropolitan area are police vehicles able to obtain fuel after 5 p.m. and before 6 a.m. on week days?
- (2) At what centres are refuelling services available on weekends and holidays?

Mr. **O'CONNOR** (for Mr. Craig) replied:

- (1) (a) The Transport Section, Maylands; Fremantle Police Station; and Midland Police Station.
- (b) Stations at Cannington, Cottesloe, and Gosnells hold small supplies for their own uses, but these are available if required.
- (c) Roe Street, Perth, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday.
- (2) The Transport Section, Maylands; Fremantle Police Station; and Midland Police Station.

## CHILD WELFARE

*Payments to Indigent Wives and Dependants*

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

- (1) What was the total cost of relief paid to indigent wives and their dependants in all categories for the financial years ended the 30th June, 1967, and the 30th June, 1968?
- (2) What was the total cost of relief paid to indigent wives and their dependants for the "husband in prison" category for the same years?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) For the financial year ended the 30th June, 1967, \$393,355.  
For the financial year ended the 30th June, 1968, \$385,647.

(Note: These totals cover relief payments made to all indigent women and includes unmarried mothers. The figure covering those who are indigent wives is not available.)

- (2) The accounting system of the department does not enable this question to be answered with complete accuracy at present. It is estimated, however, that those indigent wives in the "husband in prison" category comprise 9.5 per cent. of the total number of indigent cases dealt with by the department. The approximate cost for the year ended the 30th June, 1967, would, therefore, be \$37,368. The approximate cost for the year ended June, 1968, would be \$36,636.

## SEWERAGE

*Lot 176 Watkins Road, Dalkeith:  
Connection and Rates*

5. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) On what date did the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board issue a certificate that the sewerage house-connections to the property, Lot 176 Watkins Road, Dalkeith, had been satisfactorily completed?
- (2) On what date was a rate notice issued for sewerage rates on Lot 176 Watkins Road, Dalkeith?
- (3) Is it the board's policy to impose a sewerage rate on newly-constructed dwellings in sewered areas before the necessary certificates relating to sewerage connections to the properties have been issued by the board?

- (4) If "No," will he explain why the property at Lot 176 Watkins Road, Dalkeith, was rated and why the acting Minister for Works on the 27th January, 1967, refused to cancel the notice on the grounds that "the actual construction of the house has been completed to that stage where it could be occupied"?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No certificate has been issued.
- (2) The property has been rated from the 1st July, 1951.
- (3) Yes. The rating of a property is not necessarily in any way related to the issue of a sewerage certificate. Rates are imposed on a property as provided for in the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act when a sewer that can serve a property is available for connection.
- (4) Answered by (3).

## KWINANA FREEWAY

*Damage to Light Posts*

6. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Works:

Relative to the placing of light poles in the median strip of Kwinana Freeway—

- (1) Could not both the near and off side kerbs be well lit on both north and south free-ways by poles positioned in the median strip?
- (2) Whereas at present only a slight deviation to the left on either freeway can cause pole and car damage and possibly injury or fatality, would not vehicles have to cross from the left to the right of the freeway to collide with such poles?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No, not from the viewpoint of the motorist.
- (2) Vehicles in the right hand lane would only have to deviate slightly to the right on either freeway to cause pole and car damage.

The incidence of accidents involving poles on the Freeway has been causing the Minister for Electricity concern, and he has asked the commission to have the situation investigated.

May I say in addition, that this question should have been correctly addressed to the Minister for Electricity, but I have answered it on this occasion on his behalf.

## TRAFFIC

*Metropolitan Area: 35 m.p.h. Signs*

7. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many 35 m.p.h. signs exist in the metropolitan area?
- (2) Where are they situated?
- (3) Are there any on Stirling or Canning highways?

Mr. O'CONNOR (for Mr. Craig) replied:

- (1) 222.
- (2) These signs are erected—
  - (a) at the boundary of the metropolitan traffic area where major roads enter the area;
  - (b) on roads subjected to speed zoning where the zone changes to a 35 m.p.h. limit zone;
  - (c) on both ends of Canning Highway;
  - (d) on the Perth end of Stirling Highway but excludes those erected by other parties, such as the Fremantle Port Authority on private property.
- (3) Answered by (2) (c) and (2) (d).

## FISHING

*Blow Holes: Point Quobba*

8. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

Has an area at the Blow Holes, Point Quobba, been gazetted as a prohibited area for the netting of fish; if not, is it the intention of his department to prohibit netting in this area?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Yes. Notice published in the *Government Gazette* on the 14th June, 1968.

9. *This question was postponed.*

## MAIN ROADS GRANTS

*Availability to North-West Shire Councils*

10. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

What amount has been made available by way of main roads grants for developmental roads and important secondary roads over the past three years to the following shires:—

- (a) Shark Bay;
- (b) Carnarvon;
- (c) Upper Gascoyne;
- (d) Murchison;
- (e) Exmouth?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

|                                               | 1966-67   | 1967-68 | 1968-69 |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| <b>Shark Bay—</b>                             | \$        | \$      | \$      |
| Developmental roads                           | 16,000    | 12,700  | 12,700  |
| Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund) | 3,200     | 3,040   | 3,712   |
| Important secondary roads                     | 25,000    | 20,000  | 20,000  |
| <b>Carnarvon—</b>                             |           |         |         |
| Developmental roads                           | 81,580    | 46,440  | 38,440  |
| Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund) | 63,180    | 69,606  | 77,283  |
| Important secondary roads                     | 1,010,000 | 41,000  | 173,000 |
| <b>Upper Gascoyne—</b>                        |           |         |         |
| Developmental roads                           | 28,170    | 29,800  | 40,800  |
| Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund) | 4,812     | 4,900   | 6,400   |
| Important secondary roads                     | 16,000    | 14,000  | 31,000  |
| <b>Murchison—</b>                             |           |         |         |
| Developmental roads                           | 10,500    | 20,000  | 20,000  |
| Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund) | 4,301     | 4,116   | 7,842   |
| Important secondary roads                     | 24,000    | 15,000  | 15,550  |
| <b>Exmouth—</b>                               |           |         |         |
| Developmental roads                           | 15,000    | 10,200  | 11,700  |
| Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund) | 31,122    | 39,356  | 33,351  |
| Important secondary roads                     | 103,200   | 43,000  |         |

## PARLIAMENT

*Second Sitting*

11. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Premier: To give country members an opportunity to make early arrangements for accommodation in the city, is he able to indicate the likely commencing date of the second sitting of this session of Parliament in 1969 and the approximate duration of the session?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No. A decision on these two matters will be made in approximately three weeks' time.

## STATE BATTERIES

*Ore Crushings*

12. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What was the yearly tonnage of ore crushed at the following State batteries for the years 1964, 1965, 1966, and 1967:—

- (a) Kalgoorlie,
- (b) Ora Banda;
- (c) Menzies;
- (d) Leonora?

- (2) What tonnage has so far this year been crushed by each of the said batteries?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

|                    | (1)   | 1964<br>tons | 1965<br>tons | 1966<br>tons | 1967<br>tons |
|--------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| (a) Kalgoorlie     | ..... | 9,429½       | 7,892½       | 5,234½       | 6,303½       |
| (b) Ora Banda      | ..... | 10,285       | 14,827       | 6,574½       | 1,157½       |
| (c) Menzies        | ..... | 3,412½       | 3,446½       | 2,594        | 1,740        |
| (d) Leonora        | ..... | 827½         | 322          | 1,008        | 1,761        |
|                    |       |              |              |              | tons         |
| (2) (a) Kalgoorlie | ..... |              |              |              | 3,532½       |
| (b) Ora Banda      | ..... |              |              |              | 785½         |
| (c) Menzies        | ..... |              |              |              | 833½         |
| (d) Leonora        | ..... |              |              |              | 784          |

13. *This question was postponed.*

## BLOOD IN HUMAN BODY

### *Volume and Alcohol Absorption*

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

- (1) What volume of blood does the human body contain?
- (2) Is it a fact that this amount of blood varies little from individual to individual having regard to the build of a human being?
- (3) What factors are recognised as having the effect of retarding the absorption of alcohol into the blood of a person who has consumed alcohol?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Blood makes up approximately 7 per cent. of the body weight so that the blood volume of a man of average weight (70 kg.) is about 5 litres.
- (2) "The blood volume in terms of body weight shows considerable variation from person to person. Changes in body density alter this relationship of blood volume to body weight. The relationship between blood volume and body height shows a similar variability". (*The Physiological Basis of Medical Practice* by C. H. Best and N. B. Taylor, 1966, page 490).
- (3) Factors which retard the passage of alcohol from the stomach into the small intestine (from which alcohol is mainly absorbed); that is, the presence of food in the stomach and particularly fatty foods.

## PORT OF DAMPIER

### *Control by Company*

15. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Will he table a plan showing the port area under the control of the company at Dampier?
- (2) What is the area in terms of square miles considered to come under the control of the company as a port?
- (3) Is there an area in the vicinity of Rosemary Island which is considered a reasonably safe anchorage during cyclones; if so, would it be necessary for a ship to obtain permission from the company to anchor there during a cyclone or at any other time?
- (4) Is it the intention of the Government to have the control of the port of Dampier vested in the Harbour and Light Department some time in the future; if so, when; if not, why not?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) The area has not yet been defined, but the company has control over the areas covered by leases for dredging and wharf structures.  
A plan showing such areas is being prepared for the honourable member's information.
- (3) Anchorage in the vicinity of Rosemary Island is not considered safe for other than small craft with knowledge of local waters. Anchorage in Mermaid Strait is considered reasonably safe. Ships are not required to obtain permission.
- (4) In accepting the detailed proposals from Hamersley Iron, the State has reserved the right, subject to the provisions of the agreement, to make any proclamation under the Shipping and Pilotage Act, 1967.  
This Act gives the Governor the right to proclaim Dampier a port. Because the State has reserved the right referred to, the time when the port may be proclaimed under the Shipping and Pilotage Act, 1967, will be dependent on the operations of the company and the general development by others requiring major usage of the port.

16. *This question was postponed.*

## KWINANA FREEWAY

### *Congestion at Canning Bridge*

17. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware of the current traffic bottleneck which exists at the city end of Canning Bridge?
- (2) If so, what action is contemplated to alleviate this congestion?  
*Canning Highway Interchange*
- (3) When is it anticipated that particulars of the Canning Highway Kwinana Freeway interchange will be made available to the public?
- (4) Has the point where the freeway crosses the river been determined?
- (5) If "Yes," where is the exact location?
- (6) Is it intended for the freeway to fly over Canning Highway?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) In common with many other intersections in the metropolitan area there is some congestion at the city end of Canning Bridge at peak hours.
- (2) There is no simple solution to the problem. Major investigations including detailed planning, will be required.

- (3) Considerable time will elapse before investigations are completed to enable a design to be prepared.
- (4) Yes, subject to acceptance of an amendment to the region plan by Parliament.
- (5) The precise location has not been determined. It will extend generally on the line of Mt. Henry and Beryl Place.
- (6) No. The present planning indicates that it will be necessary to raise Canning Highway to permit the freeway to pass under it.

#### ADVANCE MANUFACTURING CO. PTY. LTD. WORKSHOP

##### *Connection with Public Health Department*

18. Mr. MENSAROS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:
  - (1) Is there any connection between the workshop, described on the building as "Advance Manufacturing Co. Pty. Ltd.," situated on the north-east corner of Alfred and Brockway Roads, Graylands, and the Public Health Department (Department of Mental Health)?
  - (2) If "Yes," what is this connection (ownership, contract to train and rehabilitate post mental patients, etc.)?
  - (3) Could he give information whether it is anticipated to shift the workshop from the above premises?
  - (4) If "Yes," when?
  - (5) If the answer to (3) is "Yes," what will the existing building referred to in (1) be used for?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The staff and patients are under the control of the Mental Health Services, Officer in Charge of Rehabilitation.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) December, 1968.
- (5) Building will revert to the owners, i.e., the Commonwealth Department of Interior.

#### BULK WHEAT EXPORTS

##### *Determination of Port*

19. Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Agriculture:  
What authority determines the port where bulk wheat is despatched from in Western Australia?
- Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:  
The Australian Wheat Board.

#### SEWERAGE

##### *Collie Township*

20. Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

When is it anticipated that the Collie sewerage line will be extended into the northern section of the Collie township?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Some 200 acres in North Collie on the western side of Steere Street are already sewered, and further extensions will be governed by the rate of connection to the existing system and availability of loan funds.

No further extensions are proposed this financial year.

#### VAPOUR INJECTION UNIT

##### *Inspection and Departmental Action*

21. Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

What was the offer his department made to test Mr. Kohler's vapour injection unit and the date of the letter when the offer was made?

Mr. COURT replied:

The Department of Industrial Development offered to arrange for the necessary testing to be undertaken by the Royal Automobile Club of Western Australia, which is a recognised and competent testing authority.

This was indicated verbally to Mr. Kohler on a number of occasions and also in letters from the department dated the 23rd November, 1961, and the 10th October, 1962.

#### ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

##### *Capacity of South-West Transmission Lines*

22. Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Electricity:

(1) Are the existing transmission lines from the south-west to the metropolitan area capable of handling electricity generated from the Bunbury and Muja power houses if the stations were operated at peak load and if the Collie station continues to feed into the grid system at usual level of output?

(2) If the lines are not capable of handling all power produced, what alterations would be necessary, and what is the anticipated capital cost involved?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Answered by (1).

*East Perth and South Fremantle Power Stations: Conversion to Fuel Oil*

23. Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Electricity:

When is it anticipated that the South Fremantle and East Perth power stations will be completely converted to fuel oil stations?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:  
Towards the end of this year.

**WILSON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Tenders for Extensions*

24. Mr. JONES asked the Minister for Education:

When were tenders called for the proposed extensions to the Wilson Park Primary School, Collie, and in what newspaper did the tenders appear?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Tenders have not been called. Applications were invited from registered builders to register for documents. Advertisements appeared in *The West Australian* of the 29th June and in the *Southwestern Times* of the 4th July.

**PORT OF DAMPIER**

*Hamersley Mining Company's Regulation: Tabling*

25. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Works:

Will he table a copy of the Hamersley Mining Company's regulation governing the Port of Dampier?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Regulations of this nature are still under consideration.

Mr. Tonkin: That cannot be right; I have a copy of them.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I would like to have a look.

Mr. Tonkin: I have had them for two or three years.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: As I said, I would like to have a look.

Mr. Tonkin: I will bring them in tomorrow.

**BRIDGETOWN HOSPITAL**

*Additions*

26. Mr. KITNEY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

(1) Has any decision been made regarding additions to Bridgetown Hospital?

(2) If "Yes," when are they likely to commence?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) and (2) No. Matters are being delayed pending a decision with regard to the availability of loan funds.

**STATE HOUSING COMMISSION**

*Balance Sheet: Advances*

27. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

What are the facts and circumstances regarding the items appearing in the State Housing Commission balance sheet under the headings—

(a) Advance to Young Women's Christian Association \$40,000; and

(b) Advances for Pensioners' Home Maintenance?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

(a) This represents an advance made in 1956 to the association by the Treasury, from State funds to complete building alterations. The account is administered by the commission.

(b) This represents an advance of funds by the Treasury to the commission to assist pensioners to carry out essential maintenance to homes owned by them.

**FIREARMS**

*License Holders*

28. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Police:

(1) How many persons are the holders of licenses entitling them to possess firearms?

(2) How many of these persons have residential addresses in the metropolitan area?

(3) What is the total number of firearms the subject of firearm licenses?

(4) How many of these weapons are possessed by people in the metropolitan area?

(5) Of the total number of firearms, how many are pistols and other concealable weapons, and of these how many are in the metropolitan area?

(6) During the last five years how many applications have been—

(a) granted;

(b) refused?

(7) Has he any idea of the approximate numbers of firearms; and, if so, what are the numbers possessed by those exempted from the necessity to obtain licenses, such as—

(a) members of rifle clubs;

(b) common carriers or warehousemen and their servants;

(c) primary producers?

Mr. O'CONNOR (for Mr. Craig) replied:

- (1) 77,538.
- (2) Licence holders are not tabulated as between metropolitan and country areas. A manual dissection would require considerable clerical effort but if it is essential the information could be obtained.
- (3) The exact number is not known, but the total is approximately 150,000. Only concealable firearms are separately indexed.
- (4) See answer to (2).
- (5) Total concealable weapons is 5,539 of which approximately 85 per cent. would be held in the metropolitan area.
- (6) (a) 38,572 granted.  
(b) 347 refused.
- (7) (a) There are approximately 2,127 rifles of .303 calibre used by members of rifle clubs. It has not been found necessary to keep records of members of small bore rifle clubs.  
(b) The number of common carriers or warehousemen and their servants in this category is not known and I am doubtful if such a figure could be obtained.  
(c) Primary producers themselves are not exempt under the Act. Their servants are exempt only when using a firearm licensed by their employer at the direction of such employer and on the employer's land for the purpose of destruction of vermin. The number of such persons so engaged is not known.

#### CREAM

##### *Butterfat Content*

29. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Referring to my question, dated the 9th November, 1967, can he now advise whether any changes have been made or are proposed to the butterfat content of table cream sold in this State?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied: Consideration is being given to alternate table creams in addition to the present pasteurised cream of 40 per cent. butterfat content.

#### TROPIC OF CAPRICORN AND MT. NEWMAN TOWNSITE

##### *Latitude Variations*

30. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What is the most northerly and the most southerly points of lati-

tude to which the Tropic of Capricorn moves each year, due to the variation of the earth's irregular rotation on its axis?

- (2) What is the geographical position, latitude and longitude, of the centre of the townsite reserve of Mt. Newman?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) and (2) Mr. Speaker, I should prefer that this question be postponed until Tuesday next. There is, as far as I am aware, no definable variation annually. It takes place over a period of years and, in view of circumstances, the points of latitude of the Tropic of Capricorn are currently under consideration by the Western Australian Government and all other Governments in Australia.

The SPEAKER: In view of the answer which has been given does the Minister still want the question postponed?

Mr. BOVELL: I may be able to obtain further information.

The SPEAKER: Question postponed till Tuesday next.

#### HOUSING

##### *Emergent Applicants*

31. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

How many applicants who have been approved for emergent housing have not yet been offered accommodation?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

|                | Families | Pensioner | Total |
|----------------|----------|-----------|-------|
| Perth Area     | 15       | 17        | 32    |
| Fremantle Area | 6        | 3         | 9     |
| Midland        | 1        | ....      | 1     |
| Medina         | 1        | ....      | 1     |

#### AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOLS

##### *Admissions and Qualifications*

32. Mr. KITNEY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What number of students attended the following schools of agriculture in 1966, 1967, and what is the 1968 number:—
  - (a) Denmark;
  - (b) Harvey;
  - (c) Cunderdin;
  - (d) Narrogin?
- (2) How many applications were received in that period for each school?
- (3) What educational qualifications are required for admission?
- (4) How are applicants chosen?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1)

|               | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| (a) Denmark   | 40   | 39   | 41   |
| (b) Harvey    | 36   | 43   | 48   |
| (c) Cunderdin | 67   | 70   | 70   |
| (d) Narrogin  | 100  | 102  | 110  |

- (2) It is not possible to state the number of applications for each individual school. Applicants apply for training in individual schools in order of school preference. Most applicants apply for a number of schools. Total number of applicants were: 1966, 190; 1967, 198; 1968, 199.

Approximately half of the total enrolments are admitted each year as this is a two-year course.

- (3) The minimum qualification is successful completion of first year secondary education.
- (4) By a selection board consisting of a chairman appointed by the Minister for Education and two officers of the Education Department.

### HOUSING

#### *Availability to State Electricity Commission*

33. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the State Housing Commission built any houses for, or made any houses available to, the State Electricity Commission?
- (2) If so, where are such houses located and what are the numbers in each case?
- (3) On what basis are any such houses made available to the State Electricity Commission?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) In past years the commission has granted personal tenancies to State Electricity Commission key personnel. As these are personal tenancies, numbers could only be ascertained by extensive research into old files. At Bunbury, 25 houses are allocated to key personnel on the basis that rents are guaranteed by the State Electricity Commission. Three houses are also allocated in Collie on the same basis. All are personal tenancies.

Present commission policy is to build houses for the State Electricity Commission, when requested, with funds supplied by the State Electricity Commission.

Houses, as follows, have been completed under this arrangement—

|                |      |      |      |          |
|----------------|------|------|------|----------|
| Collie         | .... | .... | .... | 1        |
| Margaret River | .... | .... | .... | 2        |
| Morawa         | .... | .... | .... | 1        |
| Northam        | .... | .... | .... | 2        |
| Port Hedland   | .... | .... | .... | 4        |
| Southern Cross | .... | .... | .... | 1        |
| Wagin          | .... | .... | .... | 4        |
|                |      |      |      | <hr/> 15 |

A further house in Port Hedland is under construction.

### DENTAL HYGIENISTS

#### *Training and Employment*

34. Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

What proposals are now acceptable to the Australian Dental Association for the training and employment of dental hygienists in Western Australia?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

It is understood that the Australian Dental Association (W.A. Branch) favours the training and employment of auxiliary workers in dentistry with wider responsibilities (including extraction and filling) than those of dental hygienists elsewhere (who are restricted mainly to cleaning and polishing teeth, and the application of topical fluoride.)

### ROAD MAINTENANCE

#### *Expenditure, 1965-66*

35. Mr. McPHARLIN asked the Minister for Transport:

How much money was spent on road maintenance from the 30th June, 1965, to the 30th June, 1966?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

Apart from any expenditure which may have been incurred by local authorities, the Main Roads Department has spent, from its own resources, \$2,231,722 on road maintenance between the 30th June, 1965, and the 30th June, 1966.

36. *This question was postponed.*

### TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

#### *Credit Betting*

37. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Does the T.A.B. still countenance over the counter betting in agencies where the bet is made with cash loaned to the bettor by the agent?



- (2) Does the T.A.B. still countenance telephone betting where the bets are made by the bettors from loans from agents who have agreed to keep bettors deposit accounts in credit?
- (3) What methods of betting with the T.A.B. are now available to bettors who wager by telephone?

Mr. O'CONNOR (for Mr. Craig) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) The acceptance of bets over the telephone is limited to those cases in which there is a credit account in existence with a sufficient credit balance therein to cover the bet or bets being accepted. However, the board will allow an agent of the board to act on a telephone request to place a cash bet on behalf of an investor providing—
  - (a) sufficient cash to pay for the bet has been first lodged by the investor seeking to bet; or,
  - (b) a totalisator ticket for a cash bet is held in the agency on behalf of the investor on which a dividend or refund is payable for a sufficient amount to pay for the bet being sought.

If the Leader of the Opposition knows of any cases where the law has been broken it will be appreciated if he would supply the Minister with that information.

#### KIMBERLEY ELECTION *Counting of Votes*

38. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Who authorised the returning officer for Kimberley at the recent State general election to count together the votes from the polling places of Gogo Station and La Grange Mission?
- (2) For what reason was this counting together done?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The returning officer decided to count together the votes at the two polling places mentioned and has stated the reason for so doing as follows:—

When conducting the count, I considered that the votes recorded at any polling place, having under 30 votes recorded thereat, should be amalgamated with another polling place. This would then balance out the votes of any small section of the community.

#### QUESTIONS (5): WITHOUT NOTICE

##### STANDING ORDERS

##### *Second Reading Stage of Bills*

1. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Premier:
  - (1) Is it the Government's intention to avail itself of the amended Standing Orders in order that Bills, after notice of them has been given, can be taken to the second reading stage before the conclusion of the Address-in-Reply?
  - (2) If so, when can some of these Bills be expected to be taken to that stage?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) I think it is fair enough that we get through some of the Address-in-Reply debate, but it is the Government's intention to take advantage of the amended Standing Orders so that Bills can be taken through the "explained" stage. There is no reason why we are not doing so, except I think we ought to get on with the debate on the Address-in-Reply; but I feel we should try to make it more interesting by introducing a Bill in between the speeches.

#### PARLIAMENT *Second Sitting*

2. Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Premier: Further to the reply he gave to question 11 on today's notice paper wherein I asked if he was able to indicate the likely commencing date of the second sitting of this session early in 1969, when the decision is made, will he make an early announcement for the information of members?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Yes, I certainly will. I thought I had given sufficient information in the answer, but I think the commencing date of the second sitting early in 1969 will be about the same time as a second sitting or session is held in the other States.

#### STATE SHIPS

##### *Proposed Sale to Dillingham's*

3. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Transport:

Has the Government been giving consideration to a proposed sale of the State ships to Dillingham's; and if the answer is "Yes," what decision has been made?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for giving me notice of this question, the answer to

which is "No." However, another organisation has made inquiries, but no firm proposal has been made to the Government.

#### NATIVES

##### *Appointment of Welfare Officers to the Albany District*

4. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Can he advise if a native welfare inspector has been appointed to the Albany district, and, if so, has accommodation been arranged for him?
- (2) Also, has a female welfare officer been appointed to the Albany district and accommodation arranged for her?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) I know a number of appointments are pending, but whether the officers mentioned have actually been appointed to Albany, I know not. However if the honourable member cares to place his question on the notice paper I will make some inquiries.
- Families Housed*

5. Mr. BURKE asked the Minister for Housing:

Further to my question yesterday on the housing of aborigines, is the Minister aware of any aboriginal family having been housed by the State Housing Commission since the 23rd March, 1968?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

As I indicated in the answer to the question yesterday, eligibility of applicants for Housing Commission homes does not relate to colour, race, or creed. I know there are many native families being housed by the State Housing Commission, and I know there are many natives purchasing houses from the State Housing Commission, but it would be impossible for me to ascertain exactly when the last coloured family was housed by the Housing Commission.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

##### *Press Report of Speech: Personal Explanation*

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [4.56 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I wish to seek leave of the House to make a personal explanation.

The SPEAKER: The member for South Perth seeks leave of the House to make a personal explanation. Is there any dissentient? Leave is granted and the honourable member may proceed.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yesterday afternoon I was speaking to the debate on the amendment to the Address-in-Reply and I referred to the question of land. I suggested that this be controlled by implementing some of the recommendations of the McCarrey report. However, in this morning's issue of *The West Australian* I was reported as having said I had suggested a form of control to fix the price of land suitable for home building. Actually the statement I did make on this matter reads as follows, and I would point out that I am reading from a copy of the *Hansard* proof of my speech:—

Therefore, if we are to exercise some form of control over the price of bread, and if we are to exercise some form of control over the price of milk we should surely exercise some control over the price of land for building. I, as a member of the Liberal Party, naturally believe in the law of supply and demand. However, with respect to the particular situation with which we are confronted in Western Australia, I think this law cannot function, because we have introduced legislative restrictions on the amount of land that can be subdivided. We have done this for a very good reason: we are faced with the problem of having to provide roads, sewerage, water, power, and services of that kind, to develop any new areas which are opened up.

As a consequence, it has been necessary to formulate a plan and limit by legislative action the amount of land that can be subdivided. In these circumstances the law of supply and demand simply does not operate. This is a complete justification for the Government's implementing many of the recommendations contained in the McCarrey report.

Those are my words and I intended to convey that we should exercise control by implementing some of the recommendations of the McCarrey report.

I want to make it quite clear that, virtually, I am diametrically opposed to price fixing in all its forms, and particularly in respect of land. In the circumstances I was extremely concerned at seeing the report of what I said in *The West Australian*. I appreciate that errors of this kind can easily occur, but I express the hope that *The West Australian* will take steps to correct the impression the report has given.

Mr. Graham: I did not think the report was so wrong.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr. I. W. Manning, leave of absence for six weeks granted to Mr. Williams (Bunbury) on the ground of urgent public business.

# ART GALLERY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

## *Introduction and First Reading*

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

## *Printing of Bill*

**MR. LEWIS** (Moore—Minister for Education) [5 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be printed and the second reading made an order of the day for the next sitting of the House.

The **SPEAKER**: I would point out that it is no longer necessary to move that the Bill be printed.

**Mr. LEWIS**: I will therefore merely move—

That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting of the House.

Question put and passed.

# ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

## *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 6th August, on the following motion by Mr. Ridge:—

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. CASH** (Mirrabooka) [5.1 p.m.]: Firstly, Mr. Speaker, in supporting the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, I do so in the hope that many of the Government proposals contained in the address will be implemented during this session. To you Sir, I offer my congratulations on your election as the presiding officer of this Assembly. The office of Speaker has always had an important place in the history of Parliaments, and I know that you, Mr. Speaker, with your legal background, your interest in constitutional law, and your experience in this Parliament will bring to the office the status it merits. In your decisions I am sure you will be firm and impartial while, at the same time, permitting the degree of flexibility that is necessary if the Parliament is to function effectively and harmoniously.

This being the occasion of my maiden speech in this Parliament, I take the opportunity before I proceed any further to thank the people of Mirrabooka for having elected me as their representative in the Parliament of Western Australia. All electors in the Mirrabooka district can be assured that their problems will always be

my concern; that I will deal with them to the best of my ability; and that I will follow their cases right through to the end, or as far as they can be taken at a particular time.

The boundaries of Mirrabooka are contained within the present boundaries of the Federal electorate of Stirling, which I had the privilege of representing in the Commonwealth Parliament. The name "Mirrabooka" which is an aboriginal word meaning the "Southern Cross Constellation" may seem to indicate an area near Kununurra, or some other country district; but, in fact, it covers many suburbs north of the Swan River, including Yokine, Dianella, Morley, Hampton Park, Mirrabooka, Bedford, and parts of Beechboro, Bayswater, Embleton, and Nollamara. The whole of this area was represented by me in the Federal Parliament, and I appreciate the confidence that has been placed in me by the electors once again.

The main matters of concern to many people in the Mirrabooka electorate are the same as the problems that beset the people throughout the metropolitan area. This motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply gives me the opportunity to discuss them and to suggest changes that may make some contribution towards solving some of the day-to-day problems within the community.

I propose to range over a number of subjects, including Western Australia's new status as a non-claimant State, social welfare, housing, the drinking age, the age of majority, and perhaps one or two other matters, and finally I shall refer to the attack by the Leader of the Opposition on the election result in Kimberley when he spoke earlier in this debate.

Western Australia has come a long way since it lost certain revenue raising rights to the Commonwealth. From 1910-11 we existed on the special grants which were assessed under various formulae till 1936, when the Grants Commission began assessing grants on the basis of need. The Grants Commission has used a two-State standard to guarantee that our standards of public services, medical care, education, and social services were no lower—and in recent years no higher—than those of the other States of Australia.

Time and time again the Premier has fought hard in the interests of Western Australia before the Grants Commission, at Premiers' Conferences, and at meetings of the Loan Council, in an endeavour to get the best possible financial allocations from the Commonwealth. This year the Premier decided that now was the time for this State to break free from the restrictions of the Grants Commission. The proposed alteration of the grants formula from the basis of a two-State standard to a four-State standard would have been a disadvantage to Western Australia; and increasing mineral royalties would have rapidly reduced the amounts received from

the Grants Commission; so the Premier's decision was a wise one, and now Western Australia is enabled to stand on its own two feet.

Our new status will not be free from problems, but it will certainly give the Government more freedom of action to increase our efforts in many fields, especially in education, housing, and social welfare, and less excuse for not making certain that every Western Australian is suitably housed and reasonably provided for, if his or her circumstances are not comparable with those of the majority of our citizens. During its term of office the present Government has tackled many of the problems that come with the high natural and net migration increases in the population, which now give our State the highest percentage rate of overall population growth in Australia.

The Government has done well, but it must not close its eyes—as sometimes Governments do in the hustle and bustle of progress and development—to the needs of the people in the community who are in unfortunate circumstances through no fault of their own. Many of these people have not recovered from the economic effects of the depression, from the results of war, or from some other unfortunate event in their lives. Sickness, accident, or a family bereavement all leave their mark; and where the breadwinner of the family has been taken by illness, or by a careless motorist, not one, but two, three, or more lives become seriously affected. Who are these people in the community? Where are they? What is being done for them? Does anybody really care about them?

These are the questions we must all ask ourselves in this Parliament, and these are the questions the Government must examine. As a new non-claimant State, Western Australia is presented with the opportunity to take the initiative and establish a new pattern of community welfare for all States to follow, notwithstanding Commonwealth activity in this field, such as the recent legislation approving co-operation with the States in regard to assisting deserted wives and unmarried mothers.

It is often said that progress and development bring prosperity to everybody, but is a promise for tomorrow enough for the many people in our State with little income and poor living conditions? They do not want to see their lives pass by under the constant stress of near hardship conditions. They want to enjoy life now, even if it is in a simple and quiet way. Anything we can do to make their lot any better and their lives any easier, we should do.

The first administrative step that could be taken is a simple one. The designation of the Minister for Child Welfare should be altered to that of Minister for social

welfare or Minister for community welfare, and then possibly bracketed with the portfolio of the Minister for Housing. The housing question is at the bottom of many of our social problems in Western Australia and the handling of these two matters by the same Minister would start off a new social programme on a sound basis.

Today we are lamentably short of information concerning the social problems and needs of our less fortunate people; and the next step must be a complete survey of the needs and living conditions of the people of lesser income. Such an investigation could be carried out in several ways. The Government could set up a committee to hear evidence; it could invite confidential submissions from private citizens; it could consult community groups now handling some welfare problems; or it could seek the co-operation of the University and its students to conduct a wide survey.

Inquiries could relate to income and outgoings, and to the type of accommodation and the rents paid. We could find out what accommodation was needed; or, in the case of people who owned their own accommodation, whether they were interested in being rehoused in new Government projects. From all this could come a great deal of information about social problems and housing needs. This would establish a pattern that could be examined by the Minister. If previously we had been able to accurately assess housing needs, then today's difficulties might not have existed. We are not sure of our problems of tomorrow, because no-one really knows what are our housing needs today.

The State Housing Commission's statistics are simply statistics that tell us how many people have applied for accommodation. They relate only to specific incomes and they do not provide for earlier marriages or unexpected higher migration inflow; nor do they tell us about young people living with in-laws and friends. Whatever figures might result from any survey, we know now that many older people would welcome a rehousing system which transferred them from their present conditions where they live singly in multi-bedroom homes because no single-unit accommodation for economic purchase or renting can be found.

Some of those people are living in rental accommodation which is highly unsatisfactory by any standards, and others are living in better accommodation but at high rentals which wreck domestic budgets. In fairness to the Government I should point out that it has taken steps to try to meet the housing problem, but possibly without realising how big the problem is. The recent announcement relating to the plans of the State Housing Commission to step up its rate of development to where the construction of flats and medium-density

housing will represent about 50 per cent. of its annual building operations is welcome news. The 450-unit project for Fremantle and the Premier's latest proposals will ease the problem, but more of these projects should be planned for the immediate future even if it means fewer commercial or Government buildings.

I believe that the interests of many people would be well served if the Government gave thought to high and medium density flats and home unit construction, in co-operation with private industry, right alongside the city where the required services are already in existence, and where they now serve a hotch-potch area of old homes and ramshackle commercial buildings.

In areas located only one, two, or three miles from the city centre a complete rehousing programme should be undertaken. Home owners could be resited in home units on the original locations or nearby. This would be particularly helpful to the home-owning pensioners whose assets would remain almost the same, and whose pensions would not be affected—as they would be if they sold out and moved to rented accommodation, or if they moved in with relatives or friends. The Government could build home units and flats in these areas which have the advantage of existing services, and which have easy access to shopping facilities, to transport, to medical and hospital services, to Government offices, to city entertainments, and to social and cultural centres.

Such a building programme could house thousands of people close to the city, and it would reduce traffic congestion by the greater use of short distance bus services. The older people of the community would be living in areas with which they had become familiar over many years; they would be handy to the city they know so well—a city in which they can move with confidence despite, in some cases, failing sight, imperfect hearing, or falling health. Surely this is better for these people than to transfer them to some remote suburb where they would have difficulty in making new friends, from where it would be too expensive for them to go into town, and from where the journey to town would be too long to enable them to avoid easily the rush hour periods.

The housing of many of these people would, I suggest, release a lot of other accommodation which is suitable for the transient housing of families and other people seeking temporary accommodation. I hope the Government will have a look at the ideas I have put forward.

I now refer to questions concerning the younger people of our State: the drinking age, the voting age, and the age of majority. There has been agitation for a reduction of the drinking age from 21 to 18 years. It has been discussed as

though this is a must before young people can acquire a proper status in the community. It has, in an endeavor to gather support for the reduction of the age, been related to other demands for our young people. What would happen if the age for military service was raised to 22 or 23 years? Would there be new agitation to raise the permissible drinking age to 22 or 23 years? Surely the age of any area of responsibility should not fluctuate according to military needs. It has not done so in other countries, as I shall show later.

One argument which has been presented is that many young people break the law now, and as the law is obviously hard to enforce we should reduce the drinking age to 18 years. Speeding laws are hard to enforce, the laws relating to crime are hard to enforce, and all laws are hard to enforce. That is the very reason we have laws, because they are needed. If we did reduce the drinking age, where would the safeguards be for those under 18 years of age? How long would it be before so many of them broke the new law that someone would suggest that the age be lowered to 16 years?

In other countries all the evidence indicates that easier availability simply means greater consumption and more problems. In only six of the American States is the legal drinking age 18 years, and then the right is restricted only to beer, which has a lower alcoholic content than the beer of Western Australia. The lowering of the drinking age will confer no benefits on the young people of the community. It will not promote their future careers; it will not make them more intelligent or more capable of facing life's problems along the way; it will not make them healthier; yet it could well increase the possibility of their being less healthy. For my part I would be satisfied to see the drinking age remain as it is. The young people should not be in a hurry to be with the "in" group. They may live for another 50 or more years, so they will have plenty of time to partake of liquor if they wish.

I think the really important question in relation to our young people is that of the age of majority. Surely the citizens of our community and the Government should be looking at the desirability or otherwise of changing the law in relation to contracts made by young persons under 21 and to their power to hold and dispose of property, and to make wills, and in relation to marriage by such persons.

Historically, the age of majority has changed in the light of circumstances, so today there may be a doubt as to how accurately the ages of 21, 15, or 25—the majority ages in different periods—ever really reflected the needs and maturity of young people. It is not for us, however,

to compare today with yesterday. We must observe the young as they are today and see if the law fits them as well as it should.

I suggest to the Government that it should give consideration to examining the whole aspect of the age of majority as it applies to the young people of Western Australia. Any unnecessary or restrictive anomalies in the laws of this State, as they now stand, would be revealed, and an assessment could be made of the social aspect of the age of 21 in relation to the young people of today, how they live, what they need, what they are like, and how mature they are.

Many people believe that the withholding of responsibility from the younger persons of responsible age could be a factor in making them antisocial. Some people who are delinquent will remain that way whether the age of majority is 21, or less; but we must consider legislating for the vast majority of young people who want to be treated as sensible people in the community.

The British Medical Association has reported that there are no psychological reasons for placing the age of majority at 21, or any psychological objections to lowering the age. Its view is that the adolescent of today matures earlier than in previous generations. Like others, the B.M.A. has pointed out that there could be serious ill-effects from the withholding of responsibility from those ready for it.

We must not imagine that here in Western Australia we are away behind the rest of the world in this regard. When we examine existing world standards and look, perhaps, at the exceptions, first we find that in Russia the general age of majority is 18, while in Japan it is 20. In Japan one votes at the age of 20, and in Russia, if one can call the system "voting" as the free world knows it, the people vote at 18.

In the United States, the voting age is 21, except in a small number of State elections. In 34 States the age of majority is 21; in nine it is 21 for males and 18 for females, with the voting age for both groups being 21; and there are two States where the age of majority is 18, but voting is still at 21. In one of these—Kentucky—the majority age of 18 has the proviso that it does not apply to the purchase of alcohol. In Australia, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Sweden, and West Germany the age of majority is 21 and the voting age is also 21.

From these statistics it can be seen that Australia does not lag behind other countries of the western world by maintaining the age of majority and the voting age at 21. This should not, however, inhibit

our approach to the question of the changing needs of the young people of our community and the need to have a good look at the question of the age of majority.

Finally, I turn to the election in Kimberley, which was attacked by the Leader of the Opposition in this debate last Wednesday—Kimberley, where the people elected to this Parliament a well-known, energetic, qualified, good-looking, and clean-cut young Australian in the person of Alan Ridge. Despite the protestation of the Leader of the Opposition, it is quite clear that the Labor candidate, Mr. Rhatigan, was soundly defeated by this bright young Liberal candidate.

A comparison between the 1965 and 1968 voting figures is the soundest evidence that we have heard so far in this matter. In 1968, the Labor candidate bettered his 1965 figures in only five booths; and, even then, his combined total improvement over the five booths was only 24 votes—one, four, nine, six, and four. At the very same five booths, Mr. Ridge bettered the previous Liberal figures by a total of 263 votes; namely, 127, 12, 82, 7, and 35.

Mr. Ridge, as the Liberal candidate, improved his party's vote out of all sight. I make this point because the Leader of the Opposition based his attack on the election result in Kimberley on the ground that trends in the voting at certain polling booths were very favourable to Mr. Ridge.

Perhaps I can quote the Leader of the Opposition from *Hansard* as follows:—

Those members who have been through a series of elections will know that there is a trend in elections. One finds it in one box and it can be carried through to another.

What was the trend in Kimberley? In Derby, Mr. Ridge nearly doubled the previous Liberal vote from 135 in 1965 to 262 in 1968. At Kununurra, Mr. Ridge doubled the 1965 vote from 83 to 165. At Wyndham, Mr. Ridge nearly doubled the vote again, this time from 66 to 115.

Surely these figures establish a trend of some significance, especially when one realises that lower total votes were recorded in Kimberley in this year's election, as compared with 1965—and this year Mr. Rhatigan had the assistance of number one place on the ballot paper. So if we accept many Labor Party theories about the advantage this gives, it makes Mr. Rhatigan's figures worse than ever, and the trend for Mr. Ridge more pronounced.

Surely the Leader of the Opposition's case falters on the very point on which he based his attack—trends in the voting. The two polling booths on which the Leader of the Opposition concentrated his attention were Mowanjum Mission and

Gogo Station, where the strong trend toward Mr. Ridge in Derby, Kununurra, and Wyndham was even more strongly reflected.

If we take Gogo first and ignore all this talk of bribery, rumours, lack of evidence, etc., and look at the real facts—the figures of the voting—we find that Mr. Ridge received 41 votes and Mr. Rhatigan nine. These figures included the combined Gogo-La Grange poll—29 votes at Gogo and 22 at La Grange. I think this would give approximately 24 votes to Mr. Ridge at one booth, and certainly an equal proportion of the votes at the other polling booth.

The Leader of the Opposition makes a fuss because the local officer in charge of adult education conducted what we would call a civic affairs class where he tried to explain the purpose of voting and the method of voting. To remove any question of political bias, Mr. Jones referred to the imaginary candidates as "Apple" and "Orange." It can be presumed that Mr. Jones, a schoolteacher, had some knowledge of the system of preparation for elections in Papua, New Guinea, and other developing countries where these pre-election classes for native voters are vital for the smooth running of the poll.

In these elections, much use is made of symbols and photographs. So I cannot see why, as the Leader of the Opposition suggests, the teaching work of Mr. Jones should inhibit his appointment as a presiding officer.

The pattern of voting at Gogo was established in 1965 when the Liberal candidate received 34 votes and Mr. Rhatigan three. In the Legislative Council poll, the Liberal candidate received 32 and Mr. Wise four. In the recent election Mr. Ridge received 41 and Mr. Rhatigan 9. I have had to break down that combined total as a result of a question answered today. The estimated figures are 24 at Gogo for Mr. Ridge, and five for Mr. Rhatigan, while at La Grange, the estimated figures are 18 for Mr. Ridge, and four for Mr. Rhatigan.

These figures establish a pattern of voting at the booths where natives represent the majority of voters, when they are placed alongside the 1968 figures for Mowanjum—38 for Mr. Ridge and four for Mr. Rhatigan. The Leader of the Opposition's allegation that the voting pattern at Mowanjum was completely unrelated to voting elsewhere is not substantiated by the figures of the other booths I mentioned earlier.

If we examine the 1968 figures for the two booths, and the 1965 figures for Gogo Station, the question that immediately comes to mind is what happened at Mowanjum in 1965. This is where the allegations of the Leader of the Opposition take us.

Leaving that aspect, I want to turn to one of the points made by the Leader of the Opposition. Sections 131, 132, and 133 of the Electoral Act cover adjournments of the poll. There is no specific mention of closing for lunch, but the presiding officer (Mr. Archer) made this decision and adjourned the poll for a short time. It seems to me that he was within his rights; and I think it is fortunate he did adjourn and take the ballot box and papers with him, because it meant that at no time was the ballot box out of his sight. One can well imagine what might have been said by the Opposition if the situation had been otherwise.

It is the Rev. John Watts who is under fire from the Leader of the Opposition for seating the native interpreter (Alan Mungulu) within the polling booth just inside the door. Interpreters are used in Papua and New Guinea, and in many places two or three interpreters have to be used to translate the dialect of a particular area into Pidgin and English. When the voting takes place the native voter goes up and whispers in the ear of the returning officer, who marks the ballot paper.

The Electoral Act in this State provides in section 129—as the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out—that a person selected by the voter can assist a voter, and once the paper is marked according to the instructions of the elector, the person assisting shall quit the booth. This usually happens unless there are two persons to be assisted by the same person.

The assistant presiding officer at Mowanjum (the Rev. John Watts) permitted an interpreter in the person of Alan Mungulu, who had apparently acted in a similar capacity before, to assist any native voter requiring assistance to complete a ballot paper.

Alan Mungulu is an invalid pensioner, crippled by polio. He is reasonably well educated, and he can speak and write English. Was it unreasonable for the Rev. John Watts, in a sense of compassion ingrained in him over the years, to seek to avoid the necessity for Mungulu to technically comply with the words "shall quit the polling place" after each native had received Mungulu's assistance?

The evidence is that Alan Mungulu was under the eyes of both scrutineers during the poll. Surely this type of flexibility could be regarded only as a technical breach of the Act in the local circumstances! Under the Commonwealth Act, the presiding officer can permit a person to stay in the polling booth only as long as the presiding officer wishes. Therefore, while our Act does not contain that provision, a comparison of the two Acts certainly indicates some flexibility.

An occurrence in this year's election in New Guinea shows why there must be some flexibility in the Act. A canoe carrying ballot papers overturned and the sealed

box fell into the water completely saturating the marked ballot papers. The elections in New Guinea are open for some weeks because of transport communication problems and, therefore, this particular box could not be opened until the final day of the poll on the 16th March.

The returning officer's wife—an unauthorised person no doubt—put the nozzle of her hair dryer into the ballot paper slot and for two days blew hot air into the box to dry the ballot papers.

Following the pattern of his remarks in this debate, the Leader of the Opposition would probably quote section 190 of the Electoral Act which provides penalties for "unlawful interference with a ballot box and ballot paper" and the member for Belmont would supply the House with one of those interjections of his, "Highly irregular."

Incidents such as these illustrate why there must be some flexibility to suit a particular circumstance; and they show why the seating of Alan Mungulu just inside the door of the Mowanjum polling booth was simply common sense.

The Leader of the Opposition made the point that native voters were given ballot papers without having been questioned as required by law. If he can assure me that every voter in his own electorate was asked the same questions he refers to, then, and not till then, will I accept his objection as valid.

I hope the Leader of the Opposition, although carefully absolving the new member for Kimberley of any responsibility, realises that, by casting doubts on the validity of votes at the election and on the integrity of certain people in the Kimberley electorate, he has made the arrival of Mr. Ridge into this Parliament a little more uncomfortable than it might have been.

Alan Mungulu may never know that the Leader of the Opposition, and the member for Belmont by a very unkind interjection, reflected on his integrity. Mungulu and others must remain defenceless against this attack from the other side of the House. I trust that time will erase the matter from the minds of most people, but we all know that once the word is spoken in this Assembly it is recorded in *Hansard* forever—the best of our debates and the worst. In the last category, I place these unwarranted inferences about Alan Mungulu, the Rev. John Watts, Mr. Jones, the school teacher, and the native voters themselves; and despite the Leader of the Opposition's earlier qualification, the whole matter reflects on the new member for Kimberley who is as innocent in this matter as any other person mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition.

It is because those people have no defence that I have stood up in this Parliament and demolished—one by one—the

specious arguments put forward by the Leader of the Opposition; points that could only be described as the flimsiest of circumstantial evidence in any case, and points so rightly dismissed as trivial by the Chief Electoral Officer in his reply to the Leader of the Opposition.

Having put Mowanjum and Gogo to rest, could I conclude by expressing my thanks, Mr. Speaker, to all the people who have made me welcome in this House. The staff have been a great help despite my tendency to occasionally lapse into comparisons with the Federal parliamentary system.

During my election campaign, I told the electors of Mirrabooka what I stood for, and I still stand for the same things now that I have been elected. I will do my best to serve well the interests of my electors and the people of Western Australia, and in doing this I look forward to an interesting career in this Parliament.

**MR. HARMAN** (Maylands) [5.31 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I wish to formally congratulate you on your election to the office of Speaker. I also wish to congratulate the Chairman of Committees upon his election, and I congratulate the other new members of this House on their election. For me, the position which I now hold is the attainment of a career to which I have long aspired, and to have achieved this position is a great thrill to me, and I am sure that other members also enjoy this feeling.

My opponent at the election was a former member of this House—Mr. Bob Marshall—and I am certain he enjoyed the confidence and respect of all members. Shortly before the election campaign the tragic death of Mr. Marshall's wife inflicted a great blow on him and his family. I know we all accorded him the deepest sympathy possible.

I wish to record my appreciation and gratitude to the electors of Maylands for reposing in me their trust and confidence by electing me to act as their representative in this House. I hope that when an account is taken of my stewardship I will not be found wanting. I also wish to record my appreciation to the many workers who assisted me in my campaign. They worked tirelessly and, in many cases, for long hours. When I came to this House I was very impressed with the respect and the co-operation extended to me by the staff, and that impression still remains with me.

I take my seat here not only as the member for Maylands, but also as the representative of a great movement in Australia—I refer to the Australian Labor movement. As you know, Mr. Speaker, this movement was born in the last decade of the last century. Since that time the



movement has grown in strength, wisdom, and understanding, and has made a tremendous impact upon the social, political, and industrial life of this country.

The Labor movement is one which a great number of people in this country look to and depend upon to see that things which matter to them receive attention, and that the great principles of the movement come to fruition. It is a movement which, over the years, has attracted quite a number of men and women into public life: a life to which, in some cases, they have given their all.

Those people have worked unceasingly and tirelessly for the humanitarian principles of this movement. I hope, as I now begin to tread the path of public life—and representing, as I do, the Australian Labor Party—that I can tread this path with the same spirit as that shown by those who have gone before me.

The Maylands electorate is not one in which I can boast of any major development, as is the case with other members in this House. However, I can boast about the people who make up the electorate, and I refer to the people who hold managerial positions, people in professions, and people who make up the labour work force in the area. They are loyal people, and they are hard working and industrious. One matter that has impressed me about the people of the electorate is the great number who are involved in the many community organisations, societies, and sporting bodies. Those people give a considerable portion of their spare time to help others and for this I think they should be commended.

Of course, the electorate does have problems, and many personal problems, but tonight I will mention just two of them. The first matter involves Guildford Road and Beaufort Street. If one visualises the Maylands electorate one will realise that Beaufort Street extends north through Inglewood, and Guildford Road goes through Maylands. The traffic flow on both of these roads has increased over the past few years, because of the development of the suburbs north of Inglewood and because Guildford Road is one of the two access roads into Perth from the country area. Also, there has been a rapid increase in vehicle ownership.

Guildford Road, in particular, carries a great volume of heavy transport moving backwards and forwards, day by day, and of course this flow of traffic will increase. We know it is planned to build a freeway from the vicinity of the East Perth gas works, across Burswood Island and the old Maylands aerodrome, to link up with Guildford Road near Bassendean.

However, this project is not listed for implementation until 1985. The contention of the electors of Maylands is that if it will take another 17 years to decrease

the volume of traffic through the electorate, then the Government should remove some of the traffic hazards which exist along Guildford Road and Beaufort Street; it should plan for the security and safety of the people who use the roads and live in the area. Many of those people are elderly. If it will be 17 years before anything can be done about a freeway, it is fair enough for the Government to take steps now to put in pedestrian overways, or actuated crossing lights. I hope the Government will take account of this request and endeavour to implement some of these safety measures as soon as possible.

The second matter I wish to refer to is the question of housing and land. I know this subject has been canvassed in the House over the past few sittings, but it is one which concerns a number of electors in Maylands. I would be failing in my duty if I did not again press home to the Government this crisis—if you like—which has been reached in housing and land prices.

The problem affects at least three groups of people. Firstly, it affects parents who have children of marriageable age, or children who have been married for some months or, possibly, a year or two and who are living at home with the parents and creating the obvious problem which occur when young married couples live with their parents. The problem also concerns the parents of children who are approaching marriageable age, because they are not able to give the children any financial support to assist them in the purchase of a block of land, or to get them established in a project home.

It is also a problem to many of the young married couples who are living in flats. Numbers of these young couples have stressed to me the problem they face because they are unable to get a home or because they are unable to buy a block of land. In many cases, when young couples live in flats, the wife has to go out to work to earn the extra money which is needed to pay the rent of the flat.

Some of these young wives have told me that they do not want to live that type of life, that they want to have a family. That is the reason they got married, but they are prevented from having a family because it is necessary for them to go to work. I think it is fair enough that those people should complain, and it is also fair enough that I should bring the complaint to this House.

The third category which the housing situation affects is the migrant population living in my electorate. Many of those migrants have been here for a number of years. I know of many migrants who, as soon as they arrived in this State, applied for a State Housing Commission home and whose applications were accepted. However, they are complaining that they have been on the waiting list for two, three,

and in some cases just over three, years and still have not got a home. I have pointed out to them that this is the situation which applies generally in Western Australia. Because of the policy of the Government, people are not able to get a home for at least three years.

I now wish to refer to the Federal pastoral award. On the 15th September, 1967, a very important industrial award was handed down by Commissioner Donovan in the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, sitting in Sydney. For the first time this award provided that full-blood aborigines would be granted coverage under the award, and that the rates of pay and conditions applicable in the award would apply to them. However, there were some complications attached to this proposal. The first complication I wish to bring to the attention of this House concerns the position of the employee.

Under class 5, which is headed "Parties bound" it states—

- (b) This award shall be binding on employers in respect of employees who are members of the union.

That is the Australian Workers Union. It continues—

- (c) Employees shall be bound by this award only when employed by employers bound by this award.

This means that to receive the benefits of this award full-blood aborigines must be members of the Australian Workers Union. Therefore, at some time before the award comes into operation, they have to join the Australian Workers Union. But the award will not apply to full-blood aborigines until the 1st December, 1968.

Therefore, if there is to be a smooth transition from the situation which now exists, where station aborigines are paid whatever the station management feels like paying them, to a situation where, if they are members of the Australian Workers Union the managements are bound to apply the rates of pay under the award, it is obvious some action will have to be taken to ensure that at least in the beginning conferences are held between all the parties concerned so that no-one is in a position where he does not know what is going on and what those concerned are trying to achieve.

I can remember some years ago when representatives of the Australian Workers Union visited stations to enrol aborigines—that is, aborigines of less than full-blood—for the union so that those people could receive the benefits of the award. I can also remember some occasions when a representative visited the station and asked the management, "How many aborigines have you working here?" and he was told, "I have five, and if you want

to see them you will have to go down the track about 10 miles, through one fence, then through the next fence, then through the next fence on the left, over a ramp and then you will find yourself in a paddock about 10 miles square. They are in there somewhere mustering cattle or sheep," or whatever it might have been.

In effect, it was virtually impossible for a union representative, without co-operation from the management of a station, even to interview aboriginal stockmen. Then, of course, the union representative had to go through the process of explaining to the aborigines the advantages of joining the union, and money was obtained to enable them to join. However, it was a difficult operation.

On this occasion, of course, the Australian Workers Union will be obliged to recruit aboriginal stockmen to join the union; because, as I said before, it is to the advantage of the aboriginal stockmen to become members of the union.

I suggest there should be a concerted effort by the Government to ensure that this transition takes place as smoothly as possible. I know some difficulties are involved because of distances, particularly in the Kimberley area where many stations are some distance from the main centres and, in some cases, even difficult to get to. This means that the task will not be easy, but it is not impossible.

I am sure the Minister for Native Welfare does not want to see a situation develop some time in the early future where aborigines are retrenched from stations, and are brought into the towns; where satellite reserves are set up, and arrangements are made to feed the people and put them on the dole. I am sure that is not a situation the Minister wants to see; and I feel certain the Government as a whole wants to ensure that aboriginal stockmen receive the advantages of the award to which I have referred.

None of us can be proud of the fact that in years gone by, and even up to the present time, we have had a group of people—some 1,800, at least—employed in an industry but not covered by any award—and not even receiving the basic wage. I shall be asking the Minister in the future regarding developments that are taking place to ensure that the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, the management of stations in the Kimberleys, and in some of the other areas, the Department of Labour—if it is involved, and possibly the Department of Labour and National Service, if it is involved—are making the best possible progress to bring about a smooth transition without any hardship being created or retrenchments applying on the stations, particularly in the Kimberley area.

The last matter I wish to discuss is the question of land rights for aborigines. This is a topical subject at the moment—one that is gathering momentum, particularly in the Eastern States—and I see no reason why, in the time to come, it will not be discussed quite freely in Western Australia. The history of land rights or land compensation for aborigines is not an impressive one by any means. We know that in 1829, when the colony was founded, although the British Government of the time made some very high-sounding statements about the attitude towards the local aborigines, in practice the early colonists—the early settlers of Western Australia—did not carry out those high-sounding principles. For a start, no mention was made about compensation for aborigines or of land titles being issued to aborigines, even though those people were the original inhabitants of this country.

In fact, it was not until 1890 that legislation was passed in Western Australia, and confirmed by the British Government, to provide reserves for aborigines. In passing this legislation the terms used were that reserves could be established for the use and benefit of aborigines. There was no mention made about titles to those reserves or about compensation in some form or other being paid to the aborigines of this State.

Since then, of course, reserves have been established and, in fact, they now cover 6 per cent. of the total area of Western Australia. But these are reserves which are under the control of the Minister, or the Government, and they can be increased or decreased in area, portions can be excised from them, and they can be cancelled altogether. So, it can be seen the aborigines do not have a strong title to their reserves.

On the 4th March, 1966, the Premier made what I thought was a very significant statement. The Press report read—

The State Government will set aside for the welfare of natives a proportion of the royalties on minerals taken from native reserves. Premier Brand said in a statement issued from his office yesterday, that some mining companies were showing interest in the mineral potential of native reserves and the reserves covered nearly 6 per cent. of the State. The percentage of royalties for the native welfare fund would depend on circumstances.

Of course, since then, to my knowledge, the Premier has not announced what percentage of the royalties would be paid to the native welfare fund. However, it is a significant statement that the principle has been accepted by this Government that a proportion of royalties coming from mining operations on native reserves will be paid into a native welfare fund. This is something for which the aborigines have

been fighting for some considerable time—some recognition that anything coming from their land which attracts a royalty payment should be of benefit to the natives concerned. They believe that some percentage of the royalty payment should go into a native welfare fund. No doubt the Premier will get around to announcing what percentage of the royalty will be paid into this fund.

The next point is a statement made by the Minister for Native Welfare on the 9th July, 1968. The heading in the paper is, "No Demand in W.A., says Lewis." The article goes on—

There had been no demand for Aboriginal land rights in W.A., Native Welfare Minister Lewis said yesterday.

I do not think land rights are necessary for Aborigines in W.A. or that they need ownership of land, he said.

There have been no moves made to obtain land and if there were we would have to be satisfied that there was a real need.

I was a little surprised at that statement because I thought moves had been made in Western Australia by some aboriginal leaders to get further recognition on the question of land rights. I know agitation has come from some of the aboriginal leaders in Perth, and this question has been discussed with me by other aborigines in Western Australia. So, contrary to the Minister, I feel there is an agitation in Western Australia to do something positive about land rights for aborigines.

I put it to the Government that it now has a golden opportunity to do something about the question without much expense being involved. It could decide that the present native reserves—and I refer only to the large reserves, not those on the periphery of towns—shall be vested in an aboriginal trust; and the Government could look at the possibility of having aborigines on the trust. Already the Minister has six consultative committees throughout the State, and I suggest that one person from each of those committees could be selected as a member of the aboriginal trust, subject, of course, to the Minister, as most trusts or boards are. If that were done the Government would be doing something positive about saying, "All right, we recognise we have a responsibility, and we are carrying out this responsibility by vesting our native reserves in a trust." We would then, of course, be doing something similar to what has been done in South Australia, where recently legislation was approved to establish something similar to what I am now suggesting.

I feel we should not wait until the other States go ahead and do something about land rights. If we are to be one of the leaders in this country, why should we not

look at this question now and vest the reserves in the trust I have mentioned, and give it an opportunity to decide how it would like the reserves to be treated; whether it would like to see people go in to develop these areas for the purpose of mineral, pastoral, or agricultural activities, or anything else. We should give the trust the opportunity to discuss these problems and put up recommendations to the Government.

I believe the aboriginal people should be given more opportunity to decide what they want done. A number of things could flow from the establishment of an aboriginal trust. The trust could become a body in Western Australia which would make a stand for aborigines, quite apart from any Government sponsorship. Such a trust could also disseminate information with an aboriginal slant; it could put things in the correct perspective; and it could be the body to handle the Commonwealth money which, I believe, is to be made available for special projects. Such a trust could approve of these projects, whether they be agricultural, pastoral or industrial; it could decide what should be done.

It is possible that its activities would phase out the Department of Native Welfare as such. This is something which has been a plank of the Australian Labor Party platform for a great number of years. I refer, of course, to the establishment of a State social welfare department which would deal with all the people in Western Australia irrespective of their colour, class, or creed.

Such a department would have its advantages because, as members know, most country towns, particularly in the great southern area, have a child welfare officer as well as a native welfare officer. Both these officers carry out similar functions in the social welfare field. There are times when this could prove embarrassing for certain people, particularly those who are less than quarter-blood aborigines.

A person could be married to a native who is a native in law. If a person who is a native in law is, for argument's sake, sent to prison, the wife becomes the applicant for assistance. The husband—who is the breadwinner, and a native in law—may have been attending the Department of Native Welfare, and though the wife may have become aware of this contact between the native in law and the officer concerned she cannot, in the event of some problem arising, approach the Department of Native Welfare; she must go to the Child Welfare Department for assistance.

Some of these situations can be most embarrassing. There could be a family of seven children, four of whom are committed to the Child Welfare Department, which takes over the responsibility for their well-being. Although the Department of Native

Welfare maintains contact with the family, the four children are the responsibility of the Child Welfare Department and not the Department of Native Welfare.

There are many instances where there is administrative overlapping between these two departments. I would never agree to the Department of Native Welfare ceasing to exist, unless something in the nature of an aboriginal trust were established, so that the aborigines of Western Australia could look to the trust as being composed of aboriginal people interested in the affairs of such people.

A social welfare department could take over the social problems that involve the aboriginal people and other people in this country who are in need. I agree with the comments of the member for Mirrabooka when he suggests the setting up of a social welfare department. As I have said, this has been the platform of the Labor Party for a number of years. With those few remarks I thank you, Sir, and members generally for the tolerance they have displayed tonight.

**MR. KITNEY (Blackwood)** [6.8 p.m.]: I would first like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on being elected to your high office in this House. Having heard the comments made by the Premier, the Deputy Premier, and the Leader of the Opposition, I feel certain you have the complete confidence and respect of all parties and of all members of this House.

At this point I would like to make some reference to a previous Speaker of the House who was a member in this Chamber for some 18 years. He spent the last nine years as Speaker of the House. It is quite obvious that during that period he made many friends and performed his duties particularly well.

I do not know whether all members are aware of the fact, but recently Her Majesty the Queen saw fit to confer the title of "The Honourable" on Mr. Hearman. That surely proves that there is a great appreciation for the work he performed as a member of this Parliament.

I would also like to thank all members of the House for the manner in which they received and accepted me as a new member. When I first came here I was not sure whether I was famous or infamous. I entered the Chamber with a certain amount of trepidation; it was a very difficult time indeed for me. I very much appreciate the manner in which members have assisted and accepted me.

The members of the staff have also been very willing to help, and I appreciate their assistance very much indeed. I would also like to congratulate the member for Kimberley for the manner in which he moved the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply on opening day. If it is an ordeal for a new member to make his

first speech in Parliament, it certainly must be a far greater ordeal for a new member to do so on opening day.

I listened with keen interest to the speech made by the member for Kimberley, particularly when he set out the development that has taken place in the Kimberley area, and the potential for development that exists there in the future. When the Kimberley region has been mentioned in the past it has tended to conjure up a picture of hoofs and horns and stockmen; but having heard the honourable member's speech, and being aware of the development taking place in that area at the moment, we realise it has a wonderful potential.

I understand that in the past new members have had the opportunity and the privilege to visit some of these areas, and I hope that the new members of this Parliament may at some future date have a similar opportunity to make a trip to the Kimberley area.

I now wish to make some reference to the electorate which I represent. The electorate of the member for Warren and the electorate I represent are in the same area and, as a result, what I have to say may run along the same lines as the remarks already made by the member for Warren. I would first like to make a comment—perhaps unnecessarily—that people are generally aware of the position of the farmer today. His products go onto the world markets which, of course, are extremely competitive. The farmer takes the price he is given; he has no real say in the price he will receive for his product. He merely hopes for the best.

The farmer's production costs are completely beyond his control, and most of the equipment, chemicals, and so on, which he requires to make his production possible are purchased through tariff protected industries. Accordingly I feel that in many respects the farmer is to some extent subsidising the high standard of living we enjoy in Australia today.

I do however think that people are perhaps misled by the announcements they see in the newspapers from time to time of the amount of money, or estate, that some farmer has left after his death. What people do not realise is that the money and property he has left are the sum total of a lifetime of work. Generally speaking the only wealthy farmers I know of today are those who have already disposed of their property; or those who have become wealthy on paper because they have died!

The member for Warren mentioned that in his area the return on capital invested is 2.9 per cent. The figure I have here as an overall total is the last I was able to acquire, and it shows a return of 3 per cent. on all farming production throughout Australia.

We have heard it said repeatedly that if the farmers are to survive they must become more efficient and increase their production. That has been said over and over again. I think that things have now reached the point where the Australian farmer is generally recognised as the most efficient in the world.

One of the bigger problems confronting my own electorate, and the lower south-west generally, is that the majority of farmers in those areas are small farmers. They are holding properties which 10 or 15 years ago were sufficient to return quite a good living. In those days farmers who milked 25 cows were making quite a good living, but today it is necessary for them to milk 50 cows to earn a comparable living.

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

Mr. KITNEY: It is only a few short years ago that the fruit grower who had 10 or 15 acres of orchard was making quite a handy living, but today he needs at least twice that acreage to maintain the same standard of living, because of rising costs. The problem of these small farmers in my particular area is that many purchased their properties quite a few years ago and they were sufficiently large then to enable them to make a living. However, the majority of these farmers are now in areas surrounded by forest. The farms have reached the maximum of production and development, but, because they are completely encircled by land held by the Forests Department, which land the department is very reluctant to release, the farms, with possibly 150 to 200 acres, or even fewer acres in some cases, are completely restricted in regard to any further expansion.

Naturally enough, if they desire to sell, they find very few buyers interested in taking up a property which shows no possible prospect of expansion. Eventually they are left with two alternatives: they must either sacrifice the land, because no-one is particularly anxious to buy it, or they must sell it to the Forests Department, which is always keen to buy more land to extend its pine plantations. This is the only other avenue of disposal available.

When a farm goes out of production, the shire suffers because the Forests Department pays no rates on its land. The business people in the town are also affected, and so the whole district gradually begins to suffer the ill-effects.

I think the Government—and particularly the Lands Department—should, wherever possible, release land to assist these small farmers to expand.

It is interesting to quote a few figures concerning the Forests Department. In the Blackwood Valley at present 5,500 acres are planted to pine, and a further

11,000 acres are to be planted. The department is planting this area to pine at the rate of approximately 1,000 acres a year, so members can readily appreciate the expansion which is taking place.

I realise that the department cannot release land regardless, because it must consider the State's future forest requirements. However, I feel sure that instances must arise when land has reached the point where it is doubtful whether it is a good proposition for the department. Many landholders would dearly love to get hold of some of this land. For instance, in the last four months, if the department had released all the land requested through me it would have involved releases in the vicinity of 1,500 to 2,000 acres.

With regard to the dairying industry, it is generally agreed that the farmer producing whole milk is doing quite well, but in my particular area the greater number of dairy farmers are involved in butterfat production. It is generally known that the butterfat producer is not doing quite so well.

I remember a woolgrower saying to me 10 to 12 years ago that provided the price of wool did not fall below 50c a pound the woolgrower would continue to do reasonably well. However I can quote the position of two growers in the area I represent. One informed me that his average price of wool last season was 27c a pound and another quoted 24c a pound, so although the number of sheep per acre has increased in the last 10 years, as well as the production per head, we can see that the return to the grower is lower than necessary for him to make a reasonable living.

If anyone entered a fruit shop and studied the price of fruit, he would be excused for believing that the fruit grower is making a small fortune. It is interesting to note the wholesale and retail prices published in *The West Australian*. In some cases there is a difference of 100 to 200 per cent. between the wholesale and retail prices. In last Saturday's paper it was reported that low-grade grannies were selling at \$1 a case. However the retail price quoted in the next column that very same day was 9c a pound. As the cases contain a bushel, for which the wholesaler pays \$1, by selling the apples at 9c a pound he receives \$3.60.

A little wastage may be involved with regard to these grannies, but just the same it seems an exorbitant price that the consumer must pay. It appears therefore that the farmer can scarcely afford to grow the primary produce, and the consumer can scarcely afford to purchase it.

Still on the subject of apples, but this time on the export side—and the member for Warren touched on this matter to some extent—the main problem of the Australian grower, and particularly the Western

Australian grower, is competition on the overseas markets. He has very strong competition from South Africa, Argentine and New Zealand. World production is ever-increasing, and the situation is further affected by the latest cool stores available in Italy. The big producer there now finds he can store his fruit right throughout the season, and the Italian fruit is consequently in as good condition, when our fruit reaches the European market, as it was when it was picked off the trees.

In addition, South Africa has a 90c freight advantage over Australia. Last year the freight on apples per case from Fremantle to the United Kingdom was \$2.34. Members heard the member for Warren last night state that the grower received \$2.50 a case, so consequently the amount he receives is almost the same as the actual freight.

Another point in regard to freight concerns the difference in freight from here to Singapore and from Donnybrook to Derby. The cost per case to Singapore is \$1.30, but that is not so bad. The member for Kimberley will be very interested to know I sent a case from Donnybrook to Derby, the freight for which was \$1.70. We complain about overseas freight. However the distance from Donnybrook to Derby is much shorter than it is to Singapore, yet the freight is comparatively so much higher.

It is pleasing to know that the 1968 West Australian Churchill Fellow has left on a five months world tour to investigate apple processing techniques. The amount of fruit which is wasted in this State each year is absolutely colossal. Unless a member had been in the south-west and seen the fruit dumped by the ton, he would not appreciate the tremendous wastage which occurs. Apparently the idea of this overseas visit is to find some way of utilising our fruit. For instance the juice can be bottled and sold like milk. Apparently there is a demand for this product elsewhere in the world and there should be a market for it here.

Recently a survey carried out in a store in Perth revealed that of the 18 different products which contained apple in some shape or form, not one was manufactured in Western Australia; they were all imported from the Eastern States. Therefore we have a long way to go here.

I would now like to make reference to irrigation because this is one way, particularly in my area, by which the small farmer is able to increase his production. In recent years, in an effort to achieve this increase in production, many farmers have installed their own private schemes. It is interesting to know that 8,000 acres were irrigated under private schemes in 1952, but by 1967—15 years later—28,000 acres were being irrigated, mainly, of course, for the production of high-value crops such as potatoes, apples, and the like. However I

is very doubtful whether it would be a good proposition in our area to irrigate for pastures.

It is very gratifying indeed from my point of view and from that of the settlers in the Donnybrook area to know that at last a move has been made to dam the tributaries of the Preston River. Work on this project will commence in 1969, the first stage being to construct a dam which will hold 700 to 1,000 acre feet of water. This will be constructed on Lyalls Brook, about two miles north of Mumballup. Admittedly the water will cost the farmers \$15.00 an acre foot, but with the high value of crops, this will still be a great advantage to them, and they are looking forward to it.

It must be admitted that over the years, the amount of water which flows down the Preston River and into the sea is colossal, and it is very frustrating for settlers to see all that water go by knowing that by the end of December they will be unable to pump any water from the river because it will be practically dry by then.

There has been quite a lot of talk lately in regard to the small farmer disappearing from the Australian scene. It is believed that as he has only a small unit, it will become uneconomic and eventually he must sell. Such farms will be amalgamated and taken over by larger concerns, and the small farmer will disappear. If this does occur, it will be a very sad and sorry day for Australia, because this country has been developed by these people. I think the same initiative displayed by Australians during the war has also been displayed by these farmers, and they are now entitled to some support and assistance in order that they might maintain their farms within our economy.

I would like to conclude by thanking the constituents of the Blackwood area for having elected me. I only hope I am able to carry out my duties and work for them in the way they desire.

**MR. BERTRAM** (Mt. Hawthorn) [7.45 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity, my first to do so, to congratulate you on your recent election to high office; that is to say, to the position of Speaker of this Assembly.

It is now four months and more since the general election and that is sufficient time to enable one to form some first impressions. The spirit of co-operation and service which is so noticeable in the staff of Parliament House is certainly not the least of these. Speaking as objectively as one can in the circumstances, I must say it has been good to see the energy and enthusiasm displayed by my fellow new members on this side of the House. I have no desire to be presumptuous, or even to appear so, but it has been said from time to time that the new members to whom

I have just referred are going to make their mark and at the same time make a significant contribution both to the Parliament and the State of Western Australia. My belief—prognostication—is that these high expectations will be borne out. In the fullness of time there will be ample evidence to show that these predictions were justified.

I am sure I speak not only for myself but for all new members on this side of the House when I express appreciation of the tremendous leadership and direction given to us by our leader, The Hon. J. T. Tonkin, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Chamber, during the general election, and also for the positive and good influence he has had upon us to the present time. Similarly I should like to extend my thanks to those members on this side whom I refer to as the "old hands," for the assistance and help they have given us during these first few months. It is a period which, perhaps, can fairly be referred to as the shakedown period for new members into parliamentary life. To those members opposite who have extended friendship to us over this period of time, I say this has been noted and appreciated.

Another very important impression relates to our former leader, The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke. I have been greatly impressed to observe the tremendous enjoyment which he derives from life. He seems to revel in a good joke and there is hardly a situation from which he cannot derive at least some humour. It may be fair to say that his quest for fun is insatiable. I imagine these qualities which he possesses are not irrelevant from the standpoint of the tremendous amount of support which he has received from so many Western Australians for so long.

Of course, I am not overlooking his ability to know, to understand, to work with, and to fight for those people whom on this side of the House we so affectionately refer to as "the little people." Without seeking to emulate Mr. Hawke's humour, I nevertheless digress for a moment to speak in lighter vein. The fact is that in the short space of time in which I have been moving about in the precincts of Parliament House I have contracted at least my fair share of the viruses which are prevalent at this time of the year. If it were not for the fact that my good friend and colleague, the member for Pilbara, is on the House Committee, I would be tempted to aver that the committee was seeing to it that I was getting, perhaps, a little more than my fair share from its ample larder of virulent viruses.

Election to this Parliament for the first time connotes a great deal. It involves a sizeable reorientation and reorganisation of one's former life routine. It heralds in, as it were, a new era for the new member. This being so, I believe it is a time for

me to pause for a moment in order to take stock and, more particularly, to thank certain people and organisations for what they have done for me in years gone by. I propose to do just that; and, in the first instance, I should like to thank certain friends and relatives who, some years ago, gave me the opportunity and the encouragement to qualify as an accountant. I have come to realise that opportunity is so important in life; without it very often one does not get off the ground. I particularly wish to thank my brother who, of his own volition, contributed some of the wherewithal necessary for me to qualify.

I should also like to thank a fellow member of the legal profession who, at a later time, was instrumental in making the way available—giving the entree, in a sense—for me to enter the legal profession. It is not at all that easy to gain entree to the legal profession today, but a few years ago it was somewhat more difficult, particularly if one did not have the means. He made the way available to me and this allowed me to study, qualify, and ultimately become a practitioner of the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

These things mean a lot to me, but I mention them in the present context because the qualifications to which I have referred have been invaluable to me in the relatively short space of time that I have been substantially interested in political matters, and I do not expect they will be a great burden to me in the future.

I think it is quite proper and, in fact, necessary that I should thank the Australian Labor Party, as the member for Maylands did earlier this evening. Perhaps I should say, "The Great Australian Labor Party" and make no bones about it. It is the oldest party within the Commonwealth of Australia. It is a party which has never sought to conceal its identity or its name down the years by reason of fluctuations of fortune. In the mere 17 years, or thereabouts when it was at the helm of the Commonwealth, the Australian Labor party made a tremendous contribution to the Commonwealth of Australia and to the people of Australia. I put it to members that there is ample evidence of what I have just said in statutory and other form for all those who wish to view it. It is not idle comment, but supportable by ample evidence.

As far as Western Australia is concerned, I believe the Australian Labor Party has the support of the majority of voters in Western Australia. Down the years it has helped to lay the foundations of this State and has contributed in a big way towards its growth. Over the years, the Australian Labor Party has been in office in this State for long periods of time, and, once again, the Statutes show that the Australian Labor Party accomplished many things when it was in office. It was not in any way lopsided. By that I mean it did not proceed in one direction and mark

time in others. It is the Australian Labor Party which has laid the foundations which are so necessary to enable Western Australia now to proceed and to progress at the rate at which it is proceeding with a measure of safety. Surely it is agreed all round that, no matter what the edifice one seeks to construct, it is only as good as the foundations—the base—upon which it stands.

I also thank the Australian Labor Party because it sets out its objectives so clearly for all to see. These objectives appeal to me. Furthermore, my thanks go to it because it happens to be the vehicle which enables me now to be a member of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia and to speak at this time.

I should also like to thank a large number of people within the Labor movement, and outside of it, who, by their selfless endeavours in the course of the election and leading up to it, made victory in the Mt. Hawthorn electoral district a probability. I use the term "Mt. Hawthorn electoral district"; because, with the newly constituted electoral boundaries, the district includes a sizeable portion of Wembley. It also includes Joondanna, parts of North Perth, Osborne Park, and so on. However, the most significant thing as a result of the last redistribution of boundaries is that Wembley came into the Mt. Hawthorn electoral district.

It was a heartwarming experience for a relatively novice candidate to observe the tremendous amount of time and talent which those people—whom, as I have said, we on this side refer to so affectionately as the little people—were prepared to give in order to gain the desired result on the 23rd March last. The spirit they showed was the spirit of endeavour, which gives one hope and entitles one to believe—as I do—that there may yet be time for the people of the world to come to learn to resolve their differences in a mature and adult way—I refer to differences whether State-wise matters, administrative-wise or otherwise—and for people to come to realise that peace and co-operation are goals which should transcend most, if not all, other objectives. Certainly they should transcend the less wholesome approaches to life which prefer competition and all that goes with it, to something savouring of co-operation. I refer to all the things which are manifested these days in what is so aptly referred to as the rat race.

Thanks, then, to the people of the Mt. Hawthorn electoral district, since this is the electorate which I represent—all 12,550-odd electors in that district. They are the people who ultimately gave me the support which meant victory in the general election. I told the electors at the material time that I would serve them severally and collectively to the best of my ability. That was not said in a sense of



gimmicky. This being so, I do not hesitate to restate my intention to do my very best—to deliver the goods—in the Mt. Hawthorn electorate.

To speak for one's fellow man, one's equals, in the highest forum in the State is surely one of the greatest temporal roles, if not the greatest, which any man can be given. I recognise the great honour and privilege and also the heavy responsibility which it involves.

One of my greatest concerns, Legislature-wise, is the apparent reluctance on the part of Governments—particularly conservative Governments, as the name would suggest—to offer something in the form of leadership through legislation; and I am also concerned with their reluctance to modernise legislation.

In this context I use the word "modernise" in the broadest sense. Statutes which have served their purpose and which are now obsolete and redundant should be placed in the discard by prompt repeal. In regard to this question, in more recent years this State has made quite a progressive move, albeit a belated one, to repeal many of our obsolete Statutes. There should be, of course, a greater preparedness to review and revise existing Statutes for the purpose of eliminating anomalies contained in them, and so that they may be fairer and more efficient.

Those Statutes which are introduced for the purpose of removing unfair situations where appearing within the framework of the common law appear to be enacted only belatedly. Furthermore there seems to be little attempt to anticipate situations that may arise and to legislate for them accordingly. Rather, the procedure is to wait and then reluctantly—and as if in the last resort—to introduce some appropriate, yet also quite obvious, statutory measure.

Many of the situations we encounter in this State, quite obviously, have been experienced and dealt with in other countries and in other States. If the position is to be that we are not to offer leadership, but rather to follow the lead shown by others, then in my view we should, at least, be quick to benefit from these initiatives taken elsewhere and from the precedents which are available therefrom.

To give quick illustrations of the type of situations I have mentioned, I turn my mind for a moment to certain situations that have arisen, not only within our State, but also within the Commonwealth, because these are conveniently available. Turning firstly to the Commonwealth scene, I mention a man who was one of the fathers of Federation; who was a member of the Victorian Legislature; who subsequently became a member of the House of Representatives; who went on to become a member of the High Court of Australia; and who, ultimately, so far as

his judicial efforts were concerned, became the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

This man, together with other far-sighted men, was urging, well before 1920, that the provisions of the Commonwealth Constitution enabling the Commonwealth to legislate on matrimonial causes and divorce should be put into effect for the obvious reason that divorce should be the subject of an Act covering the whole of the Commonwealth, and saying that it was not efficacious for each State to legislate separately. Domicile is an important factor in the divorce jurisdiction, and, amongst other things, there was a tendency to segmentise the Commonwealth rather than to unify it. Being a legal man, Mr. Speaker, you probably recall the efforts of the man I have mentioned as being one of the fathers of Federation.

However, what happened? The answer is that nothing happened for 40 years or more, when ultimately a private member had the temerity to introduce a Bill which was subsequently adopted by the Government, and finally a law was enacted, but only as late as 1959. Since that time experience has shown how wise and necessary this legislation was, and yet apparently the fathers of Federation, even as far back as when Federation was first mooted, knew how necessary this legislation was and therefore wrote it into the Commonwealth Constitution.

If I remember correctly, the gentleman to whom I have been referring—that is, the man who was urging the introduction of this legislation before 1920—was later to become the first Australian-born Governor-General. I will not burden the House by indicating which Government it was, but will leave it to members to work out for themselves the Administration responsible for breaking with tradition appointing this man—an Australian—as Governor-General. On second thoughts, perhaps I should say which party appointed this Australian-born citizen as Governor-General. It happened to be the Australian Labor Party.

Once again, turning briefly to the Commonwealth sphere, I would point out that there was terrible procrastination and interminable delays surrounding the introduction of legislation to restrict unfair trade practices which was proclaimed only in the last year or so. In our present-day society this type of legislation is inevitable. At this point of time I will not debate and discuss the efficacy of the legislation, the effectiveness of which may be far more apparent than it is real. Nevertheless it does no harm to mention that Labor saw the need for this type of legislation as long ago as 1903, and perhaps even before that.

In Western Australia we have numerous examples of delay and prevarication. Yesterday evening the Deputy Leader of the

Opposition rattled off a few in quick succession, and I am indebted to him for that. The fact is that in 1863 or thereabouts, Abraham Lincoln made a declaration—using those now well-known words—that democracy was government of the people, by the people, and for the people. That was his approach, and I think it is correct to say that it was a principle that was accepted by the whole of the western world.

If this principle means anything, it means that every person is entitled to a vote. But what happened in Western Australia? To our everlasting discredit it could be accurately said that nothing happened along these lines until 102 years had passed, because it was not until 1965 that the people of this State, for the first time, were given a vote, not only in Legislative Assembly elections, but also in Legislative Council elections. It is true that people will say, "Oh yes, there were reasons for this," but I would say that they were only alleged reasons and without worthwhile motives.

The people of Western Australia were entitled to vote in the elections of both Houses as of right, and in my view no reason could be advanced to justify the deprivation of this right. By the turn of this century surely it is not asking too much that each person should be entitled to vote in the elections of each House forming the Legislature of this State.

A great deal of reluctance was also shown when an attempt was made to amend the common law so as to enable one spouse to sue another. Here we were once again in the mid-twentieth century and again being bogged down—on this occasion by a mediaeval legal fiction which said that spouses are one entity, and that this being so, one spouse could not possibly sue another. The grossly unfair consequences of this provision of the common law were to be seen every day of the week with the modern motor vehicle wreaking havoc among the people.

Yet it was not until a year or so ago that the law was amended, so that now a spouse has rights at common law in running down cases which are equal to those enjoyed by other citizens. No longer is a wife regarded as a second rate citizen and obliged to accept a legal position inferior to that of the paramour, for example, who is injured in consequence of the negligent driving of her *de facto* spouse.

Even now, in the Speech he made at the opening of Parliament, the Lieutenant-Governor expressed the Government's intention to introduce a measure during this session to provide for compensation for society's casualties in the case of victims of criminal violence. Such a move by the Government is eagerly awaited. Admittedly, the move is a little

belated, but it is not as late as some of our previous efforts have been. Other countries, of course, have introduced laws already to deal with this situation. Whilst we are not giving the lead but again following it, we are this time not so very far behind.

It seems to me to be an extraordinary paradox—it is certainly not a satisfactory position—that in a State such as ours, which by reason of its immense natural resources and its singularly advantageous geographical position must go ahead by leaps and bounds, we should be determined to conserve and delay legislation rather than speed it up, to reform it, and to set an example of leadership in this field. Surely we should be committed to the same rate of political, parliamentary, and legislative progress as we are to scientific, technological, and other forms of progress. Otherwise we shall continue to have a curious and unacceptable mixture of twentieth century and nineteenth century thinking which, to say the least, seems to be an extraordinary example of inconsistency.

It is just not possible that we can continue to progress at a certain speed in some fields of activity, and yet be prepared to go slow in others. In the penal field it must now be obvious to all of those who have studied the position, and who are prepared to accept what they have learned, that capital punishment and flogging will be abolished, if not completely, then to a significant extent before many more years have passed. If this is true—as I believe it is—I put this question to the House: Why should we continue to delay this reform any longer? Because in my belief the present position gives us an excellent opportunity to show some initiative and to spell out an enlightened approach to this particular question.

Has any member the right to address this House at a time such as this without expressing his real concern, as I now do, about the price of residential land and the unavailability of housing accommodation? In a State such as ours, where only the merest fraction of the great land mass is occupied, and where the materials necessary for housing construction are in almost unlimited supply, it seems unbelievable that the price of residential land should be prohibitive, and that residential housing should fall so far behind the ordinary and proper requirements. A house is a basic need for a home, which happens to be the foundation of our society, and the unavailability of proper homes, with the consequential destruction of normal and ordinary home life, has far-reaching, very serious, and adverse results. There is nothing new or novel about this appraisal of the situation which I have just made. I only mention it in the hope that my remarks will serve

to underline the unsatisfactory position which now obtains, and in the hope that the Government will take such further drastic action as this drastic situation demands, so that the housing position in this State may return to normal, or something approaching normality, within a short time in the future.

Turning now to education, one cannot possibly be satisfied and one cannot condone the present position which exists in our schools, which are not provided with libraries and other basic facilities, and as a consequence it is necessary and incumbent upon a relatively few dedicated members of parents and citizens' associations to organise, to raise funds, and to guarantee bank accounts, in order that these rudimentary needs may be made available to the children.

In this context I do not want it to be understood that I am against parents and citizens' associations, because that is certainly not the case. It has been my business to support them to the best of my ability for many years; but this is a question of degree. The present situation bears more heavily upon conscientious parents, than it does upon those who are less so; and, so far as fund-raising is concerned, its impact does not occur according to the means of the people but upon some other measure, and therefore it is unfair.

Libraries are being used to an ever-increasing extent in these modern days, and the denial of libraries to schools is a very bad feature of the education system. Recently the headmaster of one school in referring to the children said, "They only pass this way once." That puts everything which is connected with education on a very high level of priority. I hope the Government will do its best to make up the leeway which exists in respect of libraries and of other basic and rudimentary requirements of schools.

No longer does there seem to be a system of free education in the sense that we used to know it previously. It can be extremely embarrassing for parents when each day their children come home from school, particularly in the early part of the school year, with another request for money. It is a type of duress. What parent would allow his child to go to school and be the odd one out? This puts an unnecessary and a heavy demand on parents, particularly on those who are not perhaps as fortunate as others—the ones I have referred to as the little people.

It is a good thing to note that this year—I believe for the first time—certain State schools are making an attempt, as it were, to enlarge the scope of education. At last there seems to be recognition of the fact that it is not only necessary to have our children taught how to read and to write, but that they should be encouraged to develop the finer things in

their nature. I refer, of course, to the special schools which have been set up and which allow the children, for the time being at any rate, who have some talent in art, music, and perhaps in other directions, to study these subjects as if they were ordinary subjects in the school curriculum. I do hope that this step will be preserved. It is a wonderful step forward, and I hope it will be persevered with on a grand scale.

In conclusion I also hope that the needs of our youth will continue to be recognised, and they certainly should be, and that greater financial assistance will be given to youth by the Government; and that there shall be provision made for additional skilled, and perhaps, more particularly, dedicated personnel, so that only the best results may be derived from the sporting and cultural activities of our young people, and so that they may be better able to use their leisure time to the very best advantage. I thank all members for their forbearance on the occasion of this my maiden speech.

**MR. YOUNG (Roe)** [8.21 p.m.]: May I at this juncture add my congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the Chair of this House. I also add my congratulations to the member for Narrogin on his reappointment as Chairman of Committees.

As my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate, I wish to make some comments relating to land allocations, land boards, and the circumstances of allocations which have been made in the electorate of Roe. As most members are aware, this is a developing area. The major problem at the present time is the expansion of the area into new fields. New areas have been thrown open and problems have arisen as a result.

It was with some pleasure that I learnt some time back that we, as the Government, were going to restrict the allocation of land to a more realistic rate. We have thrown a great deal of land open for selection, and this was mainly brought about by pressures, because the demand for land was so terrific. About 40 blocks or so would be advertised for selection at a time, and we would find 400 to 600 applicants. With land being in such great demand, pressures for throwing open land for selection became great.

The old settlements had been developed mainly before the last war. With the extension of development beyond the limits of the old settlements we found it was possible to develop land within 30 to 50 miles, by the use of modern transport and modern techniques. However, as development has taken place and is taking place beyond the limit I have mentioned, we find that the lines of communication and the necessary ancillaries which go

with development—I refer to schools, hospitals, and roads—are costing such a terrific amount to provide that the rate of development has been slowed down.

That brings me to this point: In some areas we find that the land board has allocated land—and I am in no way critical of the land board—which has not been developed. We need only travel around the country districts where development has taken place to see the large number of conditional purchase farms. We find such large numbers of would-be settlers going before the land board that there is certain to be some mistake or misjudgment, as a consequence of which blocks will be allocated to people who are not genuine triers in the farming field.

Those are the blocks which are causing great concern in my district, because some of them are not being developed. As the land beyond has now been thrown open for selection, the area which has been stagnating is retarding the progress of the outer areas. We find that school buses, telephone lines, and other services which are essential, cannot be extended in the areas now being developed.

Somewhere along the line where a settler has not made a genuine attempt to develop his property, the case should be investigated. The settler might have been allocated the land for a considerable time, and in some cases I have seen blocks where no attempt has been made to develop them. In those circumstances it is time we took another look into the position of the settler, to ensure that the provisions in the Act, in relation to development of the block, are more rigidly enforced.

By that I do not mean to imply that on a certain date the settler should be told, "You have been allocated the block for a long time. You should have done much more development. You are not up to date, therefore you will forfeit your block." Where a genuine attempt has been made to improve a selected area the settler should be encouraged, because we have heard it expressed in this Chamber that the financial position of the farming community is deteriorating. In these days money is not so easy to obtain through loans. Nowadays many of these settlers go out shearing or take on other jobs to raise money for development. So long as a genuine attempt has been made to develop the block it is all right. It is against the settler who has made no attempt that action should be taken.

Mr. Brand: When the Lands Department moves in this matter there is a tendency for representations to be made to give the fellow concerned a little more time.

Mr. YOUNG: I agree entirely. I think the time has come when those who have been allocated blocks for one, two, or three years, and who have done nothing to develop them, should not be given any further time.

Mr. Brand: No, I agree they should not have any further time.

Mr. YOUNG: This brings me to a further point: In these allocations there is no preference given to ex-servicemen. As members are aware, ever since the early days of our history, soldiers who returned from wars have been given some reward for their services. In the metropolitan area we find the situation under which the ex-servicemen from the 1939-45 war can still buy land at concessional rates. That being the position, how much more important is it that some preference be given to ex-national servicemen whose birthdays coincided with those drawn out of a barrel and who had to serve overseas, thereby disrupting the continuity of their lives? We find that under the Commonwealth repatriation benefits scheme ex-servicemen must take up their re-establishment loan within 12 months of their return to civilian life. If it is not taken up within that time they lose their right to it.

While they are away on service, we find that selection ballots are held in an area and the individuals concerned are not represented and so cannot apply for land. In these circumstances they miss out. When they return from service they have to wait for another selection ballot in regard to the area in which they desire to settle. This is an important point, because a lot of the lads selecting land are dependent upon their fathers or some other member of their family to assist them with finance, stock, and the provision of plant. If there is no ballot for land within a particular area, or an individual is not granted a block within 12 months, he misses out on the provision of a re-establishment loan.

Mr. Bovell: Ex-servicemen receive special financial consideration in regard to any land allotted to them.

Mr. YOUNG: I agree they receive financial assistance.

Mr. Bovell: Not financial assistance; a certain reduction in the price of the land they take up, which is the point you made in relation to the city dweller getting concessions.

Mr. YOUNG: I agree; but it is not much good giving a concessional reduction for the purchase of land if an ex-serviceman cannot obtain a block when an allocation takes place. In my area there has been an instance of an ex-serviceman applying three times for a block and not being successful in gaining one. I consider that if ex-servicemen and their counterparts in Civilian Street are equal in all aspects, and the ex-servicemen have the know-how and the necessary financial backing, preference should be given to those ex-servicemen. An ex-serviceman has stood the test of being a defender of his country

and when he comes back he should be granted some privilege in the allocation of conditional purchase land.

I will now refer briefly to a subject that has recently been well discussed in this Chamber—housing. However, I wish to tackle the subject on a different angle. We have heard the problems as they affect the metropolitan area expressed by members on both sides of the House, but I would like to say that a housing problem exists in country towns, and more so in the newer developing areas. This is in regard to the provision of housing on farms.

I know members will say that people apply for C.P. blocks with their eyes open, knowing their financial ability to meet their commitments; but some of these farmers went on the land up to six, seven, eight, and 10 years ago, and conditions in the farming areas at that time were different from those that apply today. On the budget those people worked out they hoped to be able to make provision for a home within a reasonable period, but with the passing of time and rising costs they are finding the provision of a home is getting further and further away.

To illustrate the difference in the financial situation as it applies in the farming areas today, I would like to quote from *The West Australian* of the 17th July, as follows:—

Farmers throughout Australia have continued to borrow bank finance at a high rate, despite a drop in the aggregate rate of lending by the major trading banks.

In the five weeks ended June 12, new lending by these banks averaged \$34.7 million a week.

This was down slightly on the average of \$35.9 million a week in the preceding four weeks.

The rate of new lending from farm development loan funds increased from \$400,000 a week in the four weeks ending May 8 to \$500,000 a week in the five weeks ended June 12.

Since the major trading banks set up their farm development loan funds in April, 1966, they had approved loans of \$55 million from this source.

Because of the rapid commitment of the original \$50 million provided to establish these funds, the banks made available a further \$37 million for farm development in May this year.

New and increased overdraft commitments in the five weeks to June 12 averaged \$31.3 million a week.

In the four weeks to May 8, new overdraft lending had averaged \$33.4 million a week. In the June, 1967, period the average had been \$27.6 million a week.

I think that article illustrates that all is not entirely well with the farming community; and those settlers on new land that has been opened up—as referred to yesterday by my colleague, the member for Mt. Marshall—are finding it difficult to meet their commitments, let alone find the capital expenditure necessary for a house.

The member for Mt. Marshall referred to his area, which is chiefly concerned with wheat and sheep, but we find some of the settlers on the blocks are predominantly woolgrowers and they are in a far worse situation than the people who can diversify and grow grain to augment their income. We will have to look at this problem; and the Government will have to work harder to find some solution whereby these people can obtain finance to help them build a home, which is so essential to family life.

A few moments ago we heard of the problems of divorce associated with inadequate housing; and this applies just as much to the farmer on his block of land as it does to a dweller in the metropolitan area.

That concludes the remarks I wish to make tonight and I commend the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Dunn.

## SUPPLY BILL

### *Returned*

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

## PERTH RAILWAY STATION

### *Lowering: Presentation of Model*

**THE SPEAKER:** I wish to announce that on Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock in this Assembly the Minister for Transport and Railways will show a model of the proposed rail-sinking project at Perth railway station. Any member who wishes to attend is welcome to do so and the Minister will explain details and answer questions.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

**MR. BRAND** (Greenough-Premier) [8.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 13th August.

I have moved this special adjournment because so many members are suffering from the effects of influenza, and perhaps it would be a good idea for those affected to be able to remain at home.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 8.39 p.m.*