

So members can see which is the hottest place in Western Australia. The *Official Year Book of Western Australia* has this to say—

The most consistently hot place in the State is Wyndham, where the mean maximum throughout the year is 93.1° F. and the mean minimum for the coldest month is 66.2° F. At Marble Bar the yearly mean maximum of 96.2° F. is higher, but mean minimum temperatures are consistently lower, falling to 52.2° F. in the coldest month. The mean maximum at this centre is the highest in Australia, exceeding 100° F. in the six months from October to March inclusive.

From those details members can see that Wyndham is the hottest place in Western Australia.

Instead of its making a hasty decision to terminate the air freight subsidy on perishables for the north, I ask the Government to appoint a committee of agricultural experts who are stationed in the north to make the decision, rather than to allow those who are stationed in Perth, and who fly up there only occasionally, and then usually only in what we term the tourist season, to make it. The tourist season in the north is during the winter months, when the climate is ideal.

In conclusion, I support the view of the previous speaker, the member for Collie, that members should be given an opportunity to visit what I term the glamour electorate of Western Australia—that is, the Kimberley. This should be done not the easy way, but as the shearers do it—by truck. These trucks can be made quite comfortable; and members should not go up there in the tourist season, but when the House rises, which this year so I am led to believe, will be before the Commonwealth Games—the 11 days' wonder!

Members could visit the Kimberleys at the end of November, or some time like that. If they started off early in December they would miss the wet season, and they would be able to see the Kimberleys and the north as they really are, and as they should be seen—from the road and not from the air—because no-one has a chance of seeing anything from the windows of the Fokker Friendship or the DC3.

It would be an enjoyable trip; and although it would be done in the hot weather, it would allow members to appreciate what the people up there have to put up with during those trying months of the year. If they did that I am sure they would support me in advocating an all-the-year-round air freight subsidy on perishables for the electors of the Kimberleys.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Davies.

*House adjourned at 10.12 p.m.*

# Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 15th August, 1962

## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—</b>	
Merredin Railway Goods Yard : Provision of Mobile Crane .....	415
Perishables Subsidy Scheme—	
Cost of Scheme .....	415
North-West Towns and Areas Concerned .....	415
Totalisator Agency Board Agencies : Establishment at Bullfinch, Southern Cross, and Coolgardie .....	415
University and Teachers' Training Colleges : Provision Outside Metropolitan Area .....	415
<b>ADDRESSES-IN-REPLY : EIGHTH DAY—</b>	
<b>Speakers on Motion—</b>	
The Hon. A. F. Griffith .....	430
The Hon. W. R. Hall .....	423
The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs .....	416
The Hon. W. F. Willesee .....	423
<b>BILLS—</b>	
Administration Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Adoption of Children Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Amendments Incorporation Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Associations Incorporation Act Amendment Bill—	
2r. ....	447
BP Refinery (Kwinana) Limited Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Building Societies Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Charitable Trusts Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Church of England (Northern Diocese) Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Coal Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Declarations and Attestations Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Evidence Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Interpretation Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Law Reform (Property, Perpetuities, and Succession) Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Married Women's Property Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Reprinting of Acts Authorisation Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Simultaneous Deaths Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447

## CONTENTS—continued

	Page
<b>BILLS—continued</b>	
Testator's Family Maintenance Act Amendment Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
Trustees Bill—	
Intro. ; 1r. ....	447
<b>ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE :</b>	
<b>SPECIAL</b> ....	447

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

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

## TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD AGENCIES

*Establishment at Bullfinch, Southern Cross, and Coolgardie*

1. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:

Is it the intention of the Totalisator Agency Board to conduct agencies in smaller towns such as Bullfinch, Southern Cross, and Coolgardie?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:  
Yes.

2. *This question was postponed.*

## PERISHABLES SUBSIDY SCHEME

*North-West Towns and Areas Concerned*

3. The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What towns and areas in the north-west are receiving perishables under the perishables subsidy scheme—

(a) continuously throughout the year; and

(b) on a part-time scheme?

- (2) During which months of the year are the places referred to in No. (1) (b) supplied?

*Cost of Scheme*

- (3) How much did the scheme cost the Government for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1962?
- (4) If the information requested in No. (3) is not readily available, what was the figure for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1961?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) Ragged Hills; Main Roads Department and Public Works Department camps; Glenroy

during killing season; Kununurra (Public Works Department men's mess and staff employees); Liveringa; Shaw River; Nunyerry; Balgo Hills.

- (b) All places served by air north of the 26th parallel, with the exception of Wittenoom Gorge which is served by refrigerated road transport.

(2) The 1st December to the 31st May.

(3) £36,227.

(4) Answered by No. (3).

## UNIVERSITY AND TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGES

*Provision Outside Metropolitan Area*

4. The Hon. A. L. LOTON (for The Hon. J. M. Thomson) asked the Minister for Local Government:

In view of the Government's policy of decentralisation, will he inform the House what action is being taken to make provision for university and teachers' training college sites outside the metropolitan area?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

In conformity with the Government's policy of decentralisation in the Albany, Bunbury, and Geraldton areas, the Town Planning Department has made regional studies in the Albany and Bunbury areas. In consultation with the Education Department and Department of Lands and Surveys, sites have been earmarked on Crown land at Albany for a possible future teachers' training college and university college. Sites have been similarly earmarked at Bunbury and a suitable area is being investigated for Geraldton.

## MERREDIN RAILWAY GOODS YARD

*Provision of Mobile Crane*

5. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Has the Railways Department made available a mobile crane at the Merredin railway goods yard?

- (2) If the answer to No. (1) is "No," when is it intended to have a crane made available at this centre?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) No.

- (2) It is anticipated that a crane will be made available at Merredin within the next three or four months.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed from the 14th August, on the following motion by the The Hon. H. R. Robinson:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver:—

May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

**THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS** (South-East) [4.39 p.m.]: I, too, wish to congratulate you, Sir, on your re-election to the office of President. I did not have the pleasure of knowing you prior to my being a member of this House, but I gather from the trend of conversations and your unanimous re-election that you are popular. I also wish to congratulate the new member for the Suburban Province; and I would like to congratulate Mr. Wise as Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Willesee as Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Robinson, in his speech on the Address-in-Reply, dealt with the Eyre Highway. As this is in my province, I think it is fitting that I should commence my speech on that subject. Mr. Robinson said as follows:—

There are several points about which I would like to speak and which are covered in His Excellency's Speech. Reference was made to the east-west road. In my view the Premier should be given every possible encouragement to obtain additional funds for the completion of this road. Quite a considerable sum has already been spent on the Eyre Highway, and I believe that the time is now opportune to press the Commonwealth for additional funds—something like £12,000,000 is required to complete the highway. Other States are linked by highways and it is only logical that Western Australia, too, should be linked with the Eastern States by a properly constructed highway. Not only will this road be of national importance but it will also be a great aid to tourism in this State. Already five motels are either under construction or have been built.

I should like to take members on a short tour along the Eyre Highway. The highway from Norseman has been sealed for

a distance of 48 miles, and another 30 miles of highway has been prepared for sealing. Balladonia is one of the places on the highway where motorists can obtain petrol and oil. There is an old telegraph station there, which is in a very dilapidated condition. It should have been condemned, but the owners carry on and provide service for the public. Olive and Robert Jackson pioneered the highway. A few years later these people had the highest petrol sales of any locality outside the metropolitan area.

The next place we come to is Cocklebiddy. There is an eating house there operated by Bill MacDonald, and Mary and Patrick Hector. They have two-unit sleeping cabins; fresh food and canned food is available, as well as cool drinks. The owners spent £1,000 searching for water. Their search was successful and they now have sufficient water to supply the motel.

The Madura motel is operated by Mary and Jack Smith. The owners have a liquor license, and I would say without hesitation, that this is one of the best places to stay at outside the metropolitan area. Travellers can obtain petrol and oil at 6.30 in the morning, and also breakfast. The dining room and kitchen are fly-proofed. The owners are very fly conscious, and they would do credit to any motel in the metropolitan area. Hot showers and separate toilets are provided and a high standard is maintained.

At Eucla there is a motel run by Mr. and Mrs. Gurney. It is an old telegraph building. Sand has taken over the property and the owners have been forced to shift to the top of Eucla Pass. There are motel facilities there, and the building is being extended in time for the British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

These people are responsible people; they have been charged with the responsibility of looking after the flying doctor contact. They take weather readings, including the degree of humidity and the extent of rainfall. The owners keep a private zoo as a hobby. They have nearly every conceivable type of animal which it is possible to keep. Also, they have the best shell collection in Australia.

There is a new motel on the highway; namely, the BP motel. I deplore the circumstances under which tenders for the building of this motel were obtained. I understand that these people applied to the Land Board, but were unsuccessful. I do not know what happened. Tenders were invited, and the only applicant was the BP organisation, which was successful.

I do not know how the people along the Eyre Highway would have got word of this, because there is only one mail delivery each month. If too many contracts are let for the erection of motels

on the highway, the highway will begin to look like a suburb with a service station on every corner.

These people should be given an incentive to settle along the highway. Those who live there do not enjoy the amenities of city life. The education of their children involves a good deal of expense, because the children have to be sent either to South Australia or to Perth. People do not wish to settle along the Eyre Highway without an incentive to do so.

The condition of the road is rather interesting. When I saw the highway prior to the rains, it was very dusty. As a matter of fact, the local people call it "bull dust." I do not know why they call it that. I think it got the name after David Brand went through! At any rate, we should not confuse it with the type of stuff which emanates from Harvest Terrace.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Although you are making your maiden speech, if you make remarks like that you can expect interjections.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: The telegraph line serving the highway is in a bad state of repair. I asked the Minister to have the line repaired, but he told me it would cost £100,000 to have it done. I am sure that whoever investigated and reported on the cost did not know what he was doing. The telegraph line has fallen down; the crossarms are broken, and the wires are touching the steel poles and running to earth, and there is no power passing between the steel poles. I do not understand why it would cost £100,000 to repair this line.

I have noticed visitors and tourists bringing dogs and other animals from other States into Norseman. I do not think Alsatian dogs are allowed into Western Australia; yet I am amazed at the number of people who bring their dogs from other States. I think the matter should be examined. Anyone who has had anything to do with pastoral properties knows what a menace dogs can be.

Norseman is the richest mining town in pennyweight per ton in Western Australia. Last year 175,000 tons of ore were treated; and the goldmine employs 406 men. We are very concerned about the pyrites mine. A couple of men have been put off from that mine, and it is strongly rumoured that the industry may not continue for very long. The rumour is that pyrites are not going to be used in Esperance. It is felt that the introduction of sulphur will be the thin end of the wedge to obviate the use of pyrites at Perth.

While I am on my feet I would like to show the House some items of jewellery made out of stones from Norseman. Members may view the stones afterwards if they wish. This particular stone is called

moss agate. It is highly polished, and is a sample of stones from that area which are used for jewellery. I think that the person who is developing this work will provide a wonderful tourist attraction. There are three types of moss agate in Norseman. Here is another one; and here is a sample of silic oxide which is a low grade opal. I show these items as I feel they may be of interest to members. These articles also demonstrate that Norseman does not depend entirely on pyrites and gold.

The people of Norseman are very concerned about the bus service. They feel they have had a pretty rough deal. It is not a good service, and the buses are very uncomfortable on a long journey. When we compare this service with the one that operates on the Albany run we can see the difference. I shall read part of the pamphlet advertising the Albany bus service. It reads—

The "Luxury Scenicruiser," replete with all modern facilities for enjoyable travel, covers the distance in each direction between Perth and Albany in approximately 7 hours.

The pamphlet goes on to state that the bus has the following facilities:—

Airbag suspension on all wheels, plus knee action suspension on the front wheels, ensures a smooth even keel ride.

Passengers are requested to take only hand luggage into the bus. All other luggage will be safely stowed in the specially built lockers.

Public address system with nine speakers advantageously placed throughout the bus.

Overhead personal light with own switch is provided for each passenger.

Interior forced ventilation with personal control as desired by passenger.

Further on it states—

Toilet facilities have been provided at the rear of the bus.

Modern insulation excludes heat, cold, dust, vibration and noise.

Excellent refreshments including packaged luncheons are served by the hostess . . .

There is a similar pamphlet dealing with the bus from Perth to Narembeen; in fact, the facilities provided are identical. However, in our district no such facilities are provided.

As a matter of interest, the single fare on the train from Kalgoorlie to Norseman used to be £1 3s. 3d. first class. Now it is 6s. 9d. less; but for second class passengers it is 8s. 8d. more than it was previously for the same trip. The same applies to Esperance where it is 12s. less in the first class, and 19s. more for the second class passengers.

I want to say a little about goldmining. I saw recently where £300,000 had been allocated for development. That, of course, is in addition to the money already made available. I am glad to see that we are to get this additional £300,000, because development is the lifeblood of mining. Anyone with experience of mining knows that development must be kept going or the mine dies. The development of drives, cross-cuts, winzes, and shafts is certainly an expensive business; and £300,000 is not a lot of money.

As a matter of fact I worked on a mine which spent that amount of money in one year. The important thing is that it will help to keep mining operations going. The managers do a very good job—they have to—and the miners do an equally good job. With the use of modern equipment—diamond rock drills, and lighter and faster revving drills—miners are able to break larger tonnages; and that, of course, helps to keep costs down.

I was wondering whether diamond drilling could be attempted to explore parallel lodes and parallel reefs. It is well known that in some districts the reefs and lodes do run parallel to the main one that is being mined; and I think every assistance should be given to prove this theory.

I have in mind one mine I worked on where the old-time geologists said that the gold had finished and that the mine had had it. But we drove a mile further and this mine is now producing 14,000 tons of ore a month with 10 dwts. per ton; and it is now the richest mine in Western Australia as far as pennyweights per ton are concerned.

Another thing occupying my attention from the mining angle is the vast general lake system from Boulder to Norseman and beyond. Most alluvial runs and leads finish at the lake. Actually, we do not know whether they commence or finish at the lake, because history and time have upset the lay of the land. We do not know whether the alluvial runs come from the lake or feed into it but the interesting and important thing is that they all run to the lake's edge. I think that is well worth investigating; and it could produce something new to mining in our district.

I would now like to say a few words about workers' compensation and, in particular, about the mine workers' relief. It is a condition of employment that an employee must pay into the Mine Workers' Relief Fund. I am not jibbing at that, but I think we should give the miner a better deal. The surface workers have to contribute to the Mine Workers' Relief Fund whether they want to or not, but there is little chance that they will ever get anything out of it. Most of them would be fitters, turners, carpenters, drivers, and so on.

Most workers who do not go underground are not subject to silicosis dust, yet they have to pay into this fund all their working lives with little chance of getting anything out of it. I exhort the Minister to have a committee of inquiry set up with the idea of giving the miner a fairer go. Other Governments have been remiss, but that is no excuse for not doing something now. I am not worrying about the past; I am worrying about the future; and I feel that we should give the miner a better deal.

As we all know, mining is on the upsurge. We hear a lot about our iron ore and the mining operations about to be carried out. We already have an asbestos industry. It is not too late to institute some pension scheme for goldminers; and it should be easy enough to do. It is already operating in the coalmines, and it is a common practice in industries in the East. I cannot see where there is any difficulty; and I know the miners would certainly co-operate in such a scheme. I do feel that an inquiry would be warranted; and I appeal to the Minister to give a lot of thought to the matter.

Mining has been a friend to Western Australia; and, on two occasions, it has got the State out of the doldrums. The total value of production is far in excess of £500,000,000. It is a very important industry, and the miners and all others who work in it should be given some consideration.

I am also concerned about lump sum payments for compensation. I think it is just a confidence trick to do the poor unfortunate worker out of his just dues. Once he signs on the dotted line he is finished, no matter how much his disease progresses.

I have in mind a person in my electorate who was assessed as having 25 per cent. silicosis. At the time he was in adverse circumstances and, at his own request, I admit, he was granted a lump sum payment. But these men should be protected against themselves. That man's silicosis progressed to the extent that it is now assessed at 50 per cent. He applied for a further lump sum payment to cover the increase from 25 to 50 per cent. in his disability. That application was refused, and rightly so, because he had signed on the dotted line; but, as I said, I think such men should be protected against themselves. In my view this sort of thing is a confidence trick which the insurance companies are playing on the workers.

I am very much concerned, too, about workers' compensation. As far as I can ascertain, at the moment, where death results from an injury the payment under the Act is £3,386. That is not a large sum of money in these days, particularly for a widow who is left without a husband. We only have to read the Press to see the modern trend where death results from a

road accident. The payment awarded by the courts in such cases is very much higher than it is in workers' compensation cases.

A worker with no dependants, who is totally incapacitated, now receives £10 11s. per week; and for a worker in the same category, with a dependent wife at the date of the accident, the rate is the same as that for a single worker plus £2 17s.—it used to be £2 15s.—and £1 4s.—it used to be £1 3s.—for each dependent child under the age of 16 years. The maximum entitlement for partial incapacity is now £3.103.

Medical expenses do not exceed £150, and hospital expenses do not exceed £250. Another thing that concerns me greatly is that people who have to go to Perth for medical treatment usually finds it necessary to stay one, two, or more weeks. They must of course stay somewhere, if they have no relatives; and any way I do not think it is fair to expect the relatives to carry that burden.

The maximum these people get is £7 4s. a week. I would like to see anyone living in Perth on £7 4s. a week! As members know, for many years the Labor Party has tried to include this to-and-from coverage in the Workers' Compensation Act. The other States have that coverage. Queensland has it, as have New South Wales and Victoria. Even the Commonwealth Government gives its employees complete coverage going to and from work. There is no doubt that the Western Australian Act is rapidly falling far behind similar legislation in other States. As far back as 1924 the late Alex McCallum tried to introduce the to-and-from clause while in the Legislative Assembly; but though it was passed there it was thrown out here.

I would like to revert for a moment to the question of medical and hospital expenses. Normally these amounts might be adequate for the usual accidents, but where there is a serious accident the amounts concerned are totally inadequate. For example, there is a man in our town who has far exceeded his entitlement. That poor unfortunate man will be out of work for another six or eight months. He will not be able to work before then. He has a wife and family and is beside himself with worry. That is characteristic of people who are ill because of accidents. I am sure the worry causes more trouble than the accident itself. The greater the man's injury, the longer he is put off for hospital treatment.

Under the Victorian Workers' Compensation Act there is no limit at all to medical and hospital expenses. The commission set up under the Workers' Compensation Act in New South Wales is similar to our Workers' Compensation Board. It has the power to award expenses beyond the limits provided on the application of the worker

and his employer. For the Commonwealth Government employees there is again no medical and hospital expenses. So it will be readily seen just how far out-moded our Workers' Compensation Act is.

Statistics that I have been able to gather show that there are 24 people placed in this position each year—in the position of exceeding their workers' compensation, medical and hospital entitlements. While on the subject of compensation I would like to make some reference to noise which causes deafness. As we all know, there is no compensation payable for deafness where there is no history of an injury. On the other hand, boilermakers' disease has been known for 150 years; and this has been caused simply through noise. Most miners to whom one speaks are hard of hearing, or totally deaf, because of the noise underground, due to the rapid revving of the machines and attendant sounds. These noises affect the nerves of the ear and the miners finish up being deaf. There is no workers' compensation for them, however. I do think that we should look into that matter when we are framing our workers' compensation legislation in the future.

I have with me a prepared statement concerning the section of the Workers' Compensation Act which I would like to read to the House. I prepared the statement so there would be no misunderstanding. It is as follows:—

Section 5—definition of "Dependants" and Section 6 (5) are a biased botch. From the commencement of the Act in England (1897) to its supersession in 1948, the definition of "Dependants" read: "such of the members of the workman's family as were wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the workman at the time of his death, or would but for the incapacity due to the accident have been so dependent."

The same words were adopted in our Act of 1912 and retained in every amended Act up to 1948.

A "Liberal" Government then framed the definition as follows:—

Dependants means such members of the worker's family as were wholly or in part dependent upon, or wholly or in part supported by, the earnings of the worker at the time of his death, or would, but for incapacity due to the accident, have been so dependent and as are resident in the Commonwealth of Australia or in any part of the Dominions of the Crown or any other country, to which the benefits of this Act in favour of dependants residing therein have been extended under the provisions of this Act.

Section 6 (5) was also inserted as follows:—

If the Governor is satisfied that by the laws operating similarly to the provisions of this Act, of any other country, whether part of the Dominions of the Crown or not, compensation for injury by accident to a deceased worker is payable to his dependants who are resident in this State, the Governor may by Order in Council, declare that when a worker is so injured in this State and dies as a result of the injury, his dependants who are not resident in this State shall have the same rights and remedies under the provisions of this Act as if they were resident in this State.

This would not have been so bad if the Governor had recognised the fact that practically all European countries and all but about three of the United States have Workers' Compensation laws which would allow the Western Australian dependants of a worker killed in those countries or States compensation on the same principle as used to apply in England. Unfortunately, however, the Governor has made no such proclamation at all. Western Australia is treated as an island surrounded by a vast sea of international barbarism.

There was an amendment, which was worse than what they had before. The definition of dependants now reads as it did in 1948 as far as the words "or any other country" but now goes on, "but does not include such members of the worker's family who do not reside permanently in the State at the time the worker dies or is incapacitated if his death or incapacity occurs after a period of five years of his first residing in the State."

This has two surprising results:—

It means that if a man's wife and/or children are still living in Melbourne or Sydney more than five years after the man first came to reside in this State, and the man was then killed in the mines, his wife or children would receive no compensation at all. Under the 1948 Act the Commonwealth was at least distinguished from "any other country whether or not a part of the Dominions of the Crown." Also, it would not be necessary for the unfortunate worker to have lived five years continuously in Western Australia without his family. His dependants would be excluded even if he had only been living here for the six months immediately preceding his death (or six weeks for that matter) if the first time he resided in Western

Australia (perhaps even before he was married) happened to be, say, ten or twenty years ago.

When you bear in mind that the Mining Companies like all other employers in this State, have to pay the same insurance premiums for a man whose family lives in Italy as for a man whose family lives in Norseman, you can see the grave injustice of the amendments made both in 1948 and 1953.

Incidentally, Section 6 (5), the one about the Governor's proclamation, seems to me to have no sense at all now, for it is not wanted if the deceased worker's death occurs less than five years after he first resided in Western Australia, and it can't apply if the death occurs more than five years after the deceased first resided in Western Australia, because such a man is deemed to have no dependants if his wife or family are not then permanently residing in the State.

The next point which I think requires amendment is Section 7 (2) (b) of the Act, which provides that when the worker's injury was due to the negligence of his employer or of a fellow employee, he may sue either at common law or for workers' compensation. There is nothing wrong with the provision that the worker should not receive both damages and compensation, but there should be a proviso that "receipt, or continued receipt, by an injured worker of weekly payments or other benefits under this Act shall not be deemed an election to accept workers' compensation rather than damages at common law, and shall not prejudice the worker's right to pursue his common law remedy. But any payment so received by the worker or (in the case of his death) by his dependants may be set off against any judgment awarded him or them at common law."

There should also be provision that once the worker is paid workers' compensation the employer must continue such payments even though the injured man later elects to sue at common law.

The next blot on this Act is Section 8 (13). It is not to be found in the Act of 1924, which originally put the industrial diseases schedule into the Act in 1927 to discriminate against mine workers only. It has no application to dermatitis, lead poisoning, chrome ulceration, infectious diseases or any other industrial diseases.

Another blot on the Act introduced by the Liberal government is Section 11 which provides that in cases of permanent partial incapacity the maximum compensation payable shall

be that proportion of the maximum payment for total incapacity which the degree of permanent incapacity bears to total incapacity. As "incapacity for work" does not mean incapacity to work but incapacity to earn wages, or full wages, as the case may be, one man with a 30% physical disability may be losing only £2 a week (say he is now earning £15 where he used to earn £17 per week) whilst another man with a 20% disability may be losing £15 a week e.g. a man now earning £16 per week as a hoist driver who was formerly earning £31 per week as a machine miner.

I think this ought to be enough to give you some idea of what a mess the Liberals made of the Act in 1948 and ever since.

I have a few suggested amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act, and they are as follows:—

1. The employers maximum liability in the case of total incapacity of a worker has not been increased since 1954 when it was fixed for £2,400. There was an amendment, now Section 10A of the Act passed in 1956, which provided that the employer's maximum liability should be increased to the sum of £2,750, but this contains a proviso that it shall apply only to cases of total and permanent incapacity. Hence if a man is so seriously injured that his weekly payments continue until he has received a total of £2,867 (which is the present day value of £2,400 in 1954) his compensation is cut off forthwith—and the only hope he has of getting further weekly payments up to the maximum of £3,103 (which is the present value of £2,750 in 1956) is to prove not only that he is still totally incapacitated, and is liable to continue totally incapacitated for many months, but that it is virtually certain that he will never be able to earn any wages at all. I can see no merit at all in this absurd restriction on the employers' total liability and it doesn't operate to protect employers. The insurance companies fix their premiums on the basis that the employers' maximum liability is £3,103 and then try to diddle the workers out of the additional money by finalising them at £2,867 on the pretence that they are not permanently incapacitated.

2. Another iniquitous proviso of the Act which relates only to disabled miners is Section 8 subsection 13 of the Act.

Section 8 is the one which deals with industrial diseases and the general principle of the Act is that if a worker is suffering from an industrial disease and is thereby disabled from earning

full wages and the disease is due to the nature of any employment in which he has been engaged, he is entitled to full Workers' Compensation whilst totally incapacitated and to two-thirds of his loss of earning power whilst he is partially incapacitated. These payments for total or partial incapacity will continue up to the employers' maximum liability.

If, however—now please note this—he is a miner disabled by a pulmonary disease such as silicosis or pneumoconiosis, or miner's phthisis, and is suffering from any other disease as well, he is entitled only to "a proportionate part of the compensation payable under section 8, apportioned to the degree to which his disability is due to the industrial disease." This means that if a man with bronchitis, ulcerated stomach, kidney disease or rheumatics also contracts dermatitis in a mine, or in a factory, or in a quarry, or in a petrol station, he will receive full compensation for all periods of total incapacity, part compensation for all periods of partial incapacity and total payments up to a maximum of at least £2,867. If, however, the same man is disabled by silicosis or miner's phthisis the State Insurance Office can first of all get the Health Laboratory to assess the amount of his disability due to bronchitis or stomach ulcers or kidney disease or rheumatics or a combination of all four complaints and the wretched miner may find that he will get only 25 per cent. compensation or 30 per cent.

The flagrant injustice of this discrimination against miners infuriates me because these mining diseases are the worst of all industrial diseases, being quite incurable. Even the Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board commented from the Bench in Kalgoorlie some years ago that this subsection should be abolished and added that there was not another section like it in the world.

I recently read about silicosis and the incidence of tuberculosis among miners. The figure given was two per thousand in the goldfields compared with one in 2,275 for the whole of the population. I also read that one workman in every 30 who entered the industry developed silicosis; and over the years there is little indication that there has been any significant change for the better.

I would now like to quote a few notes concerning noise from a document I have. These are as follows:—

Noise can be regarded as an essential part of the industrial environment. As a hazard, boilermaker's deafness over the last 150 years has been well known. Yet it is only within the last 10 years



that the magnitude of the impact of noise, on workers in industry, has been truly recognised.

Investigation within this period has demonstrated that constant exposure to noise, with an intensity of approximately 90 decibels or more, leads to impairment of hearing. This may progress to an irreversible nerve deafness.

It is evident, therefore, that noise does cause deafness; and it is time some provisions were incorporated in the Act concerning this matter. I have many other facts I would like to present, but I will leave them till a later discussion on workers' compensation.

I want to refer now briefly to a speech made by Mr. Emil Nulsen on the 30th August, 1932, because most of the predictions he made at that time have come true. He said—

The Esperance harbour is the most important subject affecting my constituency, and I should, perhaps, start with that as representing the real foundation for the life and progress of that part of the State.

Later he said—

Esperance is the natural port for farmers and pastoralists as far down as Southern Cross, and as far north as Laverton, Leonora, and Lawlers . . . Especially would the farmers in the Mallee district benefit if the harbour were opened up. The freight on machinery would be reduced by more than 75 per cent., and a general reduction in the cost of living could be effected to the extent of not less than 10 per cent. Owing to the absence of shipping facilities at Esperance, our commercial traffic has to pass through Fremantle, thereby necessitating goods consigned to centres in the Eastern Goldfields districts travelling an extra 568 miles by sea and 129 miles by rail, the distance from Fremantle to Kalgoorlie being 387 miles. The nearer we get to Esperance, the greater, naturally, is the disadvantage, because of the extra railage the people have to pay on consignments. The railways and all other facilities have only aggravated the evil of the lack of interstate facilities.

He said further—

We are in touch with the whole of Australia, but what is the use of our railways, our goods sheds and our Customs sheds and other facilities necessary to meet any expansion of trade? For the past three years the district has gone ahead by leaps and bounds. We have improved by anything from 100 per cent. to 150 per cent., and yet we are not making preparations for that expansion by improving the harbour facilities for

the accommodation of shipping. It is very difficult to farm or produce without any encouragement.

Further, he said—

The old jetty groans and creaks in a lament that can be heard all over the town when a vessel comes alongside. We are at least entitled to a breakwater and berthing for two vessels. Esperance is one of the finest harbours in Australia. It has a six-mile area, and within 4,000 feet of the shore it gives 60 ft. depth of water. It is not necessary to have so great a depth as 60 feet, and I think we can get sufficient water for all practical purposes within 3,000 feet from the shore. . . . During the Collier regime the former Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. Stileman, one of the best harbour authorities of the British Empire, made a survey of the Esperance harbour. I understand that in his report he said there would be no difficulty in making Esperance a harbour of the first magnitude.

Again, he said—

Also it would enable wheat boats to come into Esperance and load to their full capacity. During the years 1930, 1931, and 1932 the calls have been confined to 20 ships per year. . . . I have no doubt about the ultimate future of the Mallee. . . . The people of Western Australia have not yet conceived the value of the Esperance sandplain, as it is called. It is going to be a wonderful asset to the State.

Among other things Mr. Nulsen said at that time was that he had tried to get Esperance included in the co-operative bulk handling scheme. So he was well aware of the things which Esperance required.

Esperance is thriving and bursting at the seams. In 1949 there were only 60 farms but in 1962 there are 500. There are 175,000 acres prepared for seeding for pastures; 250,000 sheep; 12,000 cattle; and 300,000 acres in various stages of preparation. There were 250 tons of certified seed clover produced last year.

The radio reception is bad at Esperance, on all types of radio, including car radios and radios in the house, as well as transistors. This has been the position for many years, and while I realise this is really a Federal matter, I mention it now in order that members might know that it is something which has to be rectified.

What does concern me is the power supply at Esperance. I understand—although not on good authority—that power will be supplied by the superphosphate works. This information has been circulated around the town, and the general feeling is that the State Electricity Commission should provide a power station adequate for the expanding needs of the town and

district. The rate the town is expanding will make it impossible soon for the shire council to cope.

It is regrettable to learn of the site of the new superphosphate works. I understand the decision was made at a meeting of the ratepayers so I must of course bow to it. I certainly hope, as has been stated, that safeguards will be taken to ensure there is no nuisance from these works, and that the position will be policed. We all know of the trouble that can arise from works such as these.

I now want to say a few words about Yilgarn. I mentioned previously, I think, that Yilgarn is a very solid place, having last year produced wheat, oats, and barley worth £916,000; £1,000,000 worth of gold; £1,000,000 worth of iron ore; wool to the value of £360,000; gypsum £19,000; and silver worth £4,000. Naturally with the expansion of the iron ore industry, the rest of the town will expand. There are nearly 200,000 sheep in the district, and there is still a lot of land that could be opened up.

The people at Southern Cross are concerned about a high school. There are, at present, 146 children attending the school, 112 of whom are primary, 34 post primary, and five pupils in grade 10. At St. Joseph's Convent there are another 60, bringing the total to 206. It is believed that this number exceeds the number required for a senior high school, apart from those who would attend from the adjacent towns of Moorine Rock, Bodallin, Bullfinch, and Marvel Loch, and the No. 7 pumping station. I suggest that the Minister should give this matter serious consideration.

In addition, the town, of course, is going to become busier when the standard gauge railway is completed; and it would be advisable to plan ahead and establish the high school now instead of waiting until there are more children still. If facilities such as these were provided, people would be encouraged to go to these country towns and so advance decentralisation. I for one know how costly it is to send children away to school.

In the South-East Province, applications have been made for a greater number of water tanks. A lot of country has been opened up and the present water catchment areas are nowhere near big enough. In this regard I refer particularly to the Dulyalbin Rock catchment area; and I would request that this matter be given serious thought because, as I said, the country is being opened up rapidly and water is a problem. I have requested the Minister for Water Supplies to duplicate the rock catchments in the Westonia Shire Council area. A large tract of land is being taken up by settlers in the Bonny Rock area, and I have requested that further rock catchments be established there.

In a tour of my district I now come to Merredin. I think the removal of the barracks, which are obsolete, should be arranged as soon as possible. People living in them now are engaged on shift work, and it is impossible to sleep with smoke pouring through the window, to say nothing of the noise which is created by the locomotives. Apart from this, of course, they are a complete eyesore.

I do not know whether it is known to members, but the station still has the obsolete, objectionable, and disgusting pan system, despite the fact that, in the town, there is a deep sewerage system. The Railway Department should remove this disgusting pan system and either install a septic system or use the deep sewerage. After all it is pretty hopeless to ask people to be fly-conscious and tell them what they can do to keep down the flies if in a town such as Merredin, the pan system is still operating.

There is another matter to which I feel some thought should be given; and it is one that affects everyone. The Bread Act deals with bread weights; and, as all members probably know, bread is weighed while it is still dough, and the Act provides for the weight. Some bakers—but not many—are not honest in the weighing; and I feel the Act should be amended so that the weight of the loaf in the baked state would be taken, because then the provision would be easier to police.

After all, if a price is fixed for a certain weight, customers should be sure they are getting that weight. I have had several complaints from people in my province, and I have seen some of the bread. I know for a fact that some unscrupulous bakers are providing underweight dough, and this is not an easy thing to check. After all, one must get up at 3 o'clock or 4 o'clock in the morning to catch these people under the present law.

As I have already spoken for longer than I intended I will close now by expressing my support for the motion.

**THE HON. W. R. HALL** (North-East) [5.30 p.m.]: I take this opportunity to associate myself with the congratulatory remarks that have been passed to you, Sir, on being elected, unopposed, President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia. I congratulate you and hope you will enjoy good health. I wish you every success; and I know full well that you will give us the service in the future that you have in the past.

I also desire to congratulate Mr. Wise on being elected Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber. I think you, Mr. President, and other members will be aware of Mr. Wise's qualifications. It is well known to us that he has been the Leader in another House and has served this State over a long period of years with great distinction to himself and advantage to the

State of Western Australia. I wish him good health in order that he may continue the good work in this Chamber for the party he represents and for the benefit of the people of this State.

I also have great pleasure in congratulating Mr. Willesee on being elected Deputy Leader of the Opposition in this House. I am pleased about this, because I feel that in Mr. Willesee we have a member who has many years of service before him; and he is one who can adapt himself—he has shown in the past that he can—to the position to which he has been elected.

I do not know what other members feel about this, but I consider the time has come when young men should be trained and given experience to permit them to hold down important positions when those now holding them have gone on. I only hope that Mr. Willesee and other members of my party who have years of service in front of them will, in time, have the opportunity of giving service through the ministerial portfolios available in this House.

I also desire to pay a tribute to Mr. Strickland who, as members know, was Leader of the Opposition in this House for a great number of years. It is well known that Mr. Strickland did not seek re-election. At the same time, I am not going to let the occasion pass without paying a tribute to the sterling qualities of leadership that Mr. Strickland displayed while he was Leader of the Opposition here. I hope that when he returns to the House he will enjoy the best of health. I wish him every success. In concluding my congratulatory remarks, I want to take the opportunity of extending to Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Robinson, our newly-elected members to this House, my best wishes. I have no doubt that during their term here they will contribute to the debates, and that they will be an acquisition to this Chamber. I wish them every success, and I hope their period here will be a very pleasant one.

I would be falling down in my duty if I did not mention the most important industry to the people I represent—the goldmining industry. Nearly every goldfields member who has spoken has referred to the goldmining industry as his No. 1 priority.

When we look over the records for the last nine years, we find that, with the exception of two years, this industry has contributed more than £13,000,000 per annum in Australian currency for gold produced. In the other two years, the gold produced in Australian currency amounted to over £12,000,000 a year. So, all in all, this particular industry—it is very static—is a great one so far as Western Australia is concerned.

As I have pointed out on several occasions, it has dragged Western Australia out of the mire when times were bad and wheat and wool were not in a buoyant state. But there is one particular feature of this industry that is very serious. Notwithstanding that it is producing over £13,000,000 worth of gold in Australian currency each year, I point out that during the last nine years the numerical strength of the industry has been sadly depleted.

In 1953, the employees working on mines connected with the Chamber of Mines—most mines are affiliated with the Chamber of Mines—numbered 6,300-odd men. Since then, there has been a reduction each year in the numerical strength, and today it is down to 4,945. This reduction occurs every year; the number of men employed is continuing to go down. That is what is happening whilst the industry itself is still turning out over £13,000,000 worth of gold each year. This fact should be very significant to the Minister for Mines; he should give very serious thought and consideration to see whether something can be done about the position.

I realise there are a number of men working on minerals other than gold—probably just over 1,500 men. Let me add whilst I am on this subject—and I am pleased to say this—that what they are returning, in Australian currency, is to the value of about £7,000,000. I think I am pretty right.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is right.

The Hon. W. R. HALL: That amount of money, having regard to the number of men working on minerals other than gold, is creeping up; and so also is the numerical strength of those men. But what is happening in that regard does not alter the fact that the goldmining industry has to be fostered. It is obvious to members who represent the goldfields and outlying districts that some big mines in Kalgoorlie—to my way of thinking, at any rate—are not doing too badly. But there are some on the outskirts and in the outback which, perhaps, are not. The Sons of Gwalia mine has been able to carry on, really, by subsidy from the Federal Government.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: And assistance from the State Government.

The Hon. W. R. HALL: The State Government has helped it on several occasions—Governments of both parties when they have been in power. It is always on the cards—and the Minister for Mines will know this—that anything could happen at the shaft of the Sons of Gwalia. There is always the feeling there that one does not know what is going to happen from shift to shift. I only hope the mine continues to be an asset to the State. As long as the Federal Government subsidises it so that it can carry on and continue to employ the number of men who are working there now, and so keep the towns of Leonora and Gwalia going, I will be quite happy.

The same thing applies, but not to the same degree, to Mt. Magnet; because I think the Hill 50 mine is in pretty good shape. There is one other point: I made a statement here some years ago on the Address-in-Reply when I said there was a mine called the Great Fingal—it is just on the outskirts of Cue—which, from 1,000,000 tons of ore, returned 1,000,000 ounces of gold; and that is some gold!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I wish it was doing that today.

The Hon. W. R. HALL: I fully agree with the Minister; and I want to say this, too, that both the Labor Government, which I supported, and the present Government, have contributed well over £50,000 for the purpose of drilling to see whether it would be possible to get the mine going again. What a wonderful thing it would be if we could do that! I had my eyes on the mine once or twice when passing through Cue. If my memory serves me correctly, the drill went down more than 3,000 ft., and it struck the ore body and, I think, showed that there was possibly payable gold. However, to sink a shaft to that depth would cost an enormous amount of money—well over £1,000,000, I suppose, perhaps more. The result is that at the present time nobody is interested.

However, that is one good job that has been done by both Governments that have been in power. Unfortunately the money spent has shown no return. That is a sad state of affairs for the township of Cue, the surrounding districts and the State of Western Australia.

I want to talk about the depletion of the men employed on the mines. I understand that 500—or nearly 600—men are employed in coalmining. I only hope their employment will be continued in order to keep things going as they should be going. But the fact remains—and it is a very serious point as far as I am concerned—that the number of men employed on the Golden Mile is going down each year.

Another point is this: Of the 4,900-odd men employed in the mining industry on the goldfields and the surrounding districts, approximately 3,000 are employed in Kalgoorlie and Boulder.

We can see what a wonderful job is done by these men inasmuch as they are able to sustain a town of between 20,000 and 22,000 people. Nearly everywhere we go, where there is one mine, one horse, and one pub in the goldmining areas, we find we can multiply the number of men employed on the mine by three or four and so get the population of the town. But such is not true in the case of Kalgoorlie and Boulder; yet there is only the one industry there. So I am pointing out what a great job is done by the mines in Kalgoorlie which employ these 3,100 men, approximately, out of the 4,900-odd men employed in goldmining throughout the State.

In conclusion let me say I can only hope for the State in general that the price of gold does go up within a year or so; or that something will happen to improve the position.

Some three or four weeks ago I had occasion to buy a periodical called *News-letter*. It is an American publication, I believe, and is edited by a very capable person. It is supposed to be right up to date; and I have a cutting from it, and members may be interested to know that in this periodical it is stated that the International Monetary Fund would probably meet at the end of August this year and that in the United States, there was a possibility of the dollar being devalued, which could mean that there may be an increase in the price of gold.

I showed this particular cutting to several of my friends, indicating to them that I thought that an increase in the price of gold might come about in view of the fact that America is not in the same position as she was previously. There is no doubt that the gold reserves at Fort Knox are being depleted, and America now finds she has to pay in gold for many of the goods she is importing from Japan and other countries.

Therefore, with this feeling of optimism, because of one thing and another concerning the prospect of the price of gold being increased. I had a feeling that our hopes might be realised. However, following the one pleasing paragraph I read in the periodical, President Kennedy made the statement later in another newspaper that he was not going to devalue the dollar; so I take it that that is the end of an increase in the price of gold for some time. Nevertheless, regardless of whether the dollar is devalued, I hope the time is not far distant when more men will be employed in this industry, because in the last nine years the number of workers has been declining, despite the fact that the returns from production, in Australian currency, have remained stable; that is, over £13,000,000 per annum.

That brings me to a point I heard raised by a member last night in regard to skilled workers. He said that the Government is now seeking to bring more skilled workers into this State. Of course, we all realise the reason why these skilled tradesmen have to be brought to Western Australia. On the goldfields, however, there are very few employment opportunities offering for young people. The only positions that might become vacant are those in the large Kalgoorlie emporiums. There is limited scope for young girls who have qualified as typists only and there are certainly few positions for boys and girls of 14 and 15 years of age.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They are becoming dead end kids.

The Hon. W. R. HALL: As a result they have no alternative but to seek employment in the Midland Junction workshops, the P.M.G.'s Department, and other places where they can obtain employment in the metropolitan area. The reason for all this is that employers today are not taking on apprentices; and there is no doubt that that is the source of skilled labour. Many employers at present do not seem to want apprentices.

It is time we reverted to the position in which we were a few years ago when employers engaged apprentices; and, having been made good tradesmen, they became an acquisition to the State. If many of these young unemployed lads today could be apprenticed to tradesmen at present employed we would not have the problem of delinquency and other juvenile problems that are so prevalent in Western Australia at present. There is one matter concerning the goldfields which I omitted to mention. Over a long period of production on the Golden Mile, the big gold mining companies have paid out a great deal in profits to their shareholders. This applies not only to the mines in Kalgoorlie but also to those in other parts of the North-East Province.

I do not think the £300,000 advanced by the Commonwealth Government is going to achieve very much. I understand the money has been made available purely for developmental purposes. Be that as it may, the assistance granted will not go very far. Mines such as the Sons of Gwalia are diamond drilling continuously. They have a diamond driller employed permanently. Admittedly that mine is subsidised and is hanging on only by the skin of its teeth.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We do not really know yet how far this £300,000 will go. It may not be the end of it; I hope it is not.

The Hon. W. R. HALL: I hope it is not, too. Unless some means are found to enable new mines to be discovered and opened up the industry will continue to decline. I know that some of the gold mines on the Golden Mile will last for many years, but new mines will have to be developed if the industry is to prosper; and gold is where one finds it.

The prospector is the man who, in the first instance, locates a possible gold-bearing lode. The Minister for Mines should endeavour to find some ways and means by which he can encourage more men to go prospecting, with a view to discovering new fields. Prospecting, of course, is an extremely hazardous occupation. There is only one other occupation that is on equal terms with prospecting and that is chopping wood on the Lake-wood line. The only way one can keep the flies away there is to smoke a pipe.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: You could wear a fly net.

The Hon. W. R. HALL: One needs more than a fly net in some of the places I have been. Prospecting is a hard life and a man needs a fair bit of luck as well as a great deal of knowledge. It has reached the stage when a man has either to enjoy a lot of luck or have full knowledge of the type of auriferous country which he is prospecting so that he may have some opportunities of locating a gold lode.

Referring to the point I was making originally, I have mentioned that these large gold mining companies have been paying dividends for a number of years and it is about time they ploughed some capital back into the industry. After all is said and done, many people have received a great deal of money from the gold mines. Over a period, much of that money went to the shareholders in the old country. Whilst I am not in a position to offer any criticism against those shareholders, I feel that there have been many, over a period of years, who have received large sums of money from the production of gold in Kalgoorlie, and perhaps they could now feel disposed to plough some of those returns back into the mines which are not enjoying such good times today.

One or two members during this debate on the Address-in-Reply referred to radio and the programmes presented by broadcasting stations, and I must support the remarks expressed. The radio programmes presented to Kalgoorlie and other centres within a certain radius of that town are of a poor standard. If it were not for the programmes broadcast by the commercial station I do not know how people would get on for a good radio programme.

I can only assume that listeners on the goldfields pay the license fee of £2 15s. in the same way as listeners in the metropolitan area. The programmes broadcast by the national station leave much to be desired. Who wants to listen to these high-falutin' sessions that are presented? I am fully aware that one person does not have the same tastes as another, but I consider, even though the listeners have to hear advertisements broadcast by the commercial station, the service that is rendered to the people by that station is far superior to that given by the national station. The commercial station, of course, has to rely on the receipts from advertisements, because it receives no return whatsoever from the license fees paid by listeners.

The programmes broadcast by the national station have never been much good, and I think the same remarks can be applied to some of the television programmes that are presented by TVW. Whilst on this point, I would mention that on the 24th October last year I asked a question in regard to a television service being granted to the Kalgoorlie people,

and I received a stupid answer to that sensible question. The man I was told to support in this particular instance was Peter Browne, but, of course, he is no longer available as a Commonwealth member to approach in regard to any television service now. Of course, poor old Hall was told to give him some support.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You got very annoyed about that, didn't you?

The Hon. W. R. HALL: Of course. If I had caught up with the person who was responsible for that answer I might have said a few words to him that would be unparliamentary. What I am saying is quite true. In October of last year I received that answer which made me a little angry, and now a similar happening has occurred. The Commonwealth Government recently announced that it was calling for applications from those people who wished to establish television stations. I know that Kalgoorlie has one of the largest populations of any centre outside the metropolitan area, and it should have No. 1 priority if television stations are to be established in the country. Like a radio programme, a television programme can be transmitted from one centre to another. Therefore, I only hope that the Commonwealth Government will ensure that the Kalgoorlie people are permitted to enjoy television programmes, because they are justly entitled to them.

I know that I will do everything I possibly can to ensure that the residents of Kalgoorlie are enabled to watch television programmes, because the granting of a license in that area is long overdue. With many advancements at present, Western Australia always seems to be the last with the latest, but thank heavens the same applies to depressions.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: What about the increase in water charges?

The Hon. W. R. HALL: I think the honourable member had enough to say about that subject last night. Also, other goldfields members had a good deal to say in raising a protest against such increases. If I were to let my head go I could speak for half an hour on the reasons why there should not be any increase in the water charges at Kalgoorlie. After all is said and done, there are very few consumers in Kalgoorlie who can dodge payment of their water rates, but now they are subjected to having to pay excess water rates.

In the metropolitan area, of course, what the Government loses on the merry-go-round it can pick up on the swinging boats. If it does not obtain enough revenue in water rates, it can always increase the charges for town planning and other amenities. Those members who have a lawn or a garden of any size, would, I am certain have to pay excess water charges.

I know that I do, and I have nothing growing around my place that requires much water.

The Hon. J. D. Teahan: Perhaps you let your taps run.

The Hon. W. R. HALL: I do not think I let my taps run, either. There is one other matter I would like to raise before the tea suspension; and that is in regard to traffic. It is a well-known fact that there is one motor vehicle registered in Western Australia to every three or four of the population, consequently the number of vehicles registered must be very large.

Several anomalies have arisen in the regulation of traffic. I spoke on this matter some years ago when I dealt with side lights, or flashing lights as they came to be known. These lights were not introduced for some years after I had advocated them. There was a good reason for their introduction, because on a rainy day motorists often failed to put their arms out to give traffic signals, and quite a large number of accidents were caused from this failure and from other causes.

There is another aspect of traffic which concerns the motorist today. I am not taking into account the views of other members, but as far as I am concerned the 35 miles per hour speed limit is a bit on the low side. I would prefer it to be increased to about 40 miles an hour. Most members are car drivers and they may agree with my contention that it is very difficult to keep the speed down to 35 miles and hour on many occasions. Within the precincts of the metropolitan area where the density of traffic warrants prescribing a low speed, I agree that the maximum speed should be kept as low as possible in order to avoid accidents occurring; but where it is possible to increase the speed limit, such as outside the boundaries of the metropolitan area, some consideration should be given to allowing drivers of motor vehicles to travel at 40 miles per hour.

Every day we read reports in the Press about drivers of vehicles being fined for driving at over 35 miles per hour—even for driving at 38 miles per hour. At the present time, the motorist has to keep one eye on the rear vision mirror for a very good reason; he has to keep the other eye on the speedometer; and, if he has another eye, he has to keep it on the road.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What would the motorist do if he had a girl with him?

The Hon. W. R. HALL: I have thought about that. If the motorist does not have a spare arm, the position would be rather awkward. For many years I have advocated that the solution to the problem of drivers breaking the traffic regulations is to appoint more patrol officers on motorcycles. They are the ones who supervise the traffic laws on the roads. In these

days one cannot help but notice a real difference in the behaviour of motorists on the roads.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Especially if he has an eye on the rear vision mirror. That fear curbs the motorist.

The Hon. W. R. HALL: The answer to avoiding and reducing the number of road accidents will be found by allocating more money to the Police Department so that additional patrol officers can be appointed. In recent times the Government has done very well for itself through the imposition of fines for breaches of traffic regulations. The Government should be prepared to plough back some of this money into the Police Department so that more officers can be employed for patrol duty on the roads. It should be remembered that the fines which have been imposed amount to a tremendous sum.

Other difficulties have been experienced in regard to "Stop" signs. Some have been installed at places where they should not have been installed; and at places where they should have been installed they have not been installed. Some of these "Stop" signs have been placed on the extreme edge of the footpath, while others give sufficient notice to the motorist to pull up. We remember all the controversy that arose in regard to "Stop" signs when the question was dealt with in this House while the late Hon. Gilbert Fraser was the Leader of the House.

Another traffic problem has arisen in regard to the location of bus stops. In Subiaco one bus stop has been marked along a road, where the space reserved extends from this Chamber to the other side of Harvest Terrace. Today fewer buses are to be seen on the roads, as compared with the number in past years. This mode of transport is becoming obsolete, and the amount of space reserved for bus stops should be reduced, because very rarely do these stops have to accommodate more than one bus at a time.

Surely the motoring public and the licensed vehicle owners, whose contribution to the State is a great asset—who pay for the building of roads, who keep the largest industry in Australia going—are entitled to some consideration in regard to parking space. Why should they be squeezed out all the time, even in outlying suburbs where excessive space is reserved for bus stops. If the present trend continues, very soon people will have to do all their shopping in their own districts, because of the lack of parking space.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Shame on the Government.

The Hon. W. R. HALL: I am not concerned about what the Government is doing. I shall be satisfied as long as it is taking steps to give the vehicle owner some consideration for the parking of his vehicle, wherever possible.

Referring again to the "Stop" signs, I am not blaming the Police Department for badly placing some of these. I have been told that some "Stop" signs were installed by the Main Roads Department.

In some localities, between Subiaco and Perth, the motorist dares not park at the space immediately before and after a bus stop; if he does so he runs the risk of having the mudguard of his vehicle damaged.

In conclusion I hope that this session of Parliament will prove to be a very fruitful one and that the people of Western Australia will benefit from the legislation to be passed by both Houses. I have very much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

*Sitting suspended from 6.9 to 7.30 p.m.*

**THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North)** [7.30 p.m.]: Mr. President, may I in company with previous speakers congratulate you on your reappointment to the office of President of this Chamber. I feel it is a distinction for you to be re-elected to this position and it must give you great personal satisfaction to know that you have a unanimous body of thought from all sections of this Chamber behind you.

To the new members of the Chamber I add my congratulations to those of other members. I congratulate them both on their initial speeches made during the debate on the Address-in-Reply. At the same time I give some thought to the two members who have been replaced, both of whom were, in my view, capable men; and it is in answer to the dictates of a democracy that there can be changes of this nature at given periods of time.

To my leader I also offer my sincere congratulations on his achievement in now carrying out the duties of the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition in this Chamber. It is a position which I know he will fill with complete success because of the great capacity he possesses and the deep knowledge he can bring to bear on the variety of subjects that are brought forward in this Chamber during a session of Parliament.

I think, too, that the two Ministers—the leaders of the House—should be congratulated because they have more or less undergone a dual system of election where by virtue of policy they faced their electors and then a somewhat harder tribunal in order to be chosen from among their own members. Therefore, I would like to add my congratulations to them both.

I now intend to speak briefly in connection with a situation that has developed in the north-west with regard to what is termed a "perishable subsidy" that has been made available over the years as a substitute for the lack of local amenities in the particular areas due to the inability

of the people to grow market garden products at certain periods of the year. Perishable subsidies exist in the main for the purpose of augmenting a meal on the basis of salads. I refer to such things as tomatoes, lettuce, and cucumbers which are flown to various ports, towns, and areas on the basis of a subsidy which is partly paid by the Government.

I think the initial trial periods were from December to May in any one year; but it was found in the course of time that the subsidies became almost permanent, particularly in the Kimberley areas. The subsidy extended almost from December to December. Now, there seems to be a tendency within the administration of the Government to ease the subsidy quite considerably; and towns that used to get an extension without a very great effort are now being refused, and it is made plain that only the limited period will apply.

In answer to a question which I asked today I was informed that the total cost of the scheme to the 30th June, 1962, was £36,227. That was the cost to the Government. It did not appear to me to be a very big item in view of the help which this subsidy gives to the family unit, and bearing in mind that it is only a part subsidy. The recipient of the subsidy in turn pays for the additional air freight. So, in my view, to limit the scheme in any way would be the result of deliberative action at Cabinet level. The people in the north are being penalised—and it is not always the older inhabitants of a town who suffer. We find that many young wives of civil servants with young babies cannot understand why there has been a curtailment of these privileges. Therefore, I trust the Government will renew this line of thought with a view to extending the period of the subsidy rather than limiting it, as has been the case in the current financial year.

On the 16th July of this year the secretary of the Transport Board wrote to the Hall's Creek Shire Council in the following terms:—

Some time ago the Government sought advice from its technical agricultural advisers regarding the possibility, and practicability of producing greenstuffs on a commercial scale in the Kimberley for human consumption and, on being informed that garden areas could be developed for this purpose at such places as Kununurra, and Fitzroy Crossing, agreed that the continuation of subsidy on perishables carried by air throughout the year could not be justified.

It has been decided, therefore that other than during the normal subsidy period, i.e., December to May, subsidy will no longer apply in respect of Hall's Creek after this year.

The effect of this decision will not of course, be felt until June, 1963 but advice is tendered at this stage as it is realised that gardens cannot be brought into production immediately and to afford ample time to permit of their being started.

It is realised that no direct responsibility for arranging local production rests upon your council but advice is tendered to you as the most appropriate body to initiate the necessary action to ensure that, when the time arrives, district grown supplies are available to Hall's Creek residents.

That is obviously a restriction in the sense that Hall's Creek will, under this directive, have to look for a spot for a market garden over 200 miles away in one instance and over 300 miles away in the other. So far as I know, Hall's Creek suffers a water problem, and I also think there is a difficulty in regard to land. To my knowledge, it was never contemplated that there would be any possibility of conducting a market garden on a commercial scale at Hall's Creek. They would turn to Fitzroy Crossing, which is one of the suggested places in the Transport Board's letter to the Shire Council. It is not generally appreciated that 200 miles is a long way to base a market garden to supply this township.

If a market garden were established at Fitzroy Crossing, I think there would be a tendency for a market to develop at Derby township, and possibly at Camballin which is so much closer. I wonder whether any thought has been given to how a market garden at Fitzroy Crossing could be conducted. It is true that many years ago a garden was conducted within the precincts of a hotel—the man who ran the garden was a part owner of the hotel—and the person responsible was capable and had a liking for the land.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: His name was Gardiner, too.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: Yes, as Mr. Wise says, his name was Gardiner. He built this garden up to its peak of production, but to my knowledge with the exception of onions, I do not think he ever supplied his own district, which was adjacent to the area of Fitzroy Crossing. Since his death there has been no more than a house garden in concept at Fitzroy Crossing. It is true that the soil there is good. It is also true that the Fitzroy River runs practically all the year round. However, it is a very uncontrollable river. I think that in March this year reports came down that Fitzroy Crossing was isolated due to the river flooding its banks. Therefore, I wonder at this moment just where one would get an area of land on which a person could set up a market garden at Fitzroy Crossing which would be able to supply Hall's Creek and adjacent towns; and I am wondering whether



we will find land which could be safe, and without the possibility of terrific loss being involved to the person who was investing his money, bearing in mind the fact that it could inundated at any particular time.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: What is the population you are trying to supply?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: The population of Halls Creek would be about 200.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: And the area around it?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: The area around it is very limited. There is very little population at Fitzroy Crossing. There is the A.I.M. nursing hospital, the hotel, a store, and the mission.

I do not wish to overdevelop this point, but I am mindful of the fact that to establish anything in an area like this, whether it be Kununurra or Fitzroy Crossing, the evident problems of the Kimberleys become very real. As I have mentioned, at Fitzroy Crossing there is the danger of the river. Even though the soil is good, there is difficulty in getting suitably drained land. Then we have the outlay, at least, of providing a home. The same tools which would be used in a large market garden in any other area would be necessary, and this would involve considerable expenditure on mechanical equipment. There would have to be a pump and associated equipment to go with the pipeline, not only to pump the water but to direct it to its point of operation.

It would therefore seem to me that not enough thought has been given to the theoretical concept that something can be grown. There would be no economic outlook for a single market garden on this basis. If it could not produce all the year round, it would be in the position of having to increase its financial income by way of profit over a limited period of a year, in order to average out a general income for a full year. That would make the cost prohibitive to the consumer.

On the other hand, I doubt very much, from the "entrepreneurial" angle, whether the investment would be considered practicable. I should imagine that to have any hope of success at all on this basis the Government would have to come forward with a Government-sponsored scheme, something on the lines of what is being done at Kununurra. Much the same thing applies when we look at the problem from the point of view of subsidies and of developing market gardens in the vicinity of Kununurra itself.

The nearest township for such an outlet would be Wyndham. The economics of moving, delivering, and handling products to Halls Creek would not be feasible; and I also think that, for the next few years at any rate, the concentration of

any activity with regard to land operations in Kununurra will be on the lines envisaged with the products which have been handled under the trial scheme.

So I hope the Government will not persist with the directive which has been given, so far as Halls Creek is concerned, until it has had a further look at the problems which arise from the bald situation of the Government ceasing the subsidy in its entirety at a given point of time, and relying on a very vague probability that someone will be interested in the project; and giving no assurance to the person investing in the project that there will be any success. I think that if the Government wishes to augment the theory it has in this regard, then it will have to put up the money and prove it to the point of interesting private enterprise.

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [7.51 p.m.]: In replying to the debate on the Address-in-Reply, I should like to join with other members in congratulating certain people. I would like to tell the House that from the first day of the session, when Mr. Robinson spoke on the Address-in-Reply, it has been one of my tasks—and the task of my colleague, Mr. Logan, and that of our staffs—to pursue, to the best of my ability, in the time at my disposal, inquiries on matters which have been raised by members with a view to providing them with whatever information it has been possible to obtain in that time.

In a separate motion I have complimented the President on his reappointment to the Chair, and I do not propose to labour that point again. I think he would regard it as unnecessary. I do, however, wish to say personally to Mr. Wise that I congratulate him upon his appointment as Leader of the Opposition in this House. At the same time, I would like to say that Mr. Strickland will be missed from the front bench. As we all know, he was a keen debater and a keen legislator. He had a cheery disposition, and at times he was accustomed to hitting hard in debate, but always fairly. He has chosen not to seek re-election for this position, and I would like to have it recorded that the courtesies and the co-operation he extended to me as Leader of the House during the time that he was Leader of the Opposition have not gone unnoticed by me. I feel quite certain that the same co-operation will exist between the Ministers of this House and Mr. Wise.

Mr. Willesee has been referred to in this debate as having been appointed Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I do not know whether the statute holds such a title, but nevertheless I know what is implied. To my friend, Mr. Willesee, I offer my hearty congratulations upon his appointment to the front bench.

Mr. Wise said, when he was speaking, that he realised his position was a temporary one, and that it was his desire to give encouragement to younger men to seek leadership in this House. In connection with remarks of that nature, I cannot help but agree with what Mr. Davies said when he spoke of the necessity to educate the people of Western Australia on the advisability of having a two-House Parliament such as we have in Western Australia.

Mr. Wise brings to the House a great deal of experience as the result of his very unusual political career. He has had a good deal of experience in the north, in both Houses of Parliament, and as Administrator of the Northern Territory; and I feel quite sure that we will benefit as a result of his experience.

At this stage I would like to congratulate the new members in this House, and those who were re-elected at the last biennial elections. May I say to Mr. Stubbs, in a most kindly manner, that he made a very good though somewhat lengthy maiden speech this evening; and I would not have interjected during his speech—because that is not done—had he not made an uncomplimentary remark about the Leader of the Government. So near to the bone was it that I am a little surprised the President did not rule it out of order. However, I am sure the honourable member did not mean it personally.

I also offer my congratulations to Mr. Robinson. I would like to tell Mr. Wise, however, that I am not pleased to see the defeat of Mr. Jeffery. Mr. Jeffery was a colleague of mine in the same province. He was a man of most moderate outlook. He and I never fought personally or politically, and I am not pleased to see him or any other member of this House lose his seat. It would be quite unrealistic for me to say that I am not pleased to see Mr. Robinson in this House, and I feel he will make a very excellent member of the Legislative Council because of the experience he has had.

It may be pertinent to comment that there is no success achieved in any contest which is not achieved at the expense of the loser; and Legislative Council elections are by no means different from any other contest in that respect. It is a truism to say that the losing of a seat by a colleague brings with it the inevitable emotion of disappointment among sitting members who take their seats once more in the House.

Mr. Cunningham had previously known this disappointment because he was defeated some years ago—in 1954—was re-elected to the House, and then suffered a defeat at the last election. Nevertheless, the work which Mr. Cunningham did in his province was, I feel sure, appreciated by many people. In my travels throughout the district he represented, I found many

people who had a good word to say for the efforts of Jack Cunningham on their behalf.

Before I turn to general matters, there is one matter on which I would particularly like to have something to say. It concerns a notice of motion given in another place by Mr. J. T. Tonkin. As this matter touches so closely on my actions, and the actions of my department, I think it is appropriate that I should make some comment at this point of time in order to clear the air and to remove, I hope for all time, the insinuations which are couched in this particular motion. The motion reads—

That the action of the Hon. Minister for Mines in refusing to accept the decision of Warden N. J. Malley that the objection by Hancock Prospecting Pty. Ltd. to the granting of Mineral Claim No. 292 was dismissed with costs to be taxed and in rejecting his recommendation that Mineral Claim No. 292 W.P. subject to survey and to the excision therefrom of P.A. 284 be granted to the Depuch Shipping and Mineral Co. Pty. Ltd., thus enabling the firm of Lohrmann, Tindal and Guthrie to obtain by administrative act a decision which it failed to obtain in the Warden's Court and which may make a difference of £40,000 one way or the other, to the parties concerned, appears to be lacking in the principles of law, equity and justice, and to be inconsistent with his action in the case of James Moffat Henderson and Elizabeth Henderson—Objection to Application by E. J. Pike, and J. W. Jeffreys.

The further action of the Hon. Minister for Mines in directing that a survey of the lands known as "Mineral Claim 90" and "Mineral Claim 292" be carried out, in order to cure the invalidity of the application made in July, 1956, by Langley George Hancock appears to be unlawful and not capable of proper execution.

Grave public disquiet having resulted from the actions of the Hon. Minister, it is imperative in the public interest and for the preservation of public confidence in the impartial administration of the law that a Royal Commission be immediately appointed to inquire into the matter and make recommendations to enable Parliament to take such steps, if any, as it considers necessary or desirable to deal with the situation which has arisen.

To say the least, I am somewhat surprised that a matter of such grave public concern, as it has been suggested it is, was not brought before the Legislative Council, if it was in fact a matter of such grave public concern. I would have thought

that perhaps I would have been questioned about my actions by members representing the North Province, in which this particular mineral claim lies, and I would have answered, as I did to questions asked in another place, quite straightforwardly and honestly. I told the honourable member in another place, in answer to the questions he asked, that in fact no decision in connection with the mineral claim had been made. Therefore I failed to see the purpose of the motion, or the import of it; and I have certainly seen no public disquiet as is supposed to have been created, unless the motion is intended deliberately to cast some shadow of doubt in the minds of certain people regarding my actions in the vain hope that a Royal Commission may be appointed to find out something that does not exist.

I would like it to be made perfectly clear that I have no fear whatever of a Royal Commission, and if a Royal Commission were appointed I would probably be the principal witness and I would be able to say that, at this point of time, no decision in connection with the matter had been made.

I intend to trace the history of this matter because I think it is fair the public should know the type of tactics that are employed by some members of Parliament. All that has happened so far is that following receipt of evidence, and the warden's recommendation, I have, on the advice of my officers, called for a survey of boundaries in order to ascertain quite clearly the relative positions of mineral claim No. 90, which was granted in 1956, not by me but by a Labor Minister. That mineral claim is still in existence in the register of the department; and I also wanted to find out about the ground applied for as mineral claim No. 292.

Immediately the surveyor completed a survey of claim 90, the solicitor for the Depuch company lodged an objection to same with the warden, and this objection is listed for hearing in the Marble Bar court in September. I had proposed, on receipt of the surveyor's report, to consider all the facts and arrive at a decision; but I would like to repeat that no decision has been made. The warden in these cases does not make a decision; he makes a recommendation to the Minister for Mines, and it is provided for in the Act. Now I will have to await the outcome of the latest objection before I can come to a decision. I have come to no decision whatever as yet, nor has any approach been made to me in this matter by the solicitors for either party. The general points of history in regard to this matter are as follows: Mineral claim No. 90 of 10 acres was applied for at Marble Bar on the 2nd July, 1956, and it was described as being identical with mineral claim No. 242 which had never been sur-

veyed. This application for mineral claim No. 90 came before the warden at Marble Bar on the 21st September, 1956, and was recommended by him for approval.

On the 24th October, 1956, the Acting Minister of the day approved of it, subject to survey and to its being Crown land; and, I am told, this is the normal procedure. On the 19th August, 1959, the Depuch company took an option of purchase over mineral claim No. 90 and subsequently on four occasions applied to, and was granted by, the warden's court long periods of exemption from the working conditions. It was a condition of the option agreement that the Depuch company as purchaser should keep mineral claim No. 90 from being forfeited, or liable to forfeiture, and it is safe to say that on scores of occasions options for mining tenements are taken by one person or company from another. I would like to add at this point that the existence of this option, or the existence of any other option, is of no interest to me whatever—no interest at all. Yet in this particular case it is indicated, by way of the honourable member's motion, that by administrative action I am going to give somebody the advantage of £40,000. I repeat: Nothing of the kind has been done because no decision has been made.

Any person granted an exemption must post a certificate of exemption on the claim, and Depuch was advised by the registrar and presumably did so. On the 12th March, 1962, the Depuch company applied at Marble Bar for mineral claim No. 292 of 240 acres. On the 16th April, 1962, the Hancock company lodged an objection to the granting of claim No. 292 on the ground that it included mineral Claim No. 90.

#### *Point of Order*

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. W. R. Hall): Order! I would like to ask the Minister whether he is alluding to debates which have taken place during the current session in the Legislative Assembly.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: With respect, Mr. Deputy President, I am not alluding to the debate because there has not been a debate in another place.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. W. R. Hall): I thought there had been.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: To the best of my knowledge this matter has only been on the notice paper and has not been debated.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. W. R. Hall): I thought it had been debated.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: There was a move to get it debated before the Address-in-Reply debate was finished so that this so-called intriguing action of mine could be highlighted before the public.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. W. R. Hall): Standing Order No. 392 says—

No member shall allude to any debate of the current session in the Assembly, or to any measure impending therein.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: This matter has never been debated in another place, and I feel sure members will agree, as a matter of decency—as a matter of common decency—I should be given the opportunity to tell the House what has happened in respect of this matter, and for all time to remove this insinuation concerning my action which appears in the motion.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. W. R. Hall): I am referring to Standing Orders Nos. 389 and 392. Standing Order No. 389 states—

No member shall allude to any debate of the same session upon a question or Bill not being then under discussion, nor to any speech made in Committee, except by the indulgence of the Council for personal explanations, except *Hansard*.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: With respect, Mr. Deputy President, the words "except *Hansard*" apply to Standing Order No. 390 and not 389.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. W. R. Hall): I have my doubts about Standing Order No. 392.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: There is another way by which I am sure you would be obliged to accept my explanation, Sir, and that is if I said it was a personal explanation.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. W. R. Hall): Yes.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Then it is a personal explanation.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. W. R. Hall): Possibly that should have been said in the first instance, because the motion is on the notice paper, although I did not know it had not been debated. It could be done by way of a personal explanation.

#### *Personal Explanation*

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If the House will regard this as being a personal explanation—

#### *Point of Order*

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Mr. Deputy President, on a point of order, I was conscious of the Standing Order but did not wish to provoke or prevent discussion; however, I am wondering whether it is proper for the matter to be ventilated in the way in which the Minister is proceeding, because of it, in point of fact, being a case before the warden's court; and it might be regarded at this stage as being *sub judice*.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not think that is quite right. With reference to questions which were asked in another place about matters which were before the warden's court, and which might have had an effect upon the judgment of the warden if the answers were given, yes; but I do not think this matter could be regarded as being *sub judice*. I do not think the meaning of *sub judice* has been written into the law, but it is a custom that has grown up that matters before the courts should not in fact be discussed by Parliament lest the opinions of Parliament have some influence upon the findings of the court.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It is something that Parliament always respects.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is, and believe me I would be just an anxious to respect it. However, I do not think this is a case which could be regarded as being *sub judice*.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. W. R. Hall): Standing Order No. 392 reads—

No member shall allude to any debate of the current session in the Assembly, or to any measure impending therein.

This is a measure impending therein.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is a motion that is to be debated.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. W. R. Hall): It is a measure just the same.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In this instance the matter on the notice paper is a motion. At the moment I cannot place my finger on it, but I can remember during the time I have been in this House the same motions being moved in the Legislative Assembly and in the Legislative Council at the same time, and they were discussed concurrently. I do not want to make too much play on that because I cannot remember the motions in question, but if I had the opportunity to look the matter up I am sure I could find it. I feel there are special circumstances involved.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. W. R. Hall): The Minister's name has been mentioned in connection with this particular measure, or whatever it may be called, and I think it should be discussed by way of a personal explanation.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If that is your wish, Mr. Deputy President, then from this point on I will make it a personal explanation.

#### *Personal Explanation Resumed*

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I think I had got to the point where I had said that on the 12th March, 1962, the Depuch company applied at Marble Bar for mineral claim No. 292 of 240 acres. On the 16th

April, 1962, the Hancock company lodged an objection to the granting of claim No. 292 on the grounds that it included mineral claim No. 90. On the 15th May, 1962, the objection and application were heard by the Marble Bar warden's court, and the warden reserved his decision. On the 19th June, 1962, he gave his decision dismissing Hancock's application with costs to be taxed, and recommending the granting of mineral claim No. 292, subject to survey, and the excision of prospecting area No. 284, which was within the ground applied for. The warden said in his judgment—

Although the objector complains that portion of the lands comprised in the said Mineral Claim 292 are comprised in Mineral Claim 90, no effort has been made before me to establish the manner and extent of the encroachment alleged. In certain circumstances the appropriate remedy for such a complaint would be an excision of the ground applied for shown to overlap an existing claim, but in the evidence submitted in this case it would be impossible for me to determine whether or not this was appropriate. I am unable for the foregoing reasons to determine whether an encroachment or over-pegging of the objector's claim has in fact taken place.

It was in the warden's power to have ordered a survey before he submitted his recommendation to me. Had he ordered a survey I do not think any of this difficulty would have been encountered. The fact remains he did not order a survey. I am advised by my legal advisers—and the relevant portion of the Act deals with it—that I am entitled to, and indeed should, do this because I am the man who is to make this decision.

I am entitled to obtain any information I think I should obtain in order to come to a fair and proper decision. To my departmental officers this has appeared essential: that the position of the several boundaries should be established. So that is what I did in this case. I accepted the recommendations of my officers, and I ordered that the survey be taken. Yet I am told that that has caused grave public disquiet; and that my actions in this case are not consistent with my actions in some other case—to wit the case of Henderson, Pike and Jefferies.

Whether my actions in this case appear to be consistent or otherwise with the previous decision I made, yet remains to be seen; because I repeat, for the fiftieth time, that no decision has been made in this matter. So I am very glad of the opportunity to explain this situation to members.

The whole matter could be summed up in this way: There are three matters that are most pertinent. No decision has

been made. The act I performed in ordering this survey is in fact a lawful act; and the only public disquiet that may have been created concerning this matter is one that some people have endeavoured to whip up. I repeat: The only thing a Royal Commission could possibly find out is the information contained on this file; and I would be very pleased indeed to make the information available to any member; because I have nothing whatever to fear.

In answers I supplied to questions in another place I said quite clearly that I had not acted as a court of appeal; that I had not refused to accept the warden's decision; that I had not in fact made a decision which would enable some person to get £40,000. It is a poor state of affairs when a Minister's integrity is in doubt in a matter of this nature. That is all I want to say on the question; and I hope that it clears up for all time any doubt there may be, and that it removes the opportunity that was to be taken to make political capital out of something that did not exist.

#### *Debate Resumed on Motion.*

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Now that I have got that off my chest I would like to continue with my speech. I think it is important that members of this House should be told that I fear nothing from the allegations that may be made. I would now like to deal somewhat in turn with the remarks made by members. May I first refer to Mr. Robinson's contribution to the debate. It is fitting to refer to the awakening of interest over the past few years, and the provision of better accommodation and facilities for the ever-growing body of overland travellers. The surface of the interstate route from Norseman to Adelaide has never been raised to the standard of an all-weather road. Frequently over fairly long periods following heavy downfalls of rain, much discomfort has been caused to overland motorists.

While enormous and costly road works yet remain to be completed, it is a fact that this once-neglected road has now been given a priority in the works programme, which has long been deserved.

Mr. Wise spoke about a number of matters. I do not give him any marks at all for the first part of his speech and therefore I am not going to comment on it. I do, however, give him marks for the second part of his speech; and here he was speaking about matters with which he is well acquainted.

The honourable member spoke of the advances being made in water research, and his review of the position might well be considered an estimable addendum to His Excellency's comments on that question. The Legislative Council continues to serve as an effective House of review, so fulfilling an essential safeguard to the democratic concept.

I repeat that I agree with the remarks made by Mr. Davies when he spoke of the need to educate our people to the necessity for having two Houses of Parliament.

The Hon. E. M. Davies: I disagreed with the methods adopted by some people to belittle it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: So do I. Last year there were 81 Bills presented to the Chamber, and by far the greater proportion received general support. The memory of members will not be so short as to forget the very useful debates which took place in this House, the results of which were very much to the credit of the Chamber constituted as a House of review. Without doubt the Legislative Council asserts its undoubted rights. Mr. Wise had something to say about State finance. In particular he referred to the fact that in spite of the money that had fallen into the lap of the Government the deficit for last year could not be reduced below £964,000.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That was not in this debate.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No; it was on the Supply Bill, and the honourable member will recall I told him that at a later date I would get a better opportunity to study his remarks and say something at the appropriate time.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I did not mention it on this debate.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No, but I would like to say a few words on the remarks made by the honourable member. He went on to say that the deficit is far too high. If we look at what this Government has enjoyed and the manner in which some of this money is being spent, I think we could well examine some of these statements.

First I would like to point out that the Budget deficit for last year was £1,181,000. We reduced this to £964,000, which is an improvement of £217,000. This is no mean achievement in a slack period of the State's economic activity.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You should have been able to give people more work.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The deficit of £964,000 was the lowest figure since 1954-55; which again is a creditable achievement and compares favourably with the deficit of £1,685,000 for 1958-59 when a Labor Government was in office.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: But we did not have thousands out of work.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Oh yes, you did. Last year I produced figures which showed in fact that the rate of unemployment was the highest that the State had at that time in March, 1959.

I should also like to make it clear that under current Commonwealth-State financial machinery—and I mentioned this on the Supply Bill—it is impossible for

the State to budget for anything but a deficit irrespective of the level of the income. This causes the Grants Commission to recognise the payment of a special grant in two instalments. There is no one in this House who knows more of the activities of the Grants Commission than does Mr. Wise.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It is quite specious to compare it with the deficit.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is not intended to be specious. The first instalment included in the Budget each year is deliberately conservative, being based on discounts only. The second instalment which comes along two years later is determined on the basis of actual results for the financial year.

Therefore the grant included in the Budget result for a year is only the first instalment; and it is invariably supplemented by a further payment two years later, which then reduces the deficit for that year. We have no doubt whatever that in due course the deficit of £964,000 for last year will be reduced by a supplementary grant from the Grants Commission in its examination of the State's accounts for that year.

The remark to which I took exception is the one made by Mr. Wise to the effect that there must have been a great deal of juggling of figures so that the deficit would be down below the £1,000,000 mark. He referred to the adjustment of loan and revenue moneys in order to achieve this result. This statement is not correct. The honourable member knows that revenue and loan funds are kept in separate compartments; and there is no flow one way or another between the two. In fact, any transfer between revenue and loan accounts would be quickly detected by the Grants Commission and if made to the detriment of the Revenue Fund would automatically result in an unfavourable adjustment in our grant at the hands of the Grants Commission. There would certainly be no profit for the Government to indulge in the juggling process as was suggested by Mr. Wise.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Do you suggest there was no adjustment between loan funds and revenue?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I suggest there was no juggling of accounts.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I suggest there was between loan funds and revenue.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I say there was none, and I will continue to say so.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Then we will agree to disagree, because I repeat there was.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The accounts of the State may be a mystery to some people, but so far as the Grants Commission is concerned the books of the

State accounts are open for its inspections; and, as Mr. Wise knows, they have very keen eyes when inspections of this nature are being made. The figures for last year were released a little later than usual simply because the Treasurer was absent from the State. They were available in the Treasury shortly after the close of the year and were released by the Treasurer on his return from the Eastern States without amendment of any kind.

The Government certainly had higher revenues in the past three years than in earlier years, and this I mentioned when speaking on the Supply Bill, but it also had much greater responsibilities in the provision of services; and of course this must be a clear reflection of the growth of activity during the period of office of this Government. There is no point in making comparisons, as Mr. Wise has done, between today's level of expenditure and the level of expenditure during the period when the honourable member himself was Premier and Treasurer—no point whatever, because we have an entirely different set of circumstances.

We have many compensating factors which must be taken into consideration—the growth of the community; the growth of requirements brought about by the necessity to provide additional social services, hospitals, schools, and a dozen and one things which one could mention.

I was intrigued, however—and at the time I did not say anything because I thought it would be better to inquire first—by Mr. Wise's reference to the additional revenue available to the State. He mentioned, I think, a figure of a £5,000,000 gift to the State to alleviate unemployment. Was I correct? I thought I was correct. He referred on several occasions to this £5,000,000 gift to the State as a result of a conference between State leaders and a representative of the Commonwealth last February.

However, the honourable member was not accurate in his assessment because it so happens that this gift money amounted to £660,000—and not £5,000,000. In addition the sum of £706,000 was made available by way of loan for housing; and I found a very difficult condition placed upon it in that the money had to be spent by the 30th June. Even if these two sums are lumped together—the £660,000 and the £706,000, a total of only £1,366,000 is arrived at which, to say the least, falls a good deal short of the £5,000,000 mentioned by the honourable member.

The honourable member dealt with a number of other matters, some for which I give him full marks. He gave us a dissertation on the coalition Government; and I give him no marks for that.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: This is no end-of-the-term examination. I am not looking for marks.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: He dealt with the history of the R. & I. Bank and whether he is looking for marks or not, I give him full marks for that one; and his views on the European Common Market were interesting to us all.

As I have said, it is not possible to obtain all the information sought by honourable members in this debate, but I tried to get as much information as I could. A notable feature of this debate was the similarity in substance of one or two speeches. They closely followed the set lines of previous years. Members will concede that several of these points have been adequately dealt with on previous occasions and repetition could be tiresome.

I do not want to unnecessarily labour the winding up of this debate but some very interesting new material of relative importance to the Government of this State was introduced; and I would like now first of all to say a few words on magisterial appointments. Dr. Hislop expressed some doubt as to the legal qualification of magistrates. The supposition that our magistrates are not properly trained is a matter of the highest importance. It is a mistake to say that men appointed as magistrates are not legally trained. Virtually the whole of their careers consists of legal training. When it is known to the Under Secretary for Law that one of his staff is studying for, or has passed, the prescribed examinations for magistrates it is the practice to give him special duties which bring him into even closer contact with the work he will be required to do when he is appointed a magistrate. Some of them are appointed as associates to the judges where they receive valuable experience and legal training.

A man trained in a solicitor's office rarely receives a wide training in the work of the inferior courts, whereas a clerk of courts or a member of the staff of the inferior courts, is brought into constant contact with every phase of the work.

I realise that that might not be a popular remark to make among the legal fraternity, but there is an inclination on the part of some people to say that those who have passed the magisterial examinations are not equipped for the positions they receive.

The great majority of the senior members of the legal profession in Western Australia today are not university trained men. There was no school of law at the University in their training days. They trained in solicitors' offices and passed the examinations prescribed by the Barristers' Board, which were similar to those set for the qualifying examination for magistrates, but slightly wider in scope. The

wider scope related solely to branches of the law not under the jurisdiction of magistrates.

At the opening of the Legal Convention in Western Australia in July, 1959, at Winthrop Hall, Lord Holroyd Pearce, of the Court of Appeal, England, remarked: "It has been truly said that if you scratch beneath the judicial ermine you will find the common juror. Even the House of Lords is no exception to this rule. What that means is that every judge has a strong inclination . . . to reach a conclusion that is sensible and just."

In a State such as ours, with its vast distances and sparsity of population, we must rely fairly extensively on justices of the peace to preside over courts of petty sessions in many country districts whenever a magistrate is not available.

If I remember correctly, I interjected during the honourable member's speech to say that justices of the peace presided over courts of petty sessions in many districts throughout the State whenever a magistrate was not available. Justices of the peace have no academic qualifications in law, neither have they any experience in court procedure when they first take up their appointments. However, they are specially selected as citizens of good character and standing within the community, and the majority possess the sound common sense which is of paramount importance in a judicial officer. In England today, I believe, justices of the peace preside almost universally over magistrates' courts outside the metropolitan area.

The success of a magistrate in an inferior court depends upon his ability, experience and common sense, whether he has qualified as a legal practitioner, or by the examination for magistrates.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Sometimes I think that the justice of the peace in the country does too much. He is called upon too many times.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We are faced with the problem that a magistrate who has served for a considerable period in the north, the Murchison, or the Eastern Goldfields should be given the advantage of a station in the south when an opportunity occurs. Hence when a vacancy occurs, the new appointee is usually required to take up his appointment in the north or some other remote area. Experience has shown that suitable and experienced practitioners who are regarded as being fitted for magisterial appointments, are not attracted to vacancies in such areas.

Turning now to the effects of Britain's proposed entry into the European Common Market, Dr. Hislop brought to the Chamber some interesting quotations on the subjects of protein, malnutrition, and stable foodstuffs. In an interesting discourse, the honourable member dwelt upon the need

for development of greater quantities of cheaper animal protein demanded by the vast Asian markets, and the consequent impact which that development might have upon our cereal production; and I think there is a great deal in what he said.

Mr. Heenan supported Mrs. Hutchison in respect of the franchise of the Legislative Council; and the franchise of the Legislative Council is one of those hardy annuals that has been gone over time and time again.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: One of the worst injustices in this State.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not propose to say any more about it now. But if Mrs. Hutchison will be patient for a few moments I will be coming to some of the other points she raised.

With respect to compensation benefits referred to by Mr. Heenan, Mr. Teahan, Mr. Garrigan and, tonight, by Mr. Stubbs, it has been found that, taking into consideration the benefit increases pursuant to section 4 because of increases in the basic wage, by and large the benefits given in this State are comparable with those in most other States. A further review of benefits is taking place at the present time.

The increased common law damages referred to, apply to compensation cases automatically, because wherever negligence can be shown, action can be brought either against the employer or the third party as appropriate, without affecting the rights under the Act; and Mr. Teahan can gain something from those remarks.

It is generally agreed the removal of the three-year limit to claims for silicosis was of great benefit to mine workers. It is true the amendment did not act retrospectively. That was not possible because the liability was an unknown quantity. However, the amendments included proved of a beneficial nature to some members when they were campaigning in the last Legislative Council elections; and despite the fact that a message was delivered to Norseman concerning the interpretation that had been placed on a certain section of the Act by the State Government Insurance Office, it did not stop a meeting being conducted; and the doubts still existed in the minds of the people who attended that meeting.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: There was no meeting at Norseman.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I thought it was at Norseman, but it does not matter anyway; some advantages were gained as a result.

The incidence of non-silicotic pulmonary diseases such as bronchitis, emphysema, etc., is by no means confined to miners. These diseases are found in most parts of the population in not greatly varying proportions.



When in association with silicosis it is compensable and in diagnosis the medical authorities are tending to lean as far as possible towards silicotic complicity with these diseases wherever reasonably possible.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: Do you intend to make bronchitis an industrial disease?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I could not answer that question directly.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: That is what you implied.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I said that the incidence of non-silicotic pulmonary diseases such as bronchitis is by no means confined to miners. That is the comment I made. There are many cumulative causes to these diseases most of which are not industrial, and the difficulty of legislating for them in the Workers' Compensation Act will be accordingly realised. Therefore this matter would more appropriately be dealt with under social service legislation.

I find difficulty in understanding the views expressed by Mr. Heenan, that perhaps the Workers' Compensation Act and the Mine Workers' Relief Act should be amalgamated. It may be agreed that in general principle it would appear that the hardship suffered by diseased miners could more effectively be dealt with by one Act than two, particularly when each is administered by a different authority. The difficulties of amalgamating them are complex, and it is felt that general agreement would be extremely difficult to reach.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: You made the same remark to Mr. Heenan last year.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: To whom?

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: To Mr. Heenan—in general.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That may be so, but my recollection is that I questioned the honourable member on the point: whether he thought an amalgamation of the two was desirable. For all I know it may well be; but I think there may be some matters that would be difficult to sort out.

The point was mentioned this afternoon by Mr. Stubbs about those people who contribute to the Mine Workers' Relief Fund. I know the surface workers contribute to this fund, and I know they are not as susceptible to disease as those who work underground. But it is very difficult to dissect one set of employees who will not pay, and another lot who will, and leave those who will entirely with the benefits. Then the man who does not pay cannot get any benefits. That is a difficult matter.

Reference was made by Mr. Heenan, Mr. Bennetts, Mr. Hall, and, I think, Mr. Stubbs, to the assistance given to the goldmining industry, to its industrial problems, and to the fact that it should receive more attention.

I am well and truly conscious of the importance of the goldmining industry to Western Australia. I think it can be agreed generally that I have done everything I possibly could in the furtherance of its cause. I realise that the statement made by Mr. Hall regarding the number of people who are now employed in the industry compared with the number employed ten years ago, is a true one. But I also agree with Mr. Hall when he said that mining, generally, was on the upsurge in Western Australia.

It is natural that a drift from one industry to another should take place. Every mining project is a diminishing asset. No goldmine will carry on for ever. The Government is attempting, under a policy of getting people who know how and people with capital, to go out and find new fields of mineral wealth to give employment to the people of Western Australia.

We have very visible evidence of the success of that type of thing when we look at Kwinana, when we know that we have a B.H.P. integrated iron and steel industry Bill to come before us, and when we know that later in the session we will have presented to us a Bill for ratification in connection with the iron ore at Mt. Goldsworthy; and the Laporte industry at Bunbury will give employment to a large number of people. All those who drift from one section of industry to another will do so.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Many are going from Bullfinch to the iron ore industry.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is true. The companies that are searching for iron ore are already employing a considerable number of people in their investigations.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: The Western Mining Corporation is taking its men from one place to another.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: As is well known, the Government has supported the Chamber of Mines in its long period of delegation to the Commonwealth Government on the question of assistance to the goldmining industry. By way of interjection last night, I did say to Mr. Teahan that three mines were unsubsidised. I would like to correct what I said, because I indicated that Mt. Ida, Bullfinch, and the Sons of Gwalia were unsubsidised mines. Of course, two of them are subsidised, but one is not—the Mt. Ida mine is not subsidised but is existing on its own efforts.

It is pleasing to know, however, that the Commonwealth Government has at last recognised the necessity, in the goldmining industry, to make allowance for development; and, without a doubt, although this figure of £300,000 is not the answer, at least it is a start, and the unsubsidised mines will now get an allowance for development. The result will be that they will be able to treat ore of a much lower grade—not necessarily of a much lower

grade, but of a lower grade, and thus create a greater length of life for those particular mines.

Questions relating to the settlement at the Ord River were raised by Mr. Wise and Mr. Loton; and because I felt their arguments were so forceful, and because I felt sincerely about the matter, I went out of my way to get my colleague, the Minister for Lands, to give me some information on the points raised. This is what I have been informed—

The special Land Board that has been set up to consider applications is comprised of very experienced men.

They will have full regard for the farming experience of the applicants, their knowledge of the local conditions including local climate and living conditions and the financial resources behind them.

It is hoped that there will be a good balance between the five farmers selected for the first five properties so that some will have local knowledge. The others will be expected to have suitable farming experience and reasonable cash resources to warrant them going into the venture.

I think it can be fairly left to the Land Board to see that a sound selection is made.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: When you refer to the others, do you mean the next batch?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It may mean the second group; they will be expected to have suitable farming experience.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: Does it not mean that they will have no local knowledge?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That could be so. To continue—

It would be very undesirable for the Government at this juncture to make a categorical statement that it will carry any of the selected applicants on. The Government will be watching the position very closely but each and every case must be considered on its merits. A blanket undertaking would be most undesirable at this juncture and could be instrumental in influencing an undesirable attitude towards the development of some of the properties.

The Government ensured that the brochure was comprehensive and gave a clear indication to applicants of the financial commitments involved and the views expressed regarding yield are the considered views of experienced departmental officers who have high hopes of increasing these yields.

It is not denied, of course, that any farming venture is subject to the normal hazards of agriculture but, if great schemes including this one were not approached with a degree of confidence in the future, they would never get going. There is no reason to doubt that whilst the yields in some

seasons might not be up to the average in other seasons they could exceed the expected average yields.

Mr. Loton raised the query of where farmers would live. The considered opinion of all connected with the scheme is that farmers should live in one of the established towns that will develop—commencing with Kununurra—and commute to their blocks.

There is a lot in favour of this because they will then have the benefit of the town amenities, such as good power supply, good water supply, community life, closeness to schools and other essential services.

It is not impossible to construct a home on one of the black soil properties but the comfort of the farmer and his wife would, in our opinion, be best served if the residence was in the townsite. Experience will, no doubt, dictate what method is best to be followed.

The ingenuity and resourcefulness of the average farmer will quickly determine the pattern that is to be followed by the first and subsequent settlers.

A further point raised by Mr. Loton is the question of houses. He has suggested that to keep capital cost to a minimum settlers might give consideration to building a machinery shed and using part of this as their accommodation for the first twelve or eighteen months. Perhaps some will do this but having regard for the climatic and other conditions in the North we have advocated proper housing. I think this pattern should be followed for the first five farmers and then the later ones can make up their mind whether they would prefer to improvise their living accommodation temporarily.

The Ord scheme has the advantage that it is backed by many years of research. We then had the Pilot Farm and now we have the first farmers going in under close supervision to give them every possible assistance during their establishment period.

The Government is very conscious of the importance of these first farmers and the Legislative Council members can be assured that we will not be unsympathetic in our approach.

I think this is evidenced by the conditions under which the properties are to be made available and the considerable amount of preparatory work that has been and will be undertaken by the Government and in respect of which such generous terms of repayment are given.

Mr. Jones raised a point as to the efficacy of departmental boring practice. The Government has expanded the geo-

logical branch of the Mines Department very considerably. As a matter of fact, it has now been doubled. In the new framework of that branch, the hydrological section has been set up to examine the water potential of the State.

It is felt that by making a proper and co-ordinated survey of the water tables in localities where water is difficult to obtain, the Government can give greater assistance to farmers than by sinking bores for individual farmers. By this means it is expected that a farmer will know approximately how much it will cost to obtain water before he enters into a drilling contract; and, should there be no available water, money will not be spent on fruitless drilling programmes on his land. As Mr. Jones said, he has had plenty of experience of that sort of thing.

Mr. Jones is quite right in his statement that there is insufficient water in Gingin Brook to supply the Northern Midlands comprehensive scheme and also an adequate supply for Geraldton.

The geological surveys section of the Mines Department has recently taken over responsibility for investigations into underground water resources, and in this regard it is in the process of sinking a deep bore in the Allanooka basin to test the geological strata and, if possible, develop a source of underground water which would be available for the needs of Geraldton and, possibly, surrounding districts. Further work will be carried out in this general area following the information which was made available as a result of Wapet's oil bore. In addition, some exploratory boring is at present taking place in the Billeranga Hills west of Mullewa.

It is intended to obtain full geological information regarding the underground basin with the ultimate view of providing better water supplies, particularly to a group of towns at present depending on surface storage.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: We are doing likewise at Esperance.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: As usual, the contribution to the debate by Mr. Bennetts was quite wide in its scope and his remarks related to many of the problems in the South-East Province.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I forgot to answer one of the points raised by him relating to child welfare.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The remarks made by that honourable member relating to each particular problem have been passed on to the Ministers concerned. Concerning the Boulder dental clinic, the Minister for Health advises that the public was notified through the Press on several occasions that assistance to man the Boulder dental clinic was sought and obtained from the Australian Dental Association. The clinic is to be manned on a roster basis for the next few months. It

had been hoped that by now this emergency service would give way to the appointment of a permanent officer, but at present the roster system continues.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They are doing a very good job there, too.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: A bursary system directed towards the training of dentists has operated for some time past. All bursars graduating are bound to State service for a period of five years.

The Government is not opposed to the use of fluoride tablets by individuals; it is quite a good method of overcoming dental caries in children's teeth. However, Government acceptance of a scheme for the issue of such tablets would be uneconomic and even wasteful. I feel that that does not require any further explanation from me.

It appears that Mr. Bennetts is under a misapprehension over the implementation of the scheme to distribute firewood to indigent cases in the metropolitan area. The scheme in operation is based on prisoners working at the Karnet Rehabilitation centre cutting wood, following which, organisations such as Apex and the Junior Chamber of Commerce, showing a very fine community spirit, have volunteered to arrange the distribution. The firm of Bell Bros. has also made a magnanimous effort by transporting the wood free of charge to the metropolitan area. Therefore, to a large extent, it is a question of self-help in the area itself, backed by a rather fine effort on the part of the citizens of the State in assisting the aged through the medium of public-spirited bodies.

Mr. Bennetts complained that there are now no buildings where goldfields boys can be trained. The Government has done nothing to lessen goldfields opportunities in that direction. The Eastern Goldfields Technical School extends training to all who have the capacity and who desire to avail themselves of the facilities provided. There seems to be a general misconception that the number of apprentices in this State is falling off. I do not know why this statement continues to be made, because the figures prove that the statement is incorrect. The number of apprentices employed as at the 30th June, 1960, was 4,754, at the 30th June, 1961, 5,015, and at the 30th June, 1962, 5,614. Those figures have been supplied to me as an accurate assessment of the present situation. So it is quite useless to say that the number of apprentices has declined in the last few years. The fact is that, at present, skilled tradesmen are urgently required. There is no doubt about that.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They will be required very soon.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: They are required now; not in three, four, or five years' time, but now; and the Government knew that they would be required. We

have sent this special mission overseas for the express purpose of trying to recruit skilled tradesmen and to encourage them to migrate to this State.

At this point I would like to correct another of these ill-founded opinions that seem to be getting abroad lately; namely, that because we are going to bring skilled tradesmen to Western Australia those people who are now resident in this State will have to wait to obtain housing. That is not so.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I know a tradesman who is waiting for one.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If the honourable member knows of a tradesman who has been waiting for a house, I suggest that she gives me the name and address of that man, and I will check to ascertain where he stands on the priority list.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I can give the names of about half-a-dozen.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member has given me the names of quite a few already.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Even when houses are available they cannot get them.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is also a true statement. I should hope that we never reach the stage when anyone can obtain a house just for the asking, and when we can walk around and see "To Let" signs on many houses in the metropolitan area and in the country.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I would not say that a 20-months' wait represents a healthy state of affairs.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I agree, but a waiting period of 20 months is a jolly sight better than when the waiting period was three years.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is definitely not true.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Let the honourable member look at the figures and he will find that the position has improved considerably, and is continuing to improve.

The Hon. R. Thompson: If one has £139 to lodge as a deposit on a house, it has improved, but the position in regard to obtaining a rental home has not improved.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If I can interject for a moment, I will continue with my remarks. Naturally enough, housing priority varies between one place and another. In some places there is little demand for houses, whilst in others there is great demand.

The other evening I supplied answers to questions in regard to houses which fall into various categories and to areas where the demand for housing was greatest. At

this point I can tell the honourable member that I will be pleased to discuss any housing difficulties which confront him, or any particular case he has in mind, to see if I can do anything for him.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: An applicant cannot be given a higher priority, though.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Of course he cannot. As I was saying, the arrival of skilled tradesmen in this State is not going to affect the priority of other applicants for houses, because the normal housing programme will go on and housing for skilled migrants will be made available from special funds.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: What about houses for our own skilled tradesmen?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Some people just refuse to understand.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! Will the Minister please resume his seat? I wish the honourable member would not interrupt the Minister while he is speaking because interjections are highly disorderly and do not add to the decorum of the House.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I quite agree with you, Mr. President. I would also like to mention that the member for Maylands made a statement in the Press that I used up all the money for 1962-63 to build the Commonwealth Games Village, and that when the 1962-63 year was reached there would not be any money left and the housing programme for that year would suffer. That statement is completely untrue. As a result of careful management, the money that has been expended on the Commonwealth Games Village, will have no effect whatsoever on the normal housing programme. We will carry on in the usual way, and this additional grant to be made available for housing for skilled tradesmen will give added impetus to the building industry.

On the question of calling tenders for public works, it is widely known that the lowest tender is not necessarily accepted. On many occasions the lowest tender submitted is not accepted. It is necessary, however, to ensure that the Government obtains the maximum return for the money spent, and that full consideration is given to all tenders received.

Mr. Bennetts will be pleased to know that the Minister for Native Welfare has anticipated the need for land in the Esperance area, and the department now holds approximately 20,000 acres with the intention of making it available to selected natives who have been trained at the Wongutha Mission farm. Similarly, a smaller area of 678 acres is held in the Mt. Barker area for future use by trained natives, and negotiations are in course for the acquisition of up to 25,000 acres in the Tardun area for the later use of native lads trained at the Tardun Mission farm.

Mr. Syd Thompson referred, amongst other matters, to the difficulties of the Housing Commission in meeting housing requirements in country towns. The remarks had a particular bearing on the need to encourage workers to take jobs in the country.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Where are the jobs?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member would not know. Mr. Syd Thompson may be assured that his views have been noted. If he has any particular case in mind, I would ask him to bring it to the notice of the State Housing Commission and it will be investigated, or, should he care to discuss it with me, I will do everything I can to assist.

The Minister for Water Supplies advises that the harnessing of rock catchments is usually expensive and the supplies of water are not always very reliable. It is therefore considered appropriate to await a decision on the proposed submission to the Commonwealth Government regarding an extension to the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme before embarking on large-scale construction of rock catchments. However, surveys and investigations of rock catchment areas are continuing, and a further assessment will be made when the outcome of the approach to the Commonwealth Government is known.

Mr. Syd Thompson may be interested to know that the Minister for Native Welfare agrees with the need for caution in granting citizenship rights to all aborigines. When it is decided to grant full citizenship rights a period must elapse between the passing of the necessary legislation and its proclamation, in order that an accelerated propaganda programme, through native welfare officers, churches, shire councils and other publicity mediums, may be undertaken to educate natives against the pitfalls associated with the granting of privileges of full citizenship rights, and also to enable the Commissioner of Police to assess the danger spots and take steps to police them.

The electoral reform suggested by Mr. Baxter is a question I approach with caution because I can foresee many difficulties associated with it. The greatest difficulty would be to arrive at some basis on which agreement could be reached regarding certain party issues. However, I am prepared to say that I think that representation by members in the Legislative Council is extremely lopsided. If it were possible to effect a fairer method of representation by those members, I think perhaps it should be investigated.

The speech made by Mr. Ron Thompson covered a variety of matters affecting his province. Each of the points raised by him have been referred to the appropriate Ministers; and I am not in a position

to give detailed answers to all the points raised by him this evening. As to disabilities in the Fremantle district with respect to training in welding, it is pointed out that the training of first-class welders is an apprenticeship trade. Apprentices attend at Wembley for one day per fortnight in the employer's time. They are not, therefore, required to travel at the end of a day's work in order to receive instruction. The persons who would have to travel would be those wishing to obtain some supplementary skill in this field.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I was aware of that, but I was talking about night school training.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I merely make the comment that they get a period of training in the employer's time, and those that desire supplementary training have to travel to those places where it is available outside the normal working hours.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The point is that there are many people who are not working in the trade, but who want to gain some knowledge of the trade.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is an apprenticeship trade. The only full-scale facilities for training in welding in the technical education division in the metropolitan area are at the Wembley School. There are one or two welding units at other technical schools where this process is used as a tool in such fields as sheet-metal work and motor mechanics. Fremantle has one electric welding set as well as limited facilities for oxy welding. This would be quite inadequate for the purpose of conducting classes in welding, and it would hardly be feasible to extend the facilities within the existing available accommodation. The present difficulties, together with many others suffered by Fremantle in the trade area, should be overcome with the re-building of Fremantle Technical School, which it is hoped will be done in a few years' time.

The school transport position in the South Coogee and Jandakot areas has received some attention from the department. Surveys have shown that most children reside within three miles of a school. It is not departmental policy to provide transport within this distance. For greater distances the department will consider the provision of a full contract service if at least twelve children require transport, or alternatively the department will assist by way of subsidy if there are at least six children.

In the Jandakot-South Coogee area two families, with eight children between them, live over three miles from a school, and the department has offered a subsidy of 11s. 3d. a day towards the cost of operating a vehicle to transport them to and from school. This offer was made by letter on the 9th April.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The department has not offered that service to me or to the parents and citizens' association.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: This letter containing the offer was sent on the 9th April, but so far no advice has been received that the parents are able, or willing, to commence such a service. If the honourable member were to make inquiries he would find out that what I am saying is correct.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I made inquiries last week but received no such information.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: All I can go on is the information with which I have been provided. If any doubt arises it will not be a difficult matter to clear it up. I do not supply this information in order to mislead members; I give it in an endeavour to be helpful.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I am not taking the Minister to task.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I get no comfort from standing on my feet for nearly two hours in supplying information to members. I do so because I regard it as my duty to supply them with as much information as I am able to give.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: You are very obliging in that regard.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Mr. Loton made some comments regarding the traffic engineering section of the Main Roads Department, and he referred to the check on traffic control lights. He said that a longer control period should be allowed at certain spots where such lights were installed. I am able to inform him that the traffic engineering section of the Main Roads Department is known to be keeping a close check on the effects on traffic of traffic control lights, and the demand of traffic on such lights for efficient traffic flow. It is altering the light phase periods as traffic demands.

Traffic control lights when strictly adhered to by the motorist require no police assistance to clear such traffic. This obedience of traffic control light signals is being given all reasonable police attention with the staff available.

The question raised by Mr. Ron Thompson on making an area available for the preservation of our native Christmas trees has been considered by me. This is the first time that such an approach has been made. The town planning authority is considering a subdivision of land in that locality, and we have about 800 acres there. If necessary, we could look out for a suitable stand of trees. I invite the honourable member to let me know what he considers to be a desirable area. It would give me great pleasure to endeavour to reserve that land.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: That locality is where some of the finest stands of Christmas trees can be seen.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Mr. Ron Thompson did intimate that he had conferred with Dr. Hislop on this matter. I now come to some of the remarks made by Mrs. Hutchison. I am quite sure she will listen to me without interrupting. I regard some of the remarks made by her on this occasion as being completely unjustified; they are no less than an irresponsible attack on the head of one of the Government departments which I administer; that is, the Chief Electoral Officer. I regard it as most undesirable to make comments such as those she made in this House.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Mr. President, can I object to the Minister's statement, because it is not true? I did not attack the department; I merely attacked the Minister because he promised me that if I withdrew my amendment he would introduce something to satisfy me. I told him that what he introduced did not satisfy me.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member is far from the point I am making. I am not referring to the next point which she raised in her contribution, which refers to regulations made under the Education Act. I am referring to the Chief Electoral Officer's duties. I repeat that I think the honourable member's remarks were completely unjustified.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: What were they?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I shall tell the honourable member if she will keep quiet. The enrolment card about which she complained was in fact prepared and drafted by the Chief Electoral Officer in 1948.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: At whose decree?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It was done to replace the claim card which was then in existence, and which was considered to be unsatisfactory.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I still consider this one to be unsatisfactory.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The Chief Electoral Officer enumerated on the card, as briefly and concisely as he could, the qualifications for enrolment as prescribed in the Constitution Act.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Will you read it out?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: He also enumerated the requirements under the Electoral Act in respect of the signature of the claimant, and the witnessing of that signature. The set-up of the enrolment card was embodied in regulations tabled in both Houses in 1939, and those regulations have remained unchallenged.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That does not make them right.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: On that very point, although a Labor Government was in office for six years, after

these regulations had been accepted, no action was taken by the Minister in charge of the Electoral Office to have the card altered—

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is only camouflage.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH:—nor was any request made or received by the Chief Electoral Officer from any party or person to take any action whatsoever.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I shall soon make one.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! I request Mrs. Hutchison to refrain from interjections. I have been very tolerant with her, and I now ask her to desist.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Despite what the honourable member might say, the qualifications for enrolment are clearly defined, and they should be understood by any person of average intelligence.

I now turn to the point raised by Mrs. Hutchison relating to the regulations brought down under the Education Act. This matter was disposed of satisfactorily last session and it had not been intended to pursue the matter further at this stage. Nevertheless, in view of the assertion by the honourable member that there has been a breach of faith—we get used to that sort of comment from her—it is proposed to clarify that point. According to her every Minister of this Government has committed breaches of faith; I have never heard so much poppycock in all my life.

On the 10th October of last year, the honourable member was told—I have examined this for myself—that the Minister for Education hoped in a few weeks to introduce amending legislation which would be of a more generous nature. It was suggested that rather than proceed with the motion for disallowance of the existing regulations, the honourable member would be better advised to await the outcome, and then, if she was not satisfied an opportunity would be given to her to disallow or amend the regulations. There the position rested.

It is a fact that The Hon. A. F. Watts, as Minister for Education, was in a mind to introduce new regulations to enable married women to be employed. That has not eventuated, but having given the assurance that he would look into the question of the agreement and marriage, to see if any concession could, in justice to both parties, be made, the Minister introduced new regulations of a far more generous and more practical character than those sought by the honourable member through her motion to disallow.

It has been the policy, not only of the present Government but of the previous one, that married women should not be employed on the permanent staff of the Government service, including teaching. That has been the Government's policy for

many years, because it has a certain responsibility to maintain avenues of employment for young people finishing their schooling.

Were married women retained on the permanent staff, as is done in two of the other States, there would in a short period of time be no vacancies whatsoever for young people leaving secondary school. It would be a most undesirable state of affairs in the economy of any State, and certainly in the economy of Western Australia.

The Government considers, though conceivably the honourable member would not agree, that the amendment which she desired would not meet the circumstances she had in mind. Merely to permit a young woman teacher to remain on the permanent staff after marriage will not help the young woman teacher to become a mother, as in most cases, it would not be possible for her to continue teaching; and it is those cases which need financial relief most. That relief is given through the new regulations.

The motion for disallowance moved at the last session of Parliament would tend to assist those who least needed assistance, and would deprive the ones who needed it most from obtaining the financial assistance now available.

The plight of the young mother is that not only has she the burden of caring for her young children, but she is also weighed down by the knowledge that she has a financial obligation because of her failure to fulfil her contract; and often she has no means of raising the money necessary to meet her financial obligations.

The resultant regulations, which, incidentally were made retrospective to take effect from the 1st January, 1960, require that such a teacher, on marriage, shall pay only one-half of the bond due, by monthly instalments; not only that, but if she has a child the contract is cancelled automatically.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is the silliest thing I have ever heard.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The Government considers these concessions to be extremely generous, and to be of a far more practical nature than those proposed by the honourable member.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is not for you to say.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is considered that any move to disallow the new regulations in favour of those proposed by the honourable member in the last session of Parliament would be a most retrograde step, would detrimentally affect the existing position of these young people, and would not appeal to members of the Chamber. I hope the honourable member does not have anything like that in mind.

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You wait and see.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is a great pity that the honourable member has the singular distinction of being the only woman ever to be elected to a Legislative Council.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: She has made one unholy mess of it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In the period she has been here she could have been of tremendous help to the women in the community. She could have set a—

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Can I object to the Minister reflecting on my ability and my character?

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): I am of the opinion that no reflection has been made up to the present time.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Sir. I have merely said that the honourable member could have set a great example to women in this State and she could have been an inspiration to them.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: And haven't I been?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: No.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In my opinion—and it is shared by others—the honourable member has failed lamentably because of her continued interjections which do not allow a Minister, or anybody else who is making a speech, to give the answers to questions which she seeks from time to time.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Can't I object?

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would like to comment on a question of which the honourable member gave notice this afternoon. It is in connection with the expenses of the Legislative Council. In the most kindly manner, I suggest to her that she reframe this question so that I might be able to answer it. She has asked me to supply the details of expenditure in respect of a long list of items. They include fuel, light, heat, power, water, posts, telegraphs, furniture, stores, stationery, cleaning, vehicles, and petrol allowances as they apply to the Legislative Council. How on earth can I supply that information? How can I say the chair that the *Hansard* reporter is sitting on belongs to the Legislative Council. Surely the furniture and equipment of Parliament House is an integral part of the whole set-up. It is impossible to segregate these items.

Most of the questions asked can be answered because the information required is laid down statutorily. I refer to such things as the salaries of Ministers, the salary of the President—the honourable member is interested in your salary, Sir—and the salary of the Chairman of

Committees. The honourable member does not seem to want to know the salary of the Leader of the Opposition, but that is laid down statutorily. I would suggest that if the honourable member wants an answer to this question it should be re-framed so that I can give a sensible reply.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You have never given a sensible reply yet.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That may be the opinion of the honourable member, but thank goodness it is not shared by anyone else.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is a reflection on you, is it not?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes; but I get used to it. Dr. Hislop, Mr. Hall, and, I think, Mr. Jones mentioned the question of the speed limit and suggested that it might be made 40 miles per hour instead of 35 miles per hour. The maximum speed limit of 35 miles per hour in built up areas is the speed recommended by the National Road Traffic Code; and, in fact, it is higher than that existing in three other States.

There would need to be very dangerous factors in a speeding charge before a motorist was actually brought to court for speeding under 40 miles per hour. I do not think it is right to say that people are brought to court for speeding at 36 or 37 miles per hour. I think the police have regard for the fact that the speed limit is 35 miles per hour and if one does not travel at over 40 miles per hour one is all right. I do not know of anybody being booked for speeding when they travel only two or three miles per hour over the speed limit of 35 miles per hour.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It has been reported in the Press where people have been charged for doing 36 and 38 miles per hour.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I cannot comment because I do not know the details, but it could easily be that there are some other factors relating to a charge of that nature.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I have known some to drive dangerously at 10 miles per hour.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I know of some who should not drive at all. I suggest consideration could well be given to the fact that the National Road Traffic Code has adopted the speed limit of 35 miles per hour. Excessive speed induced by the indulgence of alcohol is the principal factor that causes fatal traffic accidents; and, as Mr. Wise said, in circumstances like that, a person driving at a much lesser speed than 35 miles per hour is a danger on the road.

Mr. Jones said that the word of a traffic policeman rather than that of the person being charged was always taken in the courts. Every traffic offender, if he so



desires, has a right to attend court in answer to a charge and to defend himself against the person who is preferring the charge. I think it is wise to attend the court as it gives one an opportunity to explain the circumstances. It is then for the court to decide the truthfulness of one side as against the other.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: It is not always convenient for a person to do that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I agree it is not, but where possible, I think it is a good idea to attend. I must say that the honourable member seemed to be more concerned with excess noises caused by motor vehicles than with their speed.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Diesel fumes, mainly.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am drawing close to the conclusion of my reply.

A member: That is good.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I heard someone say, "That is good." I agree. I cannot go any further on the speeches made tonight. However, I would like to make one or two more remarks on the speech of Mr. Davies. He questioned the wisdom of making houses available for skilled men who come into the State when so many local people are waiting for houses. I have explained that the accommodation for skilled tradesmen being brought here will be provided from a special grant of money; and the normal housing programme will not be interfered with. No existing priorities at the Housing Commission will be interfered with at all.

The Hon. E. M. Davies: As long as we know that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I know that one can be brought to book when one makes a forthright statement like that, but there is no intention of depriving any person of the present priorities and the reasonable attention that person should expect to receive. The honourable member referred to the widows' flats at South Perth and the proposal to erect a further block of flats at Swanbourne. As far as I can see there is no provision in the State Housing legislation which will allow for the erection of single-unit flats. I built the flats at South Perth with a grant from the State Government. I also went to the Lotteries Commission and said that if assistance were given, a block of flats could be built for civilian widows. The Lotteries Commission listened to my story and made money available. The commission is also going to make more money available for the block of flats at Swanbourne.

I would very much like to build a block of flats each year, although I do not know whether this will be possible. I would like to do this because it does one's heart good to visit South Perth and see these elderly widows in their comfortable little places, for which they are charged a nominal sum of 30s. a week.

The Hon. E. M. Davies: You have to realise that when women have lived in a district for a number of years they like to stay there. That is why I should like consideration given to the claims of Fremantle.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I appreciate that, but a start has to be made somewhere. The block of land at South Perth belonged to the commission, and we did not have to pay for it. The land at Swanbourne is also owned by the Government. I was able to get the Minister for Lands to hand it over to me without any charge. If the honourable member can lead me to some free land at Fremantle when the time comes, I will be pleased to consider the possibility of another block of flats there.

The Hon. E. M. Davies: You make a suggestion and I will see what I can do with some of the endowment land.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We will get together on that at a later date. The only other matter Mr. Davies referred to was the question of rebates. He thought they should be borne by the Commonwealth. Under the 1945 Act the Commonwealth does bear its responsibility in respect of rebates, but up to date it has refused to accept any further responsibilities under the subsequent Acts. The Ministers for Housing at each housing conference continue to keep referring to the question; and they keep asking the Commonwealth to accept its responsibilities for rebate cases.

The amount of rebates in this State is quite considerable. I am not sure what the figure was for last year, but I think the commission gave something like £100,000 for the year in rebates to cases of pensioner-accommodation, to women whose husbands were serving gaol sentences, in cases where husbands had left their wives, and in other cases where rebates were applicable.

I think I have just about exhausted my ability to provide information to members. Therefore, in conclusion I would like to say that together with my colleague, Mr. Logan, I have made every effort to provide the information that has been asked for. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-Reply thus adopted.

#### *Presentation to Governor*

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [9.36 p.m.]: I move—

That the Address-in-Reply be presented to His Excellency the Governor by the President and such members as may desire to accompany him.

Question put and passed.

## BILLS (18): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Amendments Incorporation Act Amendment Bill.
2. Reprinting of Acts Authorisation Act Amendment Bill.  
Bills introduced, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.
3. Coal Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill.
4. Building Societies Act Amendment Bill.
5. BP Refinery (Kwinana) Limited Bill.  
Bills introduced, on motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.
6. Trustees Bill.
7. Evidence Act Amendment Bill.
8. Declarations and Attestations Act Amendment Bill.
9. Interpretation Act Amendment Bill.
10. Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill.
11. Administration Act Amendment Bill.
12. Charitable Trusts Bill.
13. Law Reform (Property, Perpetuities, and Succession) Bill.
14. Married Women's Property Act Amendment Bill.
15. Simultaneous Deaths Act Amendment Bill.
16. Testator's Family Maintenance Act Amendment Bill.  
Bills introduced, on motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.
17. Adoption of Children Act Amendment Bill.
18. Church of England (Northern Diocese) Act Amendment Bill.  
Bills introduced, on motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.

## ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Justice [10.3 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is a small Bill covering a simple amendment to one section of the Act. Under the existing provisions of the Act, affidavits which are required to be filed at the Companies Office can be sworn before a justice of the peace only. This restriction causes a considerable amount of inconvenience both to legal practitioners and their clients. The purpose of this Bill

is to enable such affidavits to be sworn before a commissioner for affidavits in addition to a justice of the peace.

There can be no objection to this extension, for if a commissioner for affidavits is given power to take these affidavits, the rule that a principal in the firm responsible for the preparation of the draft affidavit ought not to take the oath would still apply, and the deponent would still need to seek out a justice of the peace or an independent commissioner for affidavits.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. F. J. S. Wise (Leader of the Opposition).

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE:

### SPECIAL

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [10.4 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 10.5 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 15th August, 1962

### CONTENTS

	Page
<b>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—</b>	
Apprentices : Numbers Registered .....	450
Beeloo Electorate : Name of D.L.P. Candidate at General Election .....	453
Birchington : Details of Procedure, etc. ....	456
Bunbury Land-backed Wharves : Rail Connection .....	455
Bunbury Railway Station : Office Accommodation .....	455
Coal : Deep-Mine and Open-Cut—	
Prices .....	454
Commonwealth Government Land : Resumption by State .....	450
Crosswalk : Establishment in Walcott Street Near York Street.....	449
Eggs—	
Exports from Albany .....	454
Prices at Albany and Areas South of 30th Parallel .....	454
Glenford Clothing Factory : Commencement of Operations and Closure .....	451
Hawker Siddeley Sawmill Permit—	
Area of Permit, and Excision .....	456
Intake and Royalty .....	455
Hotel Extensions and Improvements : Government Assistance .....	448
Housing at Manning : Commission's Developmental Programme .....	452
Industrial Development Committees : Establishment and Results Achieved in Country Towns .....	451
Kalgoorlie Domestic Science Building : Plans for the Future .....	452