

of the community that is not worried about housing, but the Government is doing nothing about the matter. It has shown a lack of planning and a lack of foresight.

Even the former Rev. Edwin White, who is now Mr. White, has been taken to task for his stand on housing. It was a very practical and a very real appraisal of the position which he made in trying to be fair to migrants. This Government is being unfair; it is only fair to itself and to its business friends.

I am happy to stand up and say a few words on behalf of the low income group, because they are the people who need some help at the present time; they are the people who keep the State going; they are the people who are getting very fed up with the attitude of the Government towards housing; and they are the people who almost put the Government out of office at the last election. I can only hope that when the Premier is searching his soul he will find some consideration for the people who face serious housing problems, instead of pulling faces and treating the position lightly.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another four minutes.

Mr. DAVIES: I wind up on that note, and say how disappointed I am that the housing position, which is as serious as it is has been treated so lightly.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. A. Manning): Before I take the Chair, I would like to express my thanks to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and members generally for my election to the responsible position of Chairman of Committees. I trust that together we can maintain the high standards which we should attain in Committee.

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

Third Reading

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

House adjourned at 11.29 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 31st July, 1968

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

QUESTIONS (10): ON NOTICE

BENTLEY SCHOOL

Brick Classrooms

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

Has any provision been made in the Estimates for the year 1968-69 for new brick replacement classrooms at the Bentley Primary School?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Three replacement rooms are listed on the proposed 1968-69 building estimates.

STAFFING IN SCHOOLS

Adequacy for Achievement Certificate

2. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Has the Education Department carried out a work study case to determine whether staffing in schools, apart from extra clerical staff already provided, is adequate to satisfactorily implement the requirements of the Achievement Certificate?

(2) If not, is such a study in progress, or projected?

(3) Are there significant differences in work load between schools because of varying procedures adopted to implement the Achievement Certificate?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) A work study undertaken in connection with the latest proposals for the Achievement Certificate shows that the present staffing formula would adequately provide for all teaching needs.

(2) Answered by (1).

(3) No.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS IN METROPOLITAN AREA

Determining Formula

3. The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Is the formula used by the Special Schools Crossing Reviewing Committee for determining whether or not a pedestrian crossing is warranted, the same for the whole of the metropolitan area?

- (2) If the answer to (1) is "Yes"—
- when was the present formula determined;
 - has the formula ever been amended, and if so, to what extent; and
 - is any consideration being given at present to altering the formula so that schools which at the moment have no safety crossing facilities available for children to use when crossing busy roads, such as High Road in Lynwood; Corinthian Road, Riverton; and Moolyeen Road in Brentwood, can qualify?
- (3) Is there a different formula for determining pedestrian crossings as distinct from a guard-controlled crossing?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is "Yes," what are the two formulae?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) There is no formula used by the Special Schools Crossing Reviewing Committee in determining if a guarded school crossing is warranted.

The committee consists of a representative from the Main Roads Department, Education Department, and Police Department, and it is the policy of this committee to take a general observation of the area where an application has been made for a crossing guard.

The main points taken into consideration by the committee when assessing the area are—

- General observation of area, such as open view or obstructed view, width of roadway, if footpaths are provided, if school and children's signs are erected.
 - Traffic flow of vehicles and number of children crossing roadway.
 - Any dangerous situations which may occur and which may endanger any children crossing the roadway and breaks in traffic flow which enable children to cross with safety.
 - Age of children crossing roads.
- (2) (a) and (b) answered by (1).
- (c) the three areas mentioned; namely, High Road, Lynwood; Corinthian Road, Riverton; and Moolyeen Road, Brentwood, were recently assessed by the reviewing committee and it was reported that at present crossing guards are not warranted.

- (3) There is a formula for determining the necessity for the establishment of a pedestrian crossing.

- (4) The formula for the establishment of a pedestrian crossing is one recommended by the conference of State traffic control engineers (C.O.S.T.C.E.) and is as follows:—

Pedestrian (Zebra) Crossings:

A pedestrian crossing may be installed across a carriageway if for each of two hours of an average day—

- the number of pedestrians (P) crossing within 60 feet of the proposed site exceeds 60 persons per hour, and
 - the number of vehicles per hour (V) which pedestrians have to cross in one bound exceeds—
 - 600 in metropolitan areas, or
 - 500 elsewhere;
- (iii) the product of $P \times V$ exceeds—
- 90,000 in metropolitan areas, or
 - 60,000 elsewhere.

Notes:

- (1) In wide streets, without trams, the first provision to assist pedestrians to cross should be the construction of a central pedestrian refuge. The above warrants then apply to each carriageway.

COMPANY AND STRATA TITLE HOME UNITS

Stamp Duty Payable on Purchase and Transfer

4. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

On an estimated sale price of \$10,000—

- What stamp duty is paid on a company ownership home unit—
 - on original purchase?
 - on transfer to new ownership?
- What stamp duty is paid on a strata title ownership home unit—
 - on original purchase?
 - on transfer to new ownership?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (i) On original contribution for shares in the company—for which a share script is issued—nil.
- (ii) \$40.
- (b) (i) \$125.
- (ii) \$125.

KALGOORLIE-ESPERANCE MOTOR BUS SERVICE

Japanese Buses and Motor Truck Service

5. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) (a) Is it a fact that it is proposed to place two Japanese constructed buses on the Kalgoorlie-Esperance road bus service; and
- (b) if so, when will they commence operating?
- (2) (a) Is it proposed to carry passengers only on this service; and
- (b) if so, will a motor truck service be provided to carry perishables and small articles of merchandise to the various places *en route*?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) There are no immediate plans to replace buses on the Kalgoorlie-Esperance route.
- (2) (a) and (b) Answered by (1).

CROSSWALKS ON HIGHWAYS

Sodium Fluorescent Lighting: Installation

6. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What progress has been made towards the installation of sodium fluorescent lighting for crosswalks on highways in the metropolitan area similar to that on Stirling Highway?
- (2) As the Minister for Traffic announced last year that he expected the first of these to be installed in November, 1967, what is now the approximate time for the first installation?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) All sodium floodlighting units are now to hand. Tenders are about to be called for poles.
- (2) It is expected that the first installation will be commenced during November, 1968.

SCHOOL HOSTEL AT MERREDIN

Inadequate Accommodation

7. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that —
 - (a) there is an acute shortage of accommodation at the high school hostel at Merredin;
 - (b) a large waiting list exists; and
 - (c) many children from surrounding districts have been refused entry for the 1969 school year owing to this shortage of accommodation?

(2) As many who would be eligible will be deprived of a high school education because of the existing accommodation problem, will the Government take urgent action to provide more of the necessary accommodation for the 1969 school year, even if in temporary buildings?

(3) Will urgent planning be carried out to provide further adequate and permanent accommodation to meet the needs of the large adjacent districts?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) Yes. There is a demand for additional accommodation for boys.
- (b) Yes. The chairman and secretary of the Country High School Hostels Authority recently visited Merredin and found that a waiting list of 20-24 boys exists.
- (c) No. Until acceptances and withdrawals for 1969 are known the position cannot be finalised.
- (2) The building programme of the Country High School Hostels Authority for the 1968-69 financial year is fully committed. The possibility of temporary accommodation being used will be referred to the authority.
- (3) The hostels authority has the matter of planning for future needs under constant review.

ALBANY REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Geriatric Block

8. The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Health:

In view of the urgent need for the establishment of the geriatric block as an adjunct to the Albany Regional Hospital, will the Minister advise—

- (a) to what stage has planning progressed;
- (b) is it intended to—
 - (i) erect a unit entirely separate from the existing hospital buildings; or
 - (ii) add to the existing hospital buildings;
- (c) is it expected that a contract will be let during the current financial year;
- (d) have the doctors at the Albany Regional Hospital been consulted regarding the planning and future requirements for geriatric hospitalisation in the Albany district;

- (e) if the answer to (d) is "Yes," have the opinions of the doctors been fully considered in the initial planning; and
- (f) if the answer to (d) is "No," would it not be appropriate and possibly advantageous to obtain the views of these doctors?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (a) A sketch plan will be available shortly.
- (b) (i) Yes.
(ii) No.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) No—apart from preliminary discussion approximately two years ago.
- (e) and (f) Plans will be discussed with local doctors at the earliest practicable date.

STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY

Koolyanobbing to Kalgoorlie Section: Crossing Loops

9. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

On the newly constructed standard gauge railway lines from Koolyanobbing to Kalgoorlie—

- (a) is it a fact that the contractors were required to install a train crossing loop every 22 miles regardless of the nature of the terrain;
- (b) is it a fact that two of the three loops in the first 66 miles east of Koolyanobbing are constructed on acute curves, and another close to Kalgoorlie in a cutting; and
- (c) will this make it a hazard to railway employees and create a great accident risk?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) No. The loops were sited in relation to time between adjacent loops, taking into account intervening grades, and straight approaches to them.
- (b) No. These loops are on curves which are not acute, being 100 chain radius and 50 chain radius. The loop close to Kalgoorlie is only partially in a cutting.
- (c) No. When loops are one mile long it is not possible to construct them and the approach sitting distance each end, on one continuous straight. So that enginemmen can see the signals well ahead of the loop points, it is best to make this sitting distance on a straight even if this requires the loop to be on a curve.

MARVEL LOCH SCHOOL

Closure

10. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Education Department to close the Marvel Loch School?
- (2) Is he aware that the people of Marvel Loch are opposed to the proposed closure?
- (3) Will he stay any contemplated action on closure until after further inquiry?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) to (3) A census has been taken and results show only a small majority in favour of consolidation. The margin is not considered sufficient to justify closure of the Marvel Loch School.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the Opposition), leave of absence for 12 consecutive sittings of the House granted to The Hon. F. J. S. Wise (North) on the ground of private business.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Election

On motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), resolved:

That in accordance with Standing Order No. 31a, the following members be elected to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees during the present session, viz.: The Hon. F. D. Willmott, The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery, and The Hon. J. M. Thomson.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Election

On motions by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines) the following sessional committees were elected:—

Standing Orders.—The Hon. F. D. Willmott, The Hon. H. C. Strickland, and The Hon. J. M. Thomson.

Library.—The Hon. V. J. Ferry, and The Hon. R. F. Hutchison.

House.—The Hon. J. Heitman, The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson, The Hon. R. Thompson, and The Hon. J. Dolan.

Printing.—The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs, and The Hon. E. C. House.

Assembly Personnel

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees appointed by that House.

SUPPLY BILL*Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY*Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 30th July, on the following motion by The Hon. F. R. White:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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. G. W. BERRY (Lower North) [4.56 p.m.]: I stand for the first time in this House as the elected member for the Lower North Province. It is a very proud moment of my life that I take my place in this Chamber, and I am deeply indebted to the electors of the Lower North Province for according me the honour to represent them in the Legislative Council.

If I might be permitted to read an extract from *Hansard*, of the 17th October, 1894, when the debate was taking place on the erection of the new Parliament House, the Premier of the day (The Hon. Sir John Forrest) said—

For my part, I believe in making a country's Houses of Parliament as convenient, as beautiful, and even as splendid as possible, so that those who enter them may regard them as something like sacred ground, and be impressed with a certain amount of reverence for their surroundings, and so behave themselves. I know that has been the impression created on my mind when I have entered the halls of Parliament in the old country. It is the same in Victoria and other places, where those who enter the Houses of Parliament cannot fail to be impressed with their surroundings, and those who occupy seats in them cannot fail to be impressed with the dignity and the responsibility of their position.

Those were my feelings on the day I first entered these Houses of Parliament, and I might say that I am very proud to be a member of this Chamber. I know the responsibilities which the electors of the Lower North Province have placed on my shoulders to represent them in this Parliament, and I thank them for the honour they have accorded me.

I would like to thank the Leader of the Opposition (The Hon. W. F. Willesee) and the other members of the House for the way in which they have received me since my election. I wish also to express my thanks to the staff of both Houses of Parliament for the courteous and most helpful manner in which I have been served.

The way in which members have looked after me confirms the first impressions I gained when I entered this House and I hope their behaviour and dignity in future will enable me to retain those impressions.

I would like to pay tribute to the member whose seat I have assumed. The Hon. E. M. Heenan was a member of this honourable institution for, I understand, 32 years. I hope that during my years here I am able to conduct myself with the same dignity and decorum as my predecessor.

I was fortunate to be in attendance in the House on opening day and to listen to the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. However, I was a little disappointed that no reference was made to the particular neck of the woods from which I come, which is a place called Carnarvon. As some members will know, this town was established in the first place as a port in the north-west, and since its inception it has grown to be a district of some considerable importance, an important facet of its growth being the irrigated areas of the Gascoyne. Until the advent of the tracking station and the activity which is now taking place on Lake McLeod to exploit the potash deposits, the prosperity of this town was created by a small strip of land which is approximately 10 miles by one mile. Of this area some 2,000 acres have been farmed.

It is a very productive area, but unfortunately it depends upon the vagaries of Mother Nature who, as members know, is very fickle in the distribution in our particular area of that most precious commodity—water. It is rather ironical that when she does give her blessing in the watershed of the Gascoyne, no set pattern exists as to rainfall, and Carnarvon experiences periods which are known there as a drought—not a drought in the general sense. In Carnarvon it means that the river does not flow.

It is rather ironical also that when the river does flow in full spate, enough water goes out to sea every eight hours to recharge the Canning Dam—or so the engineers inform us. This occurs, at times, for up to two weeks. All this water is discharged into the sea and then those in the area must wait until the following year for Mother Nature to deposit more water in some part of the watershed in order that the river might flow once again.

In 1960, after the disastrous cyclone, the Government assisted growers in the area by making available a grant in order that

the farms might be maintained during the period for which they would be out of production; and this money was very gratefully accepted. Never before had anything been given to the district to help it in a time of need. At the time the Government undertook to investigate the possibility of storing some of the water which flowed to the sea every time the river was in flood or rain fell in the watershed. I understand that, unfortunately, no previous records had been kept as to the behaviour of the river and our engineers had virtually to start from scratch to accumulate data to allow them to make recommendations as to the conservation of some of the water.

These investigations have been continuing and, fortunately, the river has continued to flow in each successive year as a consequence of which the district has enjoyed years of plenty. They have been bountiful years. However, the record of this river is that approximately once in every five years its waters do not reach the sea and therefore just around the corner is the day when no water will flow down the Gascoyne. It is the consequences of that event, which must be near at hand, to which I would like to draw the attention of members.

The impact on Carnarvon will be quite considerable because not only does the river support the irrigated areas, but also it now supports quite a considerable township and is the only source of water. Production will be very seriously curtailed, and the housewife in Perth will find the prices of Carnarvon produce exorbitant.

I view with alarm the statement made by the Minister for Customs and Excise at a recent gathering in Carnarvon when he said that as this State had just received \$48,000,000 for the continuation of the Ord scheme, it could not expect the Commonwealth to be handing out money for every small project. Through this Parliament I want the message to get home to those in the Federal House that it is not a hand-out for which we in Carnarvon are asking. It is for something which is real.

Before the advent of the great mineral discoveries and their exploitation, which we are now experiencing, Carnarvon was the biggest town in the area north of Geraldton. It was entirely self-supporting; and, apart from the grant in 1960, at no time received any Government assistance or subsidy. Therefore I believe that the water storage project is a very important one.

I appreciate that the Government has to undertake a good deal of necessary investigation before any firm plans can be submitted; but what concerns me most is that there are no immediate plans and therefore I do not know what any Government or engineers can do to prepare for the day in the very near future when the river

will not flow. Perhaps the engineers, in their wisdom or otherwise, are contemplating too grandiose a scheme when they talk of damming the Gascoyne. Perhaps they should aim in the first place towards stabilising the water supply by a minor scheme which would be supplementary to the large type dam. I feel it is my duty to bring to the notice of the Government the dire necessity to expedite its investigations and to make some progress towards conserving water for the Carnarvon area.

One other matter I would like to bring to the notice of the Government concerns the police station at Carnarvon. For approximately 14 years discussions have been held, and probably recommendations made, but as yet no firm plans have been drawn up, as far as I know, to improve the facilities at the police station. The custodians of the law, who are charged with the maintenance of law and order, operate in a building which must have been erected when Carnarvon was first established, and it is quite inadequate for the town which has reached its present stage of development. It is only right that those who are committed to preserve law and order should at least be accommodated in premises suitable for their needs, and I hope this Government will give serious consideration to expediting the plans to achieve this objective.

I wish now to refer to the pastoral industry. In answer to a question asked in this House it has been stated that the plight of the pastoral industry is one that is being considered, but that it must be approached on a national basis. I think this Government, without waiting to approach the matter on a Federal level, might be able to find ways and means to help pastoralists and show its concern for the industry in this State.

In the past the pastoral industry has been the backbone of this country but now, through rising costs and falling returns, pastoralists find themselves in the position where conditions are really getting tough. Any assistance, no matter how small it may be, would be welcomed by the industry and that assistance would demonstrate the good faith of the Government and would illustrate the appreciation it has of the problems the industry faces.

I should now like to refer to those who live in the remote areas of the State—people who live in the province I represent. Any time this Government can see its way clear to do anything to make life easier for the residents of the far-flung parts of the State, it should do so; and I hope the Government will give such people full consideration. At the moment the position seems to be that the further one moves away from the city the more the State charges one to exist.

I am deeply grateful for being permitted to speak on the Address-in-Reply debate. I trust my time in this House will be spent in helping the people who live in the province I represent.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. F. Claughton.

House adjourned at 5.19 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 31st July, 1968

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

MACE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Origin: Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Guthrie) [4.32 p.m.]: With the indulgence of the House I wish to make a statement concerning the Mace. I wish to inform members that until this time no official record exists of the origin of the Mace as used in this Chamber. Research has been made by the Clerk over a period of many months, extending from London to Australia, including not only parliamentary records but also public accounts, newspapers, and the State archives, prior to the inscription on the Mace, namely, 1887, and no mention of it could be found.

Finally, as a last resort, contact was made with a retired Western Australian newspaper reporter who indulges extensively in research into early Western Australian history, who disclosed that only a few weeks ago, when researching another matter, he came across a reference to the Mace in the *Inquirer* the year after the Mace was supposed to have arrived in this State. From this point it was easy to establish the following—and I shall read the extract from the issue of the *Inquirer* dated the 29th February, 1888—

Some months ago Mr. Nesbit, the well known Hay-st. jeweller, had an order placed in his hands for a mace for the Legislative Council. After some consideration Mr. Nesbit decided to have the article made in Adelaide, instead of sending the order to England for execution, and the result proves the wisdom of his decision. The mace arrived safely in Perth last Saturday and is now on public view at Mr. Nesbit's establishment. It has been made from ornate designs supplied by the Public Works department of this Colony, at Mr. S. Schlank's Beaver Factory in Adelaide. The workmanship is really remarkable for its elaborate character, richness and exquisite

finish, and certainly redounds to the credit of Australian craftsmen. The "bauble" measures 2 ft. 8 in. in length and is of standard silver heavily gold gilt. The mace begins with a large burnished boss quartered with beads, and bearing the Imperial monogram admirably chased. These quarters are divided by representations of the rose, shamrock and thistle. From the boss rises the shaft, which is elaborately chased in front; and above is a small boss of a highly ornamental description, surrounded by the Western Australian coat-of-arms, which is in itself no small work of art. The then national emblems appear again, and there is a massive ornamental band which bears the inscription "Western Australia", while another bears the British motto "Dieu et Mon Droit". The shaft is surrounded by the burnished bole—a very chaste piece of workmanship. It bears the British coat-of-arms, alternatively with leaf scrolls, on the other side being engraved "Legislative Council of Western Australia", and above all is the Imperial crown most elaborately wrought. Below the crown are medallion, one representing a swan surrounded with laurel leaves and relieved by native flowers and foliage. There is a great deal of repousse work in the article, the execution of which is as artistically clever as the result is strikingly effective. The cost of the mace is £70, exclusive of freight and insurance. It will be borne before the Speaker, the Hon. J. G. Lee-Steere, at the next meeting of the Legislative Council.

To ensure that this information is available for the future, I will instruct the Clerk to record this reference in the *Votes and Proceedings* of the House; and, needless to say, the reference will also appear in *Hansard*.

QUESTIONS (44): ON NOTICE ALBANY REGIONAL HOSPITAL *Geriatric Block*

1. Mr. MITCHELL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:
 - (1) Has it been decided to establish a geriatric wing (or centre) at the Albany Regional Hospital?
 - (2) If "Yes," have plans been prepared?
 - (3) When is it expected to commence building?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A sketch plan will be available shortly.
- (3) This financial year.