

statutory grant of £40,000. It is obvious that this statutory figure is out of step with present-day requirement, and the Bill seeks to increase it to £250,000. This will provide that in future years at least this contribution must be made to university finances.

During the last ten years direct payments from Consolidated Revenue Fund to the university have been:—

	£
1945-46	52,539
1946-47	65,005
1947-48	93,779
1948-49	117,968
1949-50	160,758
1950-51	211,364
1951-52	261,005
1952-53	288,501
1953-54	320,752
1954-55	372,844

The vote has been increased from a very low amount since 1911 to a gigantic sum in 1955. No doubt members will agree that the funds have been well spent and that all contributions made to the University will eventually benefit the State and, as a result, trained men will be available. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. J. G. Hislop, debate adjourned.

BILL—ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. G. Fraser—West) [5.12] in moving the second reading said: As members are aware, the principal Act provides for a redivision of electoral districts and electoral provinces by commissioners appointed for the purpose whenever directed by the Governor by proclamation. One of the conditions for the issue of such a proclamation is a report by the Chief Electoral Officer to the appropriate Minister that the state of the rolls made up for any triennial election discloses that the enrolment is not less than five electoral districts fall short of, or exceeds by 20 per cent. the quota as ascertained for such districts.

Although it is hardly necessary for me to do so, I will briefly outline the procedure which occurs after the issue of the proclamation. For a start, three electoral commissioners are appointed by the Governor. It is their duty to make inquiries and recommendations in respect of the Legislative Assembly electoral districts; to publish any proposed alteration of an electoral district in the "Government Gazette" and in a newspaper circulating in such district; to consider any objections in

writing, which must be lodged within two months from the date of such publication; to adjust the boundaries of the electoral provinces; and, lastly, to present their final report and recommendations to the Governor.

After receipt of the final recommendations, it is provided that the Governor shall publish them in the gazette at such time as he thinks fit. After the expiration of three months from that publication, the recommendations are as effective as if enacted by Parliament. It has been pointed out by the Chief Electoral Officer that the postponement for three months from publication of the effect of the recommendations could render impossible the printing of the rolls in time for the holding of an election in certain circumstances.

The Bill, therefore, provides that the final recommendations made by the commissioners shall have the force of law as from the date of their publication in the "Government Gazette." I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. A. F. Griffith, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.15 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 22nd September, 1955.

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The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

MOTION—OBITUARY.

Late Mr. Frank Guthrie, M.L.A.

THE PREMIER (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam): We are now all aware of the passing of the member for Bunbury, the late Mr. Frank Guthrie. Although each of us knew he was very ill as a result of a collapse which he suffered some two or three weeks ago, the news of his death did come as a rather severe shock because

the reports which we received a day or so before regarding his condition were of a hopeful character.

The late Mr. Guthrie first came into this House in 1950. He had to contest and win an election to come here. After having given three years of service to the electors of Bunbury he had so built himself up in the estimation of most, if not all the people down there, that he was unopposed when he sought re-election in 1953. In that respect we see a very true picture of Frank Guthrie. He was a man who placed service to his people and to his fellows as a first principle, not only in his thoughts, but in his life's work from day to day.

He loved Bunbury. After he came back from the first world war in which his service caused him to lose a leg and made it necessary for him thereafter to use crutches, he became a tally clerk on the wharves at Bunbury. Afterwards he became a member of the road board and before very long the chairman of that body. He remained chairman until the amalgamation of the road district and the municipality.

Mr. Guthrie loved people, too. I have never heard of him having an enemy. I have never heard of anyone who even disliked him. He was universally well regarded, well respected and was held in very great affection by all people. Even party politics did not alter the esteem which people had for him. The Liberal Party people and the Country Party people in the Bunbury electorate regarded him with the same esteem and affection as did his own political supporters.

He was tremendously interested in young people. If one went about with him in Bunbury at any time one would notice that he seemed to know the christian names not only of the men and women, but also the young people, the girls and boys around the town. He was a man of great courage, and I think in this fact, perhaps, may be found the reason for his passing. He insisted on getting around on crutches when on many occasions he could have obtained a lift in a car from his friends and from his well wishers.

He seemed to feel that he ought to get around under his own steam, as it were, as much as was humanly possible, and in carrying that belief into effect, I feel certain that he imposed an undue strain upon his heart and upon his blood pressure system. He was a kindly man with an excellent sense of humour. Oftentimes when he was suffering, physically and maybe otherwise, he could be brought to cheerfulness and to reveal that kindly smile of his with just a word.

So it goes without saying that members on both sides of the House have lost not only a fellow-member, but also a very

great friend and that the House, the district he represented and, in a more general way, the whole State, are all the poorer for his passing. I move—

That this House places on record its deep regret at the death of Mr. Frank Guthrie, a member of this House, and tenders to his relatives its sincerest sympathy in the loss they have sustained, and desires the terms of this resolution to be communicated to his relatives by Mr. Speaker.

HON. SIR ROSS McLARTY (Murray): It is inevitable that from time to time we have to face sad occasions of this sort. Today we all sincerely regret to hear of the passing of Mr. Guthrie.

I agree with the Premier that the late Mr. Guthrie was a man of very kindly disposition and always of very friendly approach. We know that he suffered a severe physical disability as a result of war injuries, but he was never heard to complain. He was always cheerful and was certainly courageous. I cannot believe that he has left a single enemy behind.

Wherever he went he created a very friendly atmosphere, and the Premier was right in saying that he had friends irrespective of party affiliations. I know that he was a very popular man in his electorate, and that party politics were not his consideration when approaches were made to him by his electors and when he could render them some assistance. I can speak on behalf of all members sitting with me on this side of the House in expressing our very sincere regret at his passing, and I support the motion moved by the Premier.

HON. A. F. WATTS (Stirling): For myself and on behalf of those associated with me, I should like to support the motion. I regarded the late Frank Guthrie in every sense and in the true meaning of the word as a man, one whom we were all proud to know. He had not been with us for very many years, but in those years we came to appreciate the excellent qualities he possessed.

Having known him since he entered the House, I am sure that he set an example to other members, not only of courage, but also of ability to serve the community he represented in the most unassuming and capable manner.

MR. MANNING (Harvey): I desire to support the motion and to express my sincere regret at the passing of my friend, Mr. Guthrie, the member for Bunbury. Although Mr. Guthrie sat on the other side of the House, we had something in common and were firm friends. I agree with the remarks of the Premier that in Bunbury he was respected by both political sections and gave very valuable service to the community.

Apart from his term in Parliament, he was a member of the road board for 12 years and in that capacity gave very useful service to the people. Ignoring his disability, he entered Parliament, and the strain of the work here must have contributed to his early passing. Through his death, I have lost a good friend, and to his sisters, brothers and relatives, I offer my deepest sympathy.

MR. MAY (Collie): I support the motion and join with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Country Party and the member for Harvey, in the expressions of regret at the passing of Mr. Guthrie. I was a very close friend of the late Mr. Guthrie for more than 30 years, and I suppose that during that period and especially since our association in Parliament, I was closer to him than other people. As a result of his war service, he suffered severe physical disability. But as the Leader of the Opposition has said, he never complained.

I pay this tribute to the Opposition: We all knew that Mr. Guthrie, towards the end, attended this House under great disability, but never once was there any thought by the Opposition that he would not get a pair.

Mr. Guthrie had a wonderful personality. He was one of Nature's gentlemen, and he had no enemies. Last Sunday afternoon I was fortunate in being able to call at the hospital and see him. He was still very cheerful, although very sick. He had no thought that he was nearing the end, and he was the same cheerful Frank Guthrie that I had always known. I join in what has been said about our late member, and I know that his relatives will appreciate to the full the way we feel in regard to him.

MR. YATES (South Perth): On behalf of all ex-servicemen in this State and the R.S.L. in particular, I would like to pay a tribute to the qualities of the late Frank Guthrie. He was a good, courageous soldier and a man who carried into his civil life many of the qualities he developed while on service. His thought for the ex-serviceman was paramount throughout his life; and his service to the R.S.L., and ex-servicemen's organisations generally, was outstanding. On many occasions he discussed with me problems affecting ex-servicemen, and although he suffered disabilities as great as, if not greater than, those suffered by the ones who approached him, he was always keen to assist the under-dog in fixing up his problems. So, I say that the State generally and the R.S.L. in particular, are the poorer for the loss of the late Frank Guthrie.

Question passed; members standing.

House adjourned at 2.34 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 27th September, 1955.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Presentation.

The PRESIDENT: I desire to announce that, accompanied by other members, I waited upon His Excellency the Governor and presented the Address-in-reply to His Excellency's Speech at the opening of Parliament. The Governor was pleased to reply in the following terms:—

Mr. President and hon. members of the Legislative Council: I thank you for your expressions of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and for your Address-in-reply to the Speech with which I opened Parliament.

QUESTIONS.

WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEME.

Planned Works, Interest, etc.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN asked the Minister for the North-West:

Referring to the statement of conditions determined by the Minister for the Interior, distributed at the time of bringing forward the 1953 War Service Land