

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 16th November, 1960

CONTENTS

	Page
ASSENT TO BILLS	2801
WEEKLY HANSARD—	
Delay in publication	2804
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Bentley Hospital : Announcement concerning erection	2803
Brown's Lake : Cost of drainage and effect on water table	2802
Fencing Wire : Cost of Australian-made and imported product	2803
Fireworks : Limitation on sale	2802
Gaol Officers : Week-end penalty rates	2801
Highway Lighting : Apportionment of cost	2804
Lower King Bridge : Contractor and method of construction	2802
Lower King Townsite : Connection with reticulated water scheme	2802
Morley Park : Subdivisions	2802
Perth City Council : Ratepayers on ward rolls	2802
Ship Shops : Prices	2801
MOTION—	
Totalisator Legislation Bribery Claim : Inquiry by Royal Commission	2814
BILLS—	
Betting Control Act Amendment Bill (No. 2) : 1r.	2814
Dairy Cattle Industry Compensation Bill : Assent	2801
Dog Act Amendment Bill : Assent	2801
Education Act Amendment Bill : 3r.	2804
Fisheries Act Amendment Bill : Assent	2801
Government Employees (Promotions Appeal Board) Act Amendment Bill : 3r.	2804
Government Railways Act Amendment Bill : Returned	2846
Lotteries (Control) Act Amendment Bill : Assent	2801
Paper Mill Agreement Bill : Assent	2801
Public Service Appeal Board Act Amendment Bill : 3r.	2804
Reserves Bill—	
2r.	2804
Com. ; report ; 3r.	2806
Road Closure Bill—	
2r.	2806
Com. ; report ; 3r.	2814
State Concerns (Prevention of Disposal) Bill : 1r.	2814
Supply Bill (No. 2) £21,500,000 : Assent	2801
Traffic Act Amendment Bill : Assent	2801
ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1960-1961—	
Committee of Supply—	
Votes and Items discussed	2827
SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE—	
Thursday and Friday	2846

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

BILLS (7)—ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. Dog Act Amendment Bill.
2. Paper Mill Agreement Bill.
3. Supply Bill (No. 2), £21,500,000.
4. Lotteries (Control) Act Amendment Bill.
5. Fisheries Act Amendment Bill.
6. Dairy Cattle Industry Compensation Bill.
7. Traffic Act Amendment Bill.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

GAOL OFFICERS

Week-end Penalty Rates

1. Mr. **FLETCHER** asked the Minister for Labour:

What is the Government's view as to the adequacy or inadequacy of week-end penalty rates and shift work loading entitlement paid to gaol officers in comparison with rates paid to other Government employees?

Mr. **PERKINS** replied:

The margins and conditions of employment under the consent award covering gaol officers includes compensation for work performed at week ends and for shift work.

SHIP SHOPS

Prices

2. Mr. **BRADY** asked the Minister for Tourists:

Owing to the unfavourable impression caused to tourists visiting Australia by the increasing of price in the shops on overseas ships at the port of Fremantle (the first port of call), will he make representations to the Commonwealth Government to enable prices to remain similar to those when at sea outside Australia?

Mr. **BRAND** replied:

Sales made through overseas ship shops on the Australian coastal trade are subject to all forms of Commonwealth taxation.

Tourists disembarking at Fremantle are entitled to take ashore prescribed quantities of cigarettes, liquor, and other purchases as part of their non-dutiable allowance.

Tourists disembarking at other Australian ports can purchase tax-free all goods required prior

to the closing of the ship shop, which usually takes place about noon on the day prior to the arrival of outward-bound overseas ships at Fremantle.

Overseas tourists are not harshly treated under the existing arrangements.

BROWN'S LAKE

Cost of Drainage and Effect on Water Table

3. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the total expenditure to date on the Brown's Lake drainage scheme, including the tunnelling at Bedford Park, and the subsidiary drains from the Morley Park area?
- (2) By what depth has this scheme lowered the water table in the Russell, Drake, Collier, and Walter Road area of Morley Park?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) £300,000.
- (2) This will not be known until the effect of the drainage can be observed and evaluated over a number of seasons.

MORLEY PARK

Subdivisions

4. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

Will he give some indication when subdivisions in the Drake, Russell, Collier, and Walter Road area of Morley Park, will be permitted?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

Subdivisions are permitted depending on suitability as to sub-soil water levels.

Investigations are continuing in connection with the effect on the area of the drainage scheme.

FIREWORKS

Limitation on Sale

5. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Will he give further consideration to my request on the 18th October, (Question 12) that fireworks sales be restricted to not more than one week prior to the 5th November each year?
- (2) Is he aware that *The West Australian* newspaper of the 10th November mentions two juvenile

deaths attributable to fireworks—one child dying of burns, and another being smothered by sand?

- (3) Would restricted sales proportionately reduce risks of similar tragic occurrences?
- (4) In view of the fact that the Factories and Shops Act already restricts sales of certain goods after 6 p.m. in certain shops, why would it not be practicable to amend this Act to restrict fireworks sales as suggested?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) to (4) Restricting sales of fireworks as suggested would mean a major change from established custom dating back many years, and detailed consideration has not yet been given to it.

LOWER KING BRIDGE

Contractor and Method of Construction

6. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has work started on the building of the Lower King bridge, Albany?
- (2) If so, who is the contractor for the building of the bridge?
- (3) Has the building of the Lower King bridge been transferred to day labour?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Walmsley and Martin Pty. Ltd.
- (3) No.

LOWER KING TOWNSITE

Connection with Reticulated Water Scheme

7. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

When will residents situated in the Lower King townsite, Albany, be able to make application for connection with the reticulated water scheme?

Mr. WILD replied:

Applications can be made at any time. Water is expected to be available about the end of March, 1961.

PERTH CITY COUNCIL

Ratepayers on Ward Rolls

8. Mr. ANDREW asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

What is the number of ratepayers on the roll for the various wards of the Perth City Council at present?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

The number of ratepayers for each ward on the current rolls is as follows:—

Central	2,502
North	2,440
South	1,900
East	2,545
West	1,796
North Perth	6,630
Leederville	8,841
Victoria Park	9,335

BENTLEY HOSPITAL

Announcement Concerning Erection

9. Mr. ANDREW asked the Minister for Health:

On the 1st September, in answer to a question from the member for Beeloo, he said he would make a statement regarding the proposed major hospital on the site at Bentley as soon as he received a report from his officers. Can he inform the House—

- (1) Whether he has received that report?
- (2) Whether he is now prepared to make a statement?
- (3) If he cannot immediately make a statement, when will he do so?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) I have just received a recommendation from the State Health Council involving the subject matter referred to by the honourable member.

I also recently received a submission from the University Senate requesting a re-examination of the proposal to build a new general and teaching hospital at Hollywood, which submission has been considered by the State Health Council.

The recommendations I have now received from that council endorse a proposal to which I am agreeing, for a complete review of the hospital requirements of the metropolitan area, including those south of the river. It will be related to the needs of the medical school and the community. It will also have regard to the changing pattern of hospital and medical practice and other factors.

In order that this investigation may be carried out, I propose to appoint a special committee comprising Professor Gordon Stephenson, the Deputy Commissioner of Public Health (Dr. Davidson), and the Administrator of the Royal Perth Hospital (Mr. J. Griffith). They will report at the earliest possible date.

FENCING WIRE

Cost of Australian-made and Imported Product

10. Sir ROSS McLARTY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What is the current price per ton of—
 - (a) Australian-made fencing wire;
 - (b) imported fencing wire?
- (2) What is the c.i.f. price of imported fencing wire?
- (3) What charges and costs in detail go to make up the difference between the c.i.f. price of imported fencing wire and the retail selling price?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) (a) 10 gauge, £88.
12½ gauge, £90 15s.
- (b) The cost of imported fencing wire varies with the shipment and country of origin. At present the retail price varies between 8 per cent. and 10 per cent. over the price of the Australian-made product.
- (2) The c.i.f. price of imported fencing wire varies for the reasons quoted in (1) (b); but, as an example, a shipment from Belgium of 10 gauge was £76 15s. (Aust.) c.i.f. Fremantle and 12½ gauge £81 1s. (Aust.).
- (3) Margins and some of the costs as supplied by various firms vary, but approximately the present costs are as follows:—

Wharfage	£2 4s. per ton
Handling in and out of store at Fremantle	£1 per ton
Incidental costs and profit margin	17 per cent.

The normal duty on wire of 5 per cent. from United Kingdom sources and 5 per cent. plus £6 per ton from other European sources has been temporarily suspended, and at present wire from United Kingdom is duty-free. Wire from other European sources is liable to 7 per cent. duty, but exemption can be obtained.

This suspension applies to wire shipped prior to the 31st December, 1960, and it is not yet known whether it will be further extended.

11. *This question was postponed.*

HIGHWAY LIGHTING*Apportionment of Cost*

12. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Main Roads Department has agreed to contribute towards the cost of street lighting in respect of highways controlled by the Main Roads Department?
- (2) If so, on what basis has the proportion payable by the Main Roads Department been assessed?
- (3) Will he submit details of the proportionate contribution of both the Main Roads Department and the local authority in each particular district?
- (4) Should not the lighting of highways be the absolute responsibility of his department?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The cost is shared equally between local authorities and the Main Roads Department.
- (3) Final figures have not yet been determined.
- (4) No.

BILLS (3)—THIRD READING

1. Education Act Amendment Bill.
2. Government Employees (Promotions Appeal Board) Act Amendment Bill.
3. Public Service Appeal Board Act Amendment Bill.

On motions by Mr. Watts (Minister for Education), Bills read a third time, and transmitted to the Council.

WEEKLY HANSARD*Delay in Publication*

THE SPEAKER: For the information of the House I wish to announce that due to the holiday last Monday the current week's issue of *Hansard* will not be available until tomorrow.

RESERVES BILL*Second Reading*

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [4.44]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Each session it is the custom to introduce a Reserves Bill which deals with Class "A" reserves; and, this session, the purpose for which Parliament is being asked to release them will be explained. I have already handed to the Leader of the Opposition a copy, and circulated

among members supporting the Government copies, of the description of the proposals in regard to the reserves contained in this Bill.

I trust that in view of the advance information I have given to them it will be possible to have the Bill passed through all stages today. However, should any member have any doubt in his mind about the contents of the Bill I will consider an adjournment of the debate. The reserves embraced by this Bill are situated in the Bunbury, Carrolup, Fremantle, Geraldton, Katanning, Kimberley, Mandurah, Merredin, Woodlands, and Yanchep areas. They are as follows:—

Class "A" Reserve No. 9997 at Bunbury: This reserve is set apart for the purposes of parklands and recreation, and comprises the area on the ocean front at Bunbury known locally as the Back Beach. A scenic drive known as Ocean Drive has been constructed through the reserve, which is very popular for surfing and bathing during the summer season. Bunbury is now regarded as one of the State's main tourist centres—

Mr. Roberts: The State's main tourist centre.

Mr. BOVELL: No; only one of them. Bunbury is now regarded as one of the State's main tourist centres. From it tourist trips are made in several directions, and it is expected that its importance for tourist development will increase rapidly in the near future.

The Municipality of Bunbury has recommended that a site be provided out of the reserve for the purpose of tourist development as a hotel site. The selected site, containing an area of 2 acres 3 roods 15.7 perches, has been surveyed as Bunbury Lot 431 in a position west of Ocean Parade in the locality known as Rocky Point, which is situated on the beachfront west of the main recreation reserve (Bunbury oval). It is proposed that when the land has been excised from Class "A" Reserve No. 9997 it will be made available as a hotel site under the provisions of the Land Act, 1933, under such terms and conditions as the Governor may approve.

Class "A" Reserve No. 5526 at Carrolup Pool: This reserve originally comprised a total area of 40 acres. It was set apart as a resting place for travellers and stock in the year 1898, and is situated about one mile from the Kojonup-Katanning Road. In 1958 representations were made by an adjoining holder for portion of the reserve to be made available for selection to provide a better fence-line for his property, and it was decided to reduce the reserve to 20 acres, and the excised portion was made available for selection by the adjoining holder.

When the reserve was reduced, the remaining portion was classified as of class "A", and any further amendment required parliamentary approval. The land excised

from the reserve, which was numbered as Kojonup Location 9095 has been surveyed to contain 25 acres and 12 perches; and the reserve as now resurveyed will contain only 15 acres and 37 perches, being 4 acres 3 roods 3 perches less than the area classified as of "A" class, and approval is required for the excision of that additional area from the reserve. Location 9095 has been applied for by Mr. Mervyn Conning of "Woodspoint", Katanning, who requested the surveyor to amend the boundaries to provide against the high flood level of Carrolup Pool to obviate fencing difficulties.

Class "A" Reserve No. 6066 at Fremantle: The land comprising the Fremantle cemetery reserve is held in fee simple in trust for the purpose by the trustees of the Fremantle Cemetery Board. In 1943, under the National Security (General) Regulations, a possession order was issued at the request of the Central Wool Committee for the use of portion of the reserve at the corner of Carrington Street and High Road for wool-storage purposes.

When the National Security Regulations lapsed, parliamentary approval was sought to authorise the trustees of the Fremantle Cemetery Board to lease the same land to the Australian Wool Bureau for the period ending on the 31st December, 1960, and the necessary authority was given in section 4 of the Reserves Act, 1954 (No. 72 of 1954, assented to on the 30th December, 1954). Substantial buildings still exist on the area which the Australian Wool Bureau desire to lease for a further term of five years as from the 1st January, 1960, at a rental of £1,500 payable to the Fremantle Cemetery Board and for which further parliamentary approval is required.

Class "A" Reserve No. 22382 at Geraldton: This reserve, comprising Geraldton Lots 845 to 858 inclusive, containing 11 acres and 31.5 perches, was set apart in April, 1943, for the purpose of parklands and was classified as of Class "A", but the reserve has not been vested in any authority and no development of it has taken place.

The Municipality of Geraldton is seeking a new site for the Geraldton Bowling Club, which is at present occupying portion of the main public buildings reserve at the rear of the courthouse and the council has submitted a proposal whereby portion of Reserve No. 22382, comprising Lots 847 to 849, and 856 to 858, may be utilised for the proposed new bowling-club site.

The plan for the development of the reserve also includes the provision of tennis courts, croquet lawns, and other similar purposes; and it is considered desirable that the purpose of the reserve should be altered from parklands to recreation, and the reserve vested in the Municipality of Geraldton in trust for the new purpose, with power to lease.

Reserve No. 21820 at Katanning: This reserve, comprising Kojonup Location 1200, and containing 98 acres 2 roods 36 perches, was set apart in March, 1938, for the purpose of a greater sports ground in accordance with the provisions of section 8 of the Reserves Act, 1937. The land had previously been the subject of Reserve No. 6650 which was set apart for the purpose of a racecourse and was held in trust by various trustees for the Katanning Turf Club.

The old racecourse reserve was cancelled and the land revested by the operation of section 8 of Act No. 34 of 1937, which directed that the land be set apart as a reserve for a greater sports ground and vested in the Katanning Road Board.

The Katanning Road Board now desires to have the purpose of the reserve amended to include the purpose of aerial landing ground, and to obtain a vesting order over the reserve in trust for the amended purpose of a greater sports ground and aerial landing ground with power to lease for any term not exceeding 21 years. The vesting order would provide for the necessity of obtaining the prior approval of the Minister for Lands for the time being of any proposed lease.

Reserve No. 13873 in Marndoc District—Kimberley Division: This reserve, which is classified as of Class "A", is set apart for the use of natives, and comprises an area of about 3,120,000 acres on the western side of Cambridge Gulf, north-west of Wyndham.

Adjoining the western boundary of the reserve there is an area of land between the King George and Drysdale Rivers, which is held under Special Lease No. 3116/2676 by the Benedictine Community of New Norcia, Incorporated, which conducts the Drysdale River Native Mission.

The lease at present comprises an area of about 515,400 acres and was granted for grazing purposes at a nominal rental of £5 per annum for a term of 10 years; namely, from the 1st January, 1959, to the 31st December, 1968.

The natural physical boundary of this area on the eastern side is the King George River which isolates portion of Reserve No. 13873. It is considered desirable that this portion be excised from the reserve and be included in Special Lease No. 3116/2676.

Class "A" Reserve No. 2851, Mandurah: The Commonwealth of Australia has made application for a permissive occupancy lease of land required for a rifle range at Mandurah. The selected site is portion of Class "A" Reserve No. 2851 which is set apart for the purpose of recreation and camping and is vested in the Mandurah Road Board.

An adjoining portion of the reserve contains a limestone quarry from which stone is being obtained by the Main Roads Department. The Mandurah Road Board

has no objection to the excision from Reserve A. 2851 of the portions required for separate reserves for rifle range and quarry. Portion of the area to be excised is to be used for a slight adjustment of the boundaries of sanitary Reserve No. 25202.

Reserve No. 14803 at Merredin: A site selected as most suitable for a sewerage pumping station at Merredin comes within Class "A" Reserve No. 14803 which is set apart for the purposes of parklands and recreation.

The Merredin Road Board has no objection to portion of the reserve comprising an area of only 13.6 perches being excised for the purpose of creating a separate reserve for the new purpose.

The proposed new reserve is on the western side of King Street just north of Duff Street. It will have a frontage of 53 links to King Street and a depth of 1 chain 60 links, and is situated directly opposite a right-of-way under which the main sewer line will be located.

Woodlands Hallsite Reserve No. 18407: The surviving trustees of the Woodlands hallsite desire to relinquish their trust in favour of the Cuballing Road Board. It is necessary to revert the hallsite, comprising Avon Location 23563 at present held in fee simple and registered in the names of four trustees, two of whom are deceased. Upon reversion of the land in Her Majesty as of her former estate, it is proposed to vest the reserve in the Cuballing Road Board in trust for a hallsite.

Reserve A. 9868 at Yanchep: Arrangements have been made between the National Parks Board of Western Australia and the Conservator of Forests for the establishment within the Yanchep Park Reserve of a forestry headquarters on the south side of Loch McNess near the eastern end of the road to the beach.

This site was selected because of the amenities and facilities available in this vicinity which would attract staff and employees who would be required to live in the settlement.

The portion to be excised from Reserve A. 9868 has been surveyed as Swan Location 6933, containing 11 acres 0 roods and 28.3 perches which it is proposed shall be set apart as a separate reserve under the Land Act, 1933, for the purpose of a forestry headquarters site. It is also proposed that the new reserve be vested in the Conservator of Forests in trust for that purpose.

That is all the Bill contains on this occasion. It is a much smaller Bill than the one introduced last session. The details of the contents have been circulated among members of the Opposition as well as members supporting the Government. The supporters of the Government in this House, representing the various electorates, have indicated their approval of the

Bill. I hope it will be possible to proceed with the discussion of the measure forthwith.

MR. KELLY (Merredin-Yilgarn) [4.59]: This Bill is the normal one which is introduced during the closing stages of each session. It is for the most part an accumulation of the action which has been found necessary to be taken mainly on behalf of local governing authorities during the previous 12 months.

As the Minister has indicated, the file was circulated around the Chamber, and I think most members on this side of the House have had an opportunity of perusing the various items in order to ascertain whether there are any matters they desire to discuss before the Bill is passed.

The Bill again this year covers a variety of reasons for its introduction. As all the items contained in it have the sanction of the road boards concerned, I, and those on this side of the House, have no objection to the Bill being proceeded with forthwith.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands—in reply) [5.11]: Before the Bill is read a second time, I desire to thank the member for Merredin-Yilgarn and the members of the Opposition for agreeing to my suggestion that the Bill be proceeded with forthwith.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

Third Reading

On motion by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands), Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Council.

ROAD CLOSURE BILL

Second Reading

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [5.51]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is similar to the one which the House has just considered. Traditionally the Queen's highways are maintained for the use of the public at all times; and once a road has been gazetted the only authority which we have to close it permanently is through Parliament itself.

In this Bill, which is much more lengthy than the Reserves Bill, the roads under consideration are at Albany, Balcatta, Belmont, Busselton, Cannington, Carnarvon, Claremont, Embleton (which is in Bayswater), Fremantle, Geraldton, Joondanna, Kalamunda, Margaret River, Meckering, Mingenew, Narrogin, Nollamara, Safety

Bay, Scarborough, South Perth, Subiaco, Victoria Park, Victoria Square (in Perth), Yokine, and South Perth.

The details of this Bill were also circulated amongst members of the House; and so far as the Government is concerned the members whose districts are involved have signified that they have no objection to the passage of the Bill. The matter of adjournment rests with the Opposition. If it desires one, it will be granted; but if it is possible to proceed with the Bill—as most members concerned already have the relevant information—it would be very satisfactory. The proposals in the Bill are as follows:—

Closure of certain portions of roads at Albany: In connection with a proposal to create a new reserve for an agricultural showground at Albany, it is proposed that certain undeveloped roads be closed in order to consolidate the land required for the reserve. De Hamel Street and portions of Spearwood Road (formerly McKeown Road), Ashwell, Bailey, and Maxwell Streets, are the roads for which closure is sought.

The new site for the showground has been selected by the Albany Agricultural Society Incorporated in collaboration with the Municipality of Albany, which has agreed to surrender to the Crown Albany suburban Lots 94 and 95, containing 5 acres each, which the council holds in fee simple and which will be made available for inclusion in the proposed showground reserve. None of the roads is in use, and there is no objection that I know of to closure.

Closure of portion of Macdonald Road, Albany: The portion of Macdonald Road, between Grey and Carlisle Streets, Albany, is unsuitable for road purposes owing to its steepness and the existence of a rough granite outcrop across it. Its proximity to the railway crossing where South Coast Road intersects with Carlisle Street, would create a traffic hazard if the portion of Macdonald Road were constructed and put into general use as a road.

All the owners of contiguous lots are agreeable to the closure, which has been recommended by the Municipality of Albany. It is proposed that, upon closure, the land contained in the portion shall be reserved under the Land Act as follows:—

- (a) Western portion, 15 links wide to be reserved for footway and drainage.
- (b) Eastern portion, 85 links wide to be reserved for park and children's playground.

It is proposed that both reserves be vested in the Municipality of Albany in trust for their respective purposes.

Closure of certain roads at Balcatta: The State Housing Commission has a considerable area of freehold land in the vicinity of Balcatta and Odin Roads on the

western side of Wanneroo Road, which has been resubdivided in accordance with a plan approved by the Town Planning Board and the Perth Road Board. The subdivision involves the closure of certain portions of existing roads which will be superseded by new roads in more appropriate positions.

Approval is sought for the closure of the portions of unwanted roads and for the vesting in the State Housing Commission of Western Australia of the land contained in the portions when closed. The new subdivision is the subject of Land Titles Office Plan 7443 and Diagrams 25587 and 25588. Other roads in the same project are being closed under the provisions of the Road Districts Act, 1919, as the land therein will revert to the contiguous lots held by the State Housing Commission.

Closure of portion of a road widening at Belmont: The State Housing Commission of Western Australia holds an estate in fee simple of portion of Swan Location 30, the subject of Land Titles Office Plan 6716.

On Lot 21 on the plan the commission erected a four-unit flat for elderly couples, but the buildings were erected in a position encroaching on the road widening at the intersection of Maida Vale Road and Grand Parade, Belmont. To overcome the encroachment, the Belmont Park Road Board agreed to recommend the closure of portion of the road widening containing 8 perches, which will not affect the road position adversely, because both roads have a minimum width of 1½ chains and, with the generous widenings, the intersection will retain a minimum width of about 2½ chains.

Closure of portion of Road No. 739 at Busselton: In a private subdivision of freehold land within Sussex Location 1 on the eastern side of the Busselton townsite, provision was made for a substantial widening of Road No. 739, which enabled the Busselton Road Board to realign the road near its intersection with Ford Road near the townsite boundary.

To give the owners of lots in the same subdivision, on the south-eastern side of the road, better access to the constructed road, it has been considered advisable to reduce the over-all width of the road by closing portion and to vest the contained land in the owners of the contiguous lots. The proposal is tantamount to an alteration of the original private subdivision involving a slight amendment of the position of the public road through the area.

Provision is made for the closed portion of the road to be divided into sections which are to be included in, and become portions of, the relevant contiguous lot, and will be vested in the owner for the time being of that lot.

Closure of a certain road widening at Cannington: Included in the area occupied by Boans Waverley Store at Cannington is a small road widening which was provided when land owned by Boans Limited was surveyed as Lot 16 (*vide* Land Titles Office diagram 21813). This widening was surveyed on the misunderstanding that a right-of-way adjacent thereto was a public road or way, whereas it was freehold land over which Boans Limited alone had right of carriageway. The company subsequently acquired an estate in fee simple in the land comprising the private right-of-way, and it has been included in a consolidated certificate of title for the whole of the company's property in this area.

To obliterate the truncation so that the land will be reincluded in the contiguous lot and thus adjust the Cecil Avenue alignment, it is necessary to officially close the road widening and to vest the land in the owner for the time being of the adjoining lot. The portion comprises only seven-tenths of a perch, for which no charge will be made as the company will incur the cost of a new title and has already incurred considerable expense in acquiring the land in the private right-of-way previously mentioned.

Closure of portion of Cleaver Street, Cannington: Arrangements have been made by the Public Works Department with the Municipality of Carnarvon and the Commonwealth of Australia to acquire certain land for the purpose of a new school site. To consolidate the proposed reserve it is necessary to close the intervening portion of Cleaver Street, being the portion north-east of Egan Street and which dead-ends at the Commonwealth's aerodrome.

Closure of portions of a right-of-way at Claremont: The owners and occupiers of the lots contiguous to the western side of a public right-of-way at Claremont have requested the closure of the portions between Shenton Road and Saunders Street and between Saunders Street and Bellevue Terrace. They desire to acquire the relevant portions contiguous to their respective lots for which purposes prices have not yet been fixed.

The land on the eastern side of the right-of-way is registered in the name of the Commissioners of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia and is used for Scotch College playing fields. The commissioners have no objection to the closure, which has been recommended by the Municipality of Claremont.

Closure of various roads at Embleton, Bayswater: The resubdivision of land owned by the State Housing Commission at Embleton in the Bayswater road district was designed to modern standards by the Town Planning Department. The resurvey has involved the closure of various portions of existing public and private roads as provided for in this clause of the Bill.

Upon closure it is necessary to vest the land contained in the closed portions in the State Housing Commission so that it will hold all the land the subject of the new subdivisional plans.

The new lots have been surveyed and are shown on Land Titles Office Plans Nos. 7410 to 7415 inclusive, but no dealings can be accepted thereon until the road closure action is completed.

Closure of a certain right-of-way at Fremantle: In the survey of certain Fremantle lots in the vicinity of the market side adjacent to the Fremantle Oval, provision was made for a right-of-way through Crown land which has been shown on some official plans and on the Crown grant for the market site. The right-of-way is no longer required, and portion of it has been occupied by the City of Fremantle for market purposes and portion has been fenced in with the Fremantle Oval reserve.

It is proposed that the right-of-way be officially closed and that the land be included by survey in the contiguous Fremantle Lot 1693 which it is intended shall be granted in fee simple to the City of Fremantle in trust for "municipal purposes."

Lot 1693 has been leased by the City of Fremantle since the year 1914, and has been used as part of the markets site; and the granting of the fee simple to the City of Fremantle will put all its holdings in this vicinity on the same basis.

Closure of portions of Rowe and Dean Streets, Geraldton: For the purpose of consolidating the land at Geraldton owned by Cuming Smith & Mount Lyell Farmers Fertilisers Ltd. and occupied by the company's works, it is proposed to close portions of Rowe and Dean Streets and to provide a new road diversion through the company's land to connect Rowe Street with Pope Street which is to be widened by about 50 links. The company has entered into an agreement with the Municipality of Geraldton whereby the company will contribute £2,500 towards the construction of the road diversion.

This clause provides for the closure of the relevant portions of Rowe and Dean Streets and for the vesting of the land in the company by way of exchange for the land required for the road diversion and the widening of Pope Street.

Closure of a private right-of-way at Joondanna: In a private subdivision of freehold land many years ago a right-of-way was provided between Banksia and Edinboro Streets, Joondanna, which has not been used and is now regarded as unnecessary. The Methodist Church has recently erected a new church and manse on Lot 798 situated at the corner of Green and Banksia Streets, and for the purpose of providing better parking facilities for the church arrangements were made with the Perth Road Board to widen Banksia

Street by resuming from the trustees of the Methodist Church portion of Lot 798, comprising a strip of land nine links wide along its Banksia Street frontage.

To compensate for the area being resumed, the Perth Road Board recommended that the private right-of-way on the north side of the church property be closed and that the land be included in the lots contiguous to its southern boundary. All the owners of the adjoining lots have agreed to the closure and that the land be vested in the owners for the time being of portions of Perthshire Location Au comprising Lot 798 on Land Titles Office Plan 2431 and Lot 8 on Diagram 10772.

As no exchange proposal is involved in relation to Lot 8 it is considered reasonable to charge the owner of that lot for the portion of the right-of-way which it was proposed should be included in that lot, and which will comprise an area of 15.4 perches which would increase the area of Lot 8 from one rood 15.4 perches to one rood 30.8 perches, and would increase the frontage from 90 links to 115 links (75 feet 10 inches).

A price of £100 was fixed for the portion which it was intended to be included in Lot 8, but the present registered proprietor is not prepared to purchase the land at present, and therefore it is proposed to revest this portion in Her Majesty as of her former estate so that it can be disposed of in due course under the provisions of the Land Act, 1933, in such manner as the Governor may approve. The owner of the contiguous lot 8 is at present absent from the State and negotiations with her will be continued regarding the land in the right-of-way.

Closure of portions of certain roads at Kalamunda: In a town-planning scheme prepared for the Darling Range Road Board by its town-planning consultant, Miss Margaret Feilman, provision was made for the alteration of the positions of certain roads to better conform with the contours of the locality, and the over-all plan has been adhered to in a subdivision of certain freehold land, owned by Mrs. G. I. Clarkson, which is situated on either side of Alpine Road, which is to be re-oriented.

Negotiations have been carried out by the Darling Range Road Board and the subdivider, and agreed to by the Department of Lands and Surveys and the Town Planning Board, whereby a certain portion of Alpine Road and portion of a road along the northern boundary of Canning Location 929 would be closed and the land vested in the subdivider by way of exchange for portions of her land now surveyed as Lots 19 and 31 on Land Titles Office Diagram No. 22683 which portions are required by the Crown for reserves for public open spaces.

To equalise the exchange and to ensure that the subdivider will own all the land the subject of the subdivisional diagram, it is proposed to issue to her a Crown grant of Canning Location No. 1587, containing 2 roods and 21-1/10th perches. The majority of this location will comprise portions of the new road when the project is completed.

This clause provides for the closure of the two portions of the roads involved and the vesting of the land in the owner of the contiguous land the subject of the new subdivision. Neither portion of the old roads has been developed or used for road purposes, whereas the roads in the new portions have been constructed at the expense of the subdivider.

Closure of portion of Pericles Crescent and portion of a right-of-way at Margaret River: The State Housing Commission has agreed to make available to the Education Department certain freehold land for inclusion in the Margaret River schoolsite reserve; and to consolidate the site it is desired to close the intervening portion of Pericles Crescent and portion of a private right-of-way which is part of the land held by the commission. To provide alternative road access to avoid dead-ending Pericles Crescent, the commission will surrender to the Crown Lots 2 and 11 on Land Titles Office Plan No. 6589 for the purpose of a new road.

The clause provides for revestment of the land comprising the portions of the road and right-of-way with the intention that it be included in schoolsite Reserve No. 19579, together with the land to be surrendered by the commission for the purpose.

Closure of portion of road No. 3044 at Meckering: In November, 1957, at the request of the Main Roads Department, an area of 5 acres and 6 perches was resumed from the south-western corner of Avon Location No. 5934 for the purpose of deviating the road construction to provide a gradual curve at this corner. Only the eastern side of the new road position was surveyed at the time and all the portion of the location west of that line was resumed for the road widening.

The owner of the property, Mr. G. M. T. Oliver, objected to the extent of the area resumed and requested the Main Roads Department to restrict the dedicated road to a width of about one chain, and a resurvey was made accordingly.

It is proposed to close portion of the original road no longer required and the excess area of the subsequent road widening. The land in the portion of the road when closed is to be included in and become portion of Avon Location 5934 and be vested in the owner for the time being of that location. Portion of the land will comprise land resumed from him, and the

portion comprising the original road will be granted by way of compensation for the land which comprises the new road position as now surveyed.

Closure of a road widening at Mingenew: Road No. 2275 comprises portion of the main road between Mingenew and Mullewa, and at a point about four miles north of Mingenew the old road was deviated on its western side to avoid some physical feature. In the construction of a modern road it has been possible to straighten the road at this point involving the closure of a widening on the eastern boundary of Lot M. 375 of Victoria Location 1904 held by Mr. Thomas Duncombe Mann and his wife.

It is proposed that the land in the portion to be closed be included in Lot M. 375 and vested in the owners for the time being of that lot as compensation for land resumed from that lot for road purposes.

Closure of a certain right-of-way at Narrogin: The Swan Brewery Company Limited, as owner of Narrogin Lots 2F and 3F on which the Horden Hotel is erected, recently acquired from the Municipality of Narrogin the adjoining freehold Lot 1116 as comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 945 Folio 184 to which access was provided by a public right-of-way extending from Federal Street along the northern boundary of Narrogin Lot 1234 which comprises Class "A" Reserve No. 17386, containing 1 rood 19-1/10th perches, which is set apart and developed as a park.

On the application of the company the municipality has recommended the closure of the right-of-way and the sale of the contained Crown land to the Swan Brewery Company Limited, and has indicated that the municipality is not interested in adding the land to the adjacent park reserve because a substantial cyclone fence on a stone base is in existence on the northern boundary of the park reserve, and removal of the fence would be too expensive. If the right-of-way is closed it is proposed to sell the land under the provisions of the Land Act, 1933, to the Swan Brewery Company Limited.

Closure of a right-of-way at Nollamara: A private right-of-way having access to the north-western side of Derril Avenue between Williams and Crawford Roads, Nollamara, in the Perth Road Board district, was provided in an old subdivision of freehold land on Land Titles Office Plan No. 1989.

The various holders of appurtenant lots have requested the closure of the right-of-way, which the Perth Road Board agrees is no longer required. The fee of the land in the right-of-way is registered in the name of an old Melbourne company which subdivided the land. It is proposed that the land in the right-of-way when closed be divided into sections, and that each

relevant section be included in and become portion of the appropriate contiguous lot in the manner described in the clause of the Bill. Provision is made for the vesting of the various sections in the owners for the time being of the respective contiguous lots.

Deviation of portion of Arcadia West, Safety Bay: At the request of the owners of four freehold lots at Safety Bay, the Rockingham Road Board recommended the deviation and realignment of the public road known as Arcadia West, involving excision of an area of 1 acre 2 roods 3.8 perches from Class "A" Reserve No. 22948 which is set apart for the purpose of recreation and is vested in the local authority.

The realignment involves the closure of the portion of the road 55 links wide along the frontage of Lots 216, 218, and 219, on Land Titles Office Plan 5737 and Lot 1 on Diagram No. 21539. It is proposed that the portion to be closed be divided into appropriate portions of 8.9 perches each, and each respective portion be made available for sale to the owner for the time being of the relevant contiguous lot in such manner as the Governor may approve.

Closure of portion of Jackson Avenue, Scarborough: An alteration to the southern alignment of Jackson Avenue, Scarborough, is required to protect a well used in connection with the contiguous North Scarborough schoolsite reserve. It is proposed to close the small portion in which the well is situated and to include the land in the contiguous reserve, No. 25656.

Mr. Rowberry: Why don't you use the word "adjoining"?

Mr. BOVELL: To maintain the over-all width of the road the northern alignment of the road has been resurveyed, involving an alteration in the State Housing subdivision on the northern side of the road.

Closure of portion of Welwyn Avenue, Manning, South Perth: In the original subdivision by the State Housing Commission of portion of Canning Location 37, as shown on the Land Titles Office Plan No. 6241, provision was made for a shopping area on the eastern side of Welwyn Avenue between Bradshaw and Conochie Crescents for which Lots 617 to 621 inclusive were surveyed with a road widening 25 links wide along the western frontage of the lots.

The commission subsequently decided to alter the shopping area to the opposite side of Welwyn Avenue, and to make the original site available for homesites. The section was resurveyed into six new lots involving the closure of the road widening provided for the old shopping area; and as the land now comes within a municipal district, parliamentary approval is required for the closure.

A private right-of-way at the rear of the lots, which has been included in the re-subdivision, was closed under the provisions of the Transfer of Land Act, 1893, and the land therein was held in fee simple by the State Housing Commission.

The clause provides for the closure of the road widening and the vesting of the contained land in the commission with the intention that it be included in a re-subdivision of the contiguous lots. Houses erected on the new lots are already occupied.

Closure of a right-of-way off Lake Avenue, Subiaco: In the year 1897 a subdivision was made of certain freehold land at Subiaco in which provision was made for a road known as Lake Avenue, and two rights-of-way as originally shown on Land Titles Office Plan No. 1819.

By the authority of the Lake Avenue Resubdivision of Land Act, 1937, (No. 36 of 1937), assented to on the 18th January, 1938, the positions of the road and rights-of-way were altered, and the new positions were dedicated as public road and rights-of-way respectively.

The City of Subiaco has recommended the closure of the right-of-way separating Lot 1 from Lots 17 and 18 on Land Titles Office Plan No. 5790 with the intention that the major portion of the land contained therein be disposed of to the registered proprietor of Lot 1, and that the balance, being the truncation at the north-eastern corner of Lot 17, be disposed of to the owner of that lot.

The land comprised in the right-of-way is already held in fee simple by the City of Subiaco, which has made satisfactory arrangements with the interested parties regarding the disposal of the land when the right-of-way has been officially closed. The clause provides for the closure and authorises the City of Subiaco to transfer the respective portions to the owners of the contiguous lots.

Closure of certain rights-of-way at Victoria Park: The registered proprietors of various lots in the section bounded by Great Eastern Highway, Leigh Street, and Kitchener Avenue, Victoria Park, have the sole rights of carriageway over certain private rights-of-way which were provided in the original subdivision of the section.

The owners concerned—namely, Stirling Brewery Limited and S. Smith and Son (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.—have requested closure of the rights-of-way and the inclusion of the land in their adjoining properties.

The proposals have been approved by the City of Perth and the Town Planning Board; but closure cannot be arranged under the provisions of the Transfer of Land Act, 1893, because the fee of the land in the right-of-way is registered in the name of Swallow Brewery Limited which is reputed to be defunct, and is therefore

incapable of making an application for closure and executing transfers of the land to the contiguous owners.

The clause provides for the closure of the rights-of-way and the revesting of the land in Her Majesty as of her former estate with the intention that it be disposed of in fee simple to the owners of the contiguous land in such manner as the Governor may approve.

No agreement has yet been reached with the interested parties regarding the price to be paid for the land, but it is desired that the closure be approved to facilitate the sale of the land to the adjoining holders.

Closure of a certain right-of-way at Victoria Park: At the request of the owners of lots contiguous to a private right-of-way at Victoria Park it is proposed to close the right-of-way and revest the land in Her Majesty as of her former estate, with a view to dividing the land by survey into appropriate portions for the purpose of disposal to the owners of the respective contiguous lots.

The right-of-way has an entrance from Harvey Street opposite the eastern end of Benporath Street, and only the contiguous holders have a right of carriageway over it. A survey has yet to be made of the main portion to be divided between the owners of the adjacent lots; but to facilitate the ultimate sale of the portions to the adjoining holders, it is desired to obtain approval for the closure of the right-of-way and the revesting of the land. The City of Perth has recommended the closure.

Closure of portion of Victoria Square, Perth: The board of management of the Royal Perth Hospital desires to make certain additions to the hospital buildings by erecting a shelter or porch over the Victoria Square entrance to the hospital involving closure of portion of the public road. The City of Perth agreed to the proposed closure on the understanding that it would not be required to bear the cost of any alteration to existing road and footpath structures.

The Principal Architect prepared a plan for a proposed canopy over the hospital entrance at Victoria Square from which the necessary survey has been carried out.

The portion of the road which it is desired shall be closed contains an area of 14.4 perches, which it is proposed shall be reserved as an addition to the Royal Perth Hospital site as Perth Lot 815, and granted in trust for that purpose to the board of management of the Royal Perth Hospital, which holds the main site in fee simple in trust for hospital purposes.

Closure of portion of Lonsdale Street, Yokine: The Perth Road Board some years ago acquired certain freehold land at Yokine for the purpose of straightening Blythe Avenue, and for relocating the constructed roadways at its intersection with

Lonsdale Crescent, portion of which was closed under the provisions of the Road Districts Act, 1919, in July, 1958.

The balance of Lonsdale Crescent was altered to comprise an extension of Lonsdale Street, portion of which is not required for road purposes and which it is desired to close.

The Perth Road Board holds in fee simple Lot 206 of Swan Location 1176 as shown on Land Titles Office Diagram 23557, which is being developed by the board as a reserve for such purposes as recreation and sites for a kindergarten and an infant health centre. It is desired that the portion of Lonsdale Street containing about 15 perches be closed, and the land included in Lot 206 and be vested in fee simple in the Perth Road Board.

Lonsdale Street will retain a width of one chain, as the portion to be closed is an irregular-shaped area west of the main alignment and is entirely unnecessary for road purposes. Now I come to the last item.

Mr. J. Hegney: You must have worked very hard all the year.

Mr. BOVELL: Yes, we always work hard at the Department of Lands and Surveys. At this juncture I would like to pay a tribute to the work of the officers, and particularly to Mr. Smythe for his efforts in this regard. An immense amount of detailed information, which must be absolutely correct, is required before this Bill can be submitted.

Mr. J. Hegney: Weren't you side by side with him doing that work?

Mr. BOVELL: I am side by side with all my officers in their work. As the member for Merredin-Yilgarn knows, the Surveyor-General's branch plays a great part in these matters; and in view of the interjection by the member for Middle Swan, I would like to pay a tribute to the officers for the immense amount of detailed work they have done. The last closure dealt with is—

Closure of portion of Road No. 9801 (Way) South Perth: Portion of a public way which was dedicated as Road No. 9801 extends from Manning Road southward to Paterson Street at Canning Bridge, in the City of South Perth Municipal District. The section of freehold lots through which the portion runs is the subject of a proposed hotel site for which application was made to the Licensing Court by Mr. James Ranclaud as owner or potential owner of the land.

One of the reasons for refusal of the license was the fact that the site was divided by a public road or way; and as it is proposed to renew the application for the license, it is necessary to consolidate the site by closing the portion of the way and disposing of the land therein to the owners for the time being of the contiguous land.

The City of South Perth, the Town Planning Board, the Water Supply Department, and the State Electricity Commission have all signified that there is no objection to the closure. The clause provides for the closure of the portion with the intention that the land be disposed of to the owners for the time being of the contiguous land, under the provisions of the Land Act, 1933, in such manner as the Governor may approve. No valuation has yet been made of the subject land.

MR. KELLY (Merredin-Yilgarn) [5.46]: The information supplied by the Minister when introducing these last two Bills makes them sound very formidable, particularly when we realise the vast amount of detail which has been given. When I made inquiries earlier as to the necessity for delving so deeply into these matters with a view to regaling the House with this information I was advised that it was necessary under the Act, and the information had to be supplied.

Mr. Bovell: We might consider amending the Act.

Mr. KELLY: As a result, the Minister was at a disadvantage in having to deal at great length with something that could perhaps have been got through a lot more quickly. The remarks I made on the Reserves Bill would be more or less on all fours with my views on the Bill now before us.

Each closure is extensively examined, not only by the officers of the Lands Department but, as the Minister indicated, also by officers of other departments which are concerned in the closure of rights-of-way and roads. For some time now I have thought that throughout the metropolitan area, and in most suburbs, there must be a tremendous amount of land which is tied up in rights-of-way, particularly land which is not at present used for the purpose originally intended. Some of this land has become entirely redundant.

It would be a means of producing a certain amount of revenue for the Government, and it would be of advantage to the adjacent landholders if a complete examination were made of the metropolitan area, and an arrangement arrived at whereby this land could be put to better use than it is at the moment. I would commend that suggestion to the Minister, because I feel a lot of unnecessary work is undertaken in connection with the preservation of these rights-of-way, which actually serve no useful purpose.

The file in connection with this Bill has been in circulation on this side of the House, and I think it has been perused by most members. Possibly there are members who would have individual comments to make. For my own part I have no reason to delay the passage of the Bill; and, in conjunction with the Minister, I commend it to the House.

MR. HALL (Albany) [5.49]: The Bill is commendable inasmuch as it does provide for the closure of roads and rights-of-way to enable agricultural showground expansion in Albany. With the growth of the town, and as a result of the show period being extended, the authorities find they have not sufficient ground for the erection of sheds for exhibition purposes.

I would like, however, to sound a note of warning. I do not know whether the Minister for Police has checked this, but the native reserve he intends to move will be somewhere in the vicinity of the showground. I think it is Reserve No. 2681. I believe it is contained in that land, and it may have a detrimental effect in so far as the agricultural showground is concerned. I would like the Minister to look into that, because it could have dangerous repercussions.

The closure of roads and rights-of-way will be in the best interests of the community. We can, however, find many rights-of-way and roads which are at the moment tying up land which could be used for the provision of sporting facilities. I think the Minister has made a step forward, but in all areas we should make provision for the extension of sporting facilities which are so badly required in this State. I have no other comment to make on the Bill except to ask the two Ministers concerned to confer on the question of the native reserve.

MR. TOMS (Maylands) [5.52]: I, too, would like to commend the Bill to the House and add a few words to those that have been said relative to rights-of-way. It is regrettable that we should have these rights-of-way which, after all, are only a heritage of past subdivisions, where it was perhaps found necessary to provide rights-of-way to facilitate the entry of nightsoil carts.

These rights-of-way could have been closed a lot sooner, had it not been for one or two objections. It only needs one objection to be sustained to prevent the closure of a right-of-way. In the majority of cases such rights-of-way are used as rubbish dumps. That has been my experience. If the Minister could give consideration to finding a solution to the problem of rights-of-way I am sure he would earn the gratitude of local authorities generally.

The Embleton area referred to in the Bill is the subject of a vast housing scheme which is in progress at the moment in the Bayswater Road Board district. It is necessary to have those roads closed to develop the plan which has been produced in regard to other subdivisions. However, I see that Beaufort Street has been closed from Drake Street to Collier Road. Beaufort Street will now end at Drake Street. It will deviate from Lawrence Street into what is known as Broome Avenue, and thence continue on to Walter Road.

Between Lawrence Street and Coode Street there is a short street known as Anne Street.

One of the clerks of this Assembly is vitally interested in this road closure. The local authority was of the opinion that an application had been made for a closure of this kind. The road in question abuts and runs parallel with the Beaufort Street extension, which is now Broome Avenue. The local authority had resumed a lot of land in this area for the purpose of commencing operations on the drainage of Brown's Lake. There is a drainage reserve set aside for that area, and also for the purpose of closing Anne Street.

I know an application has now been made for the closure; and if the Minister could find out how far this has gone I might even be able to agree with him in giving his officers a pat on the back, particularly if they get it through in the next week, even if it means bringing in another small Bill to provide for the closure of this street. It would be of immense value to the local authorities because it would enable them to carry on with the work in this area. I hope the Minister will refer this matter to Mr. Smythe, or whoever the officer concerned might be, with a view to expediting its completion.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [5.56]: Along with other members who have spoken, I would like to say a few words about the closure of rights-of-way. I hope that before the next session the Minister will take up this problem with his colleague, the Minister for Local Government, with a view to having a comprehensive review made of the entire position. In many of the old subdivisions such as Carlisle, rights-of-way are provided along the entire subdivision; and, as the member for Maylands indicated, they are used only for the purpose of dumping rubbish.

Even if it were possible to allocate portions of these rights-of-way, perhaps without payment, to the adjacent owners of land, it would help overcome the problem associated with the local government administration in keeping these areas free from vermin, and all the rubbish that seems to come to rest in them. Such things as old car bodies and other rubbish are invariably thrown into these rights-of-way because people can find no other place for them.

This should not be done in a piecemeal manner. Now that we have done away with the necessity of using the back lanes for nightsoil collections we can modify the plans of these areas to do away with these lanes altogether. It might not, of course, be possible to do away with all of them, as in some of the earlier subdivisions they may provide the only access to the back of the property, because of the subdivision being so narrow.

In some cases it will be necessary for them to remain; but if the Minister undertook to discuss with the Minister for Local Government the possibility of requesting all local governing bodies to undertake a survey and put up propositions, wherever feasible, for the closing of these rights-of-way, we would achieve at least some degree of health improvement; because in many cases, on account of the dumping of rubbish, they become breeding grounds for flies, rats, and what-have-you. I think my suggestion is a good one, and I hope the Minister will take the matter forward.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands—in reply) [5.58]: I desire again to express appreciation to the member for Merredin-Yilgarn, to other members of the Opposition, and to those supporting the Government for the reception they have given this measure.

The member for Albany referred to some difficulty that might arise about the closure of the roads concerned with the new showground area. The Minister for Police had already mentioned the matter to me, but that was the first indication I had of any controversy that might arise. But I will certainly look into the matter with the Minister for Police and see what the position is, so that we will not create difficulties for other people who may be involved in the closure of these roads.

The member for Maylands referred to an area known at Anne Street. It will not be possible for a further Bill to be submitted to Parliament this session, but I will have the matter looked at and see what can be done in that regard. I cannot give the honourable member any encouragement that this matter can be dealt with during this session.

As to the comments of the member for Beeloo about the closing of rights-of-way, should a Bill be introduced, I would expect members to give me an undertaking that I would not be flooded with objections, because pressure would come from their electors if these rights-of-way were closed without their consent. It is the customary practice to obtain the consent of all interested parties through the local authority. I agree with the member for Beeloo that some rights-of-way do become a harbour for rubbish and vermin; and disease, as a result, could be rife.

Mr. J. Hegney: It would all depend on the rights of the individual over the right-of-way.

MR. BOVELL: I realise that; but even in regard to the rights of the individual, Parliament is supreme and has the right, if necessary, to provide for the resumption of land for specific purposes; or it could, if that were considered to be in the best interests of the general public, leave the right-of-way as it was. Parliament is supreme; and if a measure is submitted

to and agreed to by both Houses of Parliament a resumption can take place. However, the matter will be investigated, although I cannot guarantee that something can be done before next session.

The department, and I as Minister, rely on the co-operation, advice, and guidance of the local authorities in matters of closures; and, as I said before, it has been customary for all time to obtain the consent of the contiguous owners. As the member for Middle Swan said, in many cases these rights-of-way could be freely held and the owners may have some legal right with regard to their being used as private rights-of-way.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

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

Third Reading

On motion by **Mr. Bovell** (Minister for Lands), Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Council.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING

1. Betting Control Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Bill received from the Council; and on motion by **Mr. Norton**, read a first time.

2. State Concerns (Prevention of Disposal) Bill.

Bill received from the Council; and on motion by **Mr. Hawke**, read a first time.

TOTALISATOR LEGISLATION BRIBERY CLAIM

Inquiry by Royal Commission

MR. HAWKE (Northam) [6.11]: I move—

That in the opinion of this House, a Judge of the Supreme Court should be appointed as a Royal Commissioner to investigate and report upon the question as to whether the Member for North Perth in the Legislative Assembly was in any way offered a bribe to vote against the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Bill 1960, and if any such bribe was offered to ascertain the name and address of the person offering same, and also the name and address of the person on whose behalf the bribe was offered.

I regret very much that it should be necessary for me to take this action. You will remember, Sir, that members on this side of the House tried quite hard, and on more than one occasion, last week to prevail upon the Government to have this

question investigated through both the Crown Law Department and the Police Department. I propose later on to refer in some detail to the efforts we made on that occasion and to the total lack of success which attended those efforts.

In order that the situation might be fully set down, I think I should quote the relevant extracts from the report in regard to this matter, which first appeared publicly in *The West Australian* newspaper issued on the 5th November of this year. The report in the newspaper is headed, "M.P. Says S.P. Man Offered a Bribe." Then the name of the reporter is given—Geoff Paddick. The report goes on to state—

An attempt to bribe a Liberal member of Parliament to vote against, and so defeat, the Government's betting legislation was alleged yesterday.

Mr. Ray O'Connor, Liberal M.L.A. for North Perth, admitted, when questioned about a rumour, that he had been offered money to oppose the Government's scheme to establish an off-course totalisator in Western Australia.

The offer had been made on behalf of an off-course bookmaker just before the betting Bills had been introduced in the Legislative Assembly.

The report continued—

Mr. O'Connor declined to name the bookmaker and said that the incident was closed as far as he was concerned.

He had not appreciated the approach, he said. It was very poor for anyone to try and bribe a member of Parliament on any matter.

He thought he had been the only member of Parliament approached on this matter.

That completes the extracts which I propose to quote from the newspaper article.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. HAWKE: I have read the relevant extracts from the newspaper report. As there was no denial of what was printed in the report, and as there was no correction, it was taken largely for granted by me and by other members on this side of the House, on the following Tuesday, that the newspaper report was basically and broadly correct. Therefore we were very surprised to read in *The West Australian* of the 8th November, a report headed "No Action On Bribery Claim." The relevant portion reads—

Police Commissioner O'Brien said yesterday there had been no complaints made and therefore no action could be taken.

In Parliament, as you know, Mr. Speaker, we followed this matter up with you and, more particularly, with the Premier, the Attorney-General, and the Minister for

Police. We were more than surprised at the attitude of the Premier and of the two Ministers concerned; and particularly at the attitude of the Minister for Police. When pressed by way of questions he gave us to understand that he had no answer to make. He even went so far as to say that he did not even intend to discuss the matter with the Commissioner of Police for the purpose of ascertaining whether further inquiries should be made by the commissioner through his most appropriate officers.

He, the Minister for Police, also talked about the whole thing being based on hearsay. I doubt whether anyone in the House swallowed that one; because there was, as I have already shown, a report in our morning newspaper on the previous Saturday stating that the member for North Perth had, in discussion or conversation with a newspaper reporter, said that he had been offered money to oppose the Government's scheme to establish an off-course totalisator system. In this instance, too, I point out that the name of the newspaper reporter concerned was included in the report which was published. That is not a usual custom in newspaper reporting and in newspaper publication, although it does take place now and then, particularly with feature articles which are reported.

So, as I was saying, we were more than surprised when the Minister for Police started to tell members of this House that the statements in connection with this matter were largely hearsay and, consequently, there was no real basis upon which the police could work.

Later in the week the Attorney-General presented to the House a report from an officer—not a senior officer—of the Crown Law Department; and that report stated, in effect, that the member for North Perth had done no wrong in law and that no action could be taken because there was, in effect, no complainant and consequently there was nowhere to start in the carrying out of any investigation for the purpose of trying to track down the person who had, it was claimed, offered to make a bribe available.

I think that in this particular case there was much more ground upon which to start an investigation than exists in a great many cases where investigations are initiated and followed through by appropriate officers of the Police Department; and, maybe, by appropriate officers of the Crown Law Department.

The Attorney-General also said last week that we must catch the hare first. What exactly he meant by that would be open to question. No doubt if I interpreted it one way, he would argue it did not mean that; that it meant something else. In this instance, if neither the Crown Law Department nor the Police Department were to make any inquiries or investigations for the purpose of trying to bring this thing to the stage to which it should be brought, then

obviously the thing would just fade out—it would die away and nothing more would come of it, and there would be no practical result.

I think that if the Crown Law Department, and particularly, the Police Department were to wait until the hare was first caught before they started inquiries and carried out investigations, there would be a great number of hares which would get away.

The Premier, last week, under the pressure of questioning told us he did not propose to take any more action in the matter. I think we were left to guess what action, if any, had been taken. The only action we were aware of was that the Commissioner of Police had stated publicly that he had not taken action; and, also, that he could not take any action until someone went along to the police and complained. The Crown Law Department had not taken any action except to send to Parliament, through the Attorney-General, an opinion which was requested of the Attorney-General from this side of the House.

Clearly it would be an extremely bad thing for the community for this matter to remain where it was at the end of last week and where it remained until the moving of this motion now. I am entirely at a loss to understand the outlook and the attitude of members of the Government as explained to us in this House last week. I am sure we all remember the pre-election rumours of bribery, because they were being spread around in all directions. They were being mouthed in hotels.

Mr. J. Hegney: Out on the racecourses at Belmont.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes; on the racecourses, and at street corners. These rumours became red-hot political propaganda—

Mr. May: And in Parliament House, too, I believe.

Mr. HAWKE: — so much so that the Premier, who was then the Leader of the Opposition, announced during the election campaign that an investigation—if not an investigation by a Royal Commissioner—would be carried out into these rumours. I am not one of those people who think that every rumour of alleged bribery should be investigated by a Royal Commissioner or by special investigation. Unfortunately, we know there are some people in the community—very few, thank goodness—whose minds are evil and twisted, and who not only take advantage of every possible opportunity to spread evil rumours, but also make opportunities to spread them. So I differentiate considerably between a rumour of bribery and, as we have in this instance, a statement by a public man that an attempt at bribery has been made.

I would say that in any situation where a person makes a statement that he has been offered a bribe, or that someone has been offered a bribe, the matter should be

pursued until the position has been reached where those charged with the responsibility of doing so would be able to decide whether, in the circumstances, a prosecution was justified; and whenever and wherever they find that in the circumstances a prosecution would be justified, then there should not be any hesitation in launching one.

I think it should not be necessary for me to say that bribery at any level is a dirty business and a dangerous business; and I am sure every member of this House would agree with that. My overriding concern in this matter is to have this affair sifted to the last possible degree in order that all the facts in connection with it might be uncovered and made available.

That course is more necessary now than it was on the 5th November when the newspaper article in question was first published. It is all the more necessary now than then because Ministers, on behalf of the Government, gave us to understand in the House last week that no effective action was possible by the Crown Law Department or by the Police Department and that the Government intended to take no further action in the matter.

I hope that, in giving further consideration to the position, all Ministers of the Government and all supporters of the Government in this House will realise that the matter could not be allowed to remain where it was—and, in fact, cannot be allowed to remain where it is; because, at this moment, it is in the same position as it was in last week. In my view, there is a strong obligation upon any person who has been offered a bribe to do his utmost to see that the person who offered it, and the person on whose behalf it was offered—if it were offered on someone else's behalf—is prosecuted, if the authorities, after an investigation, find that prosecution would be justified.

Mr. Grayden: What about the obligation on the part of the newspaper which knew two months before and said nothing about it until the opportune time?

Mr. Tonkin: Well; it is the same story, is it?

Mr. Rowberry: There is a material witness here.

Mr. HAWKE: As that obligation rests strongly upon ordinary citizens of the community, it rests even more strongly upon a man in public life. Therefore it seems to me that it is an obligation which rests very strongly upon the member for North Perth. Furthermore, in the situation in which we find ourselves today, it is an obligation which rests far more strongly upon the members of the Government, because they are the only persons in the community who can ensure that proper and effective investigations are put in train and carried through to a conclusion.

It was said to me last week by some person, "For all you know a Labor supporter might be mixed up somehow in this matter." My reply then to that remark was, and it still is, that I do not care whether it is a Labor supporter, a Country Party supporter, a Liberal Party supporter, a D.L.P. supporter, or a person who does not support any party; if a man has been indulging in these practices or has been attempting to indulge in them, and it can be proved against him—or them, if more than one person is involved—the law should take its course and those who have offended against the law—if they have offended—should be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law.

Actual bribery or attempted bribery, particularly where public men are affected, are both, as I have suggested earlier, a very dirty line of business. Unless those responsible for attempting to bribe—if there has, in fact, been an attempt to bribe in this instance—are brought to book—if sufficient information can be obtained to bring them to book—that type of person will surely be encouraged to continue his activity. There is just as great an obligation on the Police Department, the Crown Law Department, the Government—and Parliament for that matter—to do everything possible to suppress bribery and attempted bribery as there is to suppress battery and assault; to suppress robbery, and all the other serious crimes and offences which are capable of being committed in the community.

I want to make it quite clear that I have not judged anyone in this matter. I certainly have no political feeling against either the member for North Perth or the Government; and, most decidedly, no ill-will, personally or otherwise, against the member for North Perth. In fact, one could quite easily be brought to a point of being able to sympathise substantially with that honourable member in the situation in which he now finds himself. However, he has chosen not to say anything since he spoke to the newspaper reporter a week or so ago. Up to this stage, that is his business. I do not know who has been advising him, but presumably he would have had some talk with some of the Ministers.

However, the far more important element in the situation now is the responsibility upon the Government to do something; to have the whole matter thoroughly investigated. The member for South Perth, by interjection a few moments ago, suggested that someone associated with *The West Australian* newspaper should be put on the spot. Presumably, in the event of this motion for an investigation being carried in its present form, or some amended form, the investigator would be clothed with sufficient authority by the Government to enable him to call, as witnesses, any persons he wished to call, including those he

might wish to call who would represent the newspaper-publishing company responsible for the publication of the statement which the reporter in question claims was made to him by the member for North Perth, during discussion, presumably on Friday week last.

We have had in our newspapers this week a report of a suggestion coming from the Premier that the Government is not now opposed to an investigation. Nothing has been said to us in Parliament about that, which seems rather strange in the circumstances. However, we must accept the newspaper statement as being correct and conclude that members of the Government, on having given the matter further consideration, and much more responsible consideration, have agreed, or appear to have agreed, that an investigation now is not only desirable and necessary, but also inescapable.

Mr. Grayden: No further consideration was necessary by them because all members on this side of the House welcome the investigation.

Mr. HAWKE: All I can suggest to the member for South Perth is that he study the answers given to members on this side of the House last week to the questions which they put to the Premier and to the Minister for Police and, to a lesser extent, to the Attorney-General. If the member for South Perth studied the answers given by the Ministers to us, I think he would conclude—because there is no other conclusion which could rationally be arrived at—that, so far as the Government was concerned, nothing more was to be done.

Mr. Grayden: He knows exactly what the result of the inquiry is going to be. He can tell you now what the result is going to be.

Mr. HAWKE: I am sorry to be the dull one in this House because I have not the faintest idea what the result is going to be.

Mr. Grayden: You should have listened to some of the rumours that have been bandied around this House for the past two months.

Mr. HAWKE: I am not in the habit of listening to rumours—as I said a few moments ago—because rumours come up on every street corner, in every pub, and in many other places. Rumours mostly come from those with evil minds or with twisted minds for some reason or other; or, sometimes, for no reason whatsoever, because some person might wish to discredit someone, or, possibly, to destroy someone.

I am not concerned with rumours; I never listen to them; and I think that probably the community would be a lot better off if fewer people listened to them;

and it certainly would be a lot better off if fewer people spent time in retailing them.

I have tried to put the arguments in favour of an investigation in a brief and orderly fashion, and I have endeavoured to keep any heat, excitement, or radical argument out of the situation: because I think the situation, in all the circumstances, has become so serious as to necessitate the clearest and calmest consideration that is possible to be given to this decision.

I say again that there is no escape from the holding of a searching investigation. I have no idea what will come out of it, because I do not know the facts or the circumstances. However, I am anxious that they should be investigated and brought to the light of day. Even more, I hope that nothing worthwhile is found as a result of the investigation, because it is a bad thing for any community when crimes, such as the one suggested in this situation, are found to have taken place. The publicity given by the newspaper to the statement that a bribe had been offered has gone abroad, not only to all parts of Western Australia, but unfortunately to other parts of Australia, because this sort of thing is really news. I would be surprised indeed if the newspapers in all the other capital cities have not given this State a bit of publicity.

Mr. Watts: One of the few occasions when this State does receive any publicity.

Mr. HAWKE: Unfortunately this sort of publicity travels far and wide and gets into the news columns; whereas the ten thousand and one other occurrences which take place in this State—progressive and constructive things—do not appear to have sufficient news value to receive publicity beyond the boundaries of Western Australia.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope and trust the Government and members on both sides of the House will agree to have a searching investigation made into this matter. Whether the investigation should be made absolutely on the basis set out in the motion, or in a somewhat different way, does not matter very much, as long as the investigation proposed and put in hand is to be thorough and is to be pursued to the stage where the whole matter is cleaned up one way or the other.

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [8.21: Firstly I express the thought of all of us in this House that in putting forward the motion, the Leader of the Opposition has adopted the line of simply stating the facts, preventing the general tenor of the debate from reaching the point where aspersions are cast or where the wrong impression is created, and perhaps preventing a difficult atmosphere being created for the persons concerned in this matter.

Reference was made by the Leader of the Opposition that following the publicity given to this case, in the first place on the 5th November, the Government refused to indicate whether it would take any action. For my part, as head of the Government, it seemed to be very difficult to make any progress if the principals in this case decided—for reasons best known to themselves—that they were not prepared to say anything further.

However, during the week the Government has given further consideration to the case. Following a discussion with the member for North Perth, I gathered that it became evident to him that an impartial inquiry would be the best means of settling this question; so on Tuesday afternoon last the Government decided to take some action.

The Leader of the Opposition has now moved the motion. To be candid, we anticipated further questions being asked in this House. The motion for the appointment of a Royal Commission was roughly in line with the thinking of the Government, for the reason that it would appear that no inquiry less than one by a Royal Commission would achieve any worthwhile results. That would be obvious to everyone.

I do not intend to say any more than has been said, because I only know what I have heard about this matter in this House and what I have read in the newspaper. There have been rumours of all kinds. Anyone who moves in political spheres hears rumours about all kinds of matters.

The Government decided that if a Royal Commission was to be appointed it should not in any way be limited. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, a searching inquiry would be the only form of inquiry which would satisfy the members of this House and the public who ultimately, to use a term, began to sit up and take notice of this case. I am afraid it was as a result of that, that the member for North Perth indicated to me that whilst he was not prepared to make a public statement or disclose the names of the persons concerned or give any other information publicly, he was prepared to give whatever information he had to a Royal Commissioner.

I was taken to task somewhat by the Press in a special article for having repudiated—I think that was the word used—the fact that the member for North Perth made a statement. Maybe I was not quite clear in the first place. What I wanted to convey to members of this House was that the member for North Perth did not go to the Press or anyone else with the statement, "I have been offered a bribe."

As a result of some rumour which the reporter in question had picked up—that is the business of reporters—the member

for North Perth was approached. His reply to the question asked by the reporter was that he could neither deny nor confirm the rumour. That would be the reaction of anyone of us who was not sufficiently experienced in the political world. We may all be caught off balance at times when questioned in regard to various matters. The fact was that the report was published along the lines of the member for North Perth having confirmed the rumour.

The Government has agreed to the holding of an inquiry. It feels that the motion of the Leader of the Opposition limits the inquiry directly to the story and the subject which we have before us. It is my intention to move an amendment to the motion, in order to give a greater coverage to the inquiry. I move an amendment—

That the motion be amended by deleting all words after the word "a" first appearing, with a view to substituting the following:—

Royal Commissioner should be appointed to investigate and report upon the following matters—

- (a) Was any member or were any members of either House of Parliament offered any bribe or other inducement to vote against or not to vote for the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Bill or any part thereof?
- (b) If any such member or members was or were offered a bribe or inducement, by whom was it offered, and, if to more than one member, by whom was it offered in each case?
- (c) Was any person offering such bribe or inducement acting for himself or any other person or persons, and, if the latter, who were the persons concerned?
- (d) If it is shown that any such bribe or inducement was offered what was the amount of the bribe, or the nature of the inducement?

I am not seeking to amend the motion to achieve other than what the amendment sets out to achieve; that is, to broaden the inquiry into the suggestions which have been made in this case from time to time. My amendment merely broadens the basis of the inquiry from the alleged statement of the member for North Perth to an inquiry covering a wider field.

There is a suggestion that members who were in support of the original betting legislation, or in this case opposed to the introduction of the new legislation may not

be included at all. It might be said that members on the Government side of the House were the ones covered by the broadening of the terms of reference, as set out in the amendment. The amendment will give the Royal Commissioner the opportunity of thoroughly investigating the matter of alleged bribery, and following up closely any information which may have been given in this House.

The amendment also removes the suggestion of a judge of the Supreme Court being appointed as the Royal Commissioner. The Attorney-General has had discussions with the Acting Chief Justice, who is opposed to the appointment of any local judge as the Royal Commissioner. In so doing he is following the precedent that was set many years ago, as the proposed Royal Commission is to inquire into matters of a political nature, or dealing with politics.

I would like to read a letter from a former Chief Justice of this State, Mr. Justice Northmore, dated the 8th October, 1942. He said—

I notice in this morning's paper that the House of Assembly passed a resolution yesterday that I should act as a Royal Commission to inquire into certain political charges against the Government in relation to its administration.

Had this proposal come under my notice earlier, I should have taken strong exception to it, not only on the ground that it proposed that a judge should undertake extra-judicial work on an essentially political matter, but also on the ground that it selected the particular judge to undertake the Commission without any previous approach to ascertain whether he would be prepared to undertake, or could undertake, the work.

But the matter goes deeper. In the British judiciary, it is a salutary custom that judges should not undertake extra-judicial work involving political disputes. Instances could be cited in other States (one quite recently in Victoria) where this wise rule has been followed. I have conferred with my brother judges on this question, and we are all strongly of opinion that the rule should be followed in this State also.

For the above reasons, I beg to inform you that I am not prepared to undertake this Royal Commission.

I may add that, in the future, even in the case of Royal Commissions on non-political matters, I and my brother judges respectfully request that, if it be desired to appoint a judge as Commissioner, the judges should be first consulted.

I read that to give an indication of the attitude of the then Chief Justice which appears to be, in general, the attitude of

the present Chief Justice. I add those words in explanation of the amendment I have moved—that the words “a judge of the Supreme Court” should not be included in the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—on amendment) [8.16]: I do not intend to offer any opposition to the amendment. However, I would like to know from the Premier, if he is in a position to give the information at this stage, what sort or class of person is likely to be the Royal Commissioner. Has the Government anything in mind; for instance, a senior magistrate from this State?

The **SPEAKER**: The Premier cannot speak again to the amendment. However, quite possibly another Minister could answer for him.

Mr. HAWKE: What I want to point out is that this is not a political inquiry. I am not suggesting that a judge should do the job, although if one were available and willing, then I think a judge should be appointed. However, if the judges would prefer to keep away from it, feeling that it is a matter which might come before the Supreme Court at some later stage, I could not criticise them for taking that stand.

If the Premier could give us some indication as to what the Government's thinking is in the matter, then we would be better informed and would have some idea as to just what standing the Royal Commissioner is likely to have.

MR. TONKIN (Melville—on amendment) [8.18]: I have a few observations to make in connection with the matter at present before the Chair. I have no objection to the amendment moved by the Premier for a wider inquiry, because I think it is highly desirable that these rumours should be nailed and the truth of the matter ascertained.

What I have not been able to be completely satisfied about is why it was ever necessary for the Opposition to move for an inquiry. If a house is burnt down and there is a suggestion that there are suspicious circumstances, the police move promptly to see whether it is a case of arson, because that is a crime; and because it is a crime the police move promptly to investigate the circumstances. They do not wait for someone to lay a complaint.

If a murder is committed, or if a person is found dead under suspicious circumstances, the Commissioner of Police does not sit down and wait for someone to make a complaint. The police are out right away, finding out the circumstances, questioning people, and ascertaining what happened, because a crime has been committed. On the statement which was published in the newspaper on this matter it appeared that a crime had been committed.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! The amendment before the Chair is that certain words should be deleted from the motion.

Mr. TONKIN: Yes; but the words struck out are connected with the appointment of a Royal Commissioner to inquire into certain circumstances; and what I am endeavouring to say is, that, for the life of me, I cannot understand why the Opposition had to move for an inquiry, whether by a judge or by someone else. Surely at some stage in a debate I am entitled to—

The **SPEAKER**: Order! I think the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had better speak after the amendment has been carried.

Mr. TONKIN: So long as I can do so then.

The **SPEAKER**: I am not trying to restrict the Deputy Leader of the Opposition at all; I am trying to keep him to the amendment before the Chair. He will get the opportunity to speak later.

Mr. TONKIN: On that assurance, which I am prepared to accept—but which would not be accepted from other quarters, I might say, having regard to previous experiences—I will conclude my remarks on this part of the amendment by saying that I have no objection to the widening of the proposed inquiry.

Amendment put and passed.

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier—on the motion, as amended), [8.21]: I move—

That the following words be substituted for the words deleted:—

Royal Commissioner should be appointed to investigate and report upon the following matters:—

- (a) Was any member or were any members of either House of Parliament offered any bribe or other inducement to vote against or not to vote for the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Bill or any part thereof?
- (b) If any such member or members was or were offered any such bribe or inducement, by whom was it offered, and, if to more than one member, by whom was it offered in each case?
- (c) Was any person offering such bribe or inducement acting for himself or any other person or persons, and, if the latter, who were the persons concerned?

- (d) If it is shown that any such bribe or inducement was offered, what was the amount of the bribe, or the nature of the inducement?

In moving to insert those words—

The **SPEAKER**: Order! If the Premier has formally moved to insert the words, he cannot make another speech.

Amendment put and passed.

MR. TONKIN (Melville—on the motion, as amended) [8.23]: Previously I attempted to explain that I could not understand why it became necessary for the Opposition to move for an inquiry, and I feel that the action should have been taken by the Commissioner of Police on his own initiative, because I fail to see the difference between this alleged crime and other crimes in which the commissioner would act without directions. I instanced the case of where a house is burnt down under circumstances which appear suspicious. In such a case the police make inquiries in order to see whether a crime has been committed.

I can understand that in cases of civil offences the police must wait until someone issues a summons and calls in the assistance of the police in regard to the carrying out of the summons and the subsequent police court hearing. But where a crime has been committed the police are expected to act of their own volition. That is what they are there for—to look after the public welfare and to keep order in the State.

Mr. Perkins: There has to be some evidence of a crime, though.

Mr. TONKIN: There was some evidence. There was a statement by the person concerned in the crime.

Mr. Perkins: You are wrong there!

Mr. TONKIN: I am not wrong there! The crime in this case was the offer of a bribe to a member of Parliament to alter his vote. That is the crime, and the member of Parliament concerned made the statement that he was offered a bribe.

Mr. Perkins: No; he did not make that statement!

Mr. TONKIN: Oh yes he did!

Mr. O'Connor: I said that I was not prepared to deny it. Those were the exact words I used.

Mr. TONKIN: That is tweedledum and tweedledee, anyhow!

Mr. Perkins: Yes; but you want to get two or three jumps ahead. That is your trouble.

Mr. TONKIN: The trouble with the Minister is that he would not take one jump.

Mr. Perkins: You like to make an assumption and build a case on it.

Mr. TONKIN: I am not making any assumption at all. I am stating what the law is, and what I believe the Minister for Police and the Commissioner of Police should have done. The statement in the newspaper was not to the effect that the member for North Perth said he would not deny that such an offer was made.

Mr. Perkins: Do you always believe what the newspaper says?

Mr. TONKIN: No.

Mr. Perkins: Then why do you build this case on it?

Mr. TONKIN: Because it was never corrected. Neither the Minister nor the member for North Perth took any steps, so far as I know, to ask for a retraction or a correction; and in the absence of that retraction or correction I am entitled to assume, in connection with a statement of that kind, that it represents the position.

How far would the police get in their inquiries, when they are hot on the trail, if they accepted a man's statement that he would not deny something as being equivalent to the fact that he never said something or that something was never offered? The detectives, when questioning suspects, do not accept that sort of statement. I would say that if a member is forced into the position that he is not going to deny something put to him like that, it is a pretty good indication of the fact that where there is smoke there is fire.

Mr. Perkins: And you advocate strong-arm methods on the part of the police in order to get something more out of them, do you?

Mr. TONKIN: No. What I am saying here is that the circumstances were such, from the mouth of the member himself, as to indicate that a bribe had been offered to him. It did not take me long to deny it when it was said about me; but the Government appointed a Royal Commission!

If a newspaperman went to the Minister and asked him whether he had been offered a bribe, I cannot imagine that the Minister would say he would not deny it. The member for South Perth said that this story was bandied about weeks before. As a matter of fact, I was informed that the Premier had heard about it weeks before.

Mr. Grayden: Who gave you the information?

Mr. TONKIN: I will tell the Royal Commissioner that if he is interested.

Mr. Grayden interjected.

Mr. TONKIN: I cannot hear the honourable member. If I could, I would answer him. I repeat that it is extraordinary to me that it appeared no action

of any kind was contemplated until the Opposition decided to move for an inquiry. The Minister himself said he was not going any further with the matter; and the Premier said he did not intend to do anything; and yet here was a statement in the daily paper to the effect that the member for North Perth had said—it does not make any difference as to whether it was in answer to questions or not—that a bribe was offered to him. That was first-hand information and not hearsay.

Hearsay was enough for the Government to act when I was involved. But this was not hearsay; this was an alleged statement, by the member concerned, that a bribe had been offered to him. That is the crime. If that is correct, that is the crime. Whether the member for North Perth said that, or said he would not deny that, there was every indication that a crime had been committed.

Mr. Grayden: What is the crime: Offering the bribe, or refusing to accept it?

Mr. TONKIN: Offering a bribe to a member of Parliament, which would affect his vote, is a crime, the penalty for which is seven years' gaol.

Mr. Grayden: Why don't you distinguish between refusing the offer, and the person who made it?

Mr. TONKIN: I am talking about the crime. The crime has been committed.

Mr. Grayden: All members on both sides of the House—

Mr. TONKIN: I do not know what the member for South Perth is talking about.

Mr. W. Hegney: Neither does he.

Mr. TONKIN: According to the Criminal Code, if anyone offers a bribe or promises to give a bribe to a member of Parliament to influence his vote, that is a crime. According to what appeared in the newspaper, a crime has been committed by a person unknown. We were then told that the member for North Perth was not going to disclose the identity of the person who had committed this crime. And the Government was going to accept that; the Government was prepared to accept that situation. The Minister for Police was not going to do anything further; the Premier was not going to do anything further; even though it appeared in the Press that a crime had been committed by a person unknown; and, so far as we knew, there was a man in the position to give the necessary information to the police to make it possible for that culprit to be brought to justice.

If someone knew that a burglary had been committed, and had seen the burglar, and that person refused to inform the police of the identity of the burglar, he himself would be committing a misdemeanour in obstructing the course of justice. There was obviously something in this

matter which demanded immediate inquiry by the Government. And the Government declined to act. The Government had several days in which to make up its mind; but each time questions were asked from this side of the House the replies indicated that the Government did not propose to take any action in connection with the matter. There were very definite statements to that effect; and so it has devolved upon the Opposition to press the matter further.

Mr. Grayden: You gave the member for Mt. Hawthorn the opportunity to have a full inquiry, which is exactly what he wants.

Mr. TONKIN: If some member wants a full inquiry, he is getting what he wants, and it is a very good thing. But it has no bearing on this question whether or not the police should have acted in the first place. If any notice is to be taken of what the member for South Perth is saying, he is arguing that the police were justified in not taking any action in connection with this case, because somebody wanted a fuller inquiry.

Mr. Grayden: No; because you had some information that you did not disclose. You admitted it a few minutes ago.

Mr. TONKIN: I had no evidence of this rumour before. I am telling the member for South Perth that the first I heard of this story was when I read about it in the Press; and a colleague of mine rang me up at 6.30 in the morning to tell me to get hold of a paper and have a look at it.

Mr. Andrew: It wasn't the member for South Perth.

Mr. Brand: He must have been an early riser.

Several members interjected.

Mr. TONKIN: To be frank, I was astonished. But I was far more astonished when I ascertained the attitude of the Government members to this statement; and it contrasted very sharply with the alacrity they showed when there were rumours involving me some months ago.

Mr. Grayden: You watch the alacrity with which they vote for your motion!

Mr. TONKIN: We have now reached a stage where we appear to be able to satisfy everybody, because action is to be taken to find out just what there is behind this so-called story which apparently was circulating in the corridors some weeks before. The member for South Perth apparently heard it.

Mr. Grayden: And you confirmed it.

Mr. TONKIN: The member for South Perth apparently heard it; and I am informed that the Premier heard it, too.

Mr. J. Hegney: I heard it.

Mr. Bovell: So that means you must have heard it.

Mr. TONKIN: By what strange process of reasoning does the Minister arrive at that conclusion? I would be delighted if the Minister for Lands would explain how he arrives at that conclusion from the statements I made. By way of questions last week I asked the Premier if he had heard of the statement which the member for North Perth proposed to make before he made it. The Premier's answer, much as I expected, was that he had heard rumours some weeks before, and left it at that. But the member for South Perth now says this story is the same as those rumours.

Mr. Grayden: Would you deny that members were talking about this two weeks ago?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TONKIN: If this story is the same as the rumours which were floating about some weeks before, then it is clear that members of the Government must have been aware of this story.

Mr. Grayden: And the members of the Opposition.

Mr. TONKIN: That makes it all the more remarkable that the Minister for Police was not prepared to take any action. If he had heard these stories some weeks before, he would have known whether this was the same story or not. It was not something to be pushed off lightly, and it is a somewhat strange thing that if this is the story which was circulating some weeks before, it should appear in the Press at the crucial moment.

Mr. Rowberry: Not strange—sinister.

Mr. TONKIN: It is a somewhat remarkable coincidence; and I think it might be as well if that aspect were reported on by the Royal Commission.

Mr. O'Connor: I would be quite happy on that, too.

Mr. TONKIN: I would like the Government to ensure, as this inquiry is likely to be a lengthy one—because it will involve interrogating every member of Parliament—

Mr. Bovell: What on earth for?

Mr. TONKIN: That is the amendment moved by the Premier. The amendment moved by the Premier means just that.

Mr. Bovell: That is not the intention.

Mr. TONKIN: One cannot find out without asking the members.

Mr. Hawke: The Minister for Lands will send his secretary along.

Mr. TONKIN: It is perfectly obvious that some members of the Government have not fully appreciated what is involved in the amendment. I would say that no Royal Commissioner can properly carry

out his job under these terms unless he interrogates every member. Let me read the enlarged terms—

Was any member, or were any members, of either House of Parliament offered any bribe?

How can the Royal Commissioner find that out without interrogating every member of both Houses? If any such member or members was or were offered such bribe and inducements, how were they offered? So obviously the Royal Commissioner has got to subpoena every member and interrogate him in order to ascertain whether or not he was offered a bribe. Otherwise, how could he know?

Mr. Bovell: He could subpoena them, but he need not interrogate them.

Mr. TONKIN: But if he subpoenas them he is not going to sit there with his mouth shut. Of course they will be interrogated! I also want to know whether, when they are brought there, they will all be treated the same way, or whether some will be obliged to answer questions and others will not. I would like to know that; because that was the case in regard to Sir George Ligertwood's Commission. If this is to be an open inquiry to ascertain the facts of the matter, it should be a full, fair, and open inquiry with no favours to any member, not matter how high his position might be.

Whether he be the Minister for Police or the member for Melville he should be subjected to the same treatment and given no special privileges as to which questions he will answer and which questions he need not. I think this wants to be looked at, so that we can see that members like the member for South Perth are completely satisfied. Perhaps out of this matter from North Perth will come good instead of evil, and these rumours which apparently were floating about in some quarters can be properly nailed.

Mr. Grayden: What we want to see is the truth told by the member for Mt. Hawthorn.

Mr. TONKIN: The member for Mt. Hawthorn is not involved in this matter.

Mr. Grayden: Of course he is!

Mr. TONKIN: I can agree with the member for South Perth, in that I want the truth to be known about the member for North Perth, the same as I want it to be known about any other member. We should not forget that the uncontradicted statement which appeared in the Press cast a suspicion on every S.P. book-maker in Western Australia. That is what it did, without giving them any opportunity of clearing themselves. So if we are talking about fairness it wants to be fairness to other people as well as to members of Parliament.

Mr. Grayden: Not at the expense of one member of Parliament. This Royal Commission will confirm the position.

Mr. TONKIN: The statement which was purported to have been made to the newspaper by the member for North Perth, and which up to this stage has not been contradicted, casts suspicion on every starting-price bookmaker in Western Australia. And the Government was not prepared to do anything about it; it was going to let it rest there. Is that a fair proposition? I hope this inquiry will make it possible to establish, if guilt there is, where it is, so that appropriate action can be taken at the proper time.

There is too much of this tittle tattle to which people lend their ears and on which they build stories; and too much is being done from time to time to protect people who tittle tattle. I would remind members of the special Bill that was put through this House to permit people to go to Royal Commissions and lie with impunity.

Mr. May: And be given protection.

Mr. TONKIN: That is what happened a few months ago.

Mr. Grayden: That is a different story from the one we heard last week.

MR. PERKINS (Roe—Minister for Police—on the motion, as amended) [8.47]: I think I should say a word or two to clear the Police Department in respect of some of the imputations made by the member for Melville. I would like to assure the House that the Police Department, both under this Administration and under the previous Administration, has shown no fear or favour in investigating any crimes which may have been committed, and bringing to justice the persons who perpetrated those crimes. As Minister for Police I certainly took no steps to prevent the ordinary machinery of the Police Department from operating in this particular case.

Listening to the member for Melville one would think that I, as Minister for Police, should have given instructions to the Commissioner of Police that some special action should be taken in this particular case over and above the normal investigations of the Police Department. As I have already told the House, I did have some discussion with the Commissioner of Police. He made his own statement to the Press, and all he told me confirmed what he said in that statement—that there was nothing sufficiently concrete in the information available for the Police Department to investigate.

The member for Melville has referred to rumours. Thousands and thousands of rumours circulate through the community; and if the Police Department attempted to investigate every rumour that one hears, what an impossible position would be created!

Mr. Hawke: But this was not a rumour.

Mr. PERKINS: I admit, or I agree—that is the right word—that a rumour affecting a member of Parliament is much more serious.

Mr. Hawke: But this was not a rumour.

Mr. Tonkin: This was more than a rumour.

Mr. PERKINS: It was a rumour, as the member for North Perth said by interjection. He said that the statement he gave to the Press was that he would not deny the report.

Mr. Tonkin: He would not deny that a bribe had been offered to him?

Mr. PERKINS: The member for Melville has built a wonderful case on very slender grounds, which is a performance to which we are not unaccustomed in this House.

Mr. Tonkin: What was it that the member for North Perth would not deny?

Mr. PERKINS: The rumour with which the newspaper reporter confronted him.

Mr. Tonkin: That a bribe had been offered to him?

Mr. PERKINS: It was a rumour to this particular effect. All sorts of rumours circulate, and I will not agree that it is desirable, or possible, that the Police Department should investigate every one of those rumours.

I do not know what the member for Melville would expect the Police Department to do. In recent weeks we have heard a lot of talk in this Chamber about what the Police Department might do if we gave its members powers to investigate certain things. One would think from those remarks that the Police Department was thirsting to get at some of these people and twist their arms to get statements from them. Of course, on this occasion it does not suit the member for Melville to adopt that particular line, and he is now saying that the Police Department should have been much more vigorous.

We all know that the ordinary citizen in this community has his rights, and it is not possible for any officer of the Police Department to obtain statements along the lines that the member for Melville apparently envisages.

Mr. Tonkin: Tell me what right has a man who has offered a bribe to a member of Parliament.

Mr. PERKINS: There again the member for Melville makes many assumptions. I suggest that the procedure to be followed by the appointment of a Royal Commission is the best way to handle this particular question. There is much greater protection for people making statements to a Royal Commissioner—

Mr. Tonkin: That is the trouble; there is much greater protection for liars.

Mr. PERKINS:—and it will be possible to have a much fuller investigation. Now the member for Melville is running away from his own statement. He fears the investigations which will take place. I can assure members that the Government has no wish to hide anything; but, on the other hand, we do feel that we must get something concrete to go on before we order this kind of investigation. Now it has become a matter of public controversy. The Press has played it up, and it seems best that a Royal Commission should be appointed.

Mr. Tonkin: So that is the only reason why you are agreeing to it!

Mr. PERKINS: We believe that with the appointment of a Royal Commission we will be able to see what the position is, and that is why the necessary action is being taken. I did not wish to intervene on any basis other than to protect the good name of the Police Department; and I think members of this House recognise that the police are very impartial in their investigations.

MR. W. HEGNEY (Mt. Hawthorn—on the motion, as amended) [8.53]: I desire briefly to support the motion; and even though it is comprehensive I think that, in the interests of justice, a full and impartial inquiry should be carried out. I would like to assure the member for South Perth, who mentioned the member for Mt. Hawthorn a few times—

Mr. Grayden: I am sorry. I meant the member for North Perth.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: That is all right.

Mr. J. Hegney: That is how rumours start.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The member for North Perth is a political neighbour of mine, but I knew nothing about the matter which is now before the House until I read a report of it in *The West Australian* of the 5th or 6th November. My immediate reaction was—and I think it would have been the reaction of every member in this Chamber—that a particular class in the community, or a certain category of people, were immediately all under suspicion.

The allegation was that some person approached a member of Parliament—or there was a rumour to that effect—for the purpose of influencing his vote on a certain Bill. I do not know how many book-makers there are in the State, but I suppose there would be 250, if not more; and it will be appreciated that immediately the characters of those people were impugned. Let me put it the other way: We have here a House composed of 50 members of Parliament—public men—and let us suppose that some citizen in the community made a statement which appeared in the Press to the effect that a member of Parliament had offered somebody a

bribe. Would we not all demand, and see that our demands were carried out, that there should be a full public inquiry into the allegation?

If one member of Parliament were involved in such an incident the other 49 members would be affected, and their reputations would certainly not remain unscathed. I think the member for North Perth will agree that in the interests of justice and fair dealing, and in the interests of all citizens in the community, a full and impartial inquiry should be carried out.

It was interesting to observe, and rather pleasant to note, the tremendous somersault performed by the Minister for Police and other members of the Government in regard to this matter; because in answer to a number of questions asked by the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, they were not only hesitant but also hostile and antagonistic about any action being taken.

It may be advisable at this stage to show the difference between what the Minister for Police says is a rumour and what the Criminal Code provides. There is a special section in the Criminal Code which refers to any citizen or any person endeavouring to bribe a member of Parliament, or in any way influencing or trying to influence or induce him to vote in a certain direction. I think it would be appropriate if I read the section, which is section 61. It reads—

Any person who—

- (1) In order to influence a member of either House of Parliament in his vote, opinion, judgment, or action, upon any question or matter arising in the House of which he is a member or in any committee thereof, or in any joint committee of both Houses, or in order to induce him to absent himself from the House or from any such committee, gives, confers, or procures, or promises or offers to give or confer, or to procure or attempt to procure, any property or benefit of any kind to, upon or for such member, or to, upon, or for, any other person; or
- (2) attempts, directly or indirectly, by fraud or by threats or intimidation of any kind, to influence a member of either House of Parliament his vote, opinion, judgment, or action, upon any such question or matter, or to induce him to so absent himself;

is guilty of a crime, and is liable to imprisonment with hard labour for seven years.

Parliament realises the gravity of the case where any person endeavours to influence a member of Parliament in the course of his parliamentary duties. The section I just read is a special section in the Criminal Code.

The Minister for Police mentioned that the Police Department would not act on rumours. I quite agree with that; nobody would blame the Police Department for it. But the attitude adopted by the Minister for Police, the Premier—and, to an extent, the Attorney-General—was one of resisting as far as they possibly could the taking of any action to ensure that had any crime or offence been committed against section 61 of the Criminal Code, the offender would be brought to justice.

Now the Minister for Police tells us that as a result of the statements in the Press it has been decided to agree to some form of inquiry. Personally, I think that is a poor show. It would have been more gracious, more dignified, and more appropriate had the Government not waited for questions to be asked or for the pressure to be applied in the Press before deciding to appoint a Royal Commission. The Government should have realised its responsibility and the gravity and importance of the position, and should have taken all legitimate steps to ensure that an impartial inquiry was instituted for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not section 61 of the Criminal Code had been transgressed.

The motion as amended will, of course, widen its application, but I do not think any member in this House will oppose it. It is hoped that in the course of the inquiry appropriate evidence will be adduced; and in the final analysis, if any person is found guilty, that should absolve all other members of the community who are at present suspect. I refer, of course, to a class of bookmaker in our community. At present it will be appreciated that that class of citizen is under a cloud. Every one of them is regarded with some suspicion. In the interests of justice, the sooner the inquiry is instituted and the sooner the findings of the Royal Commission are brought down, the better it will be for all concerned—including, I suggest, the member for North Perth.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Middle Swan—on the motion, as amended) [9.3]: I propose to support the motion as amended. I am very glad that this matter is to be sifted and fully inquired into. I voice those views because only a few years ago, on the race-course in my electorate one night, accusations were broadcast that members of Parliament were paid £200 to influence their votes on the legislation seeking to establish starting-price bookmakers. This was bandied about generally. At that time I held the position that you now hold, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Roberts: Was there an inquiry instituted by the Government of the day?

Mr. J. HEGNEY: The member for Bunbury will have the opportunity to ask his question in a minute. The Minister for Health was present at the racecourse that night, as was the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, and a number of other Liberal members. I do not know why they were there, but they were present. At the time, a Mr. Jamieson, a race-horse owner in my electorate, was broadcasting to the world, before 2,000 people on the racecourse, that members of Parliament had received bribes to influence their vote on the legislation dealing with starting-price betting.

I do not think that any member of Parliament, no matter to which party he belongs, would accept a bribe. But that, of course, would not satisfy the public. I had not been invited to the meeting; but when I heard the speaker say, "I believe Mr. Hegney and Mr. Jamieson are present; it would be interesting to hear what they have to say," I could not, of course, sit dumb; I had to accept the invitation to refute the lying statements made against members of Parliament.

I believe that members of Parliament are honest. With reference to the rumours referred to by the member for South Perth, I would say that I have heard no rumours in connection with the issue at all. For my own part, I have been here nearly 27 years, and on no occasion have I even been tried out in connection with a bribe. That indicates just how cheap this sort of statement is.

It will be a bad day for Parliament if any of its members, no matter what political viewpoint they hold, can be influenced by bribes in the casting of their votes one way or the other. So it is all to the good that an investigation is to be carried out. It will benefit all concerned if the matter is properly looked into. Last week Ministers were apparently reluctant to answer questions; all of them, including the Minister for Police, were hedging. They made no statement to refute what appeared in the Press last week. Accordingly, the Opposition, after having given further consideration to the matter, considered there was an obligation on it to move for an inquiry along the lines of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. The scope of the motion has been enlarged and extended by the amendment which has been agreed to and that appears to fill the bill.

It will give all members an opportunity, when the inquiry begins, to indicate to the Royal Commissioner whether or not they were offered bribes. That is what the extended motion means; members will have the opportunity to give evidence as to the various rumours. I can speak for myself and the front cross-benches of the Opposition and say that I deny having heard any rumours. The amended motion will permit of a comprehensive inquiry;

and the sooner it is held and the whole matter cleared up, the better it will be for all concerned. I support the amended motion.

Mr. Hawke: Could the Premier tell us who is likely to be appointed?

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier—on the motion, as amended) [9.8]: In reply to the query from the Leader of the Opposition, I can frankly say there has been very little time to consider the person to be appointed; or from where we will obtain a commissioner. I can honestly say I do not know. I can assure the House, however, that we will keep this inquiry on a high level, and obtain the services of a person who will impartially carry out a thorough and searching inquiry into this matter. I cannot give the House any further information.

Mr. J. Hegney: It would not be Sir George Ligertwood, would it?

Mr. BRAND: I am not saying whether it would be Sir George Ligertwood.

Point of Order

Mr. JAMIESON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, is the Premier in order in speaking again?

The SPEAKER: He is speaking to the motion as amended.

Mr. JAMIESON: As the Premier moved the amendment at the time, is he in order?

The SPEAKER: I have just ruled that the Premier is in order, and he is speaking to the motion as amended.

Debate Resumed

Mr. BRAND: I am not anxious to speak, Mr. Speaker; I am quite prepared to sit down.

Mr. Tonkin: We are keen to hear you, but I am afraid you are out of order.

Mr. BRAND: I am completely in your hands, Mr. Speaker. I do not understand these points of order, so I cannot argue about them; most people do not, but still argue about them. I can assure the House—and I am sure the member for Melville will accept the assurance—that we will keep the inquiry at top level.

Motion, as amended, put and passed.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1960-1961

In Committee of Supply

Resumed from the 10th November, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair.

Votes—Mines, £508,081; State Housing Commission, £5 (partly considered):

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [9.11]: There are a couple of matters with which I wish to deal. Firstly, I am pleased to see the proposed increase in the number of

geologists, which has been mentioned by other speakers. I feel that geologists are urgently needed in this State, because I consider those working in the Mines Department at present are flat out, and it is practically impossible, with the present number of geologists, to have any extra work done, or anything outside the normal undertaken.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The increase is more theoretical, really.

Mr. BICKERTON: I understood that the other night from the Minister's interjection. I hope it ceases to be theoretical and becomes real in the near future, because we really do need these technicians.

When the Mines Department is able to procure their services I would like to think that a hydrological section will be formed with the object of prospecting for water; and particularly in the north-west, because this is a commodity we need urgently. It will make a lot of difference so far as the mineral wealth of our State is concerned. In many cases it is not so much the fact of being confronted with the finding of minerals, but being confronted with the task of finding water to treat them; particularly does this refer to those minerals when dredging and sluicing are used for their treatment.

There is a matter to which I have referred on quite a number of occasions, and I would like the Minister representing the Minister for Mines to take it up again. I refer to the question of the Mines Department drilling plant being stationed in the Marble Bar-Port Hedland area. We feel there is sufficient work there for it, in prospecting both for minerals and for water, and in the obtaining of water supplies. I understand that the cost is supposed to be in the vicinity of £10,000. In answer to one of my questions the Minister at one stage apparently thought that price was excessive in relation to the value to be obtained from the machine. However, I do not think we could consider £10,000 as being excessive.

Some time ago I asked a question with regard to the possibility of manganese in the north being upgraded. From the answer I received to that question I understand that investigations are being undertaken at the School of Mines, Kalgoorlie, with the object of endeavouring to find a suitable method of upgrading this particular manganese. I have heard nothing more on that matter, and I would appreciate it if the Minister could obtain the information and inform the Committee as to whether or not it has been found practicable by the Mines Department in its investigations to institute a method of upgrading manganese in the north-west.

I will now briefly deal with the matter of iron ore. This is something which is quite urgent for people in the north. I realise the Premier has given a top priority to iron

ore with the object of obtaining export licenses from the Commonwealth. However, it seems to me that the Commonwealth is being very unfair to Western Australia. I believe that with the known deposits of iron ore in Western Australia export licenses should be issued so that this State can export some of its iron ore—a mineral which is one of our greatest assets in the north, particularly the deposits at Mt. Goldsworthy.

The export of iron ore would do untold good in that area in the way of improving harbour facilities, roads, and so on. It is absolutely necessary to establish an export industry for iron ore to ensure a greater population in the area, and to maintain the population that is already there. I do not know whether the Minister representing the Minister for Mines could, when replying, supply this information; but I hope that before the session ends the Premier may be able to make a statement on the possibility of obtaining an export license, and let us know how the Federal authorities feel towards the granting of it. It is quite an important thing for Western Australia and, in particular, for the north-west.

The only other matter I wish to deal with is the Marshall report. This document seems to be vital in respect of the strike at Collie. It is rather difficult to offer any criticism on this report because it does not contain a great deal of information; it is really a confirmation of what was already known by Mines Department Geologist Low. Mr. Marshall seems merely to have confirmed that he believes, in the time available to him, that what the Mines Department says about the matter is correct.

I do not know just what part this document has played in the Government's attitude towards the contracts that have been let; but I would not like to think it was the main peg on which it hung its hat. There seem to be many weaknesses in the report; and the time available to Mr. Marshall was too short for him to present a comprehensive finding on a matter as large as this one.

Mr. Burt: It only confirmed our own geologist's report.

Mr. BICKERTON: That is all it does, as far as I can see. If that is all the Government wanted from Mr. Marshall I have no doubt that the Government obtained it. Some things in the report appear rather strange to me. I do not intend to deal with the whole of the report but just certain parts.

Part 1 is purely a summary; and Part 2 gives the scope of the report. Part 3 of the report states—

Reserves: It is considered that 80,000,000 tons of coal are available and could be extracted by open cut method.

Then the report goes on to say this would require special planning. Part 4 of the report deals with ratios and brings in quite an interesting point. It says—

The geological ratio of 8:1 will be increased on actual mining to a ratio of at least 9½:1.

That is because of the amount of batter involved in getting down to the actual seam. The report goes on—

Coal extracted at this final ratio will be about the same price as the current underground coal.

That seems hard to understand in view of the fact that the final ratio appears to be at the point of some 700 to 800 feet, when I take it extraction would be toward the end of the 80,000,000 tons. Further on the report says that the average burn now per year is approximately 1,000,000 tons of coal as far as coal from Collie is concerned. Therefore, with a burn of 1,000,000 tons per year there is coal for 80 years at Collie. But suppose there was coal for 50 years. The report appears to me to say that in 50 years' time it will be possible to get coal at the present underground price. I do not think anyone in any circumstances would like to say what we will be paying for coal in 50 years' time. I do not think anybody could say what the price would be in 10 years' time. We do not know how much wages are going to increase or what the price of fuel, earth-moving machinery, and so on will be.

In another part of the report it states—

However, very large tonnages of coal can be extracted at prices which are much lower than established underground methods.

The report says there are 25,000,000 tons of open-cut coal which can be extracted at 68 per cent. of the underground price. That might be so if one could extract 25,000,000 tons tomorrow; but I take it that to extract 25,000,000 tons at 1,000,000 tons per year burn is going to take 25 years.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The costs would be comparative at a future time would they not?

Mr. BICKERTON: The report clearly points out that 25,000,000 tons of open-cut coal can be extracted for 68 per cent. of the underground price.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Therefore it will be comparative in 25 years' time.

Mr. BICKERTON: Further on in the report the position becomes clearer as it deals with Part 4 in more detail. The report states—

We see no reason, other than economic, that coal at this ratio and depth could not be extracted in proper planning. The limiting ratio of overburden to coal of 8:1 on which Low has calculated his reserve of 80,000,000 tons is sound, and in this type of multi-seam deposit we would not like

to see exploration limited to a lesser ratio. It is of interest, in types of open cut deposit different from your Collie area, much higher ratios of overburden to coal have been worked even under hard overburden conditions. At Ben Bullen in New South Wales, ratios of 13½:1 were worked economically, and in U.S.A. ratios of up to 25:1 have been successfully operated. Both these latter ratios would not apply to multi-seam deposits in the Muja Depression consisting of the Muja Horizon. A highly organised planned operation generally, with conventional methods would enable open cut coal at this 8:1 vertical ratio to be won at prices within the range of that being quoted for underground coal in the Collie district at present.

The report mentions the total it is possible to obtain; and then it says that if operations were highly planned and highly organised it would be possible for it to be won at prices within the range of that quoted for underground coal in the Collie district at the present time.

Perhaps a different construction could be put on that; but I think it is a point, because the report says that 80,000,000 tons of Collie coal can be won at the present underground prices for coal. I contend it would take us so long to win that 80,000,000 tons that we would not get it at present underground prices for Collie coal.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Have you read the Tydemar report on the development of the harbour?

Mr. BICKERTON: No; I have not read the report to which the Minister refers. Perhaps that report does not come within a discussion of the estimates.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): No; the honourable member cannot discuss that report.

Mr. Brand: Are you talking about underground prices or open-cut prices?

Mr. BICKERTON: I was referring to the statement in the report that some 80,000,000 tons of coal was available—according to Mr. Low's figure—which could be won at the present underground prices or lower—some millions of tons being quoted at lower percentages. Percentages of 68 per cent., 25 per cent., and so on have been quoted according to the stage of operations and the depth of the overburden. My point is that 80,000,000 tons of coal would not necessarily be obtained at the present-day prices for underground coal. In fact, the price could be very much greater.

Mr. Rowberry: The overburden could increase all the time.

Mr. BICKERTON: Costs could double over the period it would take to extract the coal; but the whole report seems to be

based on the cost of coal as produced today. Therefore, according to Mr. Marshall, it is an economic method.

Mr. Burt: In proportion to deep coal.

Mr. BICKERTON: Yes, at present-day prices; but as we get deeper and as costs alter, that price must alter. We will not get 80,000,000 tons of coal, as this report says, at the present cost of underground coal.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I can imagine that in 50 years' time the future member for Pilbara will be referring to *Hansard*, and he will be saying whether you were right or whether you were wrong.

Mr. BICKERTON: I think he will say I was right. On the ratio side there is a matter I wish to query: that is, the ratio of the 8:1 and 9½:1. Even with present-day machinery it appears to me to be rather excessive. I think those who prepared this report are assuming a lot when they take any sort of stab at costs, because not much would be known about that overburden. There could be faults in the coal seam itself; and at depths of 800 or 900 ft.—I do not know of an open cut in Australia that is being worked at that depth—I have no doubt that many problems that have never previously been encountered would be met. From the point of view of safety, we would have to work out the angle of batter so that the overburden was at a safe angle of repose. The mining engineers may know how the stone becomes affected after the mine has been opened up for a considerable length of time. We would be working these open cuts for a good many years, and the fact of the weathering of the stone could make what was considered a safe mine into a dangerous one; and then we would have to drop the batters back again; and that could involve considerable expense.

I am not endeavouring to underestimate the Government in any shape or form. No doubt it has employed people who have taken these things into consideration. I am mentioning these matters because we are inclined, when we have a price to work out, to arrive at some figures and say that we are going to save so much when, in fact, many circumstances might come to light afterwards to reduce considerably the estimated saving.

I have not seen the contract made with the Griffin Company so I do not know what is in it; nor do I know how well the Government has covered itself. But the thought runs through my mind in connection with what arrangements have been made for reclamation. We cannot have an enormous hole in the ground and do nothing about it. Most reclamation in connection with an open cut is, to a large extent, carried out as the job progresses. But in order to be done that way, it must be covered in the contract; otherwise the contractor will do things the cheapest way. The back filling which must take place at

the time could cost anything up to 5s. or 6s. per ton of coal won. In some instances it may be less, and in others more. If this point has not been taken into consideration, then it will be something extra to be added to the price of open-cut coal.

Another thought that has struck me is: What happens after the three years? There is the matter of water; and assuming that this report is right—and that is a big assumption, particularly from the water point of view—Mr. Marshall gets over this point by saying, "We do not expect any water troubles because we think they can be handled by conventional means." That could mean anything; I take it to mean by pumping. There may be no danger in regard to water congregating in an open cut, but there is in regard to how much will seep through to the underground mine and put it into such a state that it will be too costly to work it at all.

Mr. Rowberry interjected.

Mr. BICKERTON: I do not know whether that is the actual proposal of the Government, but I am thinking of what will occur at the end of three years. What is to stop the company that is operating the open cut from saying then, "You can have your next lot of coal at double the price of the last lot"? If that were the case and the Government had taken certain measures to close down or dampen down underground production, the contracting company working the open cut could virtually hold the gun at the Government's head, because it might cost more to put the underground mines back into production than to pay the extra cost to the open-cut contractor.

One of the concerns of the Government would be to see that the open-cut contractor did not get a monopoly to the extent where he controlled the price of coal to the stage where it would be dearer to reopen the underground mine than to continue to take coal from the open cut. That is a danger I can see in this process of saying, "We are going to take nothing but open-cut coal."

It is all very well to say that we will get contractors from somewhere else; because if we have to work mines with huge overburdens, we will find there are only a limited number of contractors with equipment large enough to do the job. As the open cut progresses, the present equipment will be much too light to do the work that will have to be done.

I sincerely hope the Government will not allow Collie to get to the stage where the open-cut operators can virtually dictate the price of coal to the State, because the coal deposits are a State asset upon which we depend very largely.

If we were to reach that stage, we would be much worse off than we are at present when we know we have underground coal,

the mining costs of which, apart from any increase in wages, will be likely to remain fairly constant.

I would not like to think the Government was led away by the thought: We are going to save X shillings without worrying about what posterity will have to pay in 10 or 20 years for coal, when the underground mines have to be put back into production in order to obtain cheaper coal.

The Minister also dealt with the housing estimates. I want to say that the Housing Commission is deserving of congratulations for the job it has done over the years; and I speak particularly from my knowledge of the north-west where we want still more houses—and I suppose we always will. Let us hope so.

Up to date the Housing Commission has dealt with a very difficult problem in that area with the limited funds available to it, and it has done a good job in practically catching up with the housing shortage both there and elsewhere in the State. There are still people who want houses, but they are becoming fewer and fewer in number. In fact the urgent cases are nearly always dealt with immediately. Owing to the job the State Housing Commission has done in the north-west, I offer the commission my congratulations; and I hope that the department will build bigger and more houses.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [1940]: The honourable member who has just resumed his seat suggested that the problem of housing is becoming less and less and that the urgent cases are dealt with immediately. I wish I could say the same in regard to Narrogin because in that town the housing problem is a big one. When I look at the Estimates I see that the net amount shown is £5. When one comes up against some of the circumstances surrounding the housing problems one would think that, perhaps, £5 is the amount available to spend.

I do not intend to relate a lot of difficult cases; suffice it to say that the worst one we have is that of a husband and wife and three children living in one room. I can mention other difficult cases. I have two such instances of people who have transferred from Bunbury to Narrogin—no doubt they were anxious to get out of the place. In one of these cases the husband is living in Narrogin, away from his family, because he is unable to secure housing accommodation. It is most difficult to secure housing in Narrogin at present. The position does not appear to be any better than it has been at any stage of the post-war period. Yet I must say that from the figures available there would appear to be little cause for complaint in regard to the construction of houses there.

I have secured from the State Housing Commission report dated June, 1959, figures showing that, post-war, 236 houses have been constructed by the commission.

Only two other inland towns have had a greater number of houses erected—Northam with 382, and Collie with 647.

I find that for the year ended June, 1959, some 33 new commission houses were erected at Narrogin; and this is a greater number of homes than the number erected in any other inland town in the State. In fact there were only two towns in the whole of Western Australia where more homes were erected by the commission: Geraldton with 61, and Bunbury with 80.

Despite what I have said about the number of houses built in Narrogin—and it represents a creditable performance—the shortage still persists. The growth of the town of Narrogin has, since 1947, been greater, on a percentage basis, than that of any other town in the State. I have, from the Government Statistician, secured figures showing the increase in population. From 1947 up to the present time the increase in population at Narrogin has been 82 per cent.; and a similar increase has not obtained in any other town in the State. The nearest to Narrogin is the Manjimup Road District—I say road district because it includes several towns—where the increase was 79 per cent. I think these figures are quite interesting, so I shall give those relating to some of the other towns—

Percentage
increase since
1947

Collie	64
Merredin	60
Wagin	57
Broome	47
Katanning	42
Harvey	35
Bridgetown	34
Kellerberrin	31
York	17

The population of Kalgoorlie and Boulder actually became less in that period. I must point out that the figures in connection with several towns are not available because the towns have altered in size in the period and it is not possible to get the figures of percentage increase. Therefore, for the towns of Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Northam, and Busselton, no percentage increase figures are available.

I have quoted these figures because I feel the rate of house building should be related not to the past or present number of houses in the town, but to the growth, on a percentage basis, of the town. It is the potential of the future that has to be taken into account when deciding how many houses should be built; and no other town in Western Australia has grown as fast as Narrogin with an increase of 82 per cent. in the period I have mentioned. I hope the Minister for Housing will take these figures into account when considering the extension of housing at Narrogin.

As I have said, the housing needs of any centre should be related to its growth and the rate of housing construction

stepped up accordingly. I wish to commend the State Housing Commission on the pleasing nature and variety of its designs for homes built under its administration. No group conforms to a standard pattern, and the variety of the homes is so great that it is pleasing to see them erected in the State Housing Commission areas. I would suggest, however, that if any centre is able to manufacture and supply its own bricks, further consideration should be given to the construction of brick homes by the State Housing Commission instead of having to transport timber from other parts for the construction of timber-framed homes. If that were done it would add to the variety of the homes already constructed by the Commission and would support an industry established in the town itself instead of having to bring into it supplies of timber from another source.

There is another point I would like to mention in regard to the housing problem. In Narrogin a building society is commencing operations as soon as funds can be made available. Its rules have already been drafted and the society is ready to start business. However, it is urgently in need of funds; and I hope the Minister will be able to make finance available to that building society because, once the society commences its operations, it will assist in relieving the pressure of the heavy demand for homes in Narrogin, and until this demand is met the people who are urgently in need of homes will be suffering great discomfort.

I appreciate that the State Housing Commission could almost be regarded as being generous in the number of homes it has constructed in Narrogin over recent years, but many more homes are still needed. It has been brought to my notice that the situation is as bad as it has been at any time.

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [9.48]: Like the previous speakers who have spoken to this section of the Estimates, I wish to compliment the Mines Department on its intention to appoint more geologists to report on the many minerals that are to be found in this State. I have often said in this Chamber that if our population is to expand it will be by exploitation of our mineral wealth. In saying that, I do not mean that it should be exploited from the earth and exported in its raw state. In encouraging outside interests to establish industries in this State or to exploit our mineral wealth, it should be clearly laid down that such people should mine the ore and be permitted only to export the manufactured or processed material.

If this condition were insisted upon it would enable the State to employ its own workers to process the minerals from their raw state to the finished product. I notice

that the item for the payment of geologists' salaries has been increased by only a little over £10,000. The Minister has stated that 11 more geologists are to be appointed.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: We hope.

Mr. ROWBERRY: If his statement is correct, I am sure it will be a pious hope if the Mines Department intends to offer a geologist about £2 10s. a week over and above the basic wage. I cannot see how this will prove to be any inducement to a scientific man to perform such an onerous task. A geologist is mostly employed in the field and therefore has to be away from his wife and family for long intervals, and is forced to live under primitive conditions. If the Minister divides 11 into £10,300, he will find that it works out at just over £18 a week, which would be a miserable pittance for a geologist.

We should not only aim at searching for those minerals that are not known to exist in this State, but also we should give greater consideration to the mineral wealth that we already know exists and which has been exploited. As coal has been the burning question discussed by most speakers in this Chamber, a few more words from me would not be remiss. For the information of members of the Committee, I spent most of my early years working in coalmines, and most of my spare time in studying mine engineering. I eventually had to give up my studies on moral grounds, on the grounds of ill-health, and partly because I got the sack. Nevertheless, I did acquire considerable experience in connection with the practical and scientific methods of extracting coal from the earth's strata.

I would like the Committee to remember, when considering the coal question and the problem of acquiring cheap coal, that cheapness is not everything. I can recall that, after the 1914-18 war had ended, we demanded reparations from Germany. The Germans, of course, paid us in kind with raw materials, part of which were coal supplies. The Germans contracted to supply Britain with the whole of her coal requirements for nothing. What happened? It was eventually ascertained that it was not a practical proposition to obtain coal for nothing because the jobs of the coalminers were placed in jeopardy and the investments of the mine-owners were also jeopardised. Therefore, it was decided that such a situation could not continue because it would eventually ruin the economy of the country.

I offer the suggestion that if the State persists in its desire to obtain cheap coal from Collie by the open-cut method, such action will also ruin this State's economy. Why do we want cheap coal? Is it that we wish to entice more people to come to this State and set up industries and that one of the inducements shall be cheap

power? Why do we want industries to come to this State? The answer is that we wish to employ more people.

However, in the first place, if the Government endeavours to obtain cheap coal for the purpose of encouraging industry to come here, it will render a large number of people unemployed. Therefore, what advantages will the State be gaining? None at all! In fact, we would be moving backwards. If the Government were to put forward some scheme by which we could employ more of our workers in industries already established in this State I could see some sense in it.

Mr. Jamieson: Does the Minister think he could get a few of his back-bench members into the Chamber? He looks awful lonely.

Mr. Watts: We should never have bought that TV set. Look at the benches opposite.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Mr. ROWBERRY: Will the inducements or the encouragement to be held out to overseas interests to establish industries in this State gain us very much? For instance, if the Government is to assist Australian Paper Mills Ltd. to establish itself in this State—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): The honourable member will keep to the vote which, at this stage, is Mining and Housing.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am trying to make the point that, in regard to mining, the Government is travelling along the wrong road in trying to develop our coal deposits by the open-cut method. It has been said that by mining Collie coal by open-cut methods the State will save something like £400,000 a year. To do that it is estimated that approximately 400 people will be put out of employment. On the question of new industries—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): I have just intimated to the honourable member that this vote deals with mining and housing. The vote for Industrial Development has already been dealt with.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Chairman. In regard to mining coal from the open cut at Collie, I obtained a few figures from the Marshall report which has been quoted by previous speakers. In that report it is said that the overburden at the Hebe coal seam would grow to 700 feet. I take it that that would be 700 feet on the vertical. If we take 700 feet by a 900-foot coal face, and estimate a fathom at a time, that 700 feet, multiplied by 900 feet by 6 feet, brought to cubic yards, would give a figure of 140,000 tons of overburden. That is assuming that a ton of overburden equals, roughly, one cubic yard.

Take the coal seam at 36 feet and estimate 36 feet by 900 feet by 6 feet advancing forward; that comes to 7,200 tons

of coal, and it means that to obtain that quantity of coal 140,000 tons of overburden has to be removed. Knowing what I do about mining, that sounds a bit fantastic to me. The Minister is accustomed to playing football and, as an illustration, I point out to him that 700 feet would be longer than the longest football oval in the State.

An open cut is possible only because it is an outcrop. The strata is broken and the coal seam is not lying parallel to the surface at depth, but has come to the surface and is lying on an angle. Therefore, the greater the quantity of coal that is removed the greater is the overburden that has to be dealt with, until it is impossible to handle the overburden. In the meantime, as has already been pointed out, the method of working the seam by deep mining has been lost. The fundamental principle in deep mining is that a coal face must be kept moving ahead; otherwise the galleries close down right up to the face of the seam.

Last week members heard the word "thrust" mentioned in connection with this method of mining. "Thrust" is the movement of the roof structure, and "creep" is the movement of the pavement structure. To obtain ideal conditions to mine coal there must be a good roof and a good pavement or floor, and a good parting between these two. Apparently Collie has not got that.

The position is such in Collie that coal-mining has to be carried on in a very uneconomic way, because at intervals pillars of coal have to be left as supports. I need not describe how the galleries go into the coal face, leaving sections of coal behind, while cross-galleries are put in. Where the roof is good it is possible to extract the coal from these pillars quite easily. If solid rock was present in the open cuts I could not imagine any earth-moving machinery shifting the overburden without the unlimited use of explosives. So, in Collie, deep mining is the better method; and unless the deep mines are kept in production we will lose them.

If this State develops the practice of obtaining all its coal requirements from the open cuts, and depends entirely on these contractors for our needs, we will be creating a monopoly. After the deep mines have been closed the open-cut contractors could point the gun at the head of the Government, because they would be the only suppliers of coal left in this State.

What is more important is that in the meantime the skilled force of underground miners would be dissipated and lost. Miners have a peculiar outlook, and it is not everyone who is physically and mentally equipped to work in a deep mine. I have mined coal in seams of 18 inches to 20 inches. In the Old Country we work underneath the sea and we take the whole face out, because the coal is so deeply seated in the earth and the strata are so strong that they can stand the

extraction of the whole core. The seam is so thin that the strata are able to rest on the pavement or floor, without breaking. That is not the position in Collie; therefore coalmining there is practised under great difficulties. Because of these great difficulties, special skills and special experience are required to extract the coal.

If the Government were to close down all the deep coalmines in Collie and then found it uneconomical or impossible to continue working the open-cut mines, it could not at a moment's notice find the necessary miners to start underground mining once more, after the work force had been dissipated and lost.

That situation developed in Great Britain. After the first World War there was a general conversion to oil fuel, and that had the effect of closing down some of the deep coalmines. The young people engaged in working those mines found alternative employment. At the beginning of World War II special schools had to be started and special inducements had to be offered to attract people to work the coalmines.

One of the most important factors which has to be considered in this dispute, is the work force at Collie. If the deep mines were closed, besides losing the skilled workers, from an economic standpoint the wages at present earned by those miners would be lost.

I want to refer to the housing estimates, but I do not wish to enter into a controversy with other members. I want to put forward some figures relating to the growth of Manjimup, to contradict an assertion by the member for Narrogin that that town had the greatest percentage increase in population in the State. He quoted figures only for the last 13 years. I can show that over the last 40 years the population of Manjimup increased by 400 per cent.

I bring to the notice of the Minister that housing is still a pressing problem in Manjimup, because of the increasing population. This town is the centre of many industries, and it could easily become the centre for many new industries. There are still 31 people in Manjimup requiring housing accommodation. I remind the Minister of the proposition I put forward when I spoke on the Education estimates. I suggested that the Ministers in charge of departments get together on the subject of housing for Government and semi-government employees in country towns. This is a very pressing question.

I have brought this matter to the notice of the Minister for Police in relation to the provision of housing for policemen. Not only police officers, but also schoolteachers, bank officials, employees of the Department of Agriculture and others, who are transferred from centre to centre, require housing accommodation. They

should receive special consideration because they are often transferred at very short notice.

As stated by the member for Narrogin, when those people are transferred from one place to another, in the course of their employment, it is almost impossible for them to obtain housing accommodation. It would be quite an easy matter to arrange for the interchange of houses when Government employees are transferred. The incoming employee could take over the house vacated by the outgoing employee. That could be arranged with the consent of the State Housing Commission.

I commend the efforts of the State Housing Commission and its economy in providing housing for the people of this State. It has combined economy with beauty of design. I have not heard any complaints about the type of housing which is provided by the commission.

I remind the Government once again that the burning question before us is the situation which exists in Collie. It cannot be dismissed lightly. I hope that before the Government commits itself irrevocably it will take another look at the situation.

MR. HALL (Albany) [10.10]: In the Albany electorate there are many housing problems. That is to be expected, because of the rapid growth of the population in the past few years. One particular aspect of housing strikes me very forcibly; that is the provision of accommodation for young married couples. In these days young married couples start off life with a tremendous handicap. It is essential that they should be provided with suitable accommodation.

The Commonwealth Government could do more in this field. If the population of this country is to be increased by 5,000,000 by 1970—which is the figure of increase aimed at by the Commonwealth Government—that Government should give a lot more consideration to the provision of housing for migrants and for the natural increase in the population.

Young couples in these days face tremendous odds in starting off their married lives. Statistics show that people today are getting married at a much younger age than formerly, but their income is not very large. Often when these couples marry they buy all the amenities possible, but in many cases they rent a beach shack or a back verandah flat until they are sufficiently stabilised to move into better accommodation. Often they have to pay high rentals for such inadequate accommodation. If both partners are compelled to continue working after they are married, they will be starting off under a handicap. I believe that young couples should be given every chance for a good start in their

married life. If they are not given that chance there will be serious repercussions on the community.

I have already referred to the delinquency problem. At the start it is created by the fact that people have to pay high rentals and are compelled to continue to work after they are married, so that the children do not receive the necessary parental care.

Young couples who occupy beach shacks and back verandah flats are forced to vacate such accommodation in the summer months, because at that time the holiday-makers can afford to pay higher rentals. These couples then receive eviction notices. They then have to get along as best they can. It is not long after young couples are married that, as a result of natural relationship, children are born, and the wife is compelled to leave her employment.

Let us look at the situation at this point: They do not have a back verandah flat or a beach shack any longer, and they are probably living in a caravan or tent at the beach. They have very heavy hire-purchase commitments to meet. There is then a mental reaction in the minds of these young couples. There is no worse form of depression than that arising from one's failure to meet his commitments. Therefore young married couples starting off in life should receive the utmost consideration from the State, and from the Commonwealth through the State, by the provision of suitable housing accommodation.

Without assistance from the Commonwealth or the State they become depressed when they cannot find any accommodation. I have had young couples coming to me with a problem, only a few months after marriage. In these cases I have done my best for them. On one occasion I had to hire a tent to tide a young married couple over their troubles until such time as I could approach the State Housing Commission on the matter.

The commission has on most occasions provided accommodation, wherever it could and where the applicant had reasonable financial standing. On other occasions the commission has housed such people in emergency accommodation. I cannot say that I have not had support, because I have. I am not in any way criticising the department, as it has done its best for my electorate, although this has not always been adequate.

This is a State-wide problem, and I reiterate that we must face up to it and do something to set these people on the right course. Otherwise there will be repercussions. There are none here who could say that after hire-purchase commitments are met enough money is left to pay high rentals—and many of them are high. If the rentals are not paid, then the young people will live in conditions which are not conducive to good married life.

It is my contention that for every child born £100 should be deducted from the price of the parents' home when a loan is made. That would be an inducement for young people to get married and have families. That may not be so lucrative as it appears when one considers that on a rough estimate it would cost us well over £1,000 to bring a migrant out to Australia. That is not my own estimation but a figure which was given to me.

A lot of statements have been made about housing estimates in this State and in the Commonwealth; but it would be absolutely impossible to give a true estimate, because many of our people occupy our old shacks and houses. Particularly do I find that this is so in the Albany electorate at the moment. The town is getting a face-lift in many ways; but because of the tremendous amount of demolition work which is taking place at the moment, it is being realised that a large percentage of the housing which is available now is provided by these old homes which are, in the main, housing our elderly people.

We can remember, with some consolation, that we now house our pensioner couples either in State houses or by a cottage system which we have in Albany. Both of those systems do an excellent job. However, we have the staggering situation where there is no provision for single pensioners. I have made several representations to the Minister on this matter; and, although he was sympathetic, he advised me to approach the Commonwealth authorities, which I have done. I have referred again to the State Housing Commission but it is still unable to do much because of a lack of finance for that particular purpose.

It must be realised, therefore, that these single pensioners are presenting us with a problem, particularly in my electorate because of the demolition of the old houses which they have been occupying. It must be remembered that although those pensioners are single now, many of them have been married but have lost their partners. Now, at 65 and 70, they are being forced out, with nowhere to go and a reluctance to enter the homes for the aged. I again ask the Minister to study this situation very carefully.

Another point I desire to raise has reference to coloured people; and I do not wish to refer merely to natives. Many people are not absolutely 100 per cent. white, but they could be made first-class citizens if they were given a little co-operation. Some of them have partially paid for land and others are endeavouring to do so. Admittedly there are also some who have done nothing.

The State Housing Commission has complied with many of my requests and is still assisting me with some of my problems. For that reason I have been able to secure

housing for many of those people; and as a result, the children are growing up and taking their place among the white people in the woollen mills, railway yards, and the nursing profession. They are able to mix with the other people and are thereby given a start in surroundings where they are able to make progress. That gives them the right standing and they see life in its true form. This situation needs the utmost co-operation of the Minister. I have contacted these people, and I am very keen that they should help themselves.

Another point I wish to stress is with reference to the housing move by Cabinet. The following is an article which appeared in *The West Australian* on the 15th June, 1960:—

Housing Move For Cabinet

A legislative amendment to enable more money to be spent on housing in W.A. would be submitted to Cabinet as soon as possible, Housing Minister Griffith said yesterday.

The amendment was suggested by Mr. E. Ebbles, registrar of co-operative housing in Victoria and Mr. E. Tytherleigh, N.S.W. president of the association of co-operative building societies.

Both these experts recently visited Perth to examine W.A. housing legislation for the State Government.

Mr. Griffith said he hoped to have the amendment before Parliament during the next session.

I believe that the amendment he will be referring to—and perhaps the Minister can correct me here—is that to the Companies Act. I do not know whether the Attorney-General can inform us whether the legislation before the House would affect the building societies within the State.

Mr. Watts: Co-operative building societies are left entirely under the old legislation in this State.

Mr. HALL: They can operate in this State.

Mr. Watts: They operate under the existing law. The new legislation will not affect them at all.

Mr. HALL: The information I have here is that each building society is an autonomous body. Copies of the procedure to be followed in the formation of a society and required—

Mr. Watts: You are referring to other legislation?

Mr. HALL: Yes.

Mr. Watts: That is a different matter altogether.

Mr. HALL: Very well. I will bow to the Attorney-General on that one. I think that the matter should be studied and the co-operative building societies notified as to the amendment which is to be made.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There is a very considerable doubt whether that amendment will come down this year, because a hitch has occurred.

Mr. HALL: It will be introduced next session?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Yes.

Mr. HALL: That would be a step forward. I have here a brochure distributed by the New South Wales co-operative building societies. In it the details are outlined. I do not know whether I need to go very far into the details of the brochure, but the Minister can have it at any time if he desires to peruse it.

The method of operation from the member's point of view is quite simple. On joining a society he applies for the number of shares relevant to the amount of loan he needs. For instance, a £2,000 advance would require the holding of 40 shares at £50 each. He continues to pay monthly subscriptions at the rates shown for "before advance" until he receives an advance. The beauty of this scheme is that he can take out those shares before he is married; and when he asks for his loan it is immediately granted. Of course he must be able to provide the finance to complete the project.

This would be like a savings scheme and would be completely to the advantage of the young people today who are trying to prepare for marriage. The amount to be paid is very small; but when he asks for the advance he has to be able to find sufficient money to complete the project straightaway.

I have not much more to say on housing. I compliment the State Housing Commission on its efficiency. We have problems; and one of them, of course, is the big family which has, of necessity, to shift from a small home to a larger one. It then has to find the key money, as it is called, and that is very difficult when the family is on the basic wage, particularly as money for maintenance repairs is also necessary.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary—in reply) [10.27]: A considerable number of members have spoken to these Estimates and I would like to say at the outset that I will not be able to answer all their queries. However, I will take it upon myself to secure copies of their speeches from *Hansard*, pass them on to the Minister for Mines, and obtain a reply from him on any points worthy of note.

The topic which took up most of the time in this debate was that of coal at Collie. The Government feels it is very important, in the interests of the State and the people generally, that approximately 25 per cent. of the production of coalmines at Collie should be open cut.

With this there will, in effect, be a reduction to the State in the cost of coal of approximately 10s. per ton. This reduction will ensure for a considerable period, it is hoped, that there will be no increased charges for electricity. Of course that is highly desirable in many respects.

The winning of that coal will, of course, mean the displacement of men from the industry, many of them perhaps only temporarily. The number of men involved, if the co-operation of the companies and men can be secured, will be approximately, I would say, upwards of 300. It would perhaps be 250 to 300, or even from 200 to 300, depending on the amount of co-operation received. It is hard to stipulate a firm figure. The previous Government had considerable trouble in regard to contracts for coal; and it is notable that during the five or six years it was in office some 600 men were displaced from the coalmining industry.

Mr. Moir: And all found permanent employment.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON: A large number of these men would have been lost to the industry by natural wastage. However, I believe—I am open to correction here—that at the time the previous contracts were settled upon, approximately 100 men were displaced from the industry because of those contracts. So this attempt by this Government is nothing new.

Mr. Tonkin: It is, because we were committed to deep-mine coal and there were surplus men as a result of the cost-plus principle.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Nevertheless, I make this point: that because of the contracts which the previous Government made, some 100 men were directly displaced. The previous Government, presumably, in a responsible manner, sought employment for those men; and a great many of them were employed in the Forests Department. It is anticipated that should the Government be successful in winning cheap coal from Collie the men who will be displaced will be found alternative employment. Perhaps the greater number of them will be found employment in the Forests Department.

There are plans for the future for all of the men who will be displaced. The Public Works Department has plans for some, and other departments have plans for others. It is conceivable that in a comparatively short time quite a number of those who are employed in those avenues will, if they so desire, be re-employed in the mining industry—so that history could repeat itself.

It is essential that the Government should attempt to fulfil its election promise to win cheap coal, not merely for the fulfilling of a promise, but also because

the Government feels it is in the best interests of the State, of future industry, and of reduced costs.

Some members made mention of the fact that the people of Collie had, for a long number of years—they did not merely specify the last 18 months or two years—been living in an atmosphere of fear. I go so far as to say this: that whilst the miners continue to demand that all coal must be won from deep-mining coal, when there is open-cut coal available, there will always be the fear of displacement of numbers of personnel when contracts are called; because I have no doubt in my own mind that if the Opposition were in power, it would attempt, by some means or other, to reduce costs. If costs could be reduced with a minimum of displacement of personnel, then presumably a Labor Government would attempt to do that. This Government promised, in the pre-election period, that it would win cheap coal in the interests of the State.

Mr. Toms: It also promised that no-one would be sacked.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: There are far more employed at the present time on a *per capita* basis than when the previous Government went out of power.

Mr. May: Not at Collie.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I have endeavoured to show that, as reasonably as possible, the Government will find alternative employment for the men who are displaced. It is unfortunate that in a matter like this members' minds are frequently clouded by political prejudice and they can see no further than the immediate future. I would say that the future of Collie is tied up with the removal of fear by an appreciation of what is best for them in regard to a proportion of the coal to be won at cheap prices.

Mr. Toms: Don't you think the miners have had a far-sighted view with regard to their industry?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: If they adhere to the opinion that there should not be any cheap coal, they are not facing up to the problem realistically. That is my considered view.

Several points were raised by various members. The members for Beeloo and Pilbara mentioned that it was necessary for the development of mineral production in this State—particularly the production of iron—that there should be a complete relaxation on the export of iron ore. Other minerals were mentioned, including manganese. It is public knowledge that the Premier and the Minister for Mines have endeavoured very strenuously to persuade the Commonwealth Government in this regard. Those efforts are apparently being continued and it is hoped that it will not be long before a substantial relaxation can be made.

Mr. Bickerton: What is the purpose behind the Commonwealth Government refusing an export license?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Apparently to conserve the quantities of iron ore existing, in order to provide for Australia's future. The Premier and the Minister for Mines have endeavoured to convey to the Commonwealth Government that the necessity for conserving iron ore does not apply so much now as it did five, 10, or 15 years ago, because of the fact that more deposits have been found. There are known deposits of greater tonnage, and it is felt that relaxation could be made. I think it has been a question of endeavouring to ensure Australia's future requirements of iron ore.

Various members have mentioned the Marshall report. Some expressed doubts as to the qualifications of Mr. Marshall himself. But it is a fact that the Joint Coal Board recommended him to the Government, and he is a qualified mining engineer of considerable experience and one who would not lightly make any report. I consider that if Mr. Marshall had, in his report, suggested that the amount of coal which could be easily won was something in the nature of 20,000,000 tons, members opposite would have been entirely happy about it; it would have pleased them. But what he said did not please them because it did not fit their particular bill or suit their particular line of thought. The fact that there was so much open-cut coal available did not suit the political line of thought at the time.

Mr. Bickerton: The State in which Mr. Marshall was an engineer closed down its open-cut mines.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The member for Boulder mentioned that a recent answer to a question he asked was at variance with an answer given to the member for East Perth. I have no knowledge of that at the present time; but I would suggest that if the honourable member desires clarification, he should put his question on the notice paper or write to the Minister for Mines who will, I am sure, endeavour to provide an answer. The member for Pilbara mentioned several matters. The points he raised will be referred to the Minister for Mines who may, in his wisdom, answer them.

Other members confined themselves, in the main, to housing problems. I refer to the members for Narrogin, Warren, and Albany. The member for Warren distinguished himself by wondering whether the amount of money shown on the Estimates in regard to an increase in the number of geologists was sufficient. The figure of 21 geologists is the establishment. It is going to be difficult to secure all of those geologists.

The whole staffing is going to be rearranged by the Minister for Mines, and it is possible that at the end of the year

only a small number of extra geologists will be employed. The positions have been advertised in the Press at adequate salaries, and they will be filled as soon as possible.

Votes put and passed.

Votes—Rural & Industries Bank, £5; Lands and Surveys, £873,235; Forests, £440,350; Bush Fires Board, £19,406;

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands, Forests, and Immigration) [10.45]: I wish to introduce the Estimates for all the departments under my control at the one time, starting firstly with the Lands and Surveys Department. Land development in Western Australia, from the early years of the century, had been confined to the heavier types of soil, with the result that the greater portion of what was regarded as "safe" farming land had been selected prior to the conclusion of World War II. Millions of acres of lighter soil types of land, covered with mallee and coarse scrub, lay idle. Sporadic attempts had been made to crop this class of land, but poor yields, heavy sucker regrowth, and unsuitable machines resulted in a succession of failures.

The scientist and the engineer have now linked hands with the farmer to revolutionise his outlook and his work. Millions of acres of land that had been proving too costly to clear by pre-war methods are now being cleared at relatively cheap rates by ever-improving methods of bulldozing. Science found the answer to correcting soil deficiencies, thwarting the growth of pastures and cereals on the lighter type of plain country. Industry provided heavier and more suitable machines to aid in preparing the soil for cultivation. The three—the scientist, the engineer, and the farmer—proceeded at such speed that the 14,000,000 acres which had been cleared by the year 1946 increased to 24,000,000 by 1960.

The greatest advance in the development of land was made along the coastal strip to the east and west of Esperance, and to the north and east of Albany. Resultant pasture growths and carrying capacities excited an ever-increasing interest throughout the whole of Australia. This enthusiasm rose to its highest point during the past 12 months when the Lands Department issued more than 1,500 brochures on each subdivision of land made available for selection.

Close investigation is being made into areas of land which were set aside as possible forestry reservations. If it is found that some of the land is more suitable for agricultural purposes, soil classification preparatory to planning and subdividing into farm-sized units will be proceeded with. Much of this land is in good rainfall zones and should provide highly productive farms.

Attention has also been directed to the far northern lands of the State where the Department of Agriculture, through the

Kimberley Research Station on the Ord River, has for years experimented in the growing of tropical crops. Plans for the provision of irrigation are in the process of implementation. The potential irrigation area in the Ord River Valley is 200,000 acres.

Increasing interest in the pastoral possibilities of the 18,000,000 acres of land lying some distance eastward of Kalgoorlie, between the Trans-Australian railway and the coast, set in motion a survey which resulted in a design planned to provide 11 station units for selection.

And what of the future? There are yet about 3,000,000 acres of land within the higher rainfall belt between Geraldton and Esperance suitable for agriculture; whilst a further 5,000,000 acres, lying on the fringe of existing settlement, in the marginal zone, awaits development. The decade ahead could well see the majority of this 8,000,000 acres in the process of full-scale development. The cleared land throughout the State should reach a total of 30,000,000 acres.

The close of the decade may well find very little arable land in the south-west portion of the State, capable of economical development, remaining unselected. Intending selectors will perforce need to direct their attention to the brightening prospects of land opportunities in the northern portion of our great State.

As regards the Forests Department, forest management entails a great many associated engineering works to ensure a working force complete with communications. Some of the major items are—

- (a) Over 17,000 miles of roads, tracks and firelines receive rotational maintenance, and about one-third of this distance will be covered this year.
- (b) About 1,700 miles of telephone line and a radio network are maintained, and about 46 miles of new telephone line will be built.
- (c) Some 562 miles of new firelines and tracks are to be constructed, a considerable portion of the cost of which is covered by a general grant from the Main Roads Department which recognises the importance of the road network developed in State Forests, to serve not only forestry and sawmillers, but also, in many cases, both the public and the local farming community.
- (d) 448 houses are maintained and rented to employees, together with approximately 800 other buildings. Four additional houses will be built this year.
- (e) It is usual for the Main Roads Department to provide an amount for specific roads to be built by the Forests Department acting in the nature of a contractor, and

the amount allocated this year is £30,000. However, this finance is not included under the Reafforestation Fund, as it is a recoupable project.

- (f) It is hoped that a further 1,000,000 acres will be covered by the State Mapping Committee by air photos suitable for forestry use, and about 800,000 acres will be interpreted and mapped by our air photo interpretation branch for use in the Australian Forests Inventory for working plan data and for general land utilisation and engineering purposes. Some 150 miles of high standard control surveys are necessary to govern this work.
- (g) Fire control, including advance burning for sawmilling operations and controlled burning of hazards, will be carried out where required over about 3,500,000 acres of the total of over 4,000,000 acres of State Forests. The extension of the area over the last few years has been made possible by the opening up of some 1,600 miles of tracks and roads in the far south, including particularly the Shannon River-Frankland River-Kent River areas, and the large areas of State Forest north of the Blackwood River which was previously inaccessible.
- (h) Regeneration of all areas of jarrah and karri cut over within the State Forests amounting to an estimated 58,000 acres will be kept up to date by top disposal and seeding where necessary, following the operations of sawmillers in jarrah and karri.
- (j) About 2,600 acres of new pine plantations will be established.

As regards immigration, the Government has asked the Commonwealth Department of Immigration to increase the flow of British migrants beyond that normally attained by personal nominations, and the Commonwealth Minister for Immigration (The Hon. A. R. Downer) has approved of the selection of skilled and semi-skilled migrants for this State. The Government's policy in this matter has already been announced through the Press. A party of 149 persons arrived by the *Arcadia* last Saturday, and that was the first party of Commonwealth-sponsored migrants, as such, for nearly five years. I have been assured by the Commonwealth that everything possible is being done to recruit the right types of migrants to help Western Australia's programme of accelerated industrial expansion.

With reference to the Rural and Industries Bank, I desire to pay a tribute to the staff for the services they are performing for the community. It is expected that the new Rural and Industries Bank in Barrack Street will be opened some time

during the first three or four months of 1961. I am pleased to be able to announce that His Excellency the Governor (Sir Charles Gairdner) has agreed to perform the official opening ceremony of this building. With those few comments I present my Estimates to members.

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [10.52]: I would like to bring to the Minister's notice something which I have raised before in this Chamber—I refer to the difficulty in many north-west towns of obtaining building blocks when people wish to build in the area. It is an encouraging sign if we can attract to that area people who are prepared to build houses. However, there is a great deal of delay occasioned where surveys are concerned.

Some two years ago I mentioned this matter with respect to Point Samson. I also saw the Lands Department about it and surveys were carried out. But still to my knowledge those blocks have not been sold. Some 16 were surveyed at Point Samson and a number at Roebourne. Recently my inquiries through the Lands Department revealed that within the next couple of weeks those blocks will be auctioned—that is, at Roebourne—and some few weeks later the blocks at Point Samson will be auctioned.

But this difficulty occurs not only in those two towns; it arises also at Port Hedland. Apparently considerable delay is occasioned because the Lands Department has only one surveyor in the whole of the north-west, and he goes through these areas once a year. I would have thought it possible to have a survey team so that the surveying of a large number of these blocks could be done in order that blocks could always be available for people who wanted to build. I had a letter from the Roebourne Road Board in connection with this matter, and among other things the letter states—

The second matter concerns the residents of Point Samson.

This is on a leasing matter.

We have a letter from Mr. J. Pearson who at one time applied for lots 65 and 66, Point Samson, and was granted a five-year lease on them. Since then he has built a residence on each lot.

He now wishes to get greater tenure of the lots by way of a freehold lease, and has been advised by the Lands Department that he must now surrender the two lots, and then the department will sell them by public auction and if Mr. Pearson manages to purchase them all is well, but should someone else outbid him he loses the lots and the houses as well, or at least this is how it appears.

I have mentioned before in this Chamber that this system of auction is not as good as it may appear on the surface, particularly so far as the north-west is concerned. It may be all right if an adequate number

of building blocks is available, but with the surveying position as it is at the moment, a number of people have to wait for two or three years for blocks of land, and then suddenly four or five blocks are auctioned at the one time; consequently they bring an inflated price. The case mentioned in the letter concerns a person who was leasing blocks and now wishes to purchase. As he has built on those blocks I do not think it is fair that they should now be put up for auction. The letter goes on—

There has also been about 16 new town lots surveyed in Point Samson and 40 in Roebourne, and although people are wanting to take up these lots, they are refused on the excuse that they are not open for selection. This is definitely retarding the building and growth of both towns and writing to the Lands Department on the subject gets us nowhere.

It is also known that preference is apparently given to some people who have been allowed freehold leases yet others cannot get blocks in any way at all.

Your assistance is now requested in having something definite arranged with the Lands Department in throwing open for selection the lots surveyed in Roebourne and Point Samson and allowing either freehold or a long-term lease so that those who take up these lots can safely spend money on the erection of residences.

As you can see, the unsatisfactory position that exists here at present does nothing towards helping the towns of the north or the people who wish to live in them.

The board has suggested that in the case of people who wish to acquire blocks freehold they should be allowed to do so at, say, £50 per lot.

I have always been of the opinion that the price of a block of land in the north-west should be the cost involved in the surveying of the land and no more. If a person is prepared to expend money in building a house to road board specifications surely he should be given the block of land on which to build it. We are certainly not short of land up there—that is about the only thing we have plenty of—and I realise that there are certain restrictions so far as subdivisions are concerned because the road board cannot always supply the facilities required, such as water and light.

But when the survey is made I think the land should be thrown open to anyone who wishes to build to certain specifications in a certain period of time. I feel that the cost of the survey should be the only charge on that block of land. I do not think that is in any way unreasonable, provided it is to be one man one block with the condition that he build thereon.

So if the Minister could assist in some shape or form in altering the present system that operates it would help a great deal. What is more important, he should endeavour to speed up the availability of these blocks of land, and have some blocks on hand so that anyone coming into the town and deciding to settle there could acquire one of them. If this could be done, it would be a great help to the area. Many people who decide to settle in the north are unable at the time to get a State Housing Commission home. They say, "I have a job; I am quite happy with the area, and I will build here." One is then faced with the position of telling them that they cannot get a block of land. They are not able to understand this, of course, when they see the many miles of spinifex country around them. They naturally feel that blocks of land should not be at all difficult to obtain.

A further matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the Minister is the question of some of the abandoned stations. At the present time I am not able to ascertain the policy of the Lands Department in not granting to people leases of those stations which have been abandoned. At the moment they only provide a harbour for vermin; and yet many people have great difficulty in obtaining any type of lease from the Lands Department on the ground that it is making a general resurvey of the whole issue before making any allocations.

There is one person in the Onslow district who has been trying for a considerable time to take up a selection in that area. The letter from him reads as follows:—

The attached letter from the office of the Under-Secretary for Lands is a sample of replies I have received from that department during the past 12 months. At present mustering cattle on Yalleen, I have my own plant of 25 horses and a herd of breeding cows.

The leases—
and then he numbers them—

all have a number of cleanskin cattle running on them, and the land and permanent waters are of sufficient merit to warrant release of the areas as an economic station unit. I am particularly anxious to acquire these leases and develop them as a cattle station. The presence of an extraordinary number of wild dogs at present on these vacant leases and the regular movement of these animals to nearby sheep stations is alone a strong local reason for the immediate release of the blocks concerned.

I would be able to obtain adequate finance for the initial mustering and development of the leases. My experience in this area includes former positions as overseer and manager on two

stations in the nearby tableland district; and I feel that I am fully conversant with local conditions.

So I feel that the reason for his application being knocked back would not have been lack of experience in that type of work. Apparently the only satisfaction he could get from the Lands Department is the reply which reads as follows:—

I am in receipt of your letter of the 9th August concerning late pastoral leases Nos. and wish to advise that these late leases together with the land between Karratha Station and the Fortescue River is vacant, but is not at the moment available for selection. All vacant Crown land and abandoned stations in this area have been withdrawn from selection to enable a design of subdivision to be prepared so that land can be released in economic station unit sizes.

It is not known at this juncture when this land will be released for selection, but your name has been recorded in this office to enable full details to be forwarded when available.

Mr. Bovell: How long have they been in that condition there?

Mr. BICKERTON: Does the Minister mean the stations?

Mr. Bovell: Yes.

Mr. BICKERTON: I do not know; but I imagine the Minister would be able to look it up for me. I should think it is a considerable time.

Mr. Bovell: That is quite right; and we are doing all we can in the matter.

Mr. BICKERTON: There we have another example of someone who is prepared to have a go but seems to be held up. I am sorry that the interjection of the Minister has only just penetrated. I take it he was implying that the present position obtained before this Government came into power.

Mr. Bovell: Yes.

Mr. BICKERTON: That could be the case, but I could not care less. As I said previously, I bring matters up on the floor of the House, which I am entitled to do; and surely I can get some satisfaction other than being told that the position was the same when the previous Government was in office. I could not care less if the present position obtained when the Collier Government was in office. I am merely asking the Minister to be good enough to intimate just what is the policy of the present Government in connection with this type of person, and those similar to him.

I have made application on behalf of three or four people along similar lines. So I hope the Minister will be good enough to forget about the past Government—

Mr. Bovell: I never referred to the past Government.

Mr. BICKERTON: —and what happened during its term of office, and just get on with the job in hand; then everyone will be happy. I admit there are reasons for many things, and possibly lots of the leases in the past have been hastily given out to the wrong people. That is another point, and I have no doubt the Lands Department is paying for it now. I do not mind the department investigating; that is its job, but I do think that these people who are anxious to go ahead in these matters should have something definite to aim at in the future.

Mr. Bovell: Fair enough.

MR. MOIR (Boulder) [11.8]: I would like to raise a few matters for the consideration of the Minister. On several occasions before in this House I have raised the question of allocating grazing areas in close proximity to the towns of Kalgoorlie and Boulder. Apparently my previous references have had no effect, because the things about which I have complained are still going on.

Some years ago there was set aside an area of land around Kalgoorlie and Boulder—some 12 miles on each side—which was to be conserved as a green belt. At that time the country had been denuded of undergrowth, scrub, and trees; and a policy was carried out by the Forests Department whereby the timber was conserved.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order! There is too much talking.

Mr. MOIR: People were not allowed to remove that timber. As a result of this, the country became rejuvenated, and the area was covered with scrub; the tree growth was rather remarkable and minimised to a great extent the dust nuisance that prevailed on the goldfields for many years. With successive good seasons we find people applying for land around that district and being granted it evidently without consultation with the Forests Department, and, as far as I am aware, without consultation with the Mines Department.

The Minister would be aware that there is provision in the Land Act that the Department cannot grant land in the goldfields area without first consulting the Mines Department and seeking its approval. I very much doubt whether that was done in this instance; and today we find returning, the conditions which have been kept at bay for so long. Indeed, at one time the Government took steps to foster that green belt. For many years a sum of £3,000 was set aside on the Estimates for use by local authorities in the propagation of the green belt. There were, however, three local authorities involved in the district, and they did not seem to be able to reach agreement on a scheme to

administer the fund and carry out the projects. As a result, the matter was left in abeyance, and finally that sum of money disappeared from the Estimates.

The policy followed by the Lands Department has been in direct contradiction to that followed by the Forests Department. The Forests Department is jealously concerned about that area, and the Lands Department, by throwing that land open, is allowing graziers to take it over, thus destroying the work of years. The position is so bad at present that the fences of the graziers come to within a mile or so of the towns; and this of course restricts the movements of the people of those towns because they cannot move very far from the towns, or go off the roadway, without trespassing on some pastoralists' properties. That is most undesirable. There is quite enough land in those areas to supply pastoralists, without allowing them to encroach on an area that has been set aside for the purpose of a green belt around the towns.

I would like the Minister to understand that I have a great respect for the officers of the Forests Department. I think they do an excellent job. As I pointed out previously, sometimes I think they are over-zealous in their conservation of timber in the goldfields area. We have had experience of timber being conserved there and we know that over the years all the usable timber has been cut out for up to 100 miles around Kalgoorlie. The timber that is there now is principally all regrowth that has taken place in the last 50 or 60 years; and that has been conserved by the Forests Department. In my opinion, however, it has gone too far in conserving this timber.

I pointed out in this House some years ago that the Forests Department was preventing timber from being obtained from these areas, and thus forcing timber-getters to go further out, which of course made it an uneconomic proposition for the people in Kalgoorlie to use firewood. Unhappily, my words came true, because a few years ago the price of firewood was so high that most of the mines went on to other fuels, including the Boulder Power Corporation, which went over to coal with the consequence that large areas of this timber will never be used for anything. It has been conserved too jealously.

Another matter which concerns me is evidence I have of victimisation in the allocation of areas for cutting firewood. There is one particular instance which I wish to bring to the notice of the Minister, and it is one of which I take a very grave view. I do not know the reason for this particular happening, but it concerns the supply of wood to the abattoir at Kalgoorlie. There was one contractor who had been contracting for about three years after tendering at a price of 19s. per ton. I understand the previous

price was somewhere in the vicinity of 23s. per ton. That man obtained the tender and supplied wood to the abattoir for about three years.

I was informed by the manager of the abattoir that he had no complaint to make about the supply of wood from that contractor who he said had always been satisfactory. The only complaint the manager had at one time was in regard to the type of wood being supplied; and that was not the contractor's fault, because he was directed by the Forests Department officials to cut a certain type of wood on the block. That was apparently the policy of the department.

Somewhere about December of last year fresh tenders were called; and I think five tenders were submitted. That man submitted a tender for 19s. per ton, but another man tendered at 18s. per ton and obtained the contract. Evidently the new contractor had some difficulty in making arrangements to commence the contract; and, in the meantime, the abattoir was running short of wood. Therefore the old contractor was asked whether he could supply the wood.

The contractor went to the Forests Department to see whether he could obtain the wood from Mt. Monger, some 28 miles distant. However, the department said "No." The man had to cart the wood on a fairly rough road from the old area situated at Kurnalpi, some 58 miles away. The road to Mt. Monger was a good one. At that time heavy rains were falling in Kalgoorlie and the roads were impassable. However, that man was expected to obtain the wood from Kurnalpi. He managed to get some 40 tons from various mining companies and supplied that wood to the abattoir.

When the new contractor started supplying the abattoir he obtained his wood from Mt. Monger and that caused quite an amount of astonishment. The previous contractor was refused permission to cut wood at Mt. Monger, yet he was purely obliging the abattoir; he was under no obligation to supply it with wood because his tender had been refused and he was no longer the contractor. Therefore there was considerable astonishment when the new contractor was allowed to obtain his firewood from Mt. Monger.

Subsequently, representations were made to me, and I wrote to the local forestry officer in Kalgoorlie, pointing out to him what had been told to me; and I asked for his comments. He wrote me a letter which I did not appreciate, because he told me I had been misled. He said it was the practice in an emergency to grant areas of this nature. Yet it was exactly the same sort of emergency when the man asked for permission to supply the abattoir with wood from Mt. Monger at a time when he was under no obligation to supply.

It had already been pointed out to me that the contractors supplying the hospital were allowed, during the period of emergency which had arisen on account of the rain, to obtain their wood from a block situated at Gindalbi. I subsequently found out that the hospital contractors were supplying wood at 26s. per ton and they did not get it from Kurnalpi; they had had the block at Gindalbi for some years and could go to it at any time they wished.

I take the view that the letter in reply to me was distinctly misleading. It said that the contractor for the abattoir was carting from Mt. Monger only while the roads were in a bad condition. I subsequently checked and found that that contractor was obtaining wood from the Mt. Monger area in May and there was no emergency as far as the roads were concerned at that time. However, he was still allowed to get his wood from Mt. Monger.

The area at Mt. Monger provides excellent firewood, so that man had the benefit of carting his wood about half the distance it had to be previously carted; and he had the advantage of a far better type of wood—heavier wood. That was a much more economic proposition. Had the tenderers known that the area at Mt. Monger would be available to them, they would have probably tendered lower prices. Certainly the previous contractor would have done so. He told me he could have tendered at a price of 15s. per ton and it would have still been an economic proposition.

I do not know the reasons that brought all this about, but to me it appears as though there has been some favouritism. I was also told by a private contractor who came to me that he had applied to obtain dry firewood—not green firewood—from Mt. Monger and he was refused by the Forests Department and sent to an area much further out. So it is not to be wondered at that the firewood contractors in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area are rather disturbed at such a state of affairs.

I bring the matter to the notice of the Minister in the hope that he will make some inquiries and see what explanation is offered by his departmental officers. I have the full details concerning the matter. I have the dates; statements from the contractors; and the dates on which the rain fell; and I know the condition of the road at that time. I made an inspection of the area at Mt. Monger some time during May, and firewood was certainly being cut there. A man was camped on the block and he was engaged in the cutting of wood.

According to the Forests Department officer at Kalgoorlie no-one should have been cutting wood there at all. So it looked to me as though discrimination had been shown against the contractor who

had been supplying wood to the abattoir at 19s. per ton while the previous price was 22s. per ton. The price of 19s. per ton compares very favourably with the price of 26s. per ton which is received at the present time by the contractors who are supplying the Kalgoorlie district hospital. I hope the Minister will have a look at this matter and let me know the result of his inquiries.

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [11.26]: In regard to the question of our forest wealth, I was perturbed a few weeks ago to read in the first interim report of the Crown Land Tribunal, which was issued some time ago, that some thousands of acres of jarrah forest were going to be thrown open for agriculture. I view this with great concern, because forest land, as forest land, can sustain double the population of agricultural land, as I established by the first set of questions I asked in this House.

It has been estimated that for 350 acres of forest land, one person can be gainfully employed; and it requires something like 800 acres of agricultural land to sustain one person in gainful employment. Therefore, on that ground alone there is no justification whatsoever for turning over forest land or potential forest land for agricultural purposes.

I hope the Minister will listen to the advice of his Conservator of Forests in the matter of judgment whether the land shall be retained as forest land or whether it shall be turned over for agriculture. At this juncture I would like to back up what I am saying and quote an extract from the report of the Forests Department of June, 1959. What I wish to quote was written by the Conservator of Forests, and it bears out not only what I say in relation to the sustaining of population, but the fact that it is most detrimental to the forest economy of the State to turn over any jarrah forest whatsoever to agriculture because it is then lost forever. Mr. Harris had this to say—

Jarrah is not only one of the most valuable hardwoods but there is more timber produced from jarrah than from any single species in Australia—approximately 10 per cent. of Australia's total timber production.

The regeneration of the jarrah forest presents some unique aspects and problems. In the seedling stage it remains dormant for many years before it is ready to develop from a low bush to a sapling. This dormant period is seldom less than 20 years, while it is developing a ligno-tuber, and a deep underground root system to enable it to meet the harsh conditions of the poor gravelly ironstone (laterite) soils, and the heat and drought of long summers. In the natural forest there is usually a good stocking of this advance growth merely awaiting the opening up of the forest,

by logging or natural death of older trees, to come away vigorously and develop saplings.

Therefore, it would be easy to go into a potential jarrah forest in this State where the seed is dormant and imagine there was no forest timber at all. Mr. Harris continues—

This long dormant period is thus of little effect on regeneration in forest conditions.

If, however, this forest is cleared for agriculture, and the existing seedling growth destroyed by cultivation, it is doubtful whether such land could ever be economically reconverted to jarrah forest, if in the future it was deemed desirable to do. The very long dormant period of the seedling stage, especially on open sun baked land, would render it an uneconomic proposition.

The karri seedling does not have this dormant period, and cleared fields will quickly revert to karri forest, if seed is available.

Consequently, when an area of jarrah forest is properly cleared, it is lost beyond recall, on any economic basis. There is no road back. Further alienation of jarrah forest should therefore not be lightly undertaken without the fullest consideration of all that such an irretraceable step involves.

Attempts to grow jarrah forests in other countries have failed miserably. It remains an uniquely West Australian forest.

I hope that, after hearing that, the Minister will turn a deaf ear to that part of the interim report by this tribunal which recommends that thousands of acres of jarrah forest be turned over to agriculture.

It has been stated that part of the labour force at Collie will be employed by the Forests Department. I should have imagined that the Government, before it took the steps it is now contemplating, would make long-range plans for the absorption of these men. I find, under the appropriate division for the Forests allocation, an increase of £6,703. I am wondering how many more men will be employed on such an estimate.

It could be imagined that provision would be made under the Loan Estimates for employment of men in the Forests Department; but I find that the Loan Estimates for forests are exactly the same as they were last year, namely £100,000. I wish the Government, before it took such drastic steps as it contemplates at the present time, would at least give some forethought and do some forward planning in order that these men might be absorbed with the least amount of upset and for the benefit of the economy of the State in general.

Mr. Brand: How do you know we have not done the planning?

MR. ANDREW (Victoria Park) [11.35]: My contribution to this debate will be brief. The Minister referred to migration in respect of Western Australia. Migration is very important to this State and it is something to which greater attention should be given. This is a sparsely populated State. It needs development and, with development, a larger population. The Minister pointed out that the Federal Minister for Migration had stated that he was going to do his best to help Western Australia in this matter. When I was in London a number of people approached me, when they knew I was from Western Australia, and told me that they had been to the Commonwealth department in London; and when these people had expressed a desire to come to Western Australia they were advised to go to the Eastern States. The reason given was that the prospects in the Eastern States were better than in Western Australia.

Mr. Bovell: That has all been altered now.

Mr. ANDREW: Some of these people told me that Western Australia was the State of their choice. In fact, one person to whom I spoke did come to Western Australia and is living in South Perth at the present time. I was under the impression that those who advised migrants to go to the Eastern States themselves came from the Eastern States. In other words, the migration office in London is staffed by personnel from the Eastern States, who are more interested in their own States than in Western Australia. I suggest that the Minister take this matter up with the Federal Minister, since it is important to this State. I can vouch for the truth of what I have said, and can bring witnesses to support my statement.

During the last four years Western Australia has lost, through interstate migration, some 16,000 people to the Eastern States. That is a situation which must be rectified. It is no use bringing migrants in by the front door and letting them go out by the back door nearly as fast. I suggest the Minister give some thought to this matter.

MR. TONKIN (Melville) [11.38]: There are two matters I would like to raise with the Minister. Several months ago my attention was drawn to a letter—it appeared to be a circular letter—which was sent out from the Lands Department in connection with the nomination of a migrant. The letter emphasised that the employment position in Western Australia was very difficult, and no migrant should think of coming to Western Australia unless he had a job to come to.

Mr. Bovell: Was the letter from the Commonwealth migration office?

Mr. TONKIN: No; I think it was from the State office. I am not too sure about that. It was with regard to a person whom

it was intended to bring to Western Australia, and the letter set out quite clearly that the employment position in this State was difficult and it was most unwise for a migrant to contemplate coming here without first having a job to come to. I would like to know whether those letters are still being sent out.

Mr. Bovell: They have never been sent out, to my knowledge.

Mr. TONKIN: That does not get us very far—I saw the letter.

Mr. Bovell: I would like to see it.

Mr. TONKIN: I was under the impression it came from the Minister's department.

Mr. Bovell: Not with my authority; and not to my knowledge.

Mr. TONKIN: I would like the Minister to check up on this matter.

Mr. Bovell: I certainly will.

Mr. TONKIN: I would like the Minister to explain how the difficulty arose with regard to the land which the Government thought it owned, but did not, and was going to sell to Key West Enterprises. It seems extraordinary to me that officers of a Government department were unaware of the fact that the land had been under the ownership of the South Perth Municipality for some time, and could allow an agreement to proceed as far as it did without discovering the position. I can only go on what I read in the Press. No doubt the newspaper concerned would have inquired into the facts of the matter before it published details. I would be grateful if the Minister would offer an explanation.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands, Forests and Immigration—in reply) [11.41]: In responding briefly to the comments raised by several members, I would like to thank them for their contribution. The member for Pilbara referred to building blocks in north-west towns. I agree that it is most important to expedite the availability of building blocks in the north-west. Population in that area is most vital to the general economy of the State, and I will certainly look into this matter and see whether the releasing of building blocks, particularly freehold blocks, can be expedited. Whether or not we can go so far as to charge only for out-of-pocket expenses, or survey fees, I would not give any guarantee.

Earlier this year I spent five weeks in the north-west, and was accompanied by the Under-Secretary for Lands, the Surveyor-General, and the Deputy Surveyor-General. Every local authority from Geraldton to Wyndham was notified, and we conferred with each one, with the exception of the Ashburton Road Board which, due to a misunderstanding, was not available when we passed through Onslow.

However, it was not the department's fault. The local authorities we met included those of Halls Creek, West Kimberley, Broome, Port Hedland, and Carnarvon. I would point out that all members were advised that I would be in the north-west during that particular period.

Apart from perhaps The Hon. F. J. S. Wise, who is now in another place, but who represented that area, I do not think any Minister for Lands has spent so long in the north-west as I did on that occasion. I took with me the Under-Secretary for Lands, the Surveyor-General, and the Deputy Surveyor-General so that I would have the top executives from my department with me to confer with the local authorities. I believe that those authorities appreciated the visit, and I am confident that a great amount of good has been the result.

Mr. W. Hegney: Which months were you there?

Mr. BOVELL: During May and June.

Mr. W. Hegney: I thought so.

Mr. BOVELL: The member for Mt. Hawthorn was at one time the member for Pilbara, and he has now migrated south. The member for Boulder referred to grazing areas in the green belt around the Eastern Goldfields. I am of the opinion that wherever possible the green belt should be maintained, and I will look into the position.

Regarding firewood, contracts are handled by the Conservator of Forests, and I will draw the attention of the Conservator to the comments of the member for Boulder in order that further consideration may be given to them.

The member for Warren referred to the Crown Lands Tribunal. The question of the State's economy enters into this matter and careful consideration will be given to the possibility of the land being better used in the interests of the State's economy for agricultural development or, alternatively, for reservation of State forests. In the first report I made available to the member for Warren at his request, it will be noted that the tribunal recommends that there are areas available for agricultural development. It also recommends that there are areas which should be taken up for State forests and further areas which should be classed as forest reserves.

Close consideration is being given to its recommendations. The tribunal has visited Collie and the Avon Valley district, and it proposes to go to Mundaring, Margaret River, and later to Greenbushes.

Mr. May: Has the tribunal submitted its report on its visit to Collie yet?

Mr. BOVELL: No. So far as the Collie area is concerned the tribunal had to take into consideration the recommendations of the Water Conservation Board and the Water Purity Committee. Both of these

bodies exercise a great deal of weight in regard to State forests and the growing of timber. There again, in such matters we must study the economy of the State, because water is a first priority and our supplies are extremely limited. Unfortunately for the member for Collie, the Collie area is a watershed for the Wellington Dam, which must be maintained at all cost. We cannot afford to risk any building-up of salinity in our water supply, because if that occurred it would endanger many parts of the State.

Mr. May: You have given us nothing to replace it.

Mr. BOVELL: What does the honourable member mean by that?

Mr. May: You have reserved all that land but given us nothing in return.

Mr. BOVELL: I would remind the member for Collie that an announcement was recently made to the effect that Collie is going to have established at that centre a £10,000,000 power station.

Mr. May: That is in the sweet by and by. I am talking about the present.

Mr. BOVELL: We will consider the report of the Crown Lands Tribunal on the Collie area and also the opinions of the Water Purity Committee and the Water Conservation Board. The opinions of both of those bodies must be taken into account; and until they are received, the tribunal is not in a position to submit its second interim report, which will deal with the Collie area.

The member for Victoria Park spoke about immigration, and I thank him for his comments. There was a rumour abroad—if I may use that term following the discussion that ensued earlier this evening—regarding the difficulties that confronted migrants in Western Australia. I do not want to elaborate on that position because evidence has been presented to me that the former State Government did not encourage migration to Western Australia. That period has passed and this Government is encouraging immigrants to come to this State where there are employment opportunities and where the immigrants will not affect the employment of our own citizens. I will certainly make further inquiries following what the member for Victoria Park had to say on the matter.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition raised the question of a letter opposing immigration to Western Australia. That is what I understood him to say. That letter is purported to come from the State Immigration Department. The assertion is most alarming to me, because when I assumed office as the State Minister for Immigration I issued a direction that it was Government policy to encourage migration to Western Australia wherever there were employment opportunities offering.

Mr. W. Hegney: Where there were employment opportunities offering. That is what the previous Government did, too. So do not try to mislead the Committee.

Mr. BOVELL: There must be more employment opportunities in Western Australia now than there were previously. However, I will have that matter investigated because it is a most alarming statement and contrary to the instructions I issued to the acting Under Secretary for Lands. He was advised of the Government's policy as outlined by the Premier in his policy speech. The Under Secretary for Lands was in Great Britain on long service leave.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition also referred to the Key West project. When the proposals were submitted and a conference was held between representatives of the South Perth council, the State Government, and the Key West organisation, it was thought that there was an area of 10½ acres of Crown land that could be made available to the company. The South Perth Council did not realise that it owned the land at the time and it was not until the Department of Lands & Surveys made subsequent inquiries that it was discovered that the land did not belong to the Government.

The department accepted, at its face value, the impression that it was Crown land; but during its investigations it discovered that 7.7 acres of this land was not Crown land but was, in effect, land vested in the old South Perth Road Board in fee simple. If my memory serves me correctly this land was vested in the South Perth Road Board in 1940 when the late Mr. Willcock was Premier and The Hon. F. J. S. Wise was Minister for Lands. After the department discovered that the land did not belong to the Crown it advised the South Perth Council accordingly. I think I have answered most of the points raised by those members who spoke on these estimates.

Votes put and passed.

Progress reported, and leave granted to sit again.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Thursday and Friday

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [11.55 p.m.]: Before the House adjourns, might I remind members of the Christmas party which will be held tomorrow night. The House will not be sitting after tea tomorrow. On Friday, however, the House will commence sitting at 11 a.m.

House adjourned at 11.56 p.m.