

explained quite reasonably why it was not brought into effect. One reason for the delay was the appointment of a director, and the appointment of the people who were to be responsible for carrying out the Act.

Mr. May: It still would not have been proclaimed until March of this year.

Mr. NALDER: That does not matter; it would still have provided for this situation.

Mr. May: But the previous Government would not allow the Fitzgerald River development to go ahead. For some reason the previous Minister for Mines did not allow it to go through.

Mr. NALDER: If the provisions of the legislation had been carried out, it would have been possible for the development to proceed. This delay has been occasioned to the disadvantage of the people living in the southern areas. There is no doubt that if the development had proceeded there would have been jobs available. I recall that the member for Albany, in his television interview, blamed the whole situation on the rural sector.

Mr. Cook: Not the whole of it.

Mr. NALDER: Words to that effect.

Mr. Cook: That was one of the factors.

Mr. NALDER: I am only stating what I understood from the television interview. However, I am making the point that every opportunity has to be taken when development is planned, because we cannot afford to allow time to roll on indefinitely.

Mr. Bertram: Are you saying that we should proceed with the Fitzgerald River reserve development?

Mr. NALDER: I never said that at all. I said that if the Act was proclaimed the registrar could hear the claim. If the proposition was thought to be a fair one then development could take place.

Mr. Bertam: The registrar would not make the final determination?

Mr. NALDER: That is quite right. I am saying that if provision was made for this development to proceed then a number of people could have been employed.

Mr. Bertram: I cannot follow the argument.

Mr. NALDER: The point is that development creates employment.

Mr. Bertram: But that does not start development; that starts the procedure.

Mr. NALDER: That is the situation, and for that reason I rise to support the Leader of the Opposition in his move to criticise the Government for its lack of action. It is important, in the interests of the people of this State, to have this type of legislation in operation.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—23

Mr. Blaikie	Mr. O'Connor
Sir David Brand	Mr. Reid
Mr. Court	Mr. Ridge
Mr. Coyne	Mr. Runciman
Dr. Dadour	Mr. Rushton
Mr. Gayfer	Mr. Stephens
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Williams
Mr. W. A. Manning	Mr. R. L. Young
Mr. McPharlin	Mr. W. G. Young
Mr. Mensaros	Mr. I. W. Manning
Mr. Nalder	(Teller)

Noes—23

Mr. Bateman	Mr. Hartrey
Mr. Bertram	Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Jones
Mr. Brady	Mr. Lapham
Mr. Brown	Mr. May
Mr. Burke	Mr. McIver
Mr. Cook	Mr. Moller
Mr. Davies	Mr. Norton
Mr. H. D. Evans	Mr. Sewell
Mr. T. D. Evans	Mr. A. R. Tonkin
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Harman
Mr. Graham	(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Taylor
Mr. O'Neill	Mr. J. T. Tonkin

The SPEAKER (Mr. Toms): The voting being equal, I give my casting vote with the Noes.

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Cook.

House adjourned at 10.34 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 22nd July, 1971

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (8): ON NOTICE

1.

LAND

Old Boyanup School Site

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

(1) In respect to the Old Boyanup School site, known as Reserve 6319, is this land required for future use by any other Government Department?

(2) If so—

(a) what is the name of the department; and

(b) for what purpose will the site be used?

(3) In the event of the land not being required by any department, will the area be made available for subdivision for housing purposes as desired by the Shire of Capel?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) At present investigations are being made regarding any other Governmental requirements.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) In the event of the land not being required by any Departments, it will be returned to the control of the Lands Department which is responsible for arranging future use.

2.

TRAFFIC

Accidents: Midland Crosswalk

The Hon. F. R. WHITE, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Was a student from Governor Stirling Senior High School injured by a moving vehicle at the intersection of Third Avenue and the Great Eastern Highway, Midland, between the hours of 3.15 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, the 15th July, 1971?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) at what times did the ambulance arrive at and leave the scene of the accident;
 - (b) at what time did the police arrive at the scene of the accident;
 - (c) (i) in what direction was the vehicle mentioned in (1) travelling; and
(ii) in which traffic lane was the vehicle travelling;
 - (d) prior to impact—
 - (i) was the injured student traversing the crosswalk at the intersection; and
 - (ii) if so, in which direction was she travelling?
- (3) How many similar accidents have occurred at this intersection during the past five years?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Ambulance received call 3.18 p.m. Arrived 3.22 p.m. Departed 3.30 p.m.
(b) Police arrived 3.23 p.m.
(c) (i) Easterly.
(ii) Lane nearest double white lines.
(d) (i) Yes.
(ii) Southerly.
- (3) Two previous accidents.

3.

RAILWAYS

Perth-Kalgoorlie Service

The Hon. R. T. LEESON, to the Leader of the House:

In previous years a special train has conveyed passengers from

Kalgoorlie to Perth to enable them to attend the football grand final—

- (1) Is it the intention to make the same facilities available to the Goldfields' residents this year?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "yes" will the Railway Department arrange a much earlier departure from Perth, having in mind the extra distance and time involved to enable the arrival in Kalgoorlie not later than 7 a.m. on the Monday?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The request will be examined and, if practicable, the time table arranged accordingly.

4.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Shire of Exmouth

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has further consideration been given to the appointment of an Elected Council for the Shire of Exmouth?
- (2) If an Elected Council is not to be appointed in the near future, will the Minister consider the formation of an Advisory Committee to work in conjunction with the Commissioner for the Shire?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS replied:

- (1) Yes, but no immediate change is proposed.
- (2) Yes.

5.

HOSPITAL

Donnybrook

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) In view of the fact that no residential doctor is at present available at Donnybrook, what will be the role of the local hospital while existing conditions continue?
- (2) Are there any prospects of obtaining a residential doctor to serve the Donnybrook District?
- (3) What will the future of the hospital be in the long term?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) The question is difficult to understand because there has been no residential doctor at Donnybrook for well over a year. The town is served by doctors visiting from other towns and the role of the Hospital is continuing to be to care for such patients as are admitted to it by those doctors.
- (2) Whether there are any prospects of obtaining a residential doctor to serve the Donnybrook District is a matter chiefly for the Shire

Council and any private practitioners who show interest in the town. The Department has no means of sending a doctor to work at Donnybrook. It is usual for Shire Councils seeking the services of a resident doctor to advertise on the basis of a guaranteed income and where this is done by arrangement with the Department, the Department is prepared to assist substantially towards payment of any amounts under the guarantee.

- (3) The future of the hospital in the long term depends upon a number of factors, the principal one of which is whether or not Donnybrook is successful in obtaining a resident doctor. If it does not, the present doctors may continue as they are now doing, which would mean no change from the present circumstances. If those doctors cease to provide any service to Donnybrook and no others replace them, then the hospital would cease to be used for in-patients and would probably function only as a Nursing Post for out-patients.

6. WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mine Workers' Relief

The Hon. R. T. LEESON, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is there any means test imposed on applicants for Mine Workers' Relief after the disabled worker has exhausted his entitlement to Workers' Compensation?
- (2) If so, what is the test?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Before an early silicotic can obtain benefits he must generally be in receipt of a pension payable by the Commonwealth. In this instance, if the pensioner's means are increased by receipt of Mine Workers' Relief-Benefits to the extent that his pension is reduced, then the benefit payable by the Fund is reduced correspondingly so that the mine worker does not lose any overall payment but the money which normally would be deductible by the Commonwealth is so preserved to the Fund.

7. LAND

Timber Rights

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has the Government given any consideration to the matter of immediate abolition of timber rights to the Crown on freehold and conditional purchase land,

thus allowing the timber to become the sole property of the landholder?

- (2) If the answer to (1) is "no" will the Government give favourable consideration to this suggestion?
- (3) If not, why?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1), (2) and (3) Reservation to the Crown of marketable timber existing on Crown land is provided in the Regulations to the Land Act, and is designed to enable the earlier release for selection of land that would otherwise be withheld from selection until the marketable timber had been removed.

The reservation lapses at the expiration of a period of 20 years from the date of the issue of the Grant.

Consideration is currently being given to a request to change Policy in this regard.

8.

HEALTH

Assistance to Silicotic Miners

The Hon. R. T. LEESON, to the Leader of the House:

If a doctor attending an ex miner suffering from pneumoconiosis advises oxygen would be beneficial in assisting his breathing mechanism, would the State Government Insurance Office provide oxygen for home use by the silicotic person?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

A worker is entitled, under the Workers' Compensation Act, to the reasonable expenses incurred in his medical treatment.

It is generally accepted that there is no cure for pneumoconiosis and usually there is very little treatment involved; however, if in any particular case, the worker can demonstrate that the supply of oxygen is a necessary and reasonable expense in his treatment, the State Government Insurance Office would recoup that expense.

SUPPLY BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [2.42 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended so as to enable consideration of the Supply Bill to have precedence each day before the resumption of the debate on the Address-in-Reply, and to be passed through all stages at any one sitting.

Question put and passed.

Second Reading

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [2.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is the usual measure introduced when Parliament meets, to grant the supply required for carrying on the services of the State. The amount of funds involved is clearly set out in the Bill before members.

The issue of \$175,000,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, which is proposed, exceeds by \$30,000,000 the amount authorised by the Supply Act of 1970. This increased issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund is necessary if we are to finance the higher expenditure on Government services which is due mainly to a steep rise in the Government's wage bill.

As is now fairly widely known, the wage movements of the financial year just concluded have greatly strained the Government's financial position. Though substantial provision was made in the 1970-71 Budget for wage increases which were expected during the year, it eventuated that the cost of award increases exceeded that provision by no less than \$14,240,000.

A further adverse effect on Government revenue occurred during the financial year just concluded when probate duty fell short of expectations by \$1,500,000, stamp duties on conveyances and transfers were down by \$2,300,000, and mining royalties and rents failed by \$2,300,000 to reach the estimated revenue collection.

On the credit side there were some small offsetting increases in other items of revenue. The fact that the deficit has been held at \$4,368,000 in respect of the year just ended was due to the additional financial assistance provided by the Commonwealth Government towards the end of the year. But for the special Commonwealth assistance of \$5,000,000, together with the upward revision of \$4,000,000 to the financial assistance grant payable to Western Australia under the formula, the State deficit would have been of unmanageable proportions.

Even so, the deficit of \$4,368,000 is very substantial indeed and the worrying feature is that we move into the 1971-72 financial year with current expenditure running ahead of revenue to that extent. Members will appreciate that any increase in revenue which becomes available to the Government this year will be required first to close that gap and only then to meet the additional full year cost of wage increases granted in the course of last year. The full cost of those increases will amount to \$40,000,000 during the current financial year.

Such a heavy increase in the cost of running Government services must give rise to concern for the reason that it becomes obvious that the first effect must

be to restrict severely the range and quality of services which the Government is able to provide.

While this problem is not restricted to Western Australia, but is common to all States, the impact in our case appears to have been relatively greater.

In recognition of the plight of the States the Commonwealth Government has, at the recent Premier's conference, agreed to provide additional assistance in 1971-72 over and above the amount we could expect to obtain from the operation of the financial assistance grants formula.

We will receive in the aggregate an additional \$7,000,000 from this source; yet it is already apparent that this will fall far short of the amount that will be needed to enable the present level of Government services to be maintained.

I am advised that the revenue Budget and the loan estimates for 1971-72 are presently in course of preparation and these will be presented to Parliament with the respective Appropriation Bills later in the session. Doubtless this will present occasion for Parliament to be advised in greater detail of developments arising from decisions taken at the Premiers' conference and our prospects for the current financial year.

The Supply Bill, now introduced to enable the Government to carry on in the meantime, proposes a grant of supply to Her Majesty of the sum of \$210,000,000, of which—as I mentioned previously—\$175,000,000 is sought from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. A sum of \$30,000,000 is sought from moneys to the credit of the General Loan Fund. The Bill makes provision also for an issue of \$5,000,000 from the Public Account to enable the Treasurer to make such temporary advances as may be necessary.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Leader of the Opposition).

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY*Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 21st July, on the following motion by The Hon. L. D. Elliott:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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

THE HON. R. J. L. WILLIAMS (Metropolitan) [2.48 p.m.]: Mr. President and honourable members: In rising to support

the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply I would first like to congratulate the Leader of the Government and his fellow Ministers on their election to the Treasury benches. I cannot be hypocritical enough to wish them a long tenure of office, but I do hope they have a very successful period during that tenure.

I would also like to extend my thanks to those Ministers and members who have received me with the greatest courtesy. That courtesy has made it much easier for me to commence my parliamentary duties in what I hope is an efficient manner. In particular, I would express my appreciation to The Hon. Ian Medcalf whose advice and help has been freely given to me before, during, and after my entry into this Parliament. I do value that assistance.

To the Clerk of this House, and his staff, I would also extend appreciation for the efficient and kindly way in which they have always succeeded in treating newcomers. All members will know what I mean because they have been afforded the same treatment themselves, from time to time. Indeed, when one sees the amount of hard work done by the staff of this Council it only serves to refute absolutely that old Confucian piece of logic which says, "if bread be the staff of life then the life of the staff is one long loaf."

I would be failing in my duty this afternoon if I did not also pay tribute to my predecessor, Dr. Gordon Hislop, who served this Parliament and the State for 29½ years. He served the people of his electorate with the same dedication that he gave to his profession. In both fields he served with great distinction and I wish him and Mrs. Hislop a long and happy retirement.

Naturally, in such an august assembly I feel humble, but I also feel quite proud of the fact that I have attained this position. This has been made possible by three distinct groups of people whom I would not leave out on any account: firstly, my parents, whose unwavering attitude provided me with the very best education they could provide, at great personal cost to themselves; secondly, as in the case of other members, my wife, who had to put up with a very long, arduous, and difficult electoral campaign—never was that part of the marriage contract which says "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer" more amply demonstrated than in the latter part of the campaign—and, thirdly, the 69,000 members of the Metropolitan Province who, of course, had the final say.

I, personally, shall never forget the tremendous amount of encouragement and support that was given to me by all loyal members of the Liberal Party in the Metropolitan Province. I thank each and every one of them, and I assure them that

I shall always be at their service to uphold and promote all the promises I was able to make before and during the elections. I shall do that to the best of my ability.

That eminent columnist, Mr. Kirwan Ward, in his column in the *Daily News* on Tuesday, the 20th July, raised a subject which made me think how close his observations were to the observations I wish to make on the subject this afternoon. In this day and age we are bedevilled by what I term "in words." I think all members know what I mean, but, to my consternation, I find that people use these words with very little knowledge of what they mean in the true sense, unless they are lexicographers.

One such word is "viable," which, coupled with the word "proposition," hit the high spots for some time. A "viable proposition" is nothing more than a workable idea. We understand parliamentary language, terminological inaccuracies, etc., but now the general public is being foisted with such "in words" as "viable proposition." Mr. Kirwan Ward mentioned the word "over-react."

But there is one word which bedevils us all. In a recent survey in a national Gallup poll it was found that only 12 per cent. of the people interviewed knew reasonably accurately what it meant; yet it has been taken for granted that the general public knows this word well, its implications, and its meanings. This word in its true meaning affects each and every member of the community. It is this word which prompted me to make these observations today. The word is "productivity."

I do not need to explain to members of this House what "productivity" means, but I know they would like me to refresh their memories and make sure we are on the same wavelength. Firstly, what it does not mean: it does not mean production, which, by definition, is the volume of goods and services measured without regard to the resources that are used up. Productivity means the volume of goods and services measured in relation to the resources that are used up. The more resources that are used up, the higher the unit cost. The better the use we make of our resources, the higher will be the level of our productivity. To say we need higher productivity is to say we need to reduce the unit cost of everything we produce, whether it be goods or services.

As I see it, it is the duty of every honourable member to do what he can to encourage a positive attitude amongst people towards this word "productivity." Efficiently applied, it can only result in a far higher standard of living for everyone. What is more, in the long run, it will decide a real standard of living which people in society can enjoy, but before we can enjoy benefits we must achieve more to share. In other words, it is incumbent

upon us to think productivity. The attitude needs to be encouraged and stimulated; then we will find that all the people will respond in their own particular fields.

I would like to quote a remark made by The Hon. Phillip Lynch, Minister for Labour and National Service, at a national conference on training for industry and commerce which was held in Canberra on the 11th May. Mr. Lynch said—

Australia's productivity growth is significantly below that of many other industrial nations with which we like to make comparisons. Our annual rate of growth of G.N.P. per worker over the long term is in the order of 2½% per annum. Sweden, Norway, The Netherlands and Denmark, countries with a similar or smaller population to ours, are achieving more than 3%, France and Germany more than 4%, Italy and Japan more than 5%.

At the moment there are 182 productivity groups across Australia, representing some 3,700 undertakings. The Productivity Promotion Council of Australia was inaugurated in 1969, and has some 550 member firms, from the largest to the smallest. Representation from these firms consists, in part, of more than 70 organisations. Along with these are the institutes of technology, the Australian Institute of Management, and the Institute of Engineers; but still the message of productivity does not get across. There is a complete communication block.

How do we explain that one day's absence involves 200,000 people in one year? Absences may be justifiable on the ground of sickness, but we have all heard that familiar phrase, "I don't feel like it today, so I will take a sickie." How do we explain that rapid job changing costs this country \$15,000,000 a year? How do we explain to managers that strong efforts are needed to make job satisfaction more attractive to their workers, rather than repelling them? How do we explain that injuries and accidents cause some 17,000 people a year to withdraw from the work force? This figure does not include the accident rate outside of their work.

Let no member of this House read into these words any attempt to pinpoint villain and culprit. There can be no attitude until the proposition "productivity" is understood, following which ordinary people will respond because they will understand. To make people aware of the word "productivity" is to help them to understand, and as I see it that is the prime duty of any legislative body in this State or in this country, if we wish to stay in the international market.

Productivity has many contributory factors and resources working to achieve it; but the greatest factor of all is the human being, and that is the one factor we waste to the highest degree. We in this country,

and particularly in this State, can ill afford to waste the efforts of the human being. Yet we do. We never seem to have the time or to be able to afford to train our people.

If one mentions the word "training" what immediately springs to mind is post-school training for the student who has just left school. Yet if we go back in history we find that the code for apprenticeships was laid down in the code of Hammurabi in the year 2,100 B.C.; and until very recently—no more than a decade ago—we had not changed that code very much. There have always been artisans, masons, craftsmen, and carpenters. Witness the archaeological discoveries of the Sumerian Palace of Kish, in Mesopotamia, which was built in 3,500 B.C. It was constructed entirely of brick and someone had to do some training to be able to erect such an edifice. Somewhere along the line someone sat down and thought about it.

We know that in our history, and in fact in the history of the whole of the British Commonwealth, following the agricultural revolution there came an interim period and it was in that interim period that the guilds and the craftsmen came into the training picture. But nothing was co-ordinated. It was left to the master, and even after the industrial revolution—and in this State until about 1959—it was still considered a viable proposition that an apprentice should serve seven years.

Where is the apprentice cooper of today? He does not have a job because we do not make barrels any more. Yet we refuse steadfastly to update our thinking on this matter, but update it we must if we are to survive. It is estimated that between 1750 and 1900 man doubled his mechanical knowledge—in other words, from the start of the industrial revolution to the beginning of this century. From 1900 to 1950, in a period of only 50 years, he doubled it again; and then from 1959, when the first propulsion rocket appeared, to 1964, he doubled it yet again.

In other words, man is progressing with his knowledge, but where is the support coming from? Where is the human factor being trained to support this wealth of technological knowledge that we have? I do not think my friends from the Country Party will disagree with me when I say that in the agricultural field we are in a transitional period. We are approaching very tremulously as a State and as a nation the start of an industrial revolution in this country. Although we have the resources of man's knowledge we are doing very little to encourage people to enter new fields. It will be incumbent upon this assembly, and upon other assemblies throughout the Commonwealth of Australia, to introduce large scale training schemes—that is, if we are to survive and if we are to uplift our productivity.

However, in this direction things have been going too slowly. In Perth we have had the Pan Indian Conference on Training and a group of experts were sent to the United Kingdom. They compiled the Tregillis Report and recently, as I said earlier, on the 11th May there was the national training conference in Canberra.

When we compare what we are doing now with what has been done elsewhere we find that we are still only in the talking stage—particularly when we compare it with what some of our competitors in international markets are doing. I quote—

In 1964, Britain introduced the Industrial Training Act, a far-sighted measure which has revolutionised industrial training in that country.

In 1962, the United States introduced the Manpower Development and Training Act and in 1967 the President, in his Manpower Report to Congress, called for a further Federal training commitment.

New Zealand recognised the importance of developing sound training policies by the appointment in 1969 of a National Vocational Training Council.

I do not think anyone can deny that those three countries who are so farsighted will go ahead in this race; and unless we do something, and do it quickly, to catch up, we will be sadly lagging. Admittedly, we can allow them to pilot the steering schemes, and maybe we can take them up at a later date. However, I do not think we can leave it too late because if we do then we are going to be in awful trouble.

When we talk about training people we should not think, as some people do, that somebody is sent to a course, they come away with a piece of paper, and that is the end of it. In this State we have to involve the whole community because training is an ongoing thing; it does not stand still. There may be other members here who feel like I do, but with the vagaries of politics perhaps any string to the bow would not be too bad. Perhaps we should go out and learn to become "A"-class welders and get \$164 a week for doing the work. It might help, too, if we did more to rehabilitate some of those who are discharged from the Armed Forces. However, whatever is done, it must be complete and the training must be carried out in conjunction with the learning institutions that we have.

We need block training for apprenticeships; that is the modern method. We have reduced the time for some apprenticeships to three years, but do not let us stop at apprentices. We need to instruct supervisors; we need to instruct managers; right the way through the whole gamut we need training, retraining, and continued training. If we can be this flexible then we have the mobility in the labour force of this country that will be very much needed;

because as one economist once described it, what retards the growth of Australia is the tyranny of distance.

We do have problems; no-one can deny that, and in this regard I should like to quote some statistics that show that in 1967-68, 70 per cent. of all factories were employing no more than 10 employees; 13 per cent. were employing between 13 and 20; 9 per cent. were employing between 21 and 50; 6 per cent. were employing between 51 and 200; and only 2 per cent. were employing over 200. So we are not talking about large-scale industry. Goodness me, in capital goods in Perth there is not one large mass production firm; they are still only in the era of batch production.

I fear that if mass production came about we would be caught in a rather uncomfortable position. We would not have the manpower to deal with it unless we followed the lead given in the recommendations of the committee which met after the training conference was held. If any honourable member is interested in reading the whole of the committee's report he can gladly borrow my copy, because I feel its recommendations are vital to the growth of the State and the nation. For the information of members I will quote the first paragraph contained in the report of this committee. It reads as follows:—

1. Training the workforce is not an objective in itself. Its purpose is to increase job satisfaction and to improve the standard of living of the community through increased productivity.

A workforce of five and a half million people is involved and their skills can be improved by training.

I hope I have said enough and, what is more, said it simply enough for this message to be understood. To the members of this House who are charged with the leadership of this State I make this final plea: we need training to increase our productivity, and we need it to survive. I sincerely hope that any legislation introduced to this Parliament with a view to this end will be passed with ease and eventually have the greatest amount of money expended on the administration of it. I thank you, Mr. President, and the members of the House for the kind attention you have afforded me.

THE HON. J. L. HUNT (North) [3.12 p.m.]: In speaking to the debate on the Address-in-Reply, I would, first of all, like to refer to two former members of this House. I am speaking of The Hon. F. J. S. Wise who, in this House and in another place served the people in the north and in the North Province for approximately 37 years. The contribution that Frank Wise made to the progress of this State is fully appreciated by the people of the North Province and I would like to place on record their appreciation of the sterling job he performed over this long period.

Secondly, I wish to mention the late Hon. H. C. Strickland who served the North Province for approximately 20 years as a Minister of the Crown and as a private member. He also has earned the appreciation of the electors in my province.

During the short period I have been a member of this House I have received every assistance and courtesy from members of both Houses and also from the officers and staff of Parliament House, and to them I wish to express my appreciation for what they have done.

The present-day problems being met by the rural industry affect my province to a large extent and, in particular, affect the Pilbara district where the pastoral industry is unable to diversify by growing crops of grain or something of a similar nature. The Pilbara is purely a woolgrowing area and if the present recession persists the pastoralists will be in dire straits. At present what I would like to see is the total deferment of pastoral lease rentals because this could possibly assist the pastoralists to survive during these dry periods, and should the price of wool improve it will help these people to carry on.

Over a long period of years I have noticed that whenever one of these properties is abandoned it never returns to production. Over the years many properties in the north have folded, but I cannot recall any instances of one being returned to production. Admittedly, one or two properties in the Pilbara area have been re-established by the Government with the object of ascertaining what can be done.

Certain tracts of land have been fenced with a view to finding out whether they can be brought into production once again by allowing natural grasses to re-establish themselves for the purpose of grazing stock. To date I have not seen any improvement in the land, but with the passage of time this may finally be achieved.

With regard to the mineral industry in the north, I have had the privilege of working in the area and I have been closely associated with the industry. For the past 20 years I have lived in the Pilbara district and have travelled over the whole of the North Province as a member of the Western Australian Mines Department. I have watched the growth of this industry from its humble beginning to its present large scale production. I understand that in 1970 the value of minerals produced in the Pilbara area was in the vicinity of \$580,000,000. With the upgrading of equipment and other facilities used for the production of iron ore I can well understand that the figure will be greatly exceeded in the future.

I cannot help but think of the town with which I was closely concerned; that is, Port Hedland, which is right in the centre of the Pilbara iron ore industry. In

the initial stages the people were not, in my opinion, treated as they should have been. I think the commencement of the industry was made a little hastily and without consideration being given to how it would affect the people living in the area. When a small town of a few hundred people grows into a large one of several thousand within a comparatively short time, certain disabilities and disadvantages are suffered by the residents, and I think these could have been avoided.

In referring to the huge quantities of iron ore that are being stored close to the town of Port Hedland, I was particularly interested to hear the remarks of the Duke of Edinburgh. These remarks were made during his recent tour of that area after some speakers had referred to the record tonnages of iron ore being brought into the town, the record tonnages that were being exported from the port, and the record size of the ships that were being used to transport the ore from the port.

In the midst of all this activity the people who actually live in the town should not have been overlooked, but I am afraid that this has happened at Port Hedland. The disabilities that are suffered by the people could have been lessened to a degree in the early stages of Port Hedland's development if a certain gentleman in another place who used to visit the area quite frequently had not told the people that they would have to live with it. That was quite different from the attitude adopted by the Duke of Edinburgh and what he had to say about the place.

I also wish to make reference to the production of other minerals in the area, such as manganese, copper, gold, and tin, together with many other base metals. These small companies were established by people on their own initiative, and in some instances under very trying conditions. The manganese industry established approximately 250 miles from Port Hedland is operating a mine, has built the required roads and maintained them, and kept the towns in the Pilbara going for a number of years prior to the advent of the iron ore industry.

The Pilbara was a rich goldmining area many years ago, and this industry battled on over the years. Unfortunately, like the goldmining industry in the other parts of Western Australia, it has fallen by the wayside, partly as a result of the low level of the gold subsidy made available by the Commonwealth Government.

I understand that over the last 15 years the total amount of subsidy on gold equalled only one-quarter of the annual subsidy granted to the woolgrowers. I am not saying that the subsidy to the woolgrowing industry is not warranted. I only hope that over the years the wool subsidy will be the means of getting the producers

out of their problems, and that they will not have to make approaches to Canberra for an increase and be rejected repeatedly.

Transport in the north is a big problem. I am sure members will appreciate that centres in the North Province can be from 700 miles to 1,500 miles from the metropolitan area, and that the cost of commodities and necessities is extremely high. I refer to vegetables, fruit, milk, and the like. I would like to quote the prices of a few of the items. Milk costs about 20c a pint, and I doubt whether any stone fruit in season can be purchased for less than 35c per pound. Bread costs about 24c a loaf, and a daily newspaper costs between 12c and 15c, depending on the area. This gives some idea of the high cost of living in the north.

From time to time a problem arises in trying to obtain parts for motor vehicles which are required in a hurry. It is practically impossible to go into a motor dealer's shop and get the part required. The part might be a brush for a generator, or a new rotor. If the part is not on hand it means that a phone call to Perth has to be made, and this costs between \$1 and \$1.50. The method of transporting such parts to Port Hedland, Marble Bar, Wyndham, and such centres is by air, but over the years this form of transport has proved to be a problem. I have debated this subject on many occasions, and I can say that the only practical means to despatch the required parts to the north is by air express.

For some reason or other parcels despatched by air freight seem to be retained in the depots of the airlines down here. They might be left for four or five days. However, if a person is prepared to pay the cost of transport by air express he can have the part sent immediately. One can imagine the cost of transport by air express to some of the outlying centres. Air express is double normal freight costs.

These are some of the transport problems in the north. The only reason I could get from the airlines for adopting the method of transport by air express is that it is an accepted practice throughout the country, and they have to go along with it.

In my visits to the Kimberley, particularly to centres around Kununurra and Wyndham, I was perturbed to see the quantity of perishable goods coming from other States. The people there realise they can obtain their perishables and stores in a better condition and cheaper from South Australia than from Western Australia. That is a ludicrous situation, and should not be permitted to continue, especially when Western Australia is keenly seeking increased sales of its products. We should be able to send such goods to Wyndham, Kununurra, and similar centres at prices competitive with the Eastern States' producers.

With the upgrading of port facilities at Wyndham I was hopeful that the new LASH type vessels would be put into commission, but apparently finance was not available to acquire these ships. The cost was exorbitant. I understand that a unit load type ship will be put into commission shortly, and this will ensure that goods are transported to Wyndham in a reasonably good condition; in a condition comparable with that of goods transported by road from Alice Springs to Kununurra and Wyndham. When goods are transported by ship from Fremantle to Wyndham they can be despatched by road to Kununurra and arrive there without much damage, because that road is sealed, and costs should be competitive with goods from South Australia.

The other day I was surprised to hear my colleague representing the North Province speaking on the subject of daylight saving in Western Australia. He said that if South Australia advanced the clock by one hour anyone travelling to Kununurra from the Ord dam would arrive two hours and 10 minutes before he actually left his point of departure. If goods continue to be sent from the Eastern States to supply Wyndham and Kununurra, I would like to see the clocks put back sufficiently so that these goods never reach their destination at all!

Also on the question of transport I would like to see the continuation of the sealing of the roads in the area. With the torrential rains and the cyclone season causing considerable damage to these roads every year—in some cases hundreds of miles of roads have been washed out—millions of dollars have been wasted in repairing them. In the 20 years that I have lived in that area the roads have not been extended very much further. There is a sealed road stretching as far as Barradale, and one stretching from Dampier to Roebourne. Apart from that, little or no sealing of the roads in the Pilbara has been done. Between Broome and Derby, and Derby and Fitzroy Crossing, the roads are primed, and I hope it is not too long before they are completely sealed. This will ensure that the Fitzroy Crossing district is served by a sealed road, and road transport will be able to get through.

I understand there is provision in the works programme for a bridge over the Fitzroy River. This would provide access to the top end, Halls Creek, Kununurra, and to Wyndham. I do not think it is a very big problem. We constantly hear about the shortage of water and the amount of money necessary for priming and sealing. However, there were no problems during the last war when a road was pushed through from the south to the north. If the need is there, the money is there and apparently the water is available in sufficient quantities.

While on the subject of transport I would like to mention the Flying Doctor Service in the north. I have heard recently that new aircraft will be needed very shortly. It is absolutely essential that pressurised aircraft be provided for the Flying Doctor Service, at least one in the north and one in the south. An accident occurred at Mt. Newman recently when an employee of the Newman mine suffered severe head injuries and it was necessary to send the man to Perth to receive medical treatment from a specialist. Owing to his serious condition, the pilot had to fly the aircraft at a height of 500 feet. Anyone who has flown in that country at a low altitude would know what the patient had to put up with as well as the nursing sister who was trying to administer to his needs, and the pilot. Also, an accident occurred at Esperance the other day and the flying doctor aircraft had to fly at a minimum altitude to avoid any serious deterioration in the health of the patient.

I can only say that pressurised aircraft are essential. Flying at low altitudes, particularly in the north, would be similar I should imagine to mustering stock by aircraft. If anybody has been on one of those aircraft he will know what is involved and, if members have not, I suggest that they should try it out to gain some idea of what patients in aircraft have to put up with.

While on the subject of the Flying Doctor Service I should like to mention airstrips. It has always been thought that the Flying Doctor Service is available to all residents in outback areas of the north-west. However, there is one anomaly as there is no airstrip in the Lombadina-Beagle Bay area where an aircraft can land. I understand some work was done recently but, owing to the unsuitable nature of the ground, or because of some other excuse, the airfield was not finished. Therefore, the people living at the mission stations in the area have no access by air to the hospital at Broome. The only way for accident victims, sick people, or expectant mothers to travel to Broome is by landrover, or some such means as that, for a distance of 100 miles. As members can imagine this is a trying ordeal indeed.

I would like to touch on native welfare. I thank The Hon. Lyla Elliott for mentioning this problem in her speech to the Address-in-Reply on which, incidentally, I must congratulate her. She brought to my notice a few points of which I was not aware.

I have some personal knowledge of this subject because during the whole of my adult life, or as far back as I can remember, I have lived in areas where there have been large numbers of Aboriginal people. The conditions on the reserves worry me a great deal. I refer particularly to reserves in the north. I am sure all members are aware of the conditions but, nevertheless, I must stress them again. In

many instances, the living conditions have progressed very little, if at all, from what they were as long ago as I can remember. Recently I was in Halls Creek and many people on the reserve are still living in lean-to or mia mia types of shelters. At the time I was there it was bitterly cold, but practically no shelter whatsoever was available.

On the other hand I saw what was, to my way of thinking, almost a palatial residence in Halls Creek itself. I made inquiries as to who the house was for and I was told that it was provided from Commonwealth moneys allocated to houses for natives in Halls Creek. I am told that the home cost \$32,000. It was of four bedrooms and had all the amenities which can possibly be provided in the Halls Creek area. There were fans in all the rooms, L.P. gas was laid on for cooking, it had electric light, and, all in all, was a nice modern home. However, I could not help but think that \$32,000 could be put to better use to provide housing for more people. I cannot see many houses being built at this price. I would far rather see a small two-bedroomed or three-bedroomed house built to accommodate Aborigines until such time as more funds are available than build a more expensive type of home. I do not think it is necessary to go to the extent of spending \$32,000 on a house for native people in Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing or any other town in the north.

I understand, too, that there was some controversy over this house and that it was not restricted to the cost alone. The person allocated the house was working for the shire council and was receiving as much money as his counterpart on the other side of the truck. His counterpart explained to me that he was not at all happy about the situation because the native labourer was receiving the same wages as he was and the native was paying \$4 a week while he was paying \$18 to \$20 a week for a State Housing Commission home.

I was particularly interested to hear The Hon. Lyla Elliott speak of her personal experiences on a kibbutz farm in Israel. I was unaware that this kind of thing existed but apparently the locals there think along the same lines as our native people in Western Australia, or at least those in the north. I was speaking with some of the elders in the north some time ago and they more or less had the same idea. I know that some of the elders at Mowanjum wish to return to their tribal land. This applies, too, to some of the people at Broome and Derby who wish to return to Sunday Island, and also to natives in the Pilbara at Yandeyarra and Kangan stations. They feel they want to get back to their own areas. They do not want to live in towns or on mission stations.

They would be quite happy to return if some land were allotted to them on which to run stock. I refer particularly to land in the Kimberley area. They claim that for up to the last 100 years they have been doing most of the work on the cattle stations and they do not see why they cannot run a property on their own with money allocated to them. Apparently they have not been fortunate enough up to date to have land allotted to them. They have been treated the same as the Gurindji people in the Territory who are trying to get land for themselves at Wattie Creek. If these people were allocated some land they would be much happier. They do not want to go into towns or see the younger Aborigines go there. However, it might be hard to visualise whether the younger generations would live on settlements if they were established. Still, it is worth a try.

An article appeared in *The West Australian* on Tuesday, the 20th July. It was under the heading, "A Cry for Help is Answered." In all probability most members saw this article in the paper. It carries a photograph of an Aboriginal mother and baby who were receiving some treatment at a clinic in Beaufort Street. According to the article it is a purely voluntary set-up and a branch of the Save the Children Fund. I think it comes closer to what is necessary in the treatment of Aborigines than anybody else has come up with or than I have been able to think of myself.

These people go into the homes of the Aboriginal people to try to help them with their domestic problems, and so on. In this article it states that at the Princess Margaret Hospital the number of native children patients at any given time is approximately 10 per cent. out of a proportion of about 2 per cent. of natives in the total population of Western Australia. It is quite evident, I think, that these children are not being catered for properly so far as their home life is concerned, either through ignorance or the shyness of these people about seeking medical help.

I think I can say I know these people fairly well—not so much those in the metropolitan area but those in the northern country. They are a very shy people. Once one gets to know them they will take one into their confidence and half the problem is solved. The unfortunate part—and this happens in the north, and particularly in different hospitals in the north—is that one sees quite a high percentage of native children in the hospitals. They look very fit after being there for a while. They are quite happy; they are cheerful little fellows; but it is very unfortunate and we are most unhappy to know that shortly after they return to their homes, most of the kiddies are back at the hospital again, mainly because the mothers,

through ignorance, are not capable of looking after them properly. They do not know what to do with medicine which is to be given to the children. Perhaps one of the other children might become sick and instead of the first child getting the correct amount of antibiotics or medicine, it is given to the other children of the family if they are sick in the hope that it will cure them too.

If any member would care to read this article, I am sure he would agree that the views in it are very close to what we should aim at with regard to the Aborigines. I quote just the last paragraph from this article—

The children are delightful to take out—there is no competition or jealousy among them. We can learn much from them.

They need help with their health, their education and their training. Only by working through the children and encouraging them can we hope to improve the lot of future generations of Aborigines.

From what I can remember reading anywhere regarding the Aborigines, I think that goes the closest to expressing my own views.

I would particularly like to see preschool kindergartens established on the native reserves—kindergartens as we know them. Most children are obliged to go to school, and this includes the Aboriginal child, but without any preschool training he is well behind scratch before he even starts. After school he is given a certain amount of homework to do. He appeals to his mother or his father at home; perhaps they are uneducated—they might be natives off stations—but for one reason or another they are unable to help him. The Aborigines mostly live in dwellings which have no electric light—no amenities at all—and so the child soon loses his ambition to go any further.

I would like to see preschool kindergartens established wherever possible to help these children and to give some help to the mothers in the rearing and looking after of the children.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 p.m.

The Hon. J. L. HUNT: I would now like to mention the subject of education. It is encouraging to learn that Mr. Withers, my colleague in the North Province, is aware of the education needs of the north country. This problem is not new to me because I have been involved in it personally through local government and through the north consultative council for a period of many years. I have been trying to get something done about this problem ever since the advent of iron ore development in the north, but with little success. I will not go into the figures quoted by a previous speaker in relation to the cost of sending a child to school,

etc., and living costs in the north. Those matters have been dealt with thoroughly already and I must agree that the figures quoted are very close to those I have obtained.

However, I would like to point out a couple of anomalies which exist in this field. The first is in regard to tuition fees which are not payable to schools where the children's parents live outside Western Australia. I refer to two instances; namely, Newry station and Rosewood station, which are in the Northern Territory. The children concerned are Aborigines and they attend school in Western Australia because there are no other schools in the vicinity. Aboriginal parents are most reluctant to send their children far away. The children get very lonely when sent away from their parental tribal areas.

I imagine one would almost be able to throw a stone across the border from those two stations because they are so close to the boundary between Western Australia and the Northern Territory. However, tuition fees are denied because the parents of the children happen to live in the Northern Territory. That is an amazing situation which exists under our present legislation.

The second anomaly refers to the living-away-from-home allowance for children in the north. There is a difference between that paid in the Northern Territory and that paid in the northern parts of Western Australia. When the Commonwealth and State Governments get together I do not know how they work out that a living-away-from-home allowance is worth more in the Northern Territory than it is in Western Australia. However, that situation exists at the present time and it is one that should be investigated and rectified.

The matter of sending children from remote areas to high schools has already been mentioned. For many years we have been trying to rectify the anomaly in this respect. From some questions that were asked in another place recently—I believe it was Tuesday—I understand that new junior high schools will be established at Meekatharra and Newman in 1972 and that senior high schools will be established at Carnarvon and Port Hedland in the same year. I understand also that a new hostel will be opened in 1972 at the Port Hedland Senior High School. The Minister also said that the decision to build further hostels at senior high schools, or to extend existing hostels, will be dependent upon the established needs. I mention those matters because it may be of some interest to Mr. Withers to know that those amenities and facilities will be available in the near future.

I would now like to mention some of the works programmes in the north at present. I was in the East Kimberley area quite

recently and I had a look at the Ord River dam project. The project is well under way now and it is expected that the main wall of the dam will be finished soon—I think the deadline is the 31st October. The main dam will then be ready to take water from the main catchment area during the next wet season. It is not hard to visualise the extent to which the available water will be used in the Kununurra irrigation scheme once the dam is operating. Somewhere in the vicinity of 70,000 acres will be capable of irrigation and we can easily appreciate just what this will mean to the area. I am sure it will make a wonderful contribution to the cattle industry. The growing of fodder crops will be possible so that it will not be necessary to send cattle in poor condition to the meatworks or to send them down south as store cattle. They will be able to be fattened on the land, and I can visualise that in the near future the Wyndham meatworks, without further extensions, will not be able to handle the number of cattle turned off this country.

When I was in the area a number of years ago it appeared to me that Kununurra was an attractive place with nice gardens, etc. But it seems to have deteriorated to some extent over the years and on making inquiries I was told that owing to the high cost, people were reluctant to use water on their gardens. I should imagine that, even with the diversion dam in use, the amount of water available for gardens would be very small. We have the same problem in the Pilbara where we receive no water allowance.

I understand that in the metropolitan area a person pays his rates and is then entitled to a certain amount of water without charge. I am able to use about 100,000 gallons of water at the house in which I am living in the metropolitan area, and when I have used that amount I will have to start paying excess. However, people living in Kununurra and other towns in the north have to pay when they take the first gallon of water at the rate of 20c per 1,000 gallons. That situation applies to my residence at Port Hedland. The cost of water is 20c per 1,000 gallons to 50,000 gallons, then 25c to 100,000 gallons and 30c per 1,000 gallons for all water over that figure. No allowance whatsoever is made, so it is costly to grow a garden in those areas.

In the Pilbara last year we had only seven days to go before we had completed a full year without a spot of rain. The average was spoiled at that stage when we received about 12 inches overnight. The garden I was trying to grow was washed away.

Another anomaly exists in regard to electricity. Reductions in price have been made at Port Hedland and other small reductions have been made in places where the power stations are run by the Public

Works Department. However, people in places like Wittenoom, Roebourne, and Marble Bar are still paying up to 15c a unit for electricity. This gives them no chance to install air-conditioning units because the cost of running them is well out of the reach of the average person.

I feel that the State Electricity Commission is a State commission and is not run merely for the benefit of the metropolitan area and the South-West Land Division. The people in the north are entitled to have electricity at the same price as their counterparts in the metropolitan area. It is hard enough to live in the north without paying extortionate prices for water and electricity, especially when in the north the importance of those two commodities is far in excess of what it is in the metropolitan area. There is very little cool weather in the north; it is mostly hot, and the conditions are rather hard. They are harsh enough without people being deprived of a garden or a method of cooling the house.

Members may or may not know that the water situation in Port Hedland is such that whilst at the present time there is an adequate supply, there is no great potential for increasing it. I understand that in the near future the DeGrey River will be tapped to provide a further supply. That will necessitate a pipeline running 50 or 60 miles to Port Hedland in order that use may be made of the water. But until such time as a dam is provided in the area, I do not know what would happen if a couple of dry seasons were experienced. The present supply comes from bores in the riverbed and if the underground water supply fails I do not know how bad the situation would be; I am sure it would be rather acute.

There is a need for new wharf facilities at Wyndham and Port Hedland. I know that the Port Hedland facilities are severely taxed at times and ships have to wait before they can unload machinery and general goods for the town at the town jetty. The old jetty is just about nearing the end of its useful life. During the dredging of the harbour preparation was made for a new land-backed wharf and I understand that is on the agenda for the near future. I feel the new wharf is badly needed, as is the extension of the jetty at Wyndham. When the Ord River scheme becomes fully operative and new land is opened up the facilities at Wyndham will be totally inadequate.

In his Speech, His Excellency the Governor mentioned a few new towns in my electorate, including South Hedland, Karratha, Wickham, Paniwonica, and Paraburdoo. He also mentioned that a new town will be established in the Admiralty Gulf area at Port Warrender. I understand that in the future the Amax people will be producing bauxite there. All these towns are to be company-established towns and most of the construction work will be carried out by companies.

However, there will be a need for education facilities, police, and other public servants. Another town is also to be established at Shay Gap where a mine is being opened up by the Goldsworthy people, and the same will apply to that area.

After making those few remarks, I would like to mention something a little closer to home. I refer to the road toll about which I am particularly worried at the moment. Many lives are being lost on our roads and I would like to quote some figures from the "Seat belt report" in this morning's issue of *The West Australian*. The total number of people injured in the period from January to June was 2,052. Of those, 92.7 per cent. were not wearing seat belts, and 7.3 per cent. were wearing belts. The number of people killed on the roads in that period totalled 84, and of those 2.4 per cent. were wearing seat belts whilst 97.6 per cent. were not wearing seat belts.

I feel that sufficient evidence in support of the wearing of seat belts has been provided. They do to a very marked degree save lives on the roads and I feel sufficient evidence has been provided in support of that general opinion. I hope all members of this House will support any legislation brought forward in this respect in an effort to save further injuries and deaths on our roads. I thank you, Mr. President, and members of the House for the patient hearing you have given me. I support the motion.

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West) [4.14 p.m.]: The first matter I would like to mention in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply relates to the large number of new members who have joined this House following the State elections on the 20th February. There has been a great influx of new members, and I would like to extend my congratulations to them on their election to this House and this Parliament.

I would also extend my very sincere congratulations to all new members who have made their maiden speeches. I am sure it will be agreed that they have set a standard in the delivery of their maiden speeches which augurs very well for the debates in this House. I express the hope that they will enjoy their participation in the debates in Parliament, and that they will gain great satisfaction from the contributions they make. I trust that they enjoy their stay in this House. I would also like to extend my congratulations to Mr. Baxter on his election as Chairman of Committees.

In this address I would like to devote myself to a number of subjects which I believe are of extreme importance in the normal conduct of life as we know it in Western Australia. I think they are probably amongst the most important subjects occupying the minds of Western Australians at the present time.

The first relates to the tremendous increase in crime which is taking place in this State and is affecting every one of us personally in a way not known before. We are experiencing situations in relation to crime which in the minds, the views, and the expressions of the ordinary people with whom we come into contact can be described—in their words—as the sort of things which make people sick.

I have no intention of referring to statistics; in fact I have none. I am not sure there are statistics or full details on this matter to indicate the true measure of crime which is being committed throughout the community. I repeat: the rate seems to be increasing considerably day by day.

The type of crime I refer to is the type which interferes with the people in their conduct of everyday affairs. People feel that essentially they should be free from the attacks of others, either physically or in any other form, and should not be affected by the antisocial activities of a group in our community which does not seem to have any civic responsibility or any appreciation of the rights of others. This has an effect on the enjoyment of private and even public activities of a great many people, and also on the satisfaction which people gain from living law-abiding lives—the sort of lives they confidently expect to live free from interference by others.

I say most regretfully that it appears this state of affairs is no longer to obtain in this country, and the normal enjoyment of life unimpeded by the antisocial activities of others cannot be taken for granted. I do not believe that we should just accept this situation and sit by idly, shrugging our shoulders, and regard what is happening as progress. We should not merely ask: What is there the ordinary person can do about the position? I do not believe that should be the attitude at all. I believe we have arrived at a period in our history when it is necessary for people to strengthen their resolve in their resistance to this sort of behaviour. In my view the first responsibility lies with people; they should not be prepared to shrug their shoulders and say it is no concern of theirs. They should not say that although these things upset and distress them, they are not prepared to take any action.

I do not propose to outline what action the ordinary person should take, but what I do say is that people must be prepared to accept a portion of the responsibility for what is happening around us. The crime I am referring to is one which appears to me to have no real motive, but which arises out of an absolute lack of consideration for other people, and a desire on the part of some to challenge authority and to cause inconvenience and distress. There appears to be no other motive. I instance car stealing, the unlawful use of motor vehicles, and the irresponsible and criminal

damage which is often caused to this type of property. I also instance wilful damage to other property, whether it be in the form of homes, gardens, or public edifices.

Almost daily we read about these occurrences and other forms of vandalism, and of the multitude of cases of theft that are occurring virtually at all levels of the community, from school children upwards. I also refer to something which to me is equally important and equally nauseating; it is the absolutely disgraceful behaviour of louts in motorcars who by their behaviour are virtually molesting other people who use the roads. I refer to the sort of situation in which I as a father of some daughters am concerned, because they have experienced great apprehension in travelling in the family car without a male passenger. This situation has involved them on a number of occasions. I myself have been—to use their expression—burnt off by some of these characters or been tailed in a fashion which was dangerous to them and certainly frightening to me. This sort of thing is happening more particularly in the metropolitan area. This is the sort of behaviour that is enveloping the community these days, and it presents one of the chief problems in our society at the present time.

I believe a responsibility rests on people to resist that type of behaviour, and to take some form of action even if it is only in terms of a mental resolve that some action ought to be taken by other people against those irresponsible characters.

In my view there is also a great responsibility on the Press and on the media generally, not the least of which is television, to place these happenings and the advertising of such happenings in their true perspective. The Press and the other media should not give the impression that they are glamourising or glorifying these occurrences. However, in many instances that appears to be the case and the occurrences are glamourised by the Press in the search for sensationalism and for the creation of startling headlines. I believe such action panders to the ego of this element which invariably comprises publicity seekers. The glamourising of these instances represents a form of satisfaction to the unruly element, and encourages these people to continue with such behaviour and others to follow their example.

Of course, the final responsibility rests with the Government. I believe the acceptance of the rule of law—and this goes without saying—is absolutely fundamental to the conduct of our society. The support of those who preserve and maintain the law is no less vital in the conduct of present-day society. I suppose that for a long time, and throughout most of the history of this country, we have been fortunate. To some extent we have been isolated from occurrences and activities which have taken place to a greater degree in many countries overseas. Because we

had the experience on which to base our activities we were in a position to take some form of action to deal with those situations.

I believe that the Police Force of this State enjoys a first-class reputation which in my view it fully deserves. On many occasions the members of the force have shown great tolerance and efficiency in their conduct, in face of provocation, and for this they have earned very great respect. It is clear to me that the force has neither the numbers nor the facilities to cope with the immensity of the problem which I believe exists today. I hope that throughout his tenure of office the Minister for Police will do all in his power to advance the interests of his department and the force, and will render every assistance in the process of law enforcement.

Having said that I must express some disappointment because the major responsibility rests with the Minister, although not solely with him. A great deal of the responsibility rests with the Government as a whole to ensure that law enforcement processes are maintained and that there is adequate support for the Police Force and the Police Department. I do not believe the Government has, in fact, been helping this situation in recent times. The police needs the confidence of the public, and also the confidence of the Government. What an invidious position the Police Department is placed in when we see in the Press, as we did today, a report that the Government is giving consideration to a resolution from the State Executive of the A.L.P. for an inquiry into police actions associated with the visit of the South African rugby team.

There was not a word as to the need for an inquiry into what caused the police to take the action it has been accused of taking; no inquiry as to the real motives behind those who, in my view, promoted the antisocial activities and the disturbances; and no inquiry into the huge expenditure of public money caused by the police having to take action to enable Western Australians to enjoy their normal rights and a sport of an international standard. I do not believe that the disturbances had anything to do with apartheid, nor had they anything to do with the welfare of the Bantu or any other race in South Africa.

I believe these activities were nothing more nor less than a demonstration of power to show how the rights and the freedoms of people can, in fact, be trampled on. There is to be no inquiry into that, and for one good reason. I say it with very great regret, and I say it as a person who throughout his lifetime has taken a very keen interest and an active part in sport and sporting organisations. In my view sport—and this applies to the

great bulk of Western Australians—occupies a special place in the life of this community.

The reason I say that there will be no inquiry is that no lesser person than the Premier himself gave some encouragement—perhaps not deliberately but nevertheless he gave it—to this sort of activity by his own words when he indicated that the Government would give no assistance to the visit by the South African rugby team. I know that various Government services were, in fact, involved in the visit. The Metropolitan Transport Trust and other Government services were involved. The Police Department which, in my view, did such a tremendously good job, is an instrument of Government. Nevertheless the fact that the Premier indicated some support for those who wished to deny others the pleasure of watching the sport obviously spurred them on to a greater effort. Further, I believe the Premier said on his return to Western Australia during that period that he was somewhat disappointed that transport had been made available. Also, we anticipate that a similar situation may well apply during the forthcoming visit to Western Australia by the South African cricketers as some indication has been given already.

In this kind of situation surely the Police Department and those responsible for law enforcement must find great difficulty in doing their work. I maintain that sport is no part of politics. I go further and say that sport enjoys a position in this State and throughout Australia which is far above politics. Sport exemplifies the freedom of the people and anything which this Government will do, or indicates that it may do, to limit the enjoyment of sport will be a very sorry action in the history of Western Australia. Let me say that in my view, and in the view of the vast majority of Western Australians, the responsibility of the Government of this State is to the people of Western Australia; it is not a responsibility to the people of other countries irrespective of whoever they may be. The first and only responsibility is to Western Australians.

I believe that these factors contribute, and have contributed, to a breakdown in authority as well as a whittling away of effort and public funds which might otherwise be available for the prevention and detection of crime in the community. To come back to the aspect on which I started, that is the greatest need in my view. It has been made clear to us on more than one occasion that the strength of the Police Force is insufficient and that police facilities are insufficient. Surely the kind of thing I have mentioned is a waste of public money and effort on the part of police officials as well as all those associated with them, because they are required to spend a tremendous amount of time, effort, ingenuity and planning to

try to preserve a freedom which we in Western Australia would normally expect without the necessity for this type of action. All this effort and expense could be devoted to the far more serious problems of prevention and detection of crime.

Let me also relate this to the question of what now becomes a highly political and contentious subject; namely, country traffic control by the police. I believe the Government has a mandate to do this and I do not argue with the Government on that question. Nobody can justly claim or argue that he was not aware of what the Labor Party would do if and when elected to office, which has now happened. The Labor Party has this mandate and, as far as I am concerned, is completely at liberty to pursue the policy which it has clearly enunciated.

I agree that there is a great necessity to do something to remedy the defects in the present system. However, for many of the reasons which I have already mentioned, I am by no means convinced that the police are in the position of being able to cope with the problem adequately. It will impose a tremendous burden on the Police Department in addition to the problems which it is handling at the present time. If there was no other way it could be done, and if no other facilities could be made available to other institutions, organisations, or people, it would be a different question.

I do not believe the Police Department is in the position of being able to tackle this problem adequately. Even the disgraceful behaviour of louts in motorcars—to repeat my own expression—may come under the subject of traffic control, but there are many other aspects of traffic control which are not related at all to the question of law enforcement and the preservation of law and order. Therefore, I believe it is not in the interests of the Police Department that it should be required to assume this sort of function.

I would now like to refer for a few moments to another subject which is of tremendous importance to Western Australia; namely, the problems in the rural industry. This is a subject which I have dealt with on a number of occasions before in this House and it is, in many respects, no nearer solution today than it has been over the last two or three years.

Prior to the election the Labor Party expressed in a large number of words what it would do, in the event of being elected, to resolve rural problems. Indeed, the question of a rural crisis was a big election issue.

I might add that I express my sympathies to the Government and to the Minister for Agriculture in particular because of the enormity of the task with which he has to cope. By the same token, as I read through the Labor policy speech enunciated by its leader prior to the

election I find that there is a considerable play on words, but really very little of what the Labor Party claimed would be done has in fact been put into effect in an endeavour to resolve the problems. It may be claimed that only five months have passed. However, five months have passed. In view of the great enthusiasm and the dedication promised us by the Labor Party to resolve the problems we would be justified in believing that much more of significance would be achieved by now.

When Parliament assembled we heard the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. Members would be entitled to think that we would have heard of many steps which the present Government proposes to take to resolve rural problems since, prior to becoming the Government, Labor maintained that it could resolve them.

We must feel some disappointment at least when we refer to the items mentioned in the Governor's Speech. I refer to page 5 of the printed Speech which is available to members. One paragraph deals with rural reconstruction. Of course, this is not something for which the Labor Party itself is responsible. This is something which had been drawn up, accepted, and to which the previous Government was already committed. The Western Australian proportion of the amount of Commonwealth money available under the reconstruction authority is no different; the detail of reconstruction is no different. I do not dispute this, because I fully appreciate that it is a Commonwealth-wide scheme which needs complementary action on the part of various States to implement the policy of reconstruction.

The second matter related to rural problems concerns a proposed Bill to release residual reconstruction funds held in trust in the Rural Relief Fund since the depression. This is a good move indeed and I am pleased to see it. Once again, this is something which is not really surprising. I admit that the previous Government had not done it, but all members of this House at least were aware of the efforts of The Hon. Jack Heitman who had gone into the matter at length to try to secure the release. Further, only \$400,000 is involved which is not a tremendous sum of money if we are to try to cope with the enormity of the rural problem.

The Governor's Speech then reads—

The Government has acted to assist Conditional Purchase Lessees incapable of further developing their properties and wishing to leave the industry either temporarily or permanently. It has simplified sub-leasing or transferring of farms.

This is administrative in my opinion. It is something which was available to the previous Government and, on my understanding of the subject, it is something that the previous Government was doing.

It will not involve any alteration in the law, because the law already makes provision for this to be done. It is at departmental or ministerial discretion that this be done and it was, in fact, being done. The Speech continues—

It will defer payment of instalments on Conditional Purchase Leases where hardship is established—

In other words, the economic requirements will be subject to the Land Act. Once again, this is administrative, because it came within ministerial discretion to make this provision and, once again, it had already been implemented. The Speech continues—

—and, where appropriate, will introduce amending legislation authorising total or partial deferment, or remission of pastoral lease rentals.

This is a good move without doubt, but one which is unquestionably minor when it comes to a resolution of problems within the pastoral industry.

The Governor's Speech then outlines the proposal to establish a statutory lamb marketing authority. The Government would certainly have a mandate to do this. It is also something to which the previous Government had committed itself.

The Speech then refers to a board to rationalise the dairy industry. If one accepts that what was contained in the policy speech of the Labor Party constitutes the Government's mandate, then the Government has no mandate to establish a board to rationalise the dairy industry, because no mention was made of it in the policy speech.

It does not surprise me that no mention was made of it in the policy speech. Firstly, this would have been a most unpopular move indeed in the whole-milk areas of the State. Perhaps that is not the main reason which, I suggest, is that the Labor Party did not know anything about the dairying industry in Western Australia. I believe that is still the situation. I would like to express a word of warning to the Government on this subject of a board to rationalise the dairying industry, and I do so without any nastiness or bitterness. For 20 years at least I have maintained close contact with the activities and operations of the dairying industry in this State.

I have known for 20 years of moves which could be described as rationalising the dairying industry. In fact, some 20 years ago I recall the instance when my own branch of the Farmers' Union was the place where that subject was first raised, and in 20 years that particular expression of rationalising the dairying industry has never enjoyed the support, the approval, nor the adoption by the dairying industry in Western Australia.

In extending that sort of friendly warning to the Government, Mr. President, I say firstly: what does "rationalising the dairying industry" mean? I hark back to the words of Mr. Williams in his address to the House—and a very good address it was on the use of words—what does "rationalising" mean? I really do not know just what it does mean, and so I await with some interest and not a little apprehension the introduction of such a Bill. But the word of warning I offer to the Government is not to forget that if this move is designed to bring about some rationalising of the two existing sections of the dairying industry in Western Australia, the Government does not take action which is going to reduce the effectiveness, reduce the prosperity, or destroy what is already in fact one of the only really prosperous industries in Western Australia at the present time; namely, the whole-milk industry.

I know there is a need for some real action to be taken to resolve problems in the butterfat section of the industry but I believe they can be solved in other ways rather than by making inroads into the existing prosperity of what is at the present time a stabilised section of the industry; namely, the whole-milk section. However, I say no more on that, Mr. President. I leave it for further discussion when the matter is brought before the House. On that occasion I will deal with it at some length.

My purpose in dealing with these two items is to say that on the face of it this Government has not got the answers which it claimed it would have for a resolution of the agricultural problems. I know it has put into effect something which undoubtedly is of very great benefit to a large number of farmers—namely the rural emergency carry-on assistance scheme—but this affects only a few hundred farmers and not the thousands of farmers whom we understand are very greatly and seriously affected economically in these days.

I do not know whether any Government in Western Australia or any Government in Australia is going to be able to cope adequately with the enormity of the problem, but what I would not like to see is a Government, which came in on the promises of being able to do such a tremendous amount, disappoint, as I am sure it is disappointing, an enormous number of the farming community in this country. It is a feature which this Government may well have to pay attention to and express some real apprehensions about during its tenure of office. The Government has indicated that it is not equal to the situation, and I hope in its future consideration of the problems which do beset this industry it will be prepared to take a rather more adventurous line than it has so far indicated.

during the five months it has in fact been in office. Mr. President, I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. T. Leeson.

PARLIAMENTARY PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Personnel

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): I have received a letter which I propose to read to the House. It is as follows:—

Dear Mr. President,

I would be grateful if you would kindly consider informing the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council that a Public Accounts Committee, constituted under the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, has been appointed.

The membership of the Committee is as follows:—

Mr. A. W. Bickerton, M.L.A.
(Chairman).

Mr. W. A. Manning, M.L.A.
(Deputy Chairman).

Mr. J. J. Harman, M.L.A.

Mr. S. E. Lapham, M.L.A.

Hon. D. H. O'Neill, M.L.A.

It is the Committee's present intention to meet each week at 2.15 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Select Committee Room.

Yours sincerely,

A. W. BICKERTON,
Chairman,

Public Accounts Committee.

House adjourned at 4.50 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 22nd July, 1971

The SPEAKER (Mr. Toms) took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and read prayers.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Council Personnel

Message from the Council received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees elected by that House.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 21st July, on the following motion by Mr. A. R. Tonkin:—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to:—

May it please Your Excellency:
We the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of

Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MR. COOK (Albany) [11.02 a.m.]: I would like to join with other members in this Chamber who have offered their congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on achieving your high office. The many years of experience which you have had in the field of local Government will provide you with an excellent background and will enable you to carry out your duties in a dignified and responsible manner.

I would also like to congratulate the Premier on his elevation—shall we say—to the highest position in the Western Australian Parliament. It must have been a very proud day for him, indeed. In 1933, three new members entered the State Parliament, and all three of them achieved the high office of Premier of this State. I refer to Mr. Frank Wise, Mr. A.R.G. Hawke, and the third of the musketeers is our present Premier (The Hon. J. T. Tonkin). As I have already said, it would have been a very proud day in his life.

To those members who have been elevated to the positions of Chairman of Committees, Deputy Chairmen of Committees, Whips of the respective parties, and members of Standing Committees, I also offer my congratulations. I believe they will all fulfil their responsibilities in a very conscientious manner and I wish them well.

I offer congratulations to the new members of this House. I am a comparatively new member myself, and I can assure the other new members—as I was assured myself—that there will be times when they will feel frustrated. However, they finally find, as I have, that their occupation can be very rewarding. I wish the new members on this side of the House a long and satisfactory career in politics. To the new members on the other side of the House, I wish them a satisfactory career in politics.

The main subject I wish to deal with this morning is the economic situation in Albany. All members are well aware of the serious situation which exists in Albany at the present time, and this situation is caused mainly by two important factors. Firstly, of course, we are feeling the effects of the rural recession. Albany has been mainly a centre for supplying the needs of a large rural section of the State. With the rural recession Albany has suffered a downturn in its economy.

The second major problem which has affected Albany is that of shipping. This problem arose mainly from a decision of the O.S.R.A. to rail wool from Albany to Fremantle for shipment in containers to the United Kingdom and Continental