

The valuations are based on these factors. On the one hand, the purchaser buys because he is envious of something which is there and he wants it. Envy, greed, and jealousy are all involved in the purchase of a block of land.

On the other hand, the already-established residents, because they desire to beautify their homes and gardens, spend a great deal of money on them, but as a consequence the value of the land increases and they are forced to pay more in taxes. Yet we call it an unimproved land tax. As I said before, how imbecilic can we get?

I commenced my speech by saying I appreciated the reason my leader submitted this amendment. I feel it is high time that as sensible people we study this problem. I repeat that the present method based on improved and unimproved valuations was quite satisfactory in years gone by when everything was stable, but that is not the case today and we should adopt an entirely different system. I may not have the answer, but my suggestion is an area system of valuation with a set percentage adjustment each year. I believe this method would be far preferable to the one at present employed.

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

Ayes—20

Mr. Bateman	Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Bertram	Mr. Lapham
Mr. Brady	Mr. May
Mr. Burke	Mr. McIver
Mr. Cook	Mr. Moir
Mr. Davies	Mr. Sewell
Mr. H. D. Evans	Mr. Taylor
Mr. T. D. Evans	Mr. Toms
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Harman	Mr. Norton

(Teller)

Noes—24

Mr. David Brand	Mr. McPharlin
Mr. Burt	Mr. Mensaros
Mr. Cash	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Craig	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Dunn	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Gayfer	Mr. Ridge
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Runciman
Dr. Henn	Mr. Rushton
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Kitney	Mr. Williams
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Young
Mr. W. A. Manning	Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr. Bleckerton	Mr. Bovell
Mr. Jones	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Graham	Mr. Court

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. I. W. Manning.

SUPPLY BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

MORLEY HIGH SCHOOL SITE

Reply to Question: Correction

MR. LEWIS (Moore — Minister for Education) [5.16 p.m.]: I seek the permission of the House to give a corrected answer to a question which I answered on Tuesday.

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Education has sought the leave of the House to make a statement and there being no dissentient voice, leave is granted.

Mr. LEWIS: The correction relates to question 13(3) asked by the Leader of the Opposition. The question reads—

- (3) What was the total outlay during last financial year on the purchase of school sites—
(a) in the metropolitan area:
(b) in the country?

I supplied the answer—

- (3) (a) \$2,317,495.
(b) \$83,267.

However, the corrected answer to part (3) is—

- (a) \$2,234,228.
(b) \$83,267.

This information was supplied to me today and I wish it to be incorporated in *Hansard*.

House adjourned at 5.18 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 18th August, 1970

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

QUESTIONS (6): ON NOTICE

1. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND HOUSES

North-West: Amenities

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Would the Minister recommend to the appropriate authority that the 26th parallel demarcation line between the north west and southern portion of the State be disregarded when consideration is being given to the supply of amenities such as airconditioners, verandahs and verandah blinds, etc., to occupiers of Government Employees' Housing Authority houses and State houses?
- (2) Would the Minister also recommend that towns in the remote areas of the Murchison-Eyre electorate be included when the supply of the aforementioned amenities is

being considered for both of these types of houses, Government offices and institutions?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

State Housing—

- (1) and (2) The north west and remote portions of the southern part of the State already receive a substantial building subsidy and in addition the first \$10 of income is ignored in calculating rental rebates. It is considered that air conditioning cannot be extended to State housing tenants.

Verandah blinds are not supplied to tenants.

Government Employees' Housing Authority—

- (1) Air conditioning units are to be provided in houses controlled by the Government Employees' Housing Authority above the 26th parallel. Cooling units will also be provided in the sub-northern zone. Houses throughout the State are not provided with verandahs and verandah blinds.

The significant additional costs involved in providing verandahs and verandah blinds to Government Employees' Housing Authority houses have precluded their inclusion in specifications.

- (2) Houses in those towns within the sub-northern zone will be provided with cooling units. The provision of cooling units in Government offices in country areas is progressing as funds permit.

2. HARBOUR FACILITIES

Learmonth

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) As the upgrading of, and extensions to, the Learmonth Airport will necessitate the removal to another site of the processing works and living quarters of the two prawning companies operating in the area, will the Minister arrange for an investigation, in conjunction with an appropriate local official, to be made to select a suitable area within close proximity to the Exmouth townsite?
- (2) Will consideration be given to the establishment, in a suitable area adjacent to the race course, of an artificial harbour which will be expected to provide at least 6 feet of water and facilities for unloading of prawning boats and the mooring of private craft?
- (3) (a) Will the Government remove the present jetty from its present site to the selected area at the appropriate time; and

(b) if not, will the Government assist by financing part of the cost of transfer of the jetty?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1), (2) and (3) An approach is being made to the Commonwealth to ascertain their firm requirements in connection with the jetty and re-siting the prawn processing works and living quarters.

When the firm requirements are known the Government's attitude will be determined.

3.

TOWN PLANNING

Subiaco City Council Parking Standards

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE (for the Hon. R. F. Claughton), to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) What parking standards are laid down by the Subiaco City Council for commercial development?
- (2) What parking requirements were set as a condition of development of Lot 3, location 292, at the south western corner of the intersection of Nicholson Road and Derby Road, Shenton Park?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) The parking standards requested by the Subiaco City Council in considering commercial development are as follows: one car space for each 200 sq. ft. of shop floor area (gross), and one car space for each 400 sq. ft. of office area.
- (2) As above.

4.

STATE BOUNDARIES

Survey

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What recent surveys have been made on the line of the boundary between Northern Territory and Western Australia south of Gordon Downs Station?
- (2) Have these surveys been made by the Northern Territory authorities, or by the Lands and Surveys Department of this State, or in collaboration?
- (3) Can a plan be marked and made available to the House, showing the extent of the surveys so far made of the boundaries between Western Australia and South Australia, and between Western Australia and the Northern Territory?
- (4) When was the first survey made of the eastern boundary of this State, and what is the mileage of completed surveys compared with the total length of the boundary?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The only recent accurate marking of the Northern Territory-Western Australian Border in the records of the Lands & Surveys Department is the positioning of the corner post—"Surveyor General's Corner"—on the North West Corner of South Australia. This corner was fixed during the marking of the Northern boundary of South Australia in 1968.
- (2) Northern Territory authorities.
- (3) Yes. Plans setting out the surveys so far effected are submitted herewith for Tabling (see Tabled Paper No. 73).
- (4) The first border survey was effected in 1935. The total length of the eastern boundary of Western Australia is approximately 1,160 miles, of which 293 miles, on the Northern Territory-Western Australian border are surveyed.

5.

COTTON

Kununurra

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) At this stage of the 1970 harvesting season of cotton at Kununurra, are reports available from Departmental Authorities as to the excellence of the crops this year?
- (2) Has an estimate been possible of the likely yields per acre this year?
- (3) What is the likely total of bales of cotton to be shipped from Wyndham from this year's harvest, and the likely values?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) and (2) Estimates and harvested yields to date suggest a range of individual farm yields between 800 and 1,400 lbs. lint per acre.
The overall average should be somewhat better than the 866 lbs. lint per acre achieved last year.
- (3) A 900 lb. average over 7,100 acres would produce 12,780 bales (500 lbs. weight).
At a price of 22 cents per lb—f.o.b. Wyndham for export—this would be worth \$110 per bale, giving an estimated crop value of approximately \$1,406,000.

6.

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

Ingredients

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Minister advise the House of the principal ingredients by analysis of any well advertised tooth paste?

- (2) What would be the approximate value of the ingredients in a so called "economy" size tube of tooth paste?
- (3) As some firms advertise regularly on television as being manufacturers of furniture polish, fly-sprays, air sweeteners, and hair-sprays, can the Minister advise whether there is much variation in the ingredients of these products?
- (4) What are the usual ingredients of both furniture polish and hair-sprays sold in pressure pack containers?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) The publication "Accepted Dental Therapeutics (1969-70)", Publisher: American Dental Association, provides the formula—

Stannous fluoride 0.4 per cent.
Insoluble sodium metaphosphate 40.6 per cent.
Anhydrous Dicalcium Phosphate 5 per cent.
Glycerin 27 per cent.
Water 22.35 per cent.
Miscellaneous agents 4.65 per cent.

- (2) Available departmental information does not provide a basis for calculation of the approximate value of ingredients.
- (3) The variation in the ingredients of furniture polish, flysprays, air sweeteners and hairsprays may be considerable according to the purpose of the product, although it is not unlikely that some basic constituents such as propellants may be common to several different formulations.
- (4) The usual ingredients of furniture polish and hairsprays sold in aerosol containers may be categorised as propellants, solvents, emulsifiers when required, and effective ingredients. Enquiries reveal a wide range of substances used in each category. Propellants include liquefied gases such as butane and dichlorodifluoromethane. Solvents include ethanol, methanol, isopropanol, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone. A propellant or solvent may be common to both furniture polish and hairsprays.
Effective ingredients of aerosol furniture polishes include polyacrylate emulsions, or polyethylene wax emulsions usually with some silicone or other waxes, and may include an aqueous base.
Aerosol hairsprays frequently include an alcohol solvent with a vinyl ether polymer.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY*Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 13th August, on the following motion by The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson:—

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. J. HEITMAN (Upper West) [4.49 p.m.]: Mr. President, having listened to the Governor's Speech and, since then, having read it through, I feel that the Government has done a terrific job during the bad seasons experienced by the farming community. The State has just experienced its worst season since I have been in this House, and I believe that the Government has done a mighty job by ending the last financial year with such a small deficit.

According to the Governor's Speech the income of primary producers has decreased by \$80,000,000. This was caused by the drought, wheat quotas, the cyclone that went through the agricultural areas early in February, when thousands of sheep perished in the terrific rainstorm, and the exceptionally cold weather, which in turn aggravated the feed situation and, in many instances, blew away all that remained.

It is stated in the Governor's Speech that since then something like \$1,759,000 has been spent on drought relief and aid to farmers. I checked on that this morning and I found that it is in excess of \$2,000,000 up to this point of time. The Government, with the limited amount of finance available, has done all it possibly could to help primary producers.

Farmers have been upset by wheat quotas. Everyone realises that wheat quotas are very necessary because we sell on the world market and if there is no demand for the commodity on the world market some form of restriction must be introduced. No matter what type of formula is used for establishing wheat quotas, a certain number of anomalies must arise because there are so many different types of farming problems. I think perhaps the fairest method would be to take the production history in three out of five years, instead of five out of seven years. My reason for saying that is that the further back one goes the less need there is to apply wheat quotas. If one went back 15 years and took the average over 15 years there would not be any need to apply wheat quotas; one would have a base quota, and that would be that.

However, through science, farmers now have more knowhow and larger machinery than they had in the past, and much more wheat is grown in a three or four-year period out of the last five years than was produced previously. For this reason I think that if the quota was based on three out of five years, every farmer would be given the greatest amount he could receive and the quota could be brought back to a percentage of the base quota. As I said, it does not matter which formula is used or how one tries to work it; there will always be some anomalies. By adopting three out of five years more farmers would come in on the history of wheat growing.

Many new farmers would have a history of wheat production over three years. If they had a history of only one or two years the third year could be calculated. Instead of allocating, say, 12½ per cent. of the total wheat production to the new farmers, perhaps they would get more under a system of adopting three out of five years.

The fact that many farmers had to take a top cut in their wheat quotas has also affected the formula. In the averaging system, those who had grown more than five bushels per acre over their cleared areas in any one year had to take a top cut. Many small farmers had to be very efficient to survive, with the credit squeeze and the fact that they had wheat quotas and a dry season. They have been hit very much harder than any other section of the community.

A farmer who could not grow five bushels of wheat per cleared acre would not be very efficient. According to the wheat quota committee, 1,900 out of 10,000 farmers had to take a top cut. Many of those farmers come into the category of small farmers who are on anything up to 2,000 acres. I did think at one time that anyone with less than 2,000 acres should be exempted, but that was not accepted by the formula committee. All those who grew over five bushels per acre had to take a top cut.

I think we should now forget the acreage aspect. The figure should be increased from 3,000 bushels to something like 14,000 bushels before the top cut applies. That would leave many of the very efficient small farmers out of the top cut altogether, which would enable them to survive on their farms. I think that if 65 per cent. of the base quota were taken, instead of 66 per cent., everyone would be subscribing to those farmers who had had bad seasons or whose histories were very poor because of sickness, wheat disease, or a wet year. If everyone subscribed 1 per cent. of his base quota for this type of assistance, it would be sufficient to tide over growers who would otherwise suffer hardship.

Another matter mentioned in the Governor's Speech was the low wool prices. The organisations of farmers, pastoralists,

and graziers have suggested the establishment of one selling authority throughout the Commonwealth with the idea of trying to correct some of the anomalies that have occurred in the wool industry. I am in favour of that suggestion, despite the fact that some officials of the woolgrowers' organisations, after visiting the old country, have decided that that is not the right method. Wool prices cannot be forced up overnight—I do not think that is in anyone's mind—but I think if costs can be cut money will be saved, and that is the main benefit that would flow from having one selling authority.

I have noticed that in recent sales all lots of less than three bales were put together and sold as one quantity of wool. The owner more or less loses his identity for the sake of selling in more than three-bale lots. With one selling authority this wool could be sorted and blended into wool types of, say, 200 or 300-bale lots, which would cut down the cost of the auction system. Instead of putting the wool up in four, five, or 10-bale lots, it could be sold in 200-bale lots of a certain type of wool.

I understand, although I am not a wool classifier, there are something like 160 different types of wool, or perhaps more. If the wool could be blended and put into 100 or 500-bale lots and sold by auction or by tender, a higher price could be obtained for it and those who are buying for manufacture would not have to pay a greatly enhanced price. I often think that in any game one makes the most money from the dollars saved in the overall selling and presentation of the commodity. So without any equivocation I would support one selling authority for wool in Australia.

I notice from the Governor's Speech that, in referring to education, it is mentioned that 322 additional classrooms have been built during the past year and it is expected that many more will be erected in the ensuing year. I am pleased to learn this because I have always felt that the Government is continually striving to lift our standard of education, and a great portion of the Budget is spent on the erection of more classrooms, teacher training, and so on. I will not argue about the figures, but in the province I represent, which is 450 miles long and 150 miles wide, there is only one senior high school—at Geraldton. There are two Government hostels, one accommodating 72 girls and the other 72 boys. I applaud the work that has been done in this direction, but I do not think it has gone far enough.

I consider that more senior high schools should be built in the area, at centres such as Morawa, Moora, and Wongan Hills. Every time I have suggested this previously, the answer I received was that there are not sufficient children to warrant the establishment of any further senior high schools. However, I understand that approximately 500 children attend the

Morawa school, and 130 children are attending the convent. In addition, there is a school at Carnamah, and 250 children are enrolled at the Mullewa school. Further, a large number of children attend the schools at Three Springs and Mingenew, and many children could attend a high school by being transported by school bus. It would not cost the parents any more to send the children away to a high school than to keep them at a school closer to home.

I am also of the opinion that if high schools were erected at Morawa, Moora, and Wongan Hills, and there was an insufficient number of country children to fill them, the existing procedure of sending country children to the metropolitan area could be reversed; that is, children from the metropolitan area could attend high schools established in the country. I believe it would improve the education of the children who reside in the city, because they would have an opportunity to see, at first hand, how country children live.

Conversely, when children who reside in the country are sent to the metropolitan area for their schooling at the present time they obtain better education and are given the opportunity to mix with children drawn from all walks of life.

The Hon. E. C. House: Did you know that the Education Department continues to raise the limit of the number of children who must be enrolled to warrant the establishment of a high school? I think the figure is now about 700, but it used to be about 200.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: Yes, I know that. Every time the limit is reached it is raised still further. However, I hope that if members keep on plugging for the establishment of more high schools some notice will be taken of them.

I was also pleased to note from the Governor's Speech that the new university will be named after Professor Murdoch. This is an excellent idea. No-one has contributed more to education in this State than Professor Murdoch. I also consider that colleges of advanced education should be erected at centres such as Bunbury, Geraldton, and Albany. If this were done the children who pass through the five-year senior high schools would be given a further opportunity to continue with their education.

Geraldton is ideally suited as a location for this type of college. Adjacent to the Geraldton townsite there is ample land which is high and from which good views of the surrounding area could be obtained. If a college for advanced education were erected at Geraldton it would serve not only Geraldton itself but the surrounding districts also.

Whilst I have Geraldton in mind I would like to mention that in this region there is a body called the Geraldton region promotional committee. This committee has performed excellent work promoting the region in various ways. One of the latest propositions it has put forward is that whole milk should be produced in the Geraldton district. If whole milk were produced locally it would mean a saving of 22c a gallon in freight charges, because the milk now has to be transported from the metropolitan area to Geraldton. Further, it would prove to be of great benefit to those people north of Geraldton, such as those residing in the Carnarvon district. For this reason alone the proposal is worth investigating.

I do not think anyone would deny that the Greenough flats would prove to be ideal for the production of whole milk. Such a proposal has been under consideration for many decades. At one time Geraldton was regarded as being one of the biggest granaries in the State. A great deal of the grain that was milled was grown in the district without the aid of super. The flats are very rich and the surrounding country has been built up with clover. The district enjoys a very equable climate; the climate is never very hot nor very cold. In my opinion it is an area that is ideally suited for whole-milk production and the saving that would be made in freight charges as a result of not having to transport the milk from the metropolitan area would prove to be of great benefit to everyone residing in that area.

In His Excellency's Speech reference was also made to the amount of money that has been spent on roads throughout the whole of the State. When one reads of the expenditure the figure is rather startling, but when one begins to consider that we now have a bitumen road right to the South Australian border the large expenditure can be more fully appreciated. Also, in the next year or two one will be able to travel from Port Hedland right through to the Eastern States on a sealed road. Members can also get some idea of the tremendous work the Main Roads Department is performing when it is realised that we now have bitumen roads from the extreme south right up to Meekatharra in the north. In fact one can almost travel from Port Hedland in the north to Albany in the south. Therefore, I feel that the amount of money that is being spent on roads is earning dividends. Every member knows that there is much less wear and tear on a vehicle when travelling on a bitumen road than there is when one has to travel on a gravel road.

Unfortunately, on a sealed road, drivers of vehicles seem to travel faster than they should, and the fact that we have more accidents than any other State of the Commonwealth is due perhaps to the fact that we have excellent roads. Apparently many

drivers travelling on sealed roads do not know how to control their vehicles at fast speeds.

Under the roads aid programme, the country local authorities received \$690,000 more this year than they did last year. However, when one realises that local authorities in the country are having great difficulty in collecting their rates at the present time, but are still being called upon to maintain country roads in good condition, \$690,000 does not represent a great increase when compared with the allocation in the last financial year, because there is no doubt that much more could be spent by local authorities on the construction and maintenance of roads.

I would also like to point out that approximately \$8,000,000 has been spent by the Main Roads Department on developmental roads under the control of local government which have been taken over by the department. This is all to the good, but nevertheless, practically every local authority in the country has a fairly big road programme to carry out, and I consider that the Main Roads Department should hire from country local authorities as much plant as possible so that it can be fully employed all the year round. In fact, some of the \$8,000,000 that is to be spent, particularly on developmental roads, might be used in this way.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Do you think the plant could be employed by subcontracting it from local authorities?

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: Yes, this is what I have in mind. It would help to keep the road maintenance gangs in constant work.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I agree.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: If the men are employed on developing roads it means that more money is coming in to keep the men working, instead of more money going out.

I have also noted from the Governor's Speech that a Ministry of conservation is to be established. From time to time I think all members have heard this proposition put forward, together with ideas that are submitted by some people who are really conservation cranks, if one can use this term. They are always thinking in terms of what could happen to the environment as a result of the establishment of industry or some progressive move.

I regret to see Mr. MacKinnon about to leave the Chamber because very shortly I had intended referring to kangaroos. Some people get a little carried away over conservation, but I do think one of the first moves to be taken by the new Ministry of conservation should be to conduct an inquiry into the conservation of soil and water, because, so far as I am concerned, no plant or animal life can survive without either of these two essentials.

In my opinion a good deal of the environment that is spoken of by many people who are conservation minded would soon dry up and die if no thought were given to the conservation of soil and water. Therefore, it is very important that steps should be taken as soon as possible to conserve both soil and water in this State. The need for such a step was emphasised by the drought conditions last year and with the exceptionally dry conditions this year in certain areas. There is no doubt that water must be conserved at all costs. This could be brought about by good soil conservation and I hope, with the assistance of the Minister for conservation, that a soil conservation commission will be established so that the conservation of soil will be promoted more than is being done at the moment.

A tremendous volume of water runs away into the creeks and this is what causes salt encroachment. If the water could be conserved in key dams from year to year farmers would not experience drought conditions to the same extent as they have done in past seasons.

I am pleased to see that Mr. MacKinnon has returned to his seat, because I was just about to speak of kangaroos. Many people say that kangaroos are being shot in such great numbers that they will soon become extinct, but I must say that the more sheep that are bred the more rapidly does the kangaroo breed. In my opinion, because of the expansion of the pet food industry, it is worth while looking after, so long as steps are taken to conserve the animals and ensure that they do not become extinct. Mr. MacKinnon may be correct in the statements he has made about kangaroos being shot out, but when one speaks to pastoralists about kangaroos and to what extent the animals are giving them trouble, they feel quite certain that the shooting of 400,000 kangaroos over the past few years has not affected the kangaroo population to any great extent.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They shot 400,000 in one year.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: This might be correct, but even so I think the pet food industry should be fostered, and at the same time we should ensure that the conservationists are given some consideration.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I think we are entitled to have another look at it.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: Yes, I think so. Mention was also made in the Governor's Speech of the rising death toll on our roads. Although a great deal has been said on this subject from time to time, we do not seem to be making much headway. However I do not intend to speak on this particular line of thought. I merely wish to refer to the fact that the third party insurance premium costs much more than it does to license a car. It is not

the vehicle that causes the accident, but the driver. To my way of thinking a motor driver's license should carry some of the cost of third party insurance. I think that if a fee of something like \$10 was imposed, and a portion of this was allocated to reduce the cost of third party insurance, we would find that the third party insurance premium would become more equitable and would help to reduce the charge to those who own cars as against those who drive them. This would at least give some relief to those owners of vehicles who do not become involved in road accidents.

I would now like to speak on the situation relating to the stock and meat industry in Western Australia. Over the last two seasons we have had glut periods from the end of June right through until the end of October. These gluts have cost farmers a tremendous amount of money; because if a farmer cannot get his meat killed then he cannot sell it. I have spoken to several farmers, and to others in the meat trade, about this matter, and I have been told that over the last two seasons the farming community has lost from \$400,000 to \$600,000 a month. This is because producers cannot get their stock killed at the right time.

In view of this, it is imperative that the Government builds another public abattoir and, in my opinion, it should be built as quickly as possible. The fact that over the past five years our sheep numbers have doubled, and there has been no increase in the number of abattoirs and therefore no increase in the killing capacity, must bring about a glut every year, and the position must continue to get worse. At the present time it is not possible to have a successful sale of sheep in the country, even if the sale is advertised, because it is not possible to find buyers for the sheep. This means that the sheep must be sent to the metropolitan markets, but there again it is not possible to find killing space. Consequently producers get nothing for their stock.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Where would you suggest is the right place to build an abattoir? Have you anywhere in mind?

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: I would suggest somewhere near the coast—perhaps close to Robb Jetty would be ideal. There is rail access to that area and there would be the added convenience of having both killing works adjacent to each other. A modern abattoir could be built employing about half the number of men now employed at Robb Jetty. At present something like 100 slaughtermen and a total of 600 employees are engaged at Robb Jetty. That abattoir is an antiquated works; there is nothing modern about it at all. There is no proper stacking of the meat into the freezers; it is all done by hand. If rollers were installed and the stacking done automatically, as is the case in a

modern abattoir, I am sure the works could handle about 9,000 head a day, as compared with the 6,000 handled daily at Robb Jetty.

With the new regulations introduced for meat which is to be supplied to the American market, everything connected with the handling of the meat must be in first-class condition. Therefore, if a new abattoir were built many more sheep could be handled right throughout the season. Many farmers have large numbers of old boner sheep which they have to let die on their farms because the sheep cannot be sent to market at this time of the year. Even if there is no glut, this type of sheep does not command much respect. However, if farmers could send such stock straight from the farm to the abattoir, and be guaranteed 4c or 5c a pound, or whatever price was thought fair and reasonable, it would eliminate yarding fees at Midland or Robb Jetty, and the auctioneer's fees. It would be a lucrative business for the farming community and would provide them with a guaranteed source of income; it would certainly be better than letting that type of sheep die on the farms.

If a new works were established the abattoir would be of great benefit to the State in providing an extra outlet for our export market, and it would be of great help to farmers because they would be able to get rid of their surplus old ewes, which is not possible at the moment. Also, I think if a new abattoir is built it should be under the control of a department other than the Department of Agriculture; once the stock reach the abattoirs the Department of Agriculture should cease to have any control over the carcasses. In my view a department such as the Department of Industrial Development could take over from that point and control or arrange for the manufacture and selling of the product.

I do not think the Department of Agriculture has the necessary experience in manufacturing or selling to handle that side of the business; whereas the Department of Industrial Development has a great deal of knowledge in that regard. When a new abattoir is built—and the sooner that happens the better—I hope the Department of Industrial Development will be charged with the responsibility of marketing and selling the product.

I was pleased to read of the proposed legislation, as outlined in the Governor's Speech, and I support the motion.

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan) [5.20 p.m.]: In supporting the motion moved by The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson, I wish to take the opportunity to welcome back to the Chamber The Hon. H. C. Strickland. I am pleased to see his health is so much improved, and I hope it continues to improve. Also, on behalf of

members generally, I wish to express to Mr. Willmott our sincere sympathy in his recent sad bereavement.

The first matter to which I wish to refer is that of traffic, and I am sure every member is worried about the position on our roads. Anything that we can do as individuals, or collectively, to improve the situation should be done. About two years ago my wife and I started an investigation on road problems and we took notice of the mistakes that we saw people making while we were driving. We noticed drivers in front of us making mistakes. Some of them would cross the white line; others would drive around corners suddenly, without any warning; and still others would whiz past us only to turn at the next corner, also without any warning. Others would slow down and then speed up; some were slow off the mark at the lights, and so on.

I suggested to my wife that we should have a good look at each of these motorists when and if we caught them up to see whether there was any possible explanation for their bad or poor driving. We noticed that in about 80 per cent. of the cases the drivers guilty of these infringements of the regulations, or of bad driving, were smoking. As time went on we continued to investigate, with the same result.

I passed this information on to some of my colleagues at our table in the dining room and suggested that they, too, should investigate this aspect. As a result, I would say definitely that one of the causes of accidents on our roads is the fact that some drivers are smoking while driving. I thought I might have been playing a lone hand, but in a publication which all members get, dated May, 1970, I found this report—

Smokers are more accident-prone than non-smokers and, according to an American report, are three times more likely to be involved in an accident compared with non-smokers.

These facts were quoted recently by Dr. Cotter Harvey, President of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health.

Dr. Harvey said there were several reasons why smokers were more accident prone. They included:

The momentary distraction of lighting a cigarette, or more seriously, searching for a lighted cigarette which had dropped on to a seat or the floor of the car.

Removal of one hand from the wheel while "puffing".

Possible confusion to other drivers caused by a kind of hand-signal action when discarding ash from a window.

Impairment of vision caused by smoke or ash getting in the eyes.

At night, lighting of a cigarette causing momentary disturbance to vision.

I suggest that when an accident is being investigated one of the questions asked by the person conducting the inquiry should be whether or not the driver or drivers involved had been smoking. I have no intention of sniping at smokers; they can please themselves what they do. However, if there is anything we can do to eliminate the cause of traffic accidents then I think it is worthy of investigation.

The second small item to which I wish to refer—and this has had quite a deal of publicity in recent months—is the question of litter on our roads. If anyone likes to travel along any one of our main roads he will see on the sides of the roads one of the causes of our litter problem—I refer to empty drink containers. In this regard I do not necessarily refer to beer cans but to soft drink cans as well, and one can see hundreds of them on the sides of the roads.

Recently a contract was signed between the South Australian Brewing Company and Comalco—I seem to have heard that name before. Comalco is to supply the South Australian Brewing Company with containers made of aluminium, and each one of those containers has a value, when it is empty, of approximately 1c. It is anticipated that because of this the containers will be worth collecting by the ordinary collector or those organisations which gather bottles, rags, and that sort of thing, as a source of revenue. I have in mind, too, that this company will seek contracts with other States, and in various other directions—not only with brewing companies but also with soft drink manufacturing firms. To a certain extent this will eliminate the widespread use of bottles as containers for drink with a natural improvement in the litter problem on our roads.

The next item to which I wish to refer briefly is the recruitment of teachers overseas in order to fill the vacancies which are occurring in the teaching profession in Western Australia and, indeed, in every State of the Commonwealth. Before dealing with this matter I wish to quote a small article from another journal of June, 1970, which also is sent to all members of Parliament. The article is headed, "Fine teachers" and refers to the teaching profession in Rhodesia. It is as follows:—

"I believe that our teachers in this country are one of the finest bodies of teachers in the world," said the Minister for Education, Mr. Philip Smith, in the House of Assembly.

I often feel that I would like to hear comments like that made about our teachers; because I think that as a group they will stand comparison with any similar group in the world. A statement such as the one to which I have just referred, which is uplifting, will do more for education than some of the statements we see which tend to rubbish members of the most honoured of all professions.

The authorities in New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria have engaged in the overseas recruitment of teachers in a big way. New South Wales has set up a team of recruiters, and the most important of the countries the team has visited are the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Canada. It is expected that in the 12 months following this recruitment campaign 1,700 teachers will be recruited, most of them being of the graduate type of which there is a great scarcity in New South Wales.

I have noticed in the Press in the last couple of weeks some comment about the methods of recruitment; there has been particular comment in the British papers. As a matter of fact, only the other day a photograph of a teacher in his academic robes and wearing his mortar board was published in the Press here; underneath his robes he was wearing a bathing costume and he was standing on Bondi Beach. Comments have been made in New South Wales to the effect that perhaps this was not ethical, but judging by what one sees on television, and through other modern methods of advertising, I would say the photograph was mild by comparison.

The Victorian Education Department has some of its senior officers engaged in recruiting; as a matter of fact, the Deputy Director of Education is at present in England going from place to place, and not confining himself to the capital, seeking recruits. The Queensland Education Department is doing the same thing, but whether its methods of recruitment will keep pace with the method adopted by New South Wales I do not know.

My main theme in this debate today, however, has to do with weights and measures, and the fact that in Western Australia we have started, and will continue to introduce, the metric system for weights and measures. I do not suppose anything touches the community so much as the question of weights and measures. One will find that people whose education has not gone beyond that required for the ordinary business are completely lost unless they know something about weights and measures.

On the 19th January, this year, the Prime Minister announced that the Commonwealth Government had accepted the recommendations of a special Senate committee established to investigate this problem, and that it had decided to proceed

with the introduction of the metric system. It was expected that by 1980 it would be in operation. Decimal currency is now the accepted thing and the metric system will be a complement to that; and we will not receive the full value from either until both are in operation.

In order to accomplish this, a Metric Conversion Board has been established, and it is very generally representative. It comprises representatives of industry, commerce, and education; there is a lady member (Mrs. Miller, from Hobart), and a member from the trade unions. Its representatives cover all aspects of our life in the hope that when they complete their work they will have done their best to satisfy all sections of the public that the people are being treated fairly.

I regret that Western Australia has only one representative on the board of 13 whereas New South Wales in comparison has five. However, our representative is a very well-known businessman (Mr. Charles Bunning) who is associated with industry and is a highly-educated man—University trained, in fact—so he will be able to play his part on the board very effectively.

It is not proposed that compensation will be provided for those people who are involved in extra expense during the conversion period. We have to remember that there is a big difference between the conversion to the metric system and the conversion to decimal currency, which took only two years. In that case there was not nearly the amount of money involved in conversion as perhaps there will be when the conversion to the metric system is stretched over 10 years. Generally speaking, in introducing the metric system, it has been applied to all forms of measurements of screws, toolings, and all kinds of articles of that nature, and normally they become worn out over a period of 10 years so that in any case they would have to be replaced. In those circumstances there would be no extra expense involved.

To indicate to members the necessity for the introduction of the metric system, I would point out that at the present time 90 per cent. of the people of the world operate under the metric system and about 75 per cent. of the exports of the world are also in metric measures. Japan is our best customer and that country has adopted the metric system. If we are to keep abreast of the times we must come into line. I do not think there is any aspect of our life which will not be touched in some way, and this includes all types of business and even our education system.

I believe Western Australia is going to be fortunate because, in comparison with the Eastern States, we are only just at the beginning of our secondary development and so the introduction of the metric system at this stage will not involve us in the costs which will be encountered in the other States.

The only large countries in the world which are not operating under the metric system today are the United States, Canada, and New Zealand. Britain and South Africa are in the process of adopting the system. The United States seem to play a lone hand and to a certain extent we are tied up with that country because of the large number of its motor vehicles we import. If we are to alter all our tooling and so on there could be immense difficulties, but all the big motor firms—Chrysler, General Motors, Ford, and so on—say they will be able to convert here in Australia without any trouble whatever and that they will not be bound down in any way by the United States.

Canada, of course, because of its proximity to, and great trade with, the United States is understandably playing along with that country. New Zealand has committees investigating the problem and I think it is only a matter of time before it, too, comes into line.

We will not face many difficulties. We will have to get used to some of the expressions involved. For example, at the moment we refer to a size seven hat, but under the metric system we will have to adopt European measures and we will have to buy a size 57 hat.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Talk about a swelled head!

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The girls who pride themselves in beauty competitions on having measurements of 36-24-36 will, under the metric system, have measurements of 91-61-91. This might worry some of them a little. We will find that Marble Bar, for example, during a heat wave, will have a temperature of 40. The test cricketers who are used to a pitch of 22 yards will be in considerable bother when we adopt the metric system. However, the main point to be remembered is that, like decimal currency, the metric system is worked in tens, instead of yards and feet which have no simple mathematical connection with one another. All the measures in the metric system are in tens so all we will have to do is change the decimal point or add a nought and thus change from metres to centimetres, millimetres, or kilometres, and so on.

One of the few industries which is not keen about the metric system is the oil industry. It can see no advantage whatever and it will have to change all its gallonage meters—I do not want to confuse the words "meters" and "metres"—to litres and motorists will then have to work out their petrol consumption in kilometres per litre. Motorists will also find, so far as speed is concerned, that they will easily hit the 100 kilometres by doing only about 60 miles per hour.

The Hon. E. C. House: Will they have to change the instruments on the F111?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The machines might never reach fruition so that question is purely hypothetical.

The Hon. R. Thompson: They are obsolete now.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Our education authorities gave evidence at the inquiry and they estimated that the actual change-over in schools might require the teachers engaged in teaching the system to undertake a refresher course, but they consider that these teachers will take only about three or four days to be really assimilated into the new system.

As everyone knows, in one branch of education in particular—science—approximately 98 per cent. of the work is studied under the metric system. Even when I was going to school all rulers had the ordinary Imperial measure on one side and the metric system on the other side. Therefore that type of instrument will not have to be changed much.

We are following Britain with regard to the adoption of the metric system and the educational textbooks they produce would, I assume, be used by Australia so that the actual cost of changeover in that respect would not be very great.

The Hon. G. W. Berry: Why is the word "kilometres" pronounced the way you have been pronouncing it instead of the alternative way?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: It is six of one and half a dozen of the other. It is quite all right to say it either way; it is just a matter of individual preference.

Before Federation each State used the Imperial measures and it was illegal to adopt the metric system, but the Commonwealth changed that law by legislation passed in 1961, and now has full control of the changeover.

Packaging will present some big problems. Instead of being able to say that something is so many ounces or pounds, all the terms will be changed under the metric system.

In conclusion I thought I would refer to the way our language will alter a little. We are used to expressions like "every inch a king." If we have to change that and say, "every millimetre a king" it will not have the same effect. We will not like to have to say "a miss is as good as a kilometre." If we must say that we would not touch something with a 3.018-metre pole, we can see the difficulty. I referred to a cricket pitch, which is 22 yards or a chain. I cannot see that type of measurement changing for a long while.

However, the main difficulty will be in educating the people. It will be the same difficulty as that encountered in the shops. One of the main expenses will be involved in educating shop assistants, and then we must educate the customers. However, I have been told by those who have visited

other cities of the world—Paris and other places—that they could go out and do their shopping and not encounter the slightest trouble under the measurements in operation in those cities.

We must remember, of course, that this system originated in France during the time of the Revolution, just before Napoleon got right into his stride. The reformers were sick and tired of having a system which was based on certain abstract things. For example, in Great Britain the standard yard is the distance between two lines crossing two gold studs set in a certain bar of platinum kept in London, the measurement being made when the temperature is 62 degrees Fahrenheit and the barometric pressure 30 inches.

Well, the people of France wanted something different and as they were in the process of a political revolution they thought they might as well have a common-sense revolution in weights and measures.

The metric system has now been adopted by 126 of the countries of the world. I think that Europe, Africa, Asia, South America, and now Australia within the next 10 years, have adopted what was started in France. Japan found no great difficulty under the system and executed the changeover for less than \$1,000,000. That country estimates that within five years, because all the countries with which it trades are also on the same system, it will have recovered that \$1,000,000.

I can see innumerable advantages under the system. We must ensure that some sections of the community do not suffer and if there is any doubt concerning a measurement or weight, the customer should gain the benefit.

I do not want to delay the House any further. I anticipate that the adoption of this system will become an accomplished fact and during the next few years we should be studying our legislation and, instead of including the measurements used under the Imperial system, use the metric measures. I would ask members to give this a little thought, and when we are ready for the change—I might not be here then, but others will be—we will realise that we have everything to gain and very little to lose. I support the motion.

THE HON. C. R. ABBEY (West) [5.45 p.m.]: I, too, rise to support the motion. The Speech given by the Governor was one which indicated still tremendous progress in our State and anticipated progress for the future. We all know, of course, the great prosperity and expansion that is going on and it should be a matter of pride to all Western Australians that our Government is able to foster and maintain this rate of progress.

Too little is said about this angle and, of what is said, regrettably too much is of a critical nature. Of course, review is necessary in many areas, one of which is the land tax situation. However, it is in the hands of members to ensure that this is brought to the attention of the Government and I, for one, have taken this course. It became obvious many weeks ago that land tax and metropolitan region improvement tax were bearing too heavily on some people with rural holdings on the outskirts of the metropolitan area. Along with other members, I took action to bring this to the attention of the Government and, as the Premier said in another place, an examination is being carried out. I am certain that something constructive will come out of this examination.

We should remember, too, the very large number of people who benefit from the land tax legislation which was passed last year. All people whose land is valued below \$6,000 benefit, and I think we should not forget this fact.

Cases have been brought to my notice of people who occupy a home and land within the inner metropolitan area and have bought a homesite in the hills area. I am sure if these people examine the exact situation they will find they have achieved a great tax saving on their present homes. Of course, they have found that they pay more on blocks which are held in the hills. Surely this is a counter-balancing factor. Also, young people who have bought blocks which will be affected by the rise in tax have a four-year period in which they can claim, provided they build a home within that period. Therefore, I believe the situation is not out of hand and I also believe that it will be equitably corrected.

A good deal has been said in this Chamber—and will be said in the next few weeks, I imagine—of the situation in the rural industries. The egg industry is one which has suffered great variations in price in the past and, at the moment, that industry is engaged in explaining to its members, the egg producers of the State, the situation which will pertain under the licensing system which is currently being recommended by the egg producers' association. There is to be a referendum in the near future. I sincerely hope that when this matter comes under examination by the industry, and by all people who will be affected, that a realistic view will be taken. I would like to quote briefly what is happening at the moment. It is reported—

In spite of maximum hen levies and the use of just about all the industry's accumulated funds, net returns to egg producers are likely to be down seven to eight cents a dozen during 1970-71, according to the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities of Australia.

That council has at its disposal all the necessary information to make that assessment. This could well be the death knell to the small egg producer, as is the case, I fear, with many other rural industries where people are just starting out or are in too small a way to survive. The quote continues—

CEMA has notified the Australian Agricultural Council of this likelihood and industry leaders are predicting thousands of small producers will be bankrupted unless something is done to bolster returns. As might be expected, the situation is being used as a fresh argument against the decision of the Commonwealth to refuse industry moves for production control.

Fortunately for the producers of Western Australia, the Western Australian Government has recognised the situation and is the first to agree with the industry that a referendum should be held. This will indicate the industry's true appreciation of the situation. I sincerely hope it will indicate that the industry does want a licensing system for production control, because it is utterly stupid to keep on compounding the situation by exporting large numbers of eggs overseas at a very great loss: that is all we can do in Australia at the moment. The article goes on to say—

The shake-out now certain in 1970-71 will hasten the trend towards larger production units in the egg industry, but of itself is unlikely to prevent the continuation of the up-and-down pattern the industry has followed over the last twenty years. Good prices for a season invariably herald an influx of producers and farm-expansion in the following season. This in turn is followed by over-production and lower prices. Producers leave the industry, production falls, prices improve—and the whole cycle begins again.

What a silly situation for any industry to be in! I feel certain it will be corrected in Western Australia.

Mr. Jack Heitman in his speech made some reference to meat marketing. Of course, the meat producer finds himself in a very similar situation to the egg producer, although there is quite a reasonable export market for mutton, provided it can be handled. My colleague mentioned that, in his opinion, there is a great need for a new public abattoir. I back this opinion very strongly. Mr. Heitman and I, together with a number of other members of the Liberal Party, have made an exhaustive study of the situation and we have come down firmly on the side that this is one thing which needs to be done.

On the other side, of course, producers need to take a realistic view of disease control, because this is one of the major factors which is adversely affecting the

industry. Too many old animals—sheep in particular—go to the market with some type of disease. Very often, this could be avoided on the farm, mainly by exercising care with farm dogs and controlling the worm which causes it. This is an urgent necessity.

Mr. Heltman referred quite extensively to the fact that an outlet for mutton is necessary which will enable the producer to sell his stock at a reasonable price. Again, I back this idea. Over the past two years it has been obvious that some control and assistance in this regard is necessary.

Over the last two years in Western Australia we have seen quite long periods—flush periods—when mutton brought only 1c or 2c a pound. As Mr. Heltman stated, this was caused by inadequate killing facilities. Nevertheless, the producer should also have taken a realistic view and tried to phase-out the sale of old stock over a longer period. While Western Australian producers were receiving 1c or 2c a pound for mutton, during the same period producers in most of the Eastern States were receiving something like 7c or 8c a pound. This is a situation which needs to be looked at very closely.

In the Eastern States—not in every State, but in nearly every State—there is an excess killing capacity that can be turned to the handling of meat when this is necessary during flush periods. This enables the exporter to buy with confidence. He knows that he can get his stock killed. This has not been the case in Western Australia in the last two years. All the fault does not rest with the abattoirs either, although management may have been deficient in some cases. The unions concerned in the meat industry have not been fair in their approach. During these flush periods they have been very difficult by making excessive demands and going on strike. I certainly hope that in future we shall see a situation where wisdom prevails and where any problems are talked out and dealt with properly.

There is one facet of the meat industry which is, perhaps, somewhat comparable to egg production; I refer to the lamb industry. Marketing of lamb is mainly concerned with supplying the Australian market. A small number of lambs are exported each year from Western Australia and probably a larger number are exported from the Eastern States. Lamb marketing lends itself to a controlled scheme. A proposition has been put forward by the Farmers' Union of Western Australia to the Government for a referendum to be held on a lamb marketing scheme. For the purpose of my speech, and perhaps for discussion in the House, I shall read a circular which has been sent out by the Farmers' Union to all interested people. The proposal is to hold a referendum to

form a statutory marketing authority for lamb in Western Australia. The circular reads—

The Farmers' Union Meat Section propose that the Western Australian State Government set up by legislation an Authority comprised of a producer majority to control the marketing of lamb in Western Australia. It is proposed that the Authority will be responsible for and undertake the following actions.

- (1) Acquire all lamb produced for slaughter which are of a suitable grade, and arrange for the slaughter of that lamb acquired at Abattoirs both Public and Private which have been approved by the Authority.
- (2) All that lamb acquired and slaughtered by the Authority to be graded by Government Inspectors or Government approved Inspectors.
- (3) Payment to the grower for all lamb acquired will be based on a weight and grade formula basis. Skins will be sold by the Authority on behalf of the grower and the returns sent direct to the grower.
- (4) The Authority will from time to time set a price to the wholesale trade for all grades of lamb including current killing charges, and will arrange suitable distribution points.

I think I should expand on this point and explain what is indicated. It is not intended that buyers be held to ransom, whether they be wholesalers, retailers, or the ultimate purchasers, but to endeavour to ensure that under the proposed lamb marketing scheme a fair, average price is paid to the producer for good quality lamb. It is intended that the proposed authority alone should handle the meat and make it available to the wholesale trade or anyone else wishing to buy it.

It is obvious to the people who proposed this scheme that it would be quite useless to try to hold buyers to ransom. After all, it is quite easy for the meat trade to import lamb from other sources—for example, South Australia; and we know that New Zealand is also willing and able to supply lamb at a fairly reasonable price. So there is a limit to the price that can be charged for lamb and the producer is, and must always be, aware that he cannot hold anybody to ransom. Of course, he does not wish to do so.

To continue—

- (5) The Authority will make available to the export trade all lamb slaughtered which are in excess of local trade requirements.

We know that lamb requirements are exceeded at the peak of the season, perhaps beyond that which can be stored by the local trade. This is always detrimental to the price of lamb. However, one of the objectives of the scheme is to syphon off—if I might use that expression—a quantity of lamb which is sold at a very low price. That lamb is not wanted because it is beyond the capacity of the wholesalers to handle, so they buy it at a heavily discounted premium. It is expected that this situation will be overcome. The next point is—

- (7) The Authority to be given the power to trade.

That is necessary, of course, to trade with the wholesalers and so on. To continue—

- (8) The Authority to be given the right to make the private selling of lamb for slaughter illegal, except under special licence issued by the Authority.

- (9) The Authority to be given the power to make whatever arrangements are considered necessary from time to time to control the flow of lamb onto the market for slaughter.

Again, a very necessary provision because it will be essential to advise the killing works of the number of lambs which are to be slaughtered in order that time may be allocated to them, thus ensuring a smooth flow of stock to the market. The last point is—

- (10) The Authority under its term of Statute to be able to raise such loans as may be necessary for the efficient conduct of its business.

This matter is under consideration by the Government at the request of the Farmers' Union. I do not know whether a decision has been made or whether or not a referendum is to be held. I sincerely hope that the Minister for Agriculture will make an announcement in this regard in the not-too-distant future, because the proposal provides an opportunity to place under a marketing authority a section of the meat trade which is suffering great fluctuations. In my view those fluctuations are unnecessary and could be ironed out. In the future, action should, and must, be taken to overcome this very real disability in this rural industry.

I feel certain that the Government and bodies charged with fostering the interests of farmers will, by their united efforts, find means to overcome the problems facing the

farmings industry, generally. Such means must be found because the foundation of the prosperity of Australia has been laid on the efforts of rural industries. We are not so dependent on those industries now, but I am sure that everybody who gives any thought to the subject will recognise that there is a need.

I do not think subsidies are of any real consequence in sorting out these problems. I think we have to create situations in which fair prices will be paid for products. Of course, in the future producers will have to face the fact that, if marketing schemes are introduced, some means of limiting production may have to be imposed. It is futile and useless to export any product which places a brake on the market and which does not bring a fair price overseas, and therefore depresses the average returns received by farmers in Australia. On that note I conclude by supporting the motion moved by Mr. Syd Thompson, and I express the hope that the matters I have raised will receive some consideration.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. F. D. Willmott.

House adjourned at 6.08 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 18th August, 1970

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

QUESTIONS (46): ON NOTICE

1. KANGAROO SHOOTERS

Number

Mr. HARMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) How many professional kangaroo shooters were operating in Western Australia prior to May, 1970?
- (2) How many persons have applied for permission to shoot kangaroos?
- (3) How many such persons operate as—
 - (a) part-time shooters;
 - (b) full-time shooters?
- (4) How many persons have received permission to shoot kangaroos?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Estimated between 600 and 700 persons, of whom 262 were licensed to take grey kangaroos.
- (2) 371.