

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 7th August, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (14): ON NOTICE

1. EDUCATION

Cannington Primary School

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Would the Minister inform the House the complete details regarding the reason for the proposed re-siting of the Cannington Primary School?
- (2) What arrangements are being made to ensure that all of the facilities both within the school and in the school grounds that have been provided by the Parents and Citizens' Association are maintained in the new school?
- (3) Has the Parents and Citizens' Association been consulted or notified of the proposed new school?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is "No", does the Minister consider this is fair, bearing in mind the money the Parents and Citizens' Association has spent and is spending on the existing school?
- (5) If the answer to (3) is "Yes", would the Minister give full details?
- (6) Will the Minister lay on the Table of the House the file dealing with the proposed change of location of the Cannington Primary school?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The reasons for the proposed re-siting of the Cannington primary school were fourfold and were raised generally in 1962.
 - (a) The location of a primary school on a major highway with its attendant hazards.
 - (b) The possible future widening of Albany Highway resulting in the further restriction of an inadequate site.
 - (c) The acceptance of a town planning scheme envisaged by the Canning Shire to extend commercial and civic facilities in the area adjacent to a regional shopping centre.
 - (d) The more central location of the school with respect to its intake area.

(2) Any agreement which may be entered into will fully protect all the facilities, both within the school and in the school grounds, that have been provided by the Parents and Citizens' Association.

(3) No, as negotiations are still proceeding but when finality has been reached the P. & C. Association will be notified.

(4) Yes. See answer to (2).

(5) Answered by (3).

(6) No, as negotiations are still in course.

2. *This question was postponed.*

3. EDUCATION

Heating and Lighting of Transportable Classrooms

The Hon. R. THOMPSON, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that—
 - (a) transportable classrooms at Government schools have no heating appliances or electric light;
 - (b) children who are in these classrooms find it necessary to leave the room more frequently to go to the lavatory than children in heated rooms, and that this is causing class disruption; and
 - (c) children in Grades 1 and 2 who cannot control themselves due to the cold, have to remain in a wet condition sometimes for most of the day?
- (2) Will the Minister give consideration to the installation of either oil, gas or electric heating and lighting to these rooms?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) Demountable classrooms do not have heating appliances or electric lighting in-built but normally schools apply for heating appliances as required and, where electricity is available, to have the rooms connected to the power supply.
 - (b) In cold weather children tend to visit the toilets more frequently. There are so many factors involved that it is not possible to state that unheated rooms are the main cause of the more frequent visits.
 - (c) Similarly as for (b). This is largely a matter of training.
- (2) See answer to (1) (a).

4. ARCHITECTS BOARD

Applications for Registration

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many applications for registration were received and dealt with by the Architects Board of Western Australia for each of the years ended 30th June, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, and 1969?
- (2) In each of the years mentioned, were any of the applicants unsuccessful?
- (3) Is the answer to (2) is "Yes",—
 - (a) how many in each year appealed against the board's decision; and
 - (b) how many were successful with their appeals?
- (4) What are the names and occupations of the three members of the board who are appointed by the Governor, and how long has each served in this capacity?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Applications received—
 - 1965—24
 - 1966—32
 - 1967—28
 - 1968—19
 - 1969—30
- (2) Unsuccessful applications—
 - 1965—No.
 - 1966—Yes.
 - 1967—Yes.
 - 1968—Yes.
 - 1969—No.
- (3) (a) Nil.
(b) Answered by (a).
- (4) D. O. Sands, Registered Architect in practice. Board service,—9½ years.
S. B. Cann, Registered Architect, Principal Architect, Public Works Department, W.A. Board service —1½ years.
S. J. Coll, Registered Architect, Executive Architect, Public Works Department, W.A. Board service —2½ years.

5. *This question was postponed.*

6. IRON ORE

Dust Nuisance at Port Hedland

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health:

As iron ore dust is causing great concern for householders and business people at Port Hedland—

- (a) what action are the companies responsible for creating the dust, obliged to take in order to prevent the nuisance;

- (b) is the Government satisfied that the obligations are being met; and
- (c) under which laws are companies liable to compensate property owners for loss of values caused by iron ore dust nuisance?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (a) Control the dust by the best practicable means.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Common law relating to nuisances may be applicable.

7. *This question was postponed.*

8. EDUCATION

Establishment of Junior High School at Kondinin

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that twenty-nine students from Kondinin are attending the Kulin High School?
- (2) What school numbers are required for a Junior High School to be established at Kondinin?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) An average daily attendance of over 150 pupils including an average attendance of 25 secondary pupils spread over the first 3 years of secondary education.
Experience shows that enrolments of approximately 165 and 30 respectively are required to achieve these average attendances.
Such a school may be upgraded to a junior high school class II if the Director-General of Education thinks fit.

9. WATER SUPPLIES

Resources in Manjimup Shire

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What progress has been made by the Public Works Department in the survey of the water resources of the Warren-Lefroy area of the Manjimup Shire?
- (2) Are investigations being made with view to supplementing irrigation supplies in the more closely settled areas in the Manjimup and Pemberton districts?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) More than thirty potential dam sites have been examined in a reconnaissance survey of the Warren-Lefroy area. More detailed

investigation work has been carried out on the most promising sites. Investigations will continue in the 1969-70 year.

(2) Yes.

10. *This question was postponed.*

11. HEALTH

Shortage of Doctors in Goldfields and Country Areas

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that there is an acute shortage of doctors on the Goldfields and in many major country districts?
- (2) What powers are available under the Medical Act that allow qualified doctors from Universities outside Australia and England, to practise their profession in Western Australia?
- (3) What Universities or Medical Schools outside of Australia are considered to be not up to our required standards to allow graduates from them to practise their profession in Western Australia?
- (4) Are all the requirements of the Medical Acts uniform in all States, or are some more tolerant than in Western Australia?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Powers as described in sections 11 and 12 of the Act.
- (3) Graduates from universities not included in section 11 and not registered under section 12.
- (4) There are minor differences. The W.A. Act under section 12 gives the greatest degree of tolerance.

12. WATER SUPPLIES

Manjimup Dam and Phillips Creek Reservoir

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) (a) Have improvements been recently effected to the off-take system at the Manjimup Dam; and
- (b) if so, what was the nature of these improvements?
- (2) Has the contract for the building of a Pumping Station building to serve this dam been completed?
- (3) (a) Have fluoridation plants been installed at Phillips Creek Reservoir and Manjimup Dam; and
- (b) if not, has such installation been programmed for these points?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) Repairs were effected to pipes damaged by slight settlement in the dam wall.
- (2) Pump station building is substantially complete and pumping equipment is being installed. Present planning is to commission this station by the end of September, 1969.
- (3) A fluoridation plant has been installed at Phillips Creek Reservoir and is ready for use.
The installation of equipment at the Manjimup Dam is in hand and both plants will be commissioned on completion of this station.

13. *This question was postponed.*

14. PUBLIC WORKS

Beach-front Erosion at Busselton

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Mines:

In view of the beach front erosion at Busselton—

- (a) what studies are being carried out by the Public Works Department with view to overcoming this problem;
- (b) what has been the effect of the timber groynes constructed at East Busselton on sea action; and
- (c) can any new measures be recommended at this stage to further protect the coastline at Busselton?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) Surveys, investigations and wave studies are in course and the effect of groynes already erected is being closely observed.
- (b) To date the timber groynes are functioning as planned.
- (c) No. The problem is still being studied.

SUPPLY BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

THE HON A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [2.50 p.m.]: I move—

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

I would like to say briefly that this is the motion customarily moved at this time on the presentation of the Supply Bill in order that it might have precedence over

the Address-in-Reply so that the Government might be granted supply in order to be able to fulfil the obligations that supply entails.

With regard to the position of the Bill on the notice paper, with the concurrence of the House we could go on with the Address-in-Reply and take the Supply Bill in numerical sequence, bearing in mind that this is Thursday afternoon and we do not sit after tea on Thursdays for the first part of the session. Therefore I would like members to watch the clock and give me sufficient time to introduce the Supply Bill before we would normally adjourn for tea. Then, as far as I am concerned, I have not the slightest objection, if the Leader of the Opposition wishes, to adjourning the debate until the next sitting of the House.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [2.51 p.m.]: Knowing how well the Leader of the House controls business, I am sure we will get through.

Question put and passed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 6th August, on the following motion by The Hon. J. Heitman:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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

THE HON. G. W. BERRY (Lower North) [2.52 p.m.]: In supporting the Address-in-Reply, I would like once again to bring a few items before the notice of the House.

I want once more to stress the importance of a stable and adequate water supply in Carnarvon and the adjoining irrigated areas of the Gascoyne district. In his speech Mr. Heitman mentioned this problem and he indicated we are beginning to feel the acute water shortage. I might state that in the area to which I am referring, the shortage is so acute that soon the irrigated areas will cease to exist.

We have had so many years of plenty that I view with great concern the fact that nothing has yet been done to stabilise and improve the water supply. Each year since 1960 the river has flowed and millions and millions of gallons of water have gone out to sea. As I have mentioned

here before, in 1961 the Government undertook to have carried out investigations concerning the trapping of this water which so needlessly goes out into the ocean. Therefore it is time we had some concrete evidence of efforts being made to save some of the water.

I do not wish to bore members of this House by rising to my feet at every opportunity to bring this matter to their notice, but it is my duty to do so. It is my duty because the very existence of this town depends on this water, and I will continue to raise the matter at every opportunity that occurs. So much for water.

I would now like to compliment those concerned with the Overseas Telecommunications Commission and the P.M.G. for the telecast the people of Western Australia were able to enjoy of man landing on the moon. I was rather disappointed that the powers that be did not take it upon themselves to provide this State with such an historic telecast, and that it was necessary for the Deputy Premier of the State to stir them into action.

However, I do thank the technicians involved for making the telecast possible. I also wish to thank those responsible for making available a small television screen for public viewing in the Carnarvon Memorial Hall Theatre for the folk of Carnarvon. It would have been rather ironical if those in the town that was instrumental in so vital a communications link were unable themselves to view the landing on the moon.

This particular occurrence again stresses the importance of this area. The overseas communications link was primarily for communications between the N.A.S.A. centre in Houston, U.S.A., and the tracking station at Carnarvon, but it has now become part of the national network. It is so situated that the station can communicate with satellites over either the Pacific or Indian Oceans. This stresses the great importance of the Carnarvon township and is one added reason why the water supply is so vital.

With the technological advantages we have in this modern age, and which are so evident in Carnarvon in the form of the tracking station and the overseas telecommunications station, a coaxial cable is being installed to extend from Perth right through to Port Hedland. This is designed to improve the communications in the area. Of course it is a communications engineer's dream to be able to install such a piece of equipment, but at the same time some complications will adversely affect some of the people in the Gascoyne area.

With the installation of the coaxial cable and the subsequent upgrading of the services, it will not be possible for some of the pastoral stations in the area to join onto the cable without considerable expense to upgrade their own particular

facilities. On three properties, which involve an inter-family concern, the cost of retaining or keeping the telephone service will be \$75,000. The alternative is no service at all. I believe that if, while making such vast improvements in our communications network, we allow these present services, to be discontinued, we will be taking a retrograde step.

These people have an existing service which is quite satisfactory, but they have no alternative except to upgrade it at a cost of \$75,000. Unless they do that, the service will be discontinued. Therefore, I believe this Government should support any efforts that are made to help these people to overcome what obviously is going to be a difficulty for them. Perhaps the Commonwealth Government could in some way be influenced to subsidise the cost of the installation so that the people concerned are not faced with such a colossal expense, or perhaps in this technological age some alternative may be found.

There is one point I would like to make so far as the people in the area are concerned: they must present their case with one voice. They must agree, collectively, on any approach they wish to make. However, in my view, the benefits of this system when it is installed will not be very real so far as the people affected are concerned. Those whose homes are situated near to the cable are quite happy about it, because, at little expense, they can connect to the service. However, they, too, complain because instead of being able to have a local call to Carnarvon all calls will in future be trunk line calls. It will be necessary for the calls to be taken down to Geraldton and then brought back to Carnarvon instead of going direct to Carnarvon as has been the case in the past.

Another matter I wish to bring before the notice of the House is the inadequacy of the allowable taxation deduction for education expenses. In this State there are many people who live in areas far removed from centres where educational facilities are available. In order for them to give their children a reasonable education the children have to be brought to Perth or to other centres where they can be boarded and receive adequate instruction.

In such instances the cost is quite considerable but in most cases only about one-third of the expense involved is allowable as a taxation deduction. Certainly, the figure would never get anywhere near one-half of the expenditure on education. In my view the State should endeavour to assist these people who are living in the remote areas and it would be a small concession to them if the State could press for the full amount of the education expenses to be allowed as a taxation deduction. In my view that would be little enough for the hardships these people have to face.

I would now like to refer to the position of land at Exmouth. As members are probably aware, Exmouth is an integrated town with American personnel serving at the United States Naval Communications Base, Harold E. Holt, and Australian personnel also working at the base and others supplying the goods and services to the townspeople. So both Australians and Americans are living at the town of Exmouth. However, there seems to be great difficulty in obtaining land on which to build a house or a shop. In fact one has great difficulty in purchasing any land at all at Exmouth and this is having a rather adverse effect on the town, inasmuch as people do not seem to be prepared to stay under the conditions that exist at the caravan parks because there seems to be no reasonable prospect of their being able to buy land and establish themselves in the town.

There are many people who are prepared to make Exmouth their home but it would appear that the powers that be are not, shall I say, welcoming them and making it possible for them to live in this part of the world. I understand some of the shops there are let on a long-term lease, but the situation regarding land for building is critical. No-one wants to live in a caravan park and unless one is employed by the United States Naval Base, and thus in time becomes eligible for a house under the agreement between the Commonwealth and the State, one has no place to go.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: People are only allowed to stay in the caravan park for three months, aren't they?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: Yes.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: Where do they go after that?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: They shift around and go from one caravan park to another. There are three parks at Exmouth and people shift from one to the other. By doing that they can extend their stay at Exmouth probably for a couple of years. They shift around and probably finish up back at the first park they stayed at and then shift on again. Probably some of them stay at the one caravan park because there is nowhere else to go in this area—

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: But that is against the law.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: —unless they travel 240 miles to Carnarvon, or perhaps go back to Perth and occupy one of the caravan parks in the metropolitan area. So I ask the Government to do something quickly to make land available in the town at Exmouth.

It is unfortunate, of course, that this town is built on what is virtually a block of solid rock, and to provide the necessary services sand fill has to be carted or

trenches blasted out. I am not criticising those who were responsible for the town being established at this particular place but, to say the least, it has made it extremely awkward to supply the necessary services. I understand that up to date something like 500,000 yards of fill have been carted to the town of Exmouth to enable the people to establish lawns because there is no depth of earth at the township.

I should like to compliment the Government on bringing down recent legislation to amend the Mines Regulation Act. This has allowed weekend work to be performed on the mines and in this regard I refer particularly to the town of Mt. Magnet in the Murchison area, where the Hill 50 goldmine operates. Had it not been for this amendment to the Act Mt. Magnet would now be in the process of joining some of those other towns throughout the eastern goldfields and the Murchison areas which have become relics of the past. People have told me that without this amendment they would not now be living at Mt. Magnet. There would have been no point in their staying because there would have been no opportunity to have earned the extra money which makes it worth while living in a place such as that. I would say that with the money that is being spent by the Hill 50 goldmine, probably the mine will be in operation for some time to come, and so Mt. Magnet will remain in the Murchison area as a town that is alive.

I would like to mention another matter which does not really concern the affairs of my province. However, I would like to record my thanks to the drivers of the St. John Ambulance Association. I have been very closely associated with a family which arrived in Australia some two years ago. The 10-year old daughter of this family was stricken with an incurable disease, and they shifted from Carnarvon to the metropolitan area in order to obtain the attention she required.

After the family arrived down here, the child was taken by ambulance for deep X-ray treatment, then back to the Children's Hospital, and from there to the Shenton Park Annexe. However, after the condition of the child was ascertained, she was taken home to be nursed by her parents.

When the grief of this family had reached its lowest depths, and when they thought that all was lost, some people—whom I call angels of mercy—came to their house. They were St. John Ambulance drivers, and they came unannounced. Those drivers ministered to and helped the family by giving up their own time to take the mother and the child for a drive to enable the child to see the flowers. They would come in one of their own vehicles which they had prepared so

that the child and the family could be transported to the drive-in to see the pictures.

Mr. Deputy President and members, it is acts such as those which helped the family—and certainly helped me—to remember that there is a God. I wish to thank those men through this House, so that they know their acts have not been forgotten or overlooked, but will be recorded in the annals of this Parliament.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson.

SUPPLY BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [3.14 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In introducing this measure, I would preface my remarks by mentioning that the full details of proposed transactions on both the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the General Loan Fund will be available to members of Parliament when the Estimates are presented in another place.

At this point, however, I am able to mention that transactions of the Consolidated Revenue Fund last year resulted in a deficit of \$1,056,000. The factors contributing to this result in the main were the impact of salary and wage variations, together with a sharp decline in railway revenue, which was caused by the fall off in wheat shipments.

It may be expected that continued increases in salary and wage rates will raise major financial problems during the current financial year. The rapidly increasing population, which is encouraged by the increasing tempo of our industrial development, presents demands for expansion and improvement of services at a much faster rate than is the growth of the revenue of the State. Suffice to say at this point that these aspects will be more fully covered when Appropriation Bills are introduced later in this session.

Turning now to the Bill before members, its purpose is to grant supply to Her Majesty to the extent of a sum not exceeding \$155,000,000 required for the services of the State. The amount of supply being sought at this stage is to meet the estimated requirements for the first six months of this financial year.

The funds now required to finance the continuity of normal Government functions amount to an issue of \$120,000,000 which is being sought from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, together with \$30,000,000 from moneys to the credit of the General Loan Fund. The figure being sought from the Consolidated Revenue Fund exceeds the corresponding figure

sought last year by \$10,000,000 because of a need to meet higher costs and expansion of Government services.

The Bill contains provision also for an issue of \$5,000,000 from the Public Account. This is to enable the Treasurer to make such temporary advances as may be necessary to meet the provisions of this measure. A similar amount was made available last year. As members will see, the provisions in this Bill are no different from those introduced in previous recent years.

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

House adjourned at 3.17 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 7th August, 1969

The SPEAKER (Mr. Guthrie) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (46): ON NOTICE

1. EDUCATION

Teachers, and Student Enrolment

Mr. T. D. EVANS, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education:

(1) How many and what percentage of the entire primary and secondary teaching force comprise—

(a) teachers under bond;

(b) temporary teachers (on permanent or temporary supply);

(c) female teachers?

(2) Exclusive of non-teaching staff (headmasters, etc.) how many teachers are engaged in class teaching in Government primary schools?

(3) What is the total State enrolment of pupils in the State in primary schools?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) (a) Statistics not recorded.

(b) 1,669, 28.24 per cent. as at the 1st August, 1968.

(c) 3,010, 50.93 per cent. as at the 1st August, 1968.

(2) 3,406 (as at February, 1969).

(3) 117,991 (as at February, 1969).

2. LAND

Reserve 24049

Mr. GRAHAM, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

Will he lay on the Table of the House a copy of any survey or report made in relation to reserve 24049?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:
Yes.

The paper was tabled.

3. NOISE IN INDUSTRY *Legislation*

Mr. T. D. EVANS, pursuant to notice, asked the Acting Premier:

When is it intended to introduce legislation controlling the emission of industrial noise in residential areas?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Nalder) replied: Generally speaking industries situated in gazetted residential areas have conforming rights. The matter of legislation for the control of noise in general is currently under consideration.

4. MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE TRUST *Costs*

Mr. T. D. EVANS, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

Has consideration ever been given to a proposition whereby a fractional part of the costs of operating the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust would be apportioned to the fee for a motor driver's licence?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Yes, but it was found to be economically and administratively impracticable.

5. RAILWAYS

Perth-Kalgoorlie Train: Refreshments

Mr. T. D. EVANS, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Railways:

What items of food refreshments are available for the convenience of passengers travelling on the interstate train between Perth and Kalgoorlie?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

Tea, coffee, fruit cake and biscuits are available in the cafeteria-club car.

6. RAILWAYS

West Kalgoorlie Siding

Mr. T. D. EVANS, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Railways:

Why was the name "West Kalgoorlie" chosen for the rail siding instead of perpetuating the old and still existing name "Binduli" for that area adjacent to Kalgoorlie townsite?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

The name "West Kalgoorlie" has not been officially selected for the new railway facilities but has been used departmentally and in