

to drill two holes in the existing pole and attach the new sign. Instead of one's eyes being distracted all over the place—and the Road Safety Council tell me that one's eyes should not be distracted by too many signs at the side of the road—both the signs would be taken in at the one time. Into the bargain, it would save the Government quite an amount of money which would be spent in erecting the new signs throughout the length and breadth of the country.

It was for those reasons that I asked the questions. I was very surprised to receive the reply that one expects that the brains which we were given should be used sometimes. Every shire council has what is called a "yellow book." The yellow book is a fairly large book and is about 1½ in. thick. It is completely made up of different signs and what they mean. I would think that it will not be very long before we will have to keep a copy of this book on the seat alongside us in our motorcars, and as we drive along we will have to refer to the book to see what is meant by signs such as "94" or "65".

My question was a very simple one, and therefore, I was rather surprised that I should be replied to in such a way, especially by a Minister of the Crown.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. May.

House adjourned at 9.20 p.m.

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 17th August, 1966

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

### SUPPLY BILL

#### Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the Bill.

### QUESTIONS (7): ON NOTICE

1. This question was postponed.

### BENTLEY HIGH SCHOOL

#### Additional Classrooms

2. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:
  - (1) What stage has been reached in the proposed construction of four classrooms at Bentley High School?
  - (2) Can it be anticipated that these rooms will be ready for use at the beginning of the 1967 school year?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Working drawings have been completed and specifications are now being prepared, following which tenders will be called.
- (2) Yes.

### SOCCER MATCH

#### Stoning of Referee: Police Action

3. The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Mines:

In view of the alleged stoning of the car in which soccer referee, Denis Legge, was travelling after the match between East Fremantle-Tricolore and Windmills on Saturday, the 13th August, 1966, would the Minister advise—

- (1) How many policemen were on duty at this match?
- (2) Were they still on duty when the alleged stoning took place?
- (3) If so, were any of the culprits apprehended?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is "Yes", what action is being taken against the offenders?
- (5) If the answer to (3) is "No", why not?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) One sergeant and three constables.
- (2) to (5) Police reports indicate that the account of stone throwing was very much exaggerated.

Prior to the completion of the match, a group of approximately 100 spectators went on to the ground. These were cleared by the police without incident.

At the completion of the match a group gathered at the dressing rooms and were somewhat hostile. The referee was escorted to his car by police and officials and left without interference.

No stones were thrown at the car whilst it was in view of the police on duty. They actually watched the car leave the rear of the dressing room and enter Preston Point Road.

#### UNDERWATER BLASTING

##### *Cockburn Sound: Damage to Houses*

4. The Hon. R. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Mines:

Would the Minister advise the nature of the investigations already undertaken in the Medina-Calista area to State Housing Commission homes for alleged damage due to blasting in Cockburn Sound, and also make available the results of these investigations when they are completed?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The commission's supervisor has investigated complaints and discussed them with the shire building surveyor. Both are agreed that damage is not structural or serious and it is impossible to say with any degree of certainty that the cracking or damage would not have occurred had there been no blasting.

#### LAND IN SOUTHERN CROSS AREA

##### *Availability for Selection*

5. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:

Is it correct that land east and south-east of Southern Cross is to be offered for selection, and if so—

- (a) what acreage of land is involved;
- (b) how many surveyed blocks will the area contain; and

(c) when is it anticipated this land will be available for selection?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

There are no immediate proposals but land in this area is to be investigated in the overall State plan of land development to ascertain its suitability for release for agricultural settlement.

However, to the south and south-west of Southern Cross, an area of approximately 300,000 acres is currently being designed into farm units, each to be an average size of about 4,000 acres.

The date of release of this subdivision under conditional purchase is dependent on completion of surveys which cannot be accurately determined at this stage.

#### ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

##### *Industrial Use: Current Prices in Australia*

6. The Hon. T. O. PERRY asked the Minister for Mines:

What are the current prices for industrial electricity in—

- (a) Western Australia;
- (b) South Australia;
- (c) Victoria;
- (d) New South Wales; and
- (e) Queensland?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

There are many varieties of industrial tariffs in the capital cities of (b), (c), (d) and (e) which can only be compared by calculating a particular case. The only direct comparison can be between the block industrial tariffs as follows:—

##### (a) *Western Australia*

Industrial and commercial combined lighting and power tariff:

First	50 units per month	5.80 cents per unit.
Next	950 " " "	5.50 " " "
Next	4,000 " " "	3.40 " " "
Next	45,000 " " "	2.15 " " "
Next	450,000 " " "	1.65 " " "
All over 500,000	" " "	1.40 " " "

##### (b) *South Australia*

Industrial all purpose tariff:

For the first	1,000 kilowatt hours per month	3.66 cents per kw.hr.
For the next	1,500 " " "	2.50 " " "
For the next	50,000 " " "	2.00 " " "
For all additional consumption	" " "	1.66 " " "

##### (c) *Victoria*

Industrial all purpose tariff:

For electricity consumed for all purposes (power, heating and lighting) in industrial establishments between two consecutive monthly meter readings—

Up to and including	100 kw.hr.	7.60 cents per kw.hr.
For the next	400 " " "	7.00 " " "
For the next	4,500 " " "	4.35 " " "
For the next	20,000 " " "	2.20 " " "
For the next	100,000 " " "	1.95 " " "
For all further consumption in the same period,		1.8 cents per kw.hr.

(d) *New South Wales*

General supply rate :

For premises used as factory, shop, offices, warehouses, etc.—

First block	60 kw.hr. per quarter	....	5.34	cents	per kw.hr.
Second block	140 " " "	....	3.63	"	" "
Third block	14,800 " " "	....	3.33	"	" "
Fourth block	60,000 " " "	....	2.90	"	" "
Remainder		....	2.39	"	" "

(e) *Queensland*

Industrial all purpose tariff :

First	30 units per month	....	7.50	cents	per unit.
Next	900 " " "	....	4.05	"	" "
Next	21,000 " " "	....	2.30	"	" "
The remaining units	per month	....	1.45	"	" "

**POLICE STATION AT ESPERANCE***New Building: Commencement*

7. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Have the plans for the new police station at Esperance been completed?
- (2) If so, when can it be expected that work will commence?
- (3) If the reply to (1) is "No," will the Minister for Police give urgent priority to this matter, in view of the conditions under which the police in this area are working and the disgraceful state of the cells at the existing station?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Plans and specifications are completed. Quantities are now being taken off.
- (2) Tenders will be called in October next and it is anticipated that the work will be completed early next financial year.
- (3) Answered by (2).

**PARLIAMENT HOUSE AND ENVIRONS***Model of Undertakings in Area:  
Ministerial Statement*

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West—Minister for Town Planning) [4.39 p.m.]: Have I your permission to make a statement to the House, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT: You have.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Older members will recall a resolution passed in this House some years ago that legislation be passed to preserve Parliament House and its surroundings. However, that legislation was never introduced but an aesthetics committee, of which the President is a member, was formed under the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority and, in Parliament House today, members are able to view a model which sets out the area of vision where the aesthetics committee has control over any building, or any proposed structure.

The coloured models of the buildings are removable, so that when a person makes application for development, or redevelopment,

the relevant models can be removed and those for the new buildings placed in their stead; so the effect on the precincts of Parliament House can be seen. I am making this statement, because some members might think there were other reasons for preparing the model plan in that way. It has been prepared to show the control of the aesthetics committee over the precincts of Parliament House and the surrounding buildings.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY***Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 16th August, on the following motion by The Hon. V. J. Ferry:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—

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. E. M. HEENAN (Lower North) [4.41 p.m.]: I have pleasure in supporting the motion before the House, and the few remarks I now propose to make will be centred mainly around the position of the goldmining industry in Western Australia. I shall start by drawing the attention of members to the remarks contained in the Speech of His Excellency under the heading of "Minerals." He had this to say—

*Value*

During the calendar year 1965, the total value of the State's mineral production rose by more than \$4,300,000 to almost \$54,000,000. Of this, gold production was valued at more than \$20,722,000.

Earnings from iron ore, bauxite, tin, beach sands and other minerals are expected to increase substantially during 1966 and subsequent years.

### Gold

The Government has acted on most of the recommendations contained in the report by members of the Parliamentary All-Party Committee which inquired into the State's goldmining industry. The Federal Treasurer has been asked to appoint an economist to prepare a case for an increase in the price of gold.

Members will recall that last year an all-party committee was appointed to consider the state of the goldmining industry, and to make recommendations concerning it. A report dated the 2nd November, 1965, was finally submitted, and I shall make reference to it later on. On the 15th of this month *The West Australian* published the following news item:—

#### W.A. BID TO RAISE GOLD PRICE FAILS

Federal Treasurer McMahon has rejected a request from the W.A. Government to appoint an economist to prepare a case for an increase in the price of gold.

The case was to have been presented at the next meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

In a letter to Premier Brand, Mr. McMahon said there seemed little chance that an Australian case for a price increase would succeed.

[The gold price has not changed since 1934, when it was fixed at 35 U.S. dollars an ounce.]

Mr. McMahon said most of the major industrial nations of the Western world, and in particular the U.S., were firmly opposed to a price rise.

#### "LITTLE CHANCE"

There seemed to be little chance that any new economic arguments would change the views of the major industrial nations.

The appointment of a special economist to prepare a case for a price increase would not be warranted.

Premier Brand said yesterday that Mr. McMahon's answer was not surprising. Any move for an increase would have to be supported by the U.S. to have a chance of success.

The State Government made its approach to Mr. McMahon after it had examined the report of a Parliamentary all-party committee which inquired into the goldmining industry.

The industry, worth \$23,000,000 a year to the State, is faced with a serious shortage of efficient labour.

I think it is fairly common knowledge that Western Australia produces by far the greatest proportion of the gold production of Australia.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: About 92 per cent. of the production.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Ninety per cent. or thereabouts. It will be appreciated therefore that gold production is almost wholly and solely a Western Australian industry, and one which concerns this State perhaps to a far greater degree than the other States.

It is well known that towns like Kalgoorlie, Norseman, Coolgardie, Leonora, Menzies, and many others are almost wholly dependent on the goldmining industry. I think at the present time the number of men employed in the industry is something under 4,000, but we find in Kalgoorlie and Boulder alone a population of about 20,000 who are almost wholly dependent on this industry.

It is axiomatic, therefore, that this industry is of grave concern, particularly to the people of Western Australia. It is, indeed, heartening to learn of the great strides that are being made in other mineral fields. It is obvious that as the years go by the production of iron ore, oil—we hope—gas, copper and other minerals—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Don't forget nickel.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: —will greatly increase and will open up parts of the State which for the past 50 to 60 years have lacked development, and will bring about a great degree of prosperity.

However, we should never overlook the great importance of the goldmining industry, and I do not think we should ever lose any opportunity which presents itself to us to sustain that industry and to guarantee its continuance. It has been stated from time to time by eminent geologists and mine managers that the goldmining industry, if given a reasonable chance has an immediate life of another 20 to 30 years. But over the last 30-odd years those concerned have had to contend with a price that was fixed long ago, and in spite of valiant efforts that have been made to minimise costs of production, it seems obvious that the critical stage has now been reached.

The Commonwealth Government has come to the aid of the industry by granting a subsidy. The State Government, to give it justice, has taken a great interest in the industry. It has increased sustenance to prospectors, and in many other ways it has concerned itself with the welfare of the industry. However, the position now is that without this Commonwealth subsidy very few of the major goldmines would be able to carry on; and I do not suppose we can expect the Federal Government to go on increasing the subsidy year after year as costs increase, although if it does not do something along those lines, under the existing system we will have the spectre of more mines closing down.

During the course of their investigation the members of the goldmining committee

were constantly confronted with the basic reason for the difficulties the goldmining industry was facing. We were told that people in the outback centres lacked amenities; that rail freights were costly; that the cost of living was very high; that the amenities in many of the districts were very poor as compared with those in other parts of the State. Fundamentally, however, the whole problem seemed to come down to the basic fact that an adequate price was not being paid for gold.

I am sure that most members read the report when it was made available, but perhaps they have forgotten some of its contents. Therefore I shall refer to several points contained in it. In the letter which our Chairman (Mr. Burt) wrote to the Premier when submitting the report, he had this to say, *inter alia*—

My colleagues and I have interviewed many reputable authorities in the industry, have taken evidence from all sections of the community associated with it in the Capital and throughout the mining areas, and procured data from both interstate and overseas sources.

The Committee has concluded its examination of the goldmining industry in the State and the disabilities under which it is at present functioning. In submitting our recommendations for consideration, we desire to emphasise our unanimous conviction that the preservation of the goldmining industry is of tremendous importance to Western Australia. The industry is of significance in the Australian economy, and we consider it essential that operators be given every possible encouragement, as we well know that great wealth and reward can be won often from what at the outset appears the smallest of prospects.

I desire to read an extract from the report, and this will be found on page 12. It is a rather significant comment—

The recent deterioration of the economic position of the industry has resulted from generally rising costs of production while gold has remained at a static price. Every person questioned, when making submissions to the Committee, believed that an increase in the price of gold was the only single solution to the economic problems besetting the goldmining industry in Western Australia. Most were aware of Australian membership of the I.M.F.—

That is the International Monetary Fund. To continue—

—as a signatory to the Bretton Woods Agreements in 1944, and consequently agreed that an increase in the gold price was remote, at least for some time.

This price increase was regarded by the Committee as something beyond likelihood of achievement, unless sponsored by the Federal Government as a special recommendation to rescue the Australian goldmining industry from complete collapse.

The committee has used some fairly strong terms in pointing out the serious position which confronts the industry. Without wishing to be unduly pessimistic, it does seem that unless, sooner or later, there is an increase in the world price of gold, it will not be an economic proposition for Western Australia—or for Australia—to go on producing gold. Costs will undoubtedly keep rising and it seems obvious, therefore, that an industry faced with a position like that will not be able to continue forever.

Therefore, what are we to do about it? Our Australian production of gold is relatively small compared with that of other gold-producing countries. It might be interesting if I were to read out this little table of "World Gold Production 1958".

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is not a very recent publication.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: That is so. I have nothing more recent but I think that this table will serve my purpose. It is Table IV and is quoted in million U.S. dollars, at \$35 per fine ounce—

Union of South Africa	618
Canada	160
United States	62
Australia	39
Ghana	30
Southern Rhodesia	19
Philippines	15
Colombia	13
Mexico	12
Belgian Congo	12
Japan	11
All other (excluding Communist countries)	58

From the foregoing, it will be realised that Australia is a relatively small producer of gold. I ask the question: How can we make our efforts felt in endeavouring to achieve a rise in the price of gold? It seems logical that if the world still wants gold—and apparently it does because gold can be readily sold, and economists assure us that it is still an integral part of our monetary and exchange system—and that countries that possess gold, or have reserves of gold, are better off with their trade and exchange than those countries which are without it, surely then, it seems logical that an arbitrary price that was fixed over 30 years ago could be altered in fairness to the people who produce this apparently still essential commodity.

I am sure the other members of this committee will agree with me when I say that this is an involved problem which a layman—or anyone short of being an educated economist—finds difficult to understand.

There are two fields of thought. Apparently, America is able to impose her views in maintaining this arbitrary price; but the eminent economists are divided into two schools. Some of them can easily convince one that the right, proper, and equitable thing to do would be to increase the price of gold. Just as an example, one eminent economist is Sir Roy Harrod of Oxford University and this is a comment he made—

Thus the collective wisdom of mankind has assigned a certain role to gold. No one can claim that any complete substitute has been devised or is in prospect of being devised. So that is where we stand. It may not be a perfect device, but on the whole it is a remarkably good one. What could be more stupid than to have achieved this and to spoil the whole thing by refusing to assign a sufficient value to this medium, with the consequence that it can only play its part in a limping manner?

I do not wish to weary the House by reading many more extracts but Sir Roy Harrod is by no means alone in his views. It does seem to me that logical arguments, apart from moral considerations, should, at some time, be able to achieve that which a lot of people consider to be justice to the goldmining industry.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The trouble is the majority view of the major nations who are members of the International Monetary Fund.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: That is undoubtedly so. Countless items of literature have been produced on this subject. It is a very fascinating study and a lot of research has gone into it. One could go on quoting from eminent people for a long time and I do not suppose that the Federal Treasurer, or the Federal Government, has much to learn about it. I concede there are not many fresh arguments that can be possibly adduced.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You remember the urgent appeal that Mr. Holt made the last time he was in Japan when the International Monetary Fund met there?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Yes. I came across a phrase the other day—I do not know if I can remember it factually—which, I think, mentioned "the inevitability of gradualness." We know that to accomplish anything in this world it is not possible to accomplish great things all at once. It is a gradual process and, if a proposition has any intrinsic merit, eventually it will triumph. It does seem to me that we—and, in particular, Western Australia—cannot lay down this fight. I concede that we are only a small unit but we have a duty to play our part and I do not think the Federal Government should be fainthearted, or should just accept the *status quo*.

The people of South Africa—and, indeed, the people of the other goldmining countries—have some influence in the world and they have engaged eminent economists to back them up. These economists do not want to see the fabric of our exchange system break down. They want to see it improved. Those in favour of an increased gold price feel that more production is necessary. One of the difficulties is that there is not enough gold but, if a lot more gold were produced, the situation would be easier.

I do not know what we can do. The State Government has acted on the recommendation which this committee made but, to put it mildly, I think the Government, and particularly those concerned with the goldmining industry in Western Australia, will be disappointed and their hopes will be dampened. It must be disheartening. Here is the position in Kalgoorlie—

Goldmines of Kalgoorlie are greatly expanding the production of ore from Mt. Charlotte. They are sinking their shaft from the 800 horizon to the 1100 horizon. At the North Kalgurli mine the main shaft is being deepened from 2,100 feet to 2,450 feet to open two more levels and to develop and exploit the ore at those depths.

Lake View and Star have increased their treatment plant capacities and have expanded their migration and housing scheme.

The management of the Great Boulder Mine has decided to deepen the Edward shaft by a further 900 feet from 3,250 feet to 4,150 feet, to exploit more economically the ore bodies that are being developed at depth.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I think a lot of these efforts would be assisted greatly if values would increase.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: That is so. The Government is showing faith in the goldfields by spending about \$360,000 on improvements to the School of Mines. The St. John of God Hospital is also spending money, and the people concerned are showing a brave face.

I repeat that it must be disheartening for these people to read that the Commonwealth Government does not see fit to carry out the suggestion made by the committee that inquired into this matter, and which the Government sponsored. I do not know where we can go from here, except to convey our thoughts to the Commonwealth Government; because we cannot be fainthearted over these things.

Our arguments seem to have merit, and we must not give up the fight simply because we do not think we will succeed at this time. We must carry on. One thought that occurred to me was that the State Government should encourage a couple of members from the goldmining committee to go to America on a lecture tour, to try to

make contacts in some way with influential people; because this concerns us very much indeed.

I do not know much about the problems of, say, the sugar industry in Queensland. Perhaps I should, but I do not greatly concern myself with that industry because it is not here; it is not directly my responsibility, and I do not suppose the people in Queensland are greatly concerned about the future of the goldmining industry. I think that is about all I can say on the matter.

I do not wish to convey the impression that the producers of gold are giving up. I do not wish to convey the impression that the industry is absolutely on the verge of collapse, because it has weathered the past 30 years valiantly, and we can rest assured that the men in charge of the industry will carry on for as long as they possibly can. But they do need the backing of our State Government, and of our Federal Government; and if any remarks I have made here this afternoon will cause members to consider ways and means that could be adopted, or should be adopted, to carry on the fight, I will feel I have achieved something.

I do not wish to delay the House much longer, but it has been brought to my notice that in Carnarvon there is an agitation for the dredging of Teggs Channel. I understand the fishing boats there are handicapped through not having a safe anchorage. That situation could be remedied by the dredging of this channel. I am informed that in the off-season several crayfishing boats go up to the waters around Carnarvon. They are expensive boats, but a safe anchorage is not available to them, and the fishermen must bring their catch all the way back to Fremantle.

If an anchorage were provided, and if landing facilities were provided, it would make available back-loading for the freezer trucks, and would generally be a good proposition. I am going up to Carnarvon during the weekend, and I will go into this problem in greater detail. I understand it does exist, however, and I bring it to the notice of the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna in the hope that something will be achieved. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

**THE HON. J. J. GARRIGAN** (South-East) [5.22 p.m.]: In speaking very briefly to the debate on the Address-in-Reply, I would first like to compliment His Excellency the Governor on the excellent manner in which he delivered a very well compiled Speech. I would also like to express my thanks to the present Government for having taken the State members of Parliament on a tour of the north. It was a most instructive tour for those who, perhaps, have never been there.

It is my third trip to the north within 10 years, and I was astounded at the pro-

gress that has been made in the northern portion of this great State of ours. I feel there is one specific reason for this progress, and that is the lifting of the ban on the export of iron ore to lands beyond our own. In speaking of the north I wish to emphasise that the Ord River project must be continued and developed to the fullest extent possible. If we wish to make something worth while of the north of our State we must have more than only mineral production. The potential of the Ord River project is very great indeed; it is far beyond my imagination.

I will not say very much more about the north except to mention that we have very good members of the State Parliament representing that area, and any advice they might give this Government should be well heeded. I represent, I suppose, one of the largest provinces in Western Australia; I represent this province together with my colleague, Mr. Stubbs. A colleague of ours who has recently left this House made quite a long tour of the South-East Province which took him about two hours! He was very proud of that, and we were very proud of him!

I do not propose to speak for hours, but only for minutes. With a large province like the South-East Province one generally finds that the problems are greater than is normally the case with other provinces. As Mr. Stubbs knows, we represent an area in which almost every mineral can be found; we represent the pastoral industry, the iron ore industry, and the pyrites industry.

**The Hon. A. F. Griffith:** You represent more minerals than you did six months ago.

**The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN:** That is so, and I am very proud to represent this province with its electors. I would like to refer for a moment to the goldmining industry whose case was handled so very efficiently by my colleague, Mr. Heenan, in the speech he has just made. I was disgusted and astounded when I picked up the paper yesterday morning to find that Mr. McMahon had apparently refused to do anything at all to raise the price of gold, not only in Australia, but throughout the world.

**The Hon. A. F. Griffith:** You must be fair.

**The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN:** I am trying to be fair. The Minister will have his chance when he sums up.

**The Hon. A. F. Griffith:** I am only trying to help you.

**The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN:** When we look back over the years we find that the goldmining industry has been the very foundation stone of the economy of Western Australia. Questions are asked, and excuses are made. The Commonwealth Government has provided a subsidy, and has made some donation towards this

industry—and I would now like to direct my remarks to the Minister—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I tried to help you but you shut me up.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: —but the goldmining industry is at a very low ebb, and this has been brought about by the static price of gold. As we all know we send our young soldiers overseas to fight wars for America; they are not our wars. Again, as we all know, America controls the monetary system of the world, and if we cannot get any further help from the Commonwealth Government to sustain the goldmining industry of Western Australia we must look elsewhere, perhaps to our State Government.

Our State Government can be of a great assistance in this respect by, perhaps, subsidising railway freights, by giving us cheaper water, and by doing many other things to help the industry. In this way it might help to sustain the goldmining industry in Western Australia.

There is, however, a very bright star on the horizon, and again I would like to direct my remarks to the Minister, and refer him to the nickel find at Kambalda. That nickel find today is controlled by one of the largest and most progressive mining companies that has ever existed in Australia. I refer to Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie and to the Western Mining Corporation. The treatment of nickel is very complex indeed; it is very difficult, and very costly. It is possible for Western Mining to erect a large plant at Kambalda.

As the Minister is aware the nickel is extracted by flotation. But let us consider the small individual prospector who is prospecting for and producing nickel ore. I wonder whether the Mines Department in this State has given any consideration to the treatment of nickel ore which might be discovered by these small individual prospectors.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Can you tell me how many prospectors are producing nickel today?

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I am led to believe there are prospectors who have found nickel in the area.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I said can you tell me how many prospectors are producing nickel today.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: There are none, but I am looking to the future, not at the present. Perhaps the Minister is trying to lead me off the track.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: When you re-read your speech you will see what I am referring to.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: This is something which may not happen in the next two or three years. We could have 50 small prospectors producing nickel ore which will have to be sent somewhere to be treated. But where will it be treated?

Will it be sold to major companies like G.M.K.? Will G.M.K. be paid to treat this ore, or has the Mines Department any idea about obtaining nickel ore in the near future? That is something of which I give the Minister plenty of notice.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The likelihood of any State Government putting up a nickel smelter, I would say, is very remote.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: Perhaps the Minister can answer this question: If the small prospectors find up to 100 or 1,000 tons of ore in a new area, what provision has the State Government made to provide a plant to treat that nickel ore?

The PRESIDENT: Order! I suggest the Minister replies to the honourable member when he replies to the different speeches that have been made.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: Thank you, Sir. So much for goldmining and nickel ore. I will now refer to the South-East Province beyond the range of the Blue Hills, and beyond the Darling Range, and give a resume to all Ministers of the problems with which we are faced. What I have to say concerns important questions.

When one goes to Boulder, Kalgoorlie, Norseman, and Esperance, one finds no provision whatsoever is made for housing. School teachers are sent to Norseman and to other parts of Western Australia but no homes are provided for them. This happens in other cases. If a married policeman and his small family are sent to the country they have to take whatever accommodation is offering. This situation also applies to officers in the Railways Department. Therefore I would suggest to the Minister and his merry men that the Government gives some attention to this matter.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Robin Hood.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: Thank you. One can always learn something from listening.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: My word you can.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: Why cannot the State Housing Commission build homes in Boulder, Esperance, and Norseman? When a family is transferred from the country to Perth, another family automatically goes into the house that is vacated; and, as Mr. Stubbs knows, the conditions under which some of these civil servants live are deplorable. Recently a man was transferred from Midland Junction to Merredin, where he had to pay big hotel expenses. This transfer meant he had to keep two homes going to the detriment of his wife and family. I would suggest to the responsible Government that some heed be taken of these things, particularly when young school teachers are transferred to the country. When I first came to Parliament they were living in caravans, and so on.



The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: School teachers have paid £6 per week in rent.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: That is right. I now wish to deal briefly with the native situation in Kalgoorlie, for which the Department of Native Welfare is not responsible, the Police Department is not responsible, nor are the local shires responsible. However, I am going to pay a compliment to the Shire of Kalgoorlie for the major job it has undertaken in an endeavour to sort out the problems associated with natives.

Only recently a public meeting was held in Kalgoorlie. It had been convened by the Shire of Kalgoorlie and native welfare officers were present. However, they were unable to sort out the situation, which is unique in this respect: there are three different types of natives at Kalgoorlie. I suppose one of these types does not exist anywhere else in Australia. Firstly, we have the old station native—the black, bright, shiny fellow who is well fed and well looked after and whose little family is well-dressed. This type of native is no trouble at all as he is happy and contented. The only time when he may be a problem is at fair time or at race time. He is well-educated, knows right from wrong, and will take advice.

Secondly, there are the castes—half-castes and quarter castes. I wish to praise these people as their assimilation in Kalgoorlie and Boulder has been amazing. Their children attend the local private and State schools and, as families, they are accepted in the community. I am proud of the little kiddies and their parents. The castes work full time on the mines, with the local shires, with the Water Supply Department, and with the railways. They are no trouble whatsoever. The people of Kalgoorlie and Boulder accept them and are proud of them.

But there is another type of native, and he is our problem. I am speaking of the old bindi or spinifex native who has been driven from the Nullarbor Plains. Nobody seems game enough to tackle this problem, and no department will accept the responsibility of it. These natives are illiterate and do not know right from wrong. However, under their bush laws they did know right from wrong. They had a king of the tribe, and counsellors to guide them by means of the stars. If they were told there would be a bad season two years hence, they would breed their families accordingly in order to provide for it.

As the white man has moved inland, the waterholes used by the natives have become contaminated, and the game has either been shot or poisoned. As a result these unfortunate spinifex natives have been driven to the fringes of Kalgoorlie. They are living about two miles east of the town. If anyone knows native law at all, he will know that these natives will live in

a camp just outside the town nearest to their tribal land.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I know that.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: It is a pitiable state of affairs. I do not know how many of the spinifex natives there are, but there could be about 250 or 500 of them camped on the fringes of Kalgoorlie. They drift into Kalgoorlie with sugar bags and dilly bags on their backs and have to beg for a living. The people of Kalgoorlie are generous, as everybody knows, and they give food to these natives. However, once they get their bags filled the natives wander up Hannan Street or Burt Street, form a small circle, and make a general nuisance of themselves. Often they go to the park, eat their cooked food, and leave their litter. It is enough to drive every decent person out of the park. Sometimes one of the wives who is well-filled with wine will cause trouble and the police have to be called.

Often the police take five or six people to the calaboose and later the magistrate will perhaps sentence them to seven days' gaol. However, the policemen at Kalgoorlie give these natives a fair go, and they are well treated at the prison, because they do not know they have done something wrong. The Government should carry out a full investigation into the plight of the spinifex natives. I give credit to the police and to the Department of Native Welfare, but the time has come when something should be done about this deplorable situation, of which Mr. George Brand is well aware. Something will have to be done for the 20,000-odd people on the goldfields before every little kiddie in Kalgoorlie and Boulder is affected by sickness and infected with sores.

I implore this House to have a full investigation into the plight of these unfortunate natives, as the circumstances in which they live have resulted from no fault of theirs. I also pay the highest tribute to the local authorities for the job they have done. Once again I ask that something be done for the poor unfortunate spinifex natives who come into Kalgoorlie.

**THE HON. C. E. GRIFFITHS** (South-East Metropolitan) [5.41 p.m.]: I wish to express my support for this motion, so capably moved by Mr. Ferry. I was certainly interested in his remarks—as other members have been—on tourism and I trust the appropriate authority will give serious consideration to his suggestions.

I also wish to be associated with the congratulations offered to Mr. Willesee on being elected as the Leader of the Opposition in this House. I think, today, it would be quite in order for me also to remind the House that Mr. Willesee's brother was elected as Leader of the Opposition in the Senate; and I imagine this

would be some sort of record—two brothers being elected as Leaders of the Opposition in two Chambers at the one time.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: They will not be in opposition for long.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: I was going to elaborate on that and say that possibly the people of Australia will keep them in opposition for many years. I am quite sincere when I suggest that everybody in this House feels quite sure Mr. Willesee will perform his duties in a very capable manner, as did his predecessor, Mr. Wise.

Last week, when addressing the House on this motion, Dr. Hislop spoke about hospitals and gave many interesting points of view. In view of his remarks, I decided to look up some of the things the Medical Department has done in Western Australia over the years. I would like to report that there are some interesting facts to be gained from making a study of what has happened over the years in Western Australia, by virtue of the efforts of the Medical Department.

I do not intend to elaborate on these matters because we would be here for a couple of weeks, but I have one or two interesting facts that I am going to bring to the notice of members. Perhaps members may know of them and perhaps they may not. I certainly did not.

I read that the first action taken by the Medical Department in Western Australia was in 1829—in the first week of June, 1829—when a Dr. Charles Simons was commissioned as the surgeon for the Swan River settlement. It was interesting to note that the first hospital for the Swan River settlement was established on Garden Island in the first week of June, 1829, and it took the form of a tent, which the doctor pitched. I would say we have certainly advanced a long way since those days.

The Hon. J. Dolan: I should hope so.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: By virtue of my research I have discovered that from this humble beginning the Medical Department in Western Australia has grown to be the largest welfare organisation in this State. I do not think there can be any argument about that.

It is also interesting to note that the capital investment involved in this department has reached the astronomical sum of \$1,500,000,000. The sum of \$32,000,000 has been spent since 1959 and we are apparently spending \$6,000,000 per annum on new hospitals. This really is a huge organisation and we can be very proud of what has been done by our Medical Department over the years. Dr. Hislop did suggest that perhaps some of the ways in which the money has been expended are possibly a little premature. He is certainly better qualified to speak on that than I am.

Nevertheless, this huge organisation—which, by the way, employs over 7,750 people and is headed by a Minister in this House—is well worthy of some congratulations. It is so far as I am concerned.

I will quote some of the projects that have been completed during the last year. The list is certainly very interesting. A huge amount of work was done at the Fremantle Hospital with the provision of a new operating theatre block, new day hospital, and new staff amenities block. I can remember the Fremantle Hospital when I used to go there as a little boy. My grandmother used to take me there and I can well remember what a tiny little hospital it was. Only a few weeks ago I had occasion to go to that hospital and I must say it is the first time I have seen it for many years. I was amazed at the amount of construction that has gone on there and I think it certainly is something for which the department should be commended.

The Hawthorn Hospital has been remodelled and extended; the King Edward Memorial Hospital has new laboratories; the Princess Margaret Hospital has a new operating theatre; and the Royal Perth Hospital has had all sorts of improvements made to it. All those hospitals are in the metropolitan area. Last, but not least, is one that is very important to me: it is the 70-bed multi-storey hospital being built in my province at Bentley. That hospital will serve the people in my province very well indeed.

It will certainly give many people much easier access to medical care than they have had in the past when they have had to go to the Royal Perth Hospital, or some other hospital. The cost of this hospital, as everybody probably knows, is over \$700,000. It is apparently being built on the principle of progressive-patient care. Under this concept of nursing, patients are hospitalised in a particular section of the hospital appropriate to their condition, and transferred from section to section as their condition progresses. This is apparently a new concept in hospitalisation.

Each hospital that is built has some new advantages incorporated. This is because of the progressive nature of the medical profession which is generally more advanced each time a new hospital is built.

The Medical Department has plans for a lot of work on hospitals in the near future. Expenditure is planned for the Fremantle Hospital, the Princess Margaret Hospital, the Royal Perth Hospital, the Osborne Park Hospital, and some others.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Are there any plans for Kwinana?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: I am talking about the metropolitan area.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is in it too.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: New hospitals have recently been built in country districts. I know of the one at Wongan Hills and I have seen the new regional hospital which was recently completed and opened at Bunbury, which cost the State \$3,000,000. The one at Geraldton is just about finished, and I have seen that, too.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Do you find that there is a shortage of staff in those hospitals?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: I did not ask about that problem.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It is very interesting.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: In addition to those major works I found another very interesting item during my research; it was the hospital building at Exmouth. The department can really be congratulated on the work it did at Exmouth. I was personally involved in the Exmouth project and I had quite a large team of men working there. I used to talk to all the men in the construction camp and the main complaint they had was that there was no hospital at the camp. They were always a bit perturbed that if one of the men should injure himself there was no hospital or other means of looking after him.

The Hon. R. Thompson: He would be shocked, in other words.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: Yes. This hospital is correctly called a nursing post, I believe.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Interim hospital, is the term.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: It is very interesting to note the fact that originally, in 1965, the department called tenders for a small nursing post—that is what I am going to call it. The building was to consist of living quarters, containing living room, kitchen, bedroom, etc., and patient areas having two single-bed wards, shower, W.C., and basin, clean utility, clean-up room, consulting room, treatment room, waiting room, general purpose room, and verandahs.

It was to be an orthodox type of building and it is interesting to note that the tender price received was \$160,000. Because this exceeded by far the amount of money the department had available for the particular project, it explored the possibility of obtaining a pre-fabricated building in Perth and transporting it to Exmouth. This is the significant part of the story. Compared with what the department was going to get for \$160,000, it was, under this arrangement, for \$100,000, getting a building consisting of living quarters, containing two bedrooms, lounge-dining room, kitchen, bathroom, laundry and toilet facilities; store and verandahs; and patient areas containing five one-bed wards, labour ward, treatment room, sterilising room, clean-up room, consulting

room, waiting area, nurses station, toilets, bathroom, and stores area. The whole of this project was completed within four months.

I think our Minister was right on the ball in quickly assessing the amount of money that he had and getting the pre-fabricated building erected and in commission at Exmouth. It is something we can be very thankful for. I know from conversations I have had that the men at Exmouth really appreciate the swift manner in which the project was carried out. From my research I believe that plans are already being drawn for a 24-bed hospital at Exmouth. That, of course, will be in keeping with the progressive attitude at Exmouth.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Three babies have been born in the hospital already. It is doing a good business.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: From my remarks it can be seen that the Medical Department is very active and progressive and to the Minister in charge we must offer our congratulations.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Thank you very much.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: The next item I wish to speak on is not quite so "congratulatory."

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Are we finished with the village glee club?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: Last week mention was made of the injustice which people have to contend with when their land is resumed, or is about to be resumed. I was very pleased indeed to see the announcement by the Minister that he is going to extend the Government's ability to compensate such people by introducing a provision which will allow the departments, in certain circumstances, to pay more than the present 10 per cent. ceiling which applies under the Act.

I will quote a case where, in my opinion—and certainly in the opinion of the land owner concerned—a man is not even getting just compensation, let alone any of the 10 per cent. Nor is he in a position to get any more than the 10 per cent. I received a letter from this gentleman—one of two brothers who own 4½ acres of land in my province. They have owned it since about 1936 and worked it as a poultry farm until the war. After the war they continued their poultry farming. One of the brothers was married so on the particular property they built two houses. The married brother lived in one, and the single brother in the other. They were not particularly flash but they were, in fact, substantial houses. I have been in both of them.

In about 1964 the wife of the married brother said to him, "I have lived in this house for 20-odd years and I feel it is time

you supplied me with a modern brick home. We have battled our way on this poultry farm and we are now in a position where you can provide some of the modern amenities that women are entitled to."

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: It is no longer a "paltry" farm!

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: So, unsuspectingly, the married brother submitted a plan for his new house, and what I am about to narrate is, as far as I know, the truth of what occurred; or, at least, these are the facts as he gave them to me. When he submitted his plan he discovered that his land had been zoned as parklands, or some such thing, under the metropolitan regional scheme; and, of course, the department refused to give him a permit to build. In fact, he then discovered that not only was he not allowed to build his home but he was also not allowed to make any improvements to his property.

He made inquiries as to what could be done and he found that the department would compensate him by taking over his property and paying him for his land and buildings. I thought this was reasonable under the circumstances and I had no complaint about it. However, the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority sent its land resumption officer, or whoever values properties, to make a valuation of this poultry farm so that the two brothers could be compensated for the five acres of land that they own and are working. The valuing officer came up with a figure which the brothers contended was not just.

These two brothers are fairly level-headed fellows and they went to the trouble of explaining to me that they realised that some people, because a situation involves them personally, tend to become biased in their outlook and in regard to the value of their properties. However, the married brother said to me, "I want you to tell me whether I am being unrealistic because my brother and I, and my wife, feel that we are being unjustly treated." When I had a look at the figures given I, too, thought he was being unjustly treated, and I will tell members why I think so.

Apart from anything else these people are not now permitted to improve their poultry farm and I should like to read to the House a section of a letter one of the gentlemen concerned sent me. The full letter is available if any member would like to read it, but the last section of it reads as follows:—

P.S.—Since the refusal to build, my wife claims that as she has worked hard for many years she is entitled to a better home, and so she has left the farm, leaving my brother and myself with the cooking, attending to the phone, all the correspondence . . .

etc., etc.

The Hon. R. P. Hutchison: I wonder what the etceteras are?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: This gentleman's wife left him because he had been promising her for years that he would build a new house for her when the farm returned sufficient money to enable him to do so.

The Hon. R. Thompson: What did the department offer for the land and what was his claim?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: I am getting around to that.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: You are making a thriller out of it.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: I reckon it is a thriller!

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is the suspense that's killing us.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You tell them after tea.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: I am not sure whether this property comprises 4½ or five acres of land, but there are two houses and 14 poultry sheds, a garage for the car, store sheds, etc., built on the property. In valuing the 4½ or five acres of land, the valuer finally came up with a figure of £11,700. I will keep all figures in pounds, because that was the currency in use at that time. As regards the improvements on the property, an itemised list was prepared which indicated how much was allowed for each item. House A, according to the list, was valued at £40, and house B, £30.

The Hon. R. Thompson: They sound like chook houses!

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: For the 14 poultry sheds he was to be allowed £105, which is £7 10s. each, even though some of the sheds are as long as this Chamber, and about 14 feet wide. They are made of corrugated iron and, although not the flashiest places in the world, the brothers had been working the business as a poultry farm and it would cost them a great deal more than that to have poultry sheds rebuilt elsewhere.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I agree with you entirely.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: In addition there is a well on the property and the whole place is fully reticulated. The well and the reticulation were valued at £100, and that figure covered the pump, the motor, piping, and everything else connected with the reticulation scheme.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It costs that much to have the electricity connected.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: The well on this property is 30 feet deep and in his speech last week Mr. Ron Thompson gave us some idea of how much it would cost a P. & C. association to put down a well 18 feet deep.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That was at Calista.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: Yes. The cost was something like £1,600, and yet this man is to be paid £100 for his reticulation system. If he has to sink another well, and assuming that Mr. Ron Thompson's figures are reasonably accurate, it will cost him a great deal more than £100.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That was the contractor's quote.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How deep is the well?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: It is 30 feet deep. I would go along with all this if the system used by the department in arriving at valuations was one which provided for adequate compensation; but I completely disagree with it on the methods it does use. The department contends that if a person has some land which is being used for poultry farming it is worth much less than any other type of land. I cannot see the reason for that. I maintain that if a person owns  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land at Dalkeith, and that land is used for poultry farming, it is worth as much as somebody is prepared to pay for land in Dalkeith. To say that because a man is using land for poultry farming it is not worth as much as vacant land does not add up to me. The department contends that that is the position.

I may be crazy, but I cannot see how anybody can say, "We will pay you £300 an acre—and that is the figure suggested—for your land and then we will pay you for your sheds and other buildings. However, if you want to receive the money which the land would be worth if people bought it as building blocks then it must have nothing on it; it must be completely cleared. That is why we are giving you only the disposal value of the houses."

Perhaps one of the houses is worth only £40; I do not know. However, the man who owns it has to live somewhere, and if that house is pulled down he has to get another house somewhere else, and he certainly could not buy one for £40. I do not think he could buy a tent, such as I mentioned when I spoke of the doctor who originally pitched a tent on Garden Island, for £40.

*Sitting suspended from 6.10 to 7.30 p.m.*

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: Prior to the tea suspension I said I had serious doubts as to the ability of anyone being able to build a replacement home for £40. The point I am trying to emphasise is not that I necessarily believe the Act does not provide that people shall be granted a just compensation for their properties and homes; what I am suggesting is that the manner in which the Act has been implemented is unjust.

To elaborate further, I will make this comment to the House: The department has told the brothers concerned—and, in fact, has told me—that if they expect to get full value for the improvements they

have made on the land—when I say full value I mean full value for their pumping equipment, chicken runs, and all the other improvements relating to a poultry farm—they can expect to get only poultry farm value for the land on which they are carrying on their business. This is the main issue I am trying to emphasise. If this line of thought is adopted, I am afraid I cannot agree with it.

Irrespective of the purpose for which it is being used, I maintain that the land is worth what anyone is willing to offer for it. In this particular district it has been proved that the price people are prepared to pay for a block of land on which to erect a house is approximately £900 or £1,000. However, the amount of money the department is offering these gentlemen works out to approximately £650 a quarter-acre block. The department has gone on to say that if it pays £650 a quarter-acre block it will pay only demolition value for any improvements on the property. The department values the land not at £650 a quarter-acre block, but at £300 per acre if the owners want the full value for the improvements on the land.

I cannot follow this line of argument. If a person wants to build a house on this block of land the block is worth £1,000 a quarter-acre, but to say that the land is worth only—

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Is this land subdivided?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: No.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Is it capable of being subdivided?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: No, because it is zoned as open space, or a green belt.

The Hon. R. Thompson: How far away is the nearest house?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: Over the street, only a few yards away.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is in an urban area?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: Yes. I now want to point to another instance. I have not checked the authenticity of this but I believe that it is quite correct. When these negotiations were progressing, another gentleman, whose property adjoins the land belonging to the brothers I have mentioned, received £17,850 for two acres. This land is at the rear of the brothers' property and is situated where the land, if anything, would be worth less. I will admit that there was a large valuable house erected on it. However, the brother who have a poultry farm established on  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land, together with improvement, have had their block valued at £12,500. Nothing will convince me that this is just.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Is this the authentic case or the unauthentic one?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: The block of land valued at £12,500 is the authentic case, of which I have knowledge, but I am given to believe that the other valuation is right.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Which one was right?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: According to my information, they are both right. These brothers are about 58 or 60 years of age. If this property is taken from them at a valuation of £12,500 they then become unemployed with £6,250 each with which to go out into the world and live until they reach the age when they are eligible for the old-age pension.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: And they are without a home.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: Yes, but they could buy one, of course, with the £6,250 they would each have. However, it would mean that they would have to get a job for, say, seven or eight years before they could receive a pension. I do not think they are making a fortune on the poultry farm, but at least they are making a living, or enough to relieve the country of the burden of paying each of them the old-age pension. Furthermore, I think they would stay on the property, if they were permitted to do so, till the day they die. The authority has told them they can stay there because it does not require the land immediately.

The brothers can stay on this property provided they do not carry out any improvements. They told me that if they stayed on the poultry farm they would have to buy more equipment to enable them to compete with other poultry farmers, and that this equipment would cost them about 25s. per hen, and they have 3,000 head. If they spend this huge amount of money they have no guarantee that the authority will not approach them this year, or the year after and say, "We have decided that we are now in a position to put this land to the use for which we have zoned it." So these men are virtually prevented from spending any money to improve their equipment to keep up with their competitors.

The Hon. R. Thompson: And if the land values jump they will be paid only today's market value.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: I am getting around to that point. The very first sentence I uttered was that these people made the unfortunate mistake of making an application to build a house on the property. If they had not applied no-one would have known of their position and they would have carried on merrily whilst the value of their land continued to increase. The letter from the Under-Secretary for Works, dated the 21st September, 1965, contains this paragraph—

In accordance with section 7 (12) (b) of the Town Planning and De-

velopment Act the price to be paid should not exceed "the value of the land at the time of the refusal of permission" to carry out development on the land, viz., 14th October, 1964. There is no provision for the payment of interest on the purchase price or of any subsequent increment in value.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Read the next paragraph.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: Very well. The Minister has asked me to read the next paragraph, so I will do so. It reads—

However, the Departmental valuation has not been rigidly fixed to the above date and is considered to be adequate to cover any subsequent increment in value.

I agree that the valuation is not rigidly fixed to that date, but, instead, it is rigidly fixed to a date eight or nine months later, and the document I have here proves that. The valuation was placed on the land on the 26th August, 1965, and the particular date mentioned was the 14th October, 1964, which is less than a year earlier.

I have mentioned this to the Minister, and I am certainly not laying any blame on his shoulders, but I pointed out that for ever and a day the price these men will get for their land, even if they decide to stay there, will be only £12,500. The Minister said, "This section is not rigidly adhered to." But that is the provision in the Act, and the letter sent to the person concerned states that this is the section governing the position. I would be very pleased indeed if the Minister would write a letter to this person stating that in no circumstances will this section of the Act be adhered to.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: But the Minister cannot break the law.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: That is what I am trying to point out. In any case, I am sure he would have no desire to break the law. However, I am airing the views of these people. They have made every effort to make a success of their business and I sincerely believe that they are level-headed people who are asking that only a fair remuneration be given to them for the work they have done in improving their property over the years. I conclude this part of my speech by saying that I am quite sure the Government realises these anomalies exist, and in view of the Minister's recent statement I am certain that the amendments he proposes to introduce to the Act will tend to prevent similar situations occurring.

However, I felt it was my duty as a representative of these people, to bring this case before the House, because I maintain that the attitude of the department is unjust.

I would now like to touch on a much happier subject. I consider I would be less than unjust if I did not make some mention of the recent trip which was made by members of this Parliament to the north. Other members, including myself, have already expressed their pleasure and appreciation that the opportunity to make this trip was made available to them so that they could view the development that is taking place in the north of this State. I certainly congratulate the Minister for the North-West and his staff for this well-organised trip that was arranged for us.

It gave us a very vivid indication that Western Australia is, in fact, bursting with activity on a scale which those who have never been to the north are not fully aware of. I would like to have it placed on record that I certainly appreciated the opportunity made available by the Government to visit the north-west, and I certainly learned a great deal from that trip.

Another matter which I wish to bring to the attention of members relates to housing accommodation. Mr. Syd Thompson, who is not now in the Chamber, made reference the other day to the fact that some houses in his electorate which were owned by the State Housing Commission had been left vacant for long periods. He made the suggestion that if every house owned by the commission were occupied one week earlier than they are actually occupied, then perhaps the housing situation would not be so acute.

Recently I received a letter from a lady in my electorate lodging a complaint. I had been trying to secure housing accommodation for her from the commission. The complaint was along the lines referred to by Mr. Syd Thompson. She said that in Bentley there was a house which had been vacant for six weeks, and which she passed frequently. She asked why I could not get that house for her. It is only right for me to bring to the attention of members the result of the inquiries which I made on her behalf. I discovered that the particular house which she alleged had been vacant for six weeks had, in fact, been vacant for slightly less than four weeks; and during that time it had been undergoing renovations to the tune of \$650, because it was in need of rather major repairs. In my opinion the commission certainly does not have its houses lying idle, if they can be occupied.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Of course it does not!

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: I was very pleased to see one particular item mentioned in the Speech of His Excellency. He said that the Government proposed to introduce amendments to the Education Act, one of which would enable the Minister, under certain circumstances, to permit a child to leave school before reaching the age of 15 years—the required

leaving age. I am pleased to see this provision will be inserted in the Act. Whilst I agree that the children should be kept at school as long as possible, I believe that under certain circumstances it would be a waste of time to keep some children at school until the required leaving age, and it would be a waste of time to the teachers to do so.

I wish to refer briefly to the case of a girl who lives in my electorate. She was making absolutely no progress at school; she did not like school; and she could not get on with her teachers; so she decided illegally to leave school. She sought employment and was successful in getting a very worth-while position. She worked in the job for nearly a week, and her employer was most happy with her services. She could have remained in that job for the rest of her working life, and she would have been taught a trade. However, one day the truant officer went to the factory where she was working and insisted that she return to school.

I maintain it was an absolute waste of time sending her back to school. She did go back to school, but she has done absolutely nothing there, and she is learning nothing. When she reaches the required leaving age the position which she took with the particular organisation probably will not be available to her, and she could become a burden to the State. For that reason I am pleased to see a reference in the Speech of His Excellency to the introduction of amendments to the Education Act.

The other day I read with some concern a reference in the newspapers to the increase in thefts from building sites. As members are aware I spent many years associated with the building trades, and I had to put up with this type of action by irresponsible people who go onto building sites after the workmen have knocked off and steal building materials. I am pleased to see the report in the newspaper that the magistrate gave a very stern warning that in future any such offender coming before him would receive a severe penalty. He imposed a pretty heavy fine on the offender who was brought before him in this case.

By virtue of their business, builders have to rely to a large extent on leaving materials out in the open during weekends and at night, and trusting that people will leave them alone. In my view no penalty is too severe to impose on anyone who goes onto unguarded building sites to steal materials.

I vividly recall the instance when a builder was constructing a house with very special bricks. This instance will reveal the thinking of some people. Some of the bricks were left on the site over the weekend. When the workmen returned to work on the Monday morning they found that the house next door had a beautiful brick

garden box and some steps which had been built with a similar type of brick. The people concerned were challenged by the builders, and the reply was, "Builders generally have plenty of bricks left over on their jobs." People do not seem to have any qualms about taking building materials from a site, assuming there will be a lot left on the job. They assume that some materials will be left over, and therefore they take them.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: Take them before they are left over?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: Yes. I am pleased that the magistrate issued a stern warning to this type of offender. One does not have to be very clever or smart to go onto unguarded building sites over the weekend and steal building materials.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: It is common theft.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: That is right. I would now like to pay a tribute to the Government for installing so quickly the boom gates at the Rivervale railway crossing, after a couple of terrible tragedies occurred. I commend the Government for the swift action it took in installing those gates. Like others, I would be very pleased to see the eventual provision of a tunnel under the railway line near that crossing. In the meantime motorists are well protected by the boom gates.

One other matter I wish to mention briefly relates to the Traffic Regulations. The police should make a closer investigation of offenders who drive along our highways with their traffic indicator lights on when they are not making a turn. Often I have driven along the highways and found a motorist in front driving for miles and miles with the traffic indicator lights flashing. Often in such a case when the following motorist attempts to pass, the offender in front decides to make a turn; and if a collision were to occur the overtaking driver would be in the wrong. I do not know whether people commit an offence by failing to switch off their traffic indicator lights when they do not intend to make a turn; if it is not an offence then it should be made one. With those comments I support the motion.

**THE HON. T. O. PERRY** (Lower Central) [7.57 p.m.]: I join with other speakers in congratulating Mr. Willesee on his election as Leader of the Opposition in this House. I wish him a long and rewarding term as the leader of his party. To Mr. Wise, who has just relinquished that position, I would like to tell him that I have a very high regard of and great respect for him. It is said that we cannot have a good Government unless we have a strong Opposition. If that be true then Mr. Wise has certainly made a strong contribution to good government.

I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply moved by Mr. Ferry.

I was very interested in the figures which he gave relating to tourism, because in my view the tourist trade in this State has a very bright future.

I now wish to speak on the role played by the St. John Ambulance Association in Western Australia and on what I consider to be a very unsatisfactory method of financing this essential service. It is financed on a charitable, rather than on a social service, basis. This places a very heavy burden on the small committees which usually run the St. John ambulance centres. They raise the finance necessary to provide first aid treatment to the public.

These small committees which run the centres not only drive the ambulances, but also give training in first aid, render first aid, do all the washing of sheets, bandages, etc., and wash and clean the ambulances. In view of the services they render these people should not be called upon to raise the finance which is required for this worthy cause. I make the plea for such finance to be provided on the State Government or on the local government level. In fact, some town councils and shire councils do subsidise various centres, whilst others do not make any contribution whatsoever.

People living in isolated areas have always faced the problem of providing medical aid and first aid; and Sir Sidney Kidman, writing a forward to Idriess' book *Flynn Of the Inland* had this to say—

Only those who have experienced the danger, discomforts and difficulties associated with the outback country, especially in the early days, can realise what it means to have available at various centres the medical facilities provided by the A.I.M.

During most of the years I have spent in the isolated parts of our great country no such help could be obtained.

Although today we do not know the isolation experienced by many of our early pioneers, there are still many places which are miles from the nearest doctor or hospital, and it is in those places especially that the St. John Ambulance Association plays a very vital role.

Perhaps I should give something of the history of first aid. The originator was a man called Esmark, a German surgeon who served in the Franco-Prussian war. He was so horrified by the suffering he witnessed that he organised first aid training. In 1877 it spread to England, a year later the association published its first text book, and I think 10 years later it was granted Royal patronage.

First aid as we know it is the immediate and temporary aid given to the victim of an accident or a sudden illness. Its purpose is to preserve life and to prevent suffering. Classes are organised for the Police Force, fire brigades, railway workers, armed forces, and, more re-



cently in this country, the civil defence organisation.

In the case of civil defence it has put a lot of work on the shoulders of the instructors and demonstrators who train first-aiders. The object of first aid classes is to encourage as many as possible to gain a knowledge which will enable them to render enlightened help whenever they are called upon to do so.

A very interesting survey was conducted by a team of medical men in the United States. It revealed that 50 per cent. of accident victims permanently disabled could attribute their condition to having been attended by people without a proper knowledge of first aid or to having been transported to hospital in a vehicle other than an ambulance.

In Western Australia there was the case of a girl who was burnt while lying unconscious on a hot bitumen road. Those who attended her did not realise what was happening. This occurred in Canning Highway in our own metropolitan area. I myself was called to the scene of a car smash around which 20 athletes were standing, but not one of them had any knowledge of first aid. Wishing to help the unconscious victim, they sat him up in the back seat of a motorcar. As was revealed later, he had a fractured skull and blood drained into his lung and he drowned in his own blood. Had the simple rules of first aid been observed, and the casualty placed in a three-quarter prone position he would have reached hospital alive.

Another case occurred not far from the accident I just mentioned. A fletcher was run over by a locomotive and both legs were amputated. Although he was 40 miles from the nearest doctor and no nursing sister was available, a first-aider treated the casualty and that man is alive today, walking around Collie on artificial legs.

I quote these two cases to show that one person died because no-one with a knowledge of first aid was in attendance; and the second person, although seriously injured, is alive today because the rules of first aid were observed.

Those who hold responsible positions in our Government here realise the importance of first aid. I believe it was a former Labor Government which first gave financial assistance to first aid. It was not on an annual basis, but was merely a grant that was made. Today the Premier, as Treasurer, is most sympathetic towards this work and the financial grants made each year to the St. John Ambulance Association can only be termed as generous.

I can supply a little information on the subsidies given. In the case of a new ambulance, approximately one-third of the cost is borne by the Treasury. In the case of a new building erected by a sub-

centre, one-third of the cost, to a maximum of £3,000, is borne by the Treasury. That means, that in the case of a £10,000 building the Treasury would bear £3,000.

Today we have the headquarters, and 92 subcentres scattered throughout the metropolitan area and country districts. Of the 92 subcentres, 10 employ paid drivers and are further subsidised by the Treasury. The 82 subcentres which do not employ paid drivers are run on a voluntary basis. The small committees which run these centres do the driving, washing of the ambulances, and general upkeep of the subcentres. In short, these committees, although usually small in numbers, provide an essential service for the whole community.

I believe that the work today has become so great that the service cannot be run on a charitable basis, but should be run on a social service basis, financed at either State or local government level. If this were done a much higher standard of first aid in Australia could be maintained and much of the energy wasted on raising finance could be put into more study and into running the centres more efficiently. A fraction of a penny added to the rates would finance any ambulance subcentre. In most country shires I believe that from 1/10th to a 1/20th of a penny put on the U.C.V. would enable free transport to the nearest hospital of any casualties.

I would like to quote the case of Bunbury because these figures were given over the A.B.C. recently. The subcentre president was warning the people of Bunbury that they were running into financial difficulties. This centre serves not only the Bunbury area, but also, I believe, Boyanup, Dardanup, and part of Harvey. It has 1,100 family members now and the estimated number of families in the area is 5,000. The total population is 20,000 but there are only 5,000 families. This means that 20 per cent. of the family population is providing a service for the whole community. Of the accounts sent out to the non-members for transport in the ambulance, 47 per cent. were paid and 53 per cent. remained unpaid.

The Bunbury Town Council gives a subsidy of \$2,000 per year, Geraldton gives \$2,500 a year, and the centre in my area, West Arthur, gives a small subsidy; but many do not give any subsidy at all. I believe that I will see the day when the burden of raising the finance will be lifted from these committees, and I sincerely hope that it will occur during the life of this Government.

The expenditure of these committees is very closely watched. Every subcentre has to send an annual report of its activities, together with a copy of its balance sheet, to the headquarters in Wellington Street. After surveying the balance sheets, headquarters in turn sends to the Treasurer a statement of the overall financial

position. Therefore a very close check is kept on the expenditure of these sub-centres. I support the motion.

**THE HON. J. M. THOMSON** (South) [8.10 p.m.]: I wish to be associated with other members in congratulating Mr. Willesee and Mr. Dolan upon their election to their new offices, and to wish them well in their new responsibilities.

I wish also to pay tribute to the services which have been rendered in this House, in another place, and generally, by Mr. Frank Wise who recently relinquished the position of Leader of the Opposition in this House and who is now sitting in the back benches. His genuineness and his contributions have been appreciated and he has earned our high regard and respect.

Like other members I feel that the Address-in-Reply gives us an opportunity to discuss various matters of interest and importance to the areas we represent and to the State generally. I wish to refer to one or two matters which have no doubt been of concern to other members. Firstly I will deal with soil erosion. This subject could no doubt be more competently dealt with by others who, from their own bitter experience, know the results and effects of it. However, from what I along with other members witnessed in the North Newdegate and Lake Biddy areas in January this year, I am convinced of the acute necessity to make an attempt to do something about the matter.

I feel that the committee which is working on this problem is doing a tremendous job. It is not an easy problem to solve, but it is of national importance and something must be done to arrest the soil erosion taking place in our country areas.

One thing which is obvious to many of us is the dangers which ensue when conditional purchase land is thrown open for selection. When it is allocated and cleared the effect on the land in the lower areas is tremendous. It is most essential that something should be written into the conditional purchase agreements which will provide for the maintenance of a sizeable strip of timber along the apparent water flows. Although this will help, it will not solve the problem entirely, and possibly some provision should be included in the conditions of purchase under which clearing in certain areas would be restricted. This would benefit the person concerned and also those in the lower areas nearby.

I feel this is a feasible proposition to submit. No doubt it has been considered by many and I trust that, as a result of their thinking, the suggestions made by us—and myself in this particular instance—will be of some avail to help relieve the situation.

Another matter to which I wish to refer is in regard to agricultural education. I would make particular reference to the Denmark Agricultural Junior High School. At the same time, I strongly commend

the Government for what it has done at Narrogin, Cunderdin, and Harvey. When one peruses the account of the expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, one sees that a large sum of money is being expended in this regard. It is essential, of course, that this money is made available—or, indeed, an increased amount is made available—from year to year in order to meet the present needs in regard to agricultural education.

In looking back over the figures for the last four years, it is interesting to note that the amount of money that has been expended under this classification of education has risen from £92,000 in 1962-63 to over £118,000 last year. No doubt the amount will continue to increase and the increase will be fully justified by the tremendously-important job which has to be done in connection with the expansion of education in this field.

Some years ago the Denmark Shire Council made available to the Government 230 acres of land for the purpose of providing practical agricultural training for boys attending that school. This, too, has been the procedure with regard to other similar schools that I have mentioned.

I have before me a statement concerning this particular school which could be of interest to members. The statement refers to the year 1965-66 and the money that was spent out of revenue in that particular year on the farm side of the school amounted to \$20,231. This money was expended on the following items:—

fuel; cropping; burr; fodder; plant and machinery; buildings; fencing; gates; water supplies; motor vehicles; sheep; shearing; pigs; cattle; poultry; veterinary supplies; and orchards.

As I have said, the total expenditure covering servicing of these items was \$20,231. In addition an amount of \$6,676 was spent on wages to casual employees and the farm school received a loan of \$8,000 from the Commonwealth Government which is available, I understand, from year to year. The total expenditure over the past three years which has been made in the development of this agricultural farm school at Denmark has amounted to \$76,904.

Personally, I find it very gratifying to see the results that have been achieved over this period and the tremendous benefit it has meant to the young lads attending this particular school to receive the tuition, advice, and training which they are getting.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Do they have any revenue?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Yes, they possibly have but I do not have the figures. However, it would be a very small revenue. Nevertheless it is one which, ere long no doubt, will return some revenue to show on the credit side of the balance sheet.

Recently, an additional amount of 180 acres of land has been added to the farm

thus making a total of 410 acres. This land is being kept for future development. I think it is opportune now and, in fact, needful for the Government to look at the position and to examine the merits of extending accommodation in order to house an additional 20 boys at this particular school. These boys could be accommodated by an extension to the sleeping accommodation and this would cost probably between \$7,000 and \$8,000. There is no need to provide additional ablution or toilet facilities, and dining and kitchen area. Similarly, there is no need to increase the ground space. When the building was constructed, it was constructed with a view to the future. I think it is desirable that this additional accommodation be provided in order to increase the number of boys able to attend this school. I would say in this regard that we would be making greater use of the existing facilities and this is surely essential when one is considering public finance.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Are they receiving more applications?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Yes, that is the position. More applications have been received from students seeking accommodation than can be provided for.

There is no need to purchase any more land. The land is available to make the required extension. This particular group of boys could be accommodated, perhaps, for the purpose of specialising in farm labour or in farm management. Both of these aspects are of great importance in farming today. There are many young men who, possibly, will never own their own properties but who, nevertheless, will make good farm employees. I think that courses geared to this end would possibly be a means of embarking them on their careers. In addition, there are some who may never be able to own their own properties but who are efficient and who would make good farm managers. There again, I think that a course in farm management could well be considered along with the increase in the size and facilities at this school, and at other schools like it.

In speaking in regard to agricultural education, I must mention that I looked with much interest and gratification at what is going on at the Mt. Barker Junior High School. This is a day school, of course, whereas the Denmark school is a boarding school.

It is also very interesting to know what is proposed and what has been done in the very early stages so far as the extension of agricultural training at Esperance is concerned. These two centres—Mt. Barker and Esperance—will no doubt reach the position where they will need to have a boarding section attached to their respective schools. So much for agricultural education.

I now turn to the question of technical education which, as we know, is being

discussed at this very moment by the Pan-Indian Ocean conference which is being held in Perth. The Government has said much—and has spent much—on technical education training. One has only to look at the Estimates and expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and from the loan fund, to have an appreciation of the finance made available to further this particular branch of education.

There is only one thing that I have to say in regard to this matter on this occasion and that is that I think it would be in the interests and to the betterment of technical training if the technical annexes were to revert, wholly and solely, to the high schools where the syllabuses of manual training and domestic sciences are laid down in the curriculum for students attending our five-year high schools.

Technical schools or colleges should be provided as an entirely separate and distinct entity from our secondary schools. This is something which will need to be given very serious consideration and could apply more to the country than to the metropolitan areas. I feel that if technical schools or technical colleges, which were separate and distinct from those that exist for secondary education, were erected in our larger country centres, this would be of benefit to both of the sections referred to.

Whilst speaking on education I would like to mention the matter of university colleges. We have heard about and seen the strong desire that exists to have these university colleges erected in larger provincial towns. I noted with interest the comment made recently by the Premier that before a second university was built, the establishment of university colleges within country centres would be the appropriate approach to university extensions. Possibly, these are not exactly the words he used but I feel that this is what was implied.

This statement, which was made by the Premier, and the expressions of opinion which we hear of, and read about, from time to time, have been substantiated also by a statement by Professor M. N. Austin, Professor of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Western Australia. It is with interest that I report to the House just what this gentleman said in connection with the extension of university college facilities to the country areas of our State. The article I have states—

Professor Austin claims that academic colleges attached to the university should be set up in country towns before another full scale university was built in the State.

He said Perth needed a much greater density of population before it could support another university.

With a second university there would be strong competition for limited staff resources unless there was a large scale importation of academic staff.

Professor Austin said that if the second university was built before the State could afford it there would be competition for limited funds.

He suggested that academic colleges dealing with subjects such as forestry and agriculture could be set up in country towns and could experiment in educational methods that were not possible at the university.

Students at the country colleges could move to the university to study for higher degrees.

It is interesting and important to note that the Government has seen fit to secure areas of land in country centres for the purpose of extending university facilities. I think it is fair and proper to say at this moment that according to a Government map 400 acres of land have been set aside for university purposes, and 70 acres have been set aside for the teachers' training college in the Albany area. This of course was futuristic planning.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Getting ready for the new State.

The Hon. J. Heitman: What about Geraldton?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: What about Bunbury?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: These undoubtedly will also be considered but at the moment I wish to press the claims of Albany, and to show that it has a prior right for the establishment of a university college. I knew that the moment I got on to this subject other members would put forward their claims. I consider—and it is considered by those who are far more competent than I am to judge—that because of its geographical location, and its climatic conditions, and because of the allocation of an ideal and elevated site of some 400 acres, together with other important and practical reasons, there is no doubt that Albany would be a most suitable place to establish such a university college. There is no necessity for me to draw any comparison.

When discussing the question of universities the first thing that must be considered is the question of population. In this connection I have taken out some figures. Before I go any further, however, I wish to say that never at any time have I indulged in discussions or adopted the attitude of Albany versus Bunbury or of Albany versus anywhere else. That sort of thing does not get us anywhere.

I do feel, however, that the facts I am about to give will substantiate Albany's claim for a university college. If decentralisation means anything to Governments—whether it be the present or future Governments—and if it means anything to the people of our State, I believe that the detail and the circumstances I am about to outline will speak for themselves in this particular exercise.

Let us consider the zone of Bunbury which could have an estimated population in the vicinity of 64,000 people. My research shows that 74 per cent. of that number are within 150 miles of the present University at Crawley.

I think it is proper to say that approximately half of that 74 per cent. would be within 115 miles of Crawley, and the other 26 per cent. would be within 200 miles of the University. In arriving at these figures I considered the shires of Waroona, Collie, and then south to Manjimup and Busselton. This included a total of 13 shires.

The zone of Albany—the Southern Agricultural Statistical Division—could have a population of 50,000 to be served. I estimate that 55 per cent. of this population is over 200 miles from Perth. Some would be nearer 400 miles from the University at Crawley; 35 per cent. of this population of 50,000 is 200 miles from Crawley, while 10 per cent. would be 150 miles away.

If we are genuine in our approach to decentralisation, then for the reasons I have stated a university college based at Albany would be a sound proposition, seeing that it is a centre well removed from the present University and that it serves an expanding regional area. Even though it may serve a smaller population than that of the other area, the students attending this college would not have so far to travel. The proximity of Bunbury to Perth does not warrant the establishment of a university college there; at least not in my opinion or in the opinion of those who support Albany's claim.

The Hon. N. McNeill: Is the distance from Perth the best criterion for the selection of a university college?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I think it is a very important consideration, and one that should be taken into account in conjunction with our advocacy of decentralisation. We should provide this facility where it will serve the greatest need of the greatest number of people.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: If you have to leave home does it matter much whether you go one mile or 20 miles?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I think I will need notice of that question.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It depends where you have to go.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Having disposed of my reference to education, I now desire, in conclusion, to say a few words about the fishing industry. It might surprise members to know that our imports into Western Australia exceeded our exports to the tune of \$55,156. So far as weight is concerned our imports exceeded our exports by 139,073 lb. I was most surprised to see that this should be the case, and it does show that we have an industry which needs to be exploited to a

far greater extent than is being done at the moment.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Does this include canned fish and everything else?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: It includes both frozen and canned fish, and the figure I quoted was f.o.b. port of shipment. The total figure covers all imports relating to canned fish, fish in brine, salted fish, frozen fish, and all others. This is something to which we should give a great deal more consideration. The industry should be developed to a far greater extent than is the case at the moment.

I was rather interested to hear the remarks of somebody who was competent to pass an opinion, particularly when he talked about our carrying out our fishing activities from the kitchen door. I feel there is a good opportunity going begging for some enterprising body of people to establish a trawling industry somewhere along the south coast. I know this was attempted in 1949, and I am also aware of the fact that the State Government was considerably embarrassed over that deal. There were also a few private individuals who suffered as a result of the failure of that project. But because that venture failed I am not prepared to concede that other similar ventures would also fail, particularly if they were carried out by men with business acumen.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That venture did not fail basically through lack of fish.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: No, it did not, but a survey proved conclusively that the fish are there in great numbers. The report I have here was compiled by a master (Mr. J. B. Duthie) who was later in charge of one of the fishing trawlers. The report is of tremendous interest and contains much valuable information in regard to his observations and examinations. The fish are in great numbers on the edge of the continental shelf at the eastern end of the bight, but we were hopeful they would be found in abundance in close proximity to the point from which they were operating. However, according to this report, such was not the case.

If any company sees fit to move into this field, every consideration and encouragement should be given it by the Department of Industrial Development. We know that Japanese and Russian ships are trawling off our coast, so the operation must be profitable; and if it is profitable for them it should be equally so to any efficient company that is prepared to operate in this industry.

Of course, modern ships, modern equipment, and refrigeration would be needed; and this was lacking in the 1949 venture to which I have referred. That venture was condemned to failure before it started. At the time this venture was proposed and commenced to get under way, much

apathy was shown and disparaging remarks were made by people who should have known better—people who should have encouraged an industry of this kind. We should exploit this industry to a greater extent than we are doing at the present time.

Before I conclude I wish to refer briefly to another item. I would like to see the Forests Department conduct a survey into the possibility of establishing pine plantations on the Crown lands at Albany, and within the Denmark area. The department must have information available to it which we have not; and no doubt an investigation and survey along those lines would indicate the possibilities of the areas to which I have referred. It is possible to see the development that has taken place in afforestation when one looks at the 1964 report of the Forests Department. The department established 14,560 acres of *pinus radiata*, and 23,194 acres of *pinus pinaster*.

If the survey I have referred to were carried out, and afforestation could take place in the Albany and Denmark areas, it would be beneficial, not only from the point of view of our softwood timber requirements, but it would also foster the paper pulp industry which, in time—these things take quite a lot of time—would be to the advantage of Western Australia. Whether this possibility exists, I do not know, but I would appreciate the co-operation and advice of the Forests Department along these lines. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines).

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [8.49 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 23rd August.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 8.50 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 17th August, 1966

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**ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE:  
SPECIAL**