

time because of disagreement, but we were able to come to an agreement; and from that day to this all the outstanding claims have been paid.

Naturally the trust cannot pay out unless a claim has been specified in court; and some of these cases take four or five years before they get into the court. For instance the case of the Clontarf boys has not been completed, and those hospital bills have to wait until liability has been established. I do not know how that problem can be overcome, if at all. However the ordinary day-to-day accident hospital accounts have all been brought up to date.

I thank members for their contributions to this debate. Irrespective of who is the Minister handling this matter next year, these papers will be made available. If I am still here I will endeavour to see—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You have no doubts about it, have you?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I have no doubts, but I think other members might and I like to be fair in these things.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: There are only two certainties—death and the Taxation Department.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes; they both catch up with us. I assure members that I will continue my studies on this matter, and if I think it is advisable I will suggest amendments to the Act.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. W. R. Hall) in the Chair; The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Section 31 amended—

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: Under this clause one of the members of the committee of six shall be the General Manager of the State Government Insurance Office. It seems out of balance to me that although the Fire and Accident Underwriters' Association in Western Australia is comprised of approximately 150 insurance companies it has only one representative the same as has the State Insurance Office.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The insurance companies discussed this with me and they are quite happy about the set-up. It is not as much out of balance as the honourable member thinks, because at the moment about 35 per cent. of the business being transacted is through the State office. Therefore when it is worked out it will be realised that the quota is pretty right. The manager of the State Insurance Office was on the previous committee, and I did not want to upset that arrangement either.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I was very pleased to hear the Minister say that arrangements have now been made to meet contingent accounts with hospitals and doctors. Last year the Minister and I crossed swords once or twice because he misunderstood me when I tried to force this issue.

In regard to raising funds towards the cost of these accidents, I believe that the fines being imposed for negligent driving resulting in accidents should be allotted to the trust in order to helping alleviate some of the costs. I believe, as does Mr. Hall, that the fines imposed for speeding and such like should be allocated to the Traffic Department for revenue, but not the fines imposed for negligent driving resulting in accidents.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 12th September.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.29 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 30th August, 1961

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ROAD TRANSPORT

Gross Vehicle and Combined Weight Specification

3. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Transport:
- (1) When the gross vehicle weight and gross combination weight come into force, will it impose a maximum weight on—
 - (a) a single tyre;
 - (b) a single axle;
 - (c) a tandem with single tyres;
 - (d) a tandem with dual tyres?
 - (2) If a maximum weight is to be imposed, what will it be in respect to (a), (b), (c), and (d) above?
 - (3) Will the spacing of the axles on a vehicle or a combination restrict in any way the maker's G.V.W. or G.C.W. specifications?
- Mr. PERKINS replied:
- (1) There will be no change in existing maximum tyre and axle loadings which are recommended by technical officers of the Main Roads Department. These will remain as follows:—
 - (a) 5,000 lb.
 - (b) 18,000 lb. (dual wheels).
 - (c) 20,000 lb.
 - (d) 29,000 lb.
 - (2) Answered by No. (1).
 - (3) The Manufacturers' G.V.W. or G.C.W. will be restricted to the tenth schedule loading, except when operating under permit.

4. This question was postponed.

TOBACCO LEAF

Chloride Content

5. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Agriculture:
- (1) Has the Department of Agriculture or the C.S.I.R.O. any means of ascertaining the chloride content in tobacco leaf grown in—
 - (a) Queensland;
 - (b) Western Australia;
 - (c) America
 in the year 1960?
 - (2) If the answer is "Yes," will he give this information to the House as early as possible?
- Mr. NALDER replied:
- (1) (a) No.
(b) Yes.
(c) No.
 - (2) Samples of Western Australian leaf tested from the 1960 crop have varied from 1.5 to 5 per cent.

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. This question was postponed.

RAILWAY LINES

- Used Rails: Availability for Purchase, and Price
2. Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Railways:
- (1) Is there any minimum quantity in which used railway lines may be purchased?
 - (2) Are these rails still available to farmers?
 - (3) What is the current price?
- Mr. COURT replied:
- (1) No.
 - (2) Yes.
 - (3) £16 per ton at site. (Second-hand structural quality.)

GAOLS AND POLICE STATIONS*Detention and Release of Arrested Persons*

6. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Police:

Under what conditions, and by what statutory authority, can persons be arrested and after some detention at the police station or a gaol, be released without having to face any court appearance?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

Persons once arrested cannot be released without a charge being preferred and a subsequent court appearance.

NET FISHING*Peel Inlet and Murray River Estuary Restrictions*

7. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Fisheries:

What restrictions regarding net fishing prevail in the Peel Inlet and Murray River estuary during the week-end?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The taking of any fish whatsoever by means of fishing nets in the waters of Harvey estuary and Peel Inlet (Murray River estuary) is prohibited during the periods commencing at 8 o'clock in the forenoon of Friday in each week and ending at 4 o'clock in the forenoon of the Sunday next following.

IRON ORE AND COAL*Mt. Goldsworthy Iron Deposits: Quantity and Quality*

8. Mr. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines.

- (1) Has he read the report by Sir Arthur Padden, published in *The West Australian* newspaper dated Tuesday, the 29th August, 1961, respecting the quantities and quality of iron ore at Mt. Goldsworthy?
- (2) If so, will he advise the House who was responsible for advising the State Government as to the quantities and quality of iron ore at Mt. Goldsworthy?

Muja Open-Cut Coal: Quantities

- (3) Was it the same authority who advised the State Government with respect to the estimated quantity of coal contained in the area known as the Muja open-cut?
- (4) If the authority is the same, what reliance can the Government place on the reported estimated quantity of coal at the Muja open-cut?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Officers of the Mines Department.
- (3) No.
- (4) Answered by No. (3); and in view of recent Press reports dealing with the statement referred to, the question is difficult to understand.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION*Application Forms: Availability in Kalgoorlie and Boulder*

9. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Are State Housing Commission application forms now available at a Government office in Kalgoorlie and Boulder?
- (2) If so, at what offices?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) The Minister for Housing wrote to the honourable member under letter dated the 20th June, 1961. In the fourth paragraph of the letter, the honourable member was asked to suggest, in view of his interest in this matter, the most suitable places at which forms should be made available. Forms will be made available at the Mining Registrar's office, Kalgoorlie. If the honourable member has any other suggestion to make, the Minister for Housing will be pleased to receive same.

STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES*Debts Due at Date of Take-over and Payment by Hawker Siddeley*

10. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) In the matter of debts due to the State Building Supplies as at date of take-over, what was the amount involved?
- (2) When must payment of collections of these debts (less legal and out-of-pocket expenses) be made over to the Government by Hawker Siddeley Group?
- (3) Where, in the agreement, is the arrangement set out?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) £424,592.
- (2) The purchaser is required to account to the Under-Treasurer monthly for all debts collected during the previous month. First collections for the month of July, 1961, amounting to £184,510 16s. 2d., have been received by the Treasury.
- (3) Clause 8.

GOVERNMENT OFFICERS' SALARIES

Increases Granted to Public Servants and Schoolteachers

11. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

- (1) What is the annual salary at the present time of—
 - (a) a public servant; and
 - (b) a school teacher,
 who were in receipt of salaries of £2,100 approximately each on the 1st December, 1955?
- (2) On what dates were increases of salary granted in each instance?
- (3) What amounts were awarded on each such date respectively?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) (a) A public servant who was in receipt of a gross annual salary of £2,096 on the 1st December, 1955, now receives £2,555 gross per annum.
- (b) A school teacher who was in receipt of a gross annual salary of £2,085 on the 1st December, 1955, now receives £2,724 gross per annum.

(2) and (3) Increases occurred as follows—

Date	Public Servant £	School Teacher £	Remarks
6/1/56	25	....	Marginal allowance (b).
31/1/56	6	6	Basic wage increase.
28/4/56	9	9	do. do.
23/7/56	11	11	do. do.
29/10/56	10	10	do. do.
1/1/57	....	115	Reclassification of Teaching Service.
4/1/57	8	....	Marginal allowance (b).
25/1/57	2	2	Basic wage increase.
26/4/57	7	7	do. do.
19/7/57	10	10	do. do.
3/1/58	Minus	....	Marginal allowance decrease (b).
7/2/58	Minus	Minus	Basic wage decrease.
4/7/58	11	11	....
4/8/58	10	10	Marginal allowance (b).
27/10/58	3	3	Basic wage increase.
1/1/59	12	....	do. do.
27/4/59	5	5	Public Service Reclassification.
3/7/59	9	....	Basic wage increase.
27/7/59	9	9	Marginal allowance (b).
26/10/59	7	7	Basic wage increase.
1/2/60	223	308	do. do.
2/5/60	13	13	General marginal review (a).
25/7/60	15	15	Basic wage increase.
24/10/60	6	6	do. do.
13/1/61	21	....	do. do.
31/1/61	6	6	Marginal allowance (b).
1/5/61	7	7	Basic wage increase.
1/7/61	....	83	do. do.
14/7/61	24	....	Reclassification of Teaching Service (c).
31/7/61	3	3	Marginal allowance (b).
			Basic wage increase.
	£457	£639	

(a) General marginal review following the margins decision of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission (November, 1959).

(b) Marginal allowance review in accordance with Clause 21 of Public Service Salaries Agreement, 1959.

(c) Appeal lodged by State School Teachers' Union to the Teachers' Tribunal.

STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES

Timber from Metropolitan Yards: Sales and Price

12. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) What quantity of timber, being timber stocks at date of take-over, has been sold from metropolitan yard stocks since that date?
- (2) What was the price thereof shown in State Building Supplies accounts?
- (3) What was the price obtained for the sale of such timber?
- (4) What is the price for such timber as listed in the Associated Sawmillers and Timber Merchants' price list for the Perth metropolitan area?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies Pty. Ltd. is a trading concern and it is hardly reasonable, in the interests of the company and its employees, to make information of this nature public. There is ample protection of public money through the audit system. Under Clause 5 (4) of the agreement the purchaser is required to supply to the Treasurer an accurate return on quantities and price of stock taken over in any month within 30 days of the close of that month.

Due to delays by the State Building Supplies in finalising stock sheets and valuations as at the 30th June, 1961, the time is being extended in which to supply the first return by the purchaser covering stock taken over in July. This extension is to meet the convenience of the State Building Supplies and not the company.

POLICE FORCE IN METROPOLITAN AREA

Number in Various Years and Percentage of Population

13. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What was the total number of the Police Force in the metropolitan area at the 30th June, 1951, 1956, 1961
- (2) At each of these periods how was the Police Force composed as to traffic police, office staff, Criminal Investigation Branch, and ordinary police in the metropolitan area?
- (3) At each of these periods, what was the percentage of police per head of population in the metropolitan area?

- (4) Did the general incidence of offences against the law and committing of crimes increase in the period 1951-1956?
- (5) Was there a further increase in the general number of crimes committed in the period 1956-1961?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- | | 1951 | 1956 | 1961 |
|--|------|------|------|
| (1) | 395 | 671 | 784 |
| (2) Traffic police | 59 | 121 | 158 |
| C.I.B. | 52 | 56 | 80 |
| General police
(including
office staff) | 284 | 494 | 546 |
| (3) | .12% | .18% | .19% |
- (4) Yes, in proportion to the increase in population.
 - (5) Yes, in proportion to the increase in population.
- During the period under review, working hours for members of the Police Force were reduced from 48 to 40 per week.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Investments: Availability of Information to Parliament

14. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Although the Totalisator Agency Board for obvious reasons is of the opinion that Parliament should not be informed why its investments on the totalisator at metropolitan race or trotting meetings are so small compared with the total amount of money held by the board, does he not think that Parliament is entitled to this information?
- (2) Are the investments which the Totalisator Agency Board makes on its own behalf in pool schemes run by the board made before or after the result of the race is known?
- (3) What check is there as to the actual time when investments are made on behalf of the Totalisator Agency Board?
- (4) Why is it necessary that the operations of the Totalisator Agency Board should be clothed in such secrecy as has been the case up to the present?
- (5) Is it not reasonable that Parliament which agreed to the establishment of the Totalisator Agency Board as a public authority at the request of the Government should know how it is operating and whether or not it is actually functioning, in the main, as a totalisator or as a bookmaker?

Payment to Separate Bank Account in August

- (6) What amount was paid by the Totalisator Agency Board into the separate bank account at the beginning of August in compliance with section 26 of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act, 1960?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) Parliament in entitled to some information on this matter. The final accounts and report of the board for the period ended the 31st July, 1961, will show much of the information in total for the full period, and this report will be tabled in due course in accordance with the provisions of section 56 (2) of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act, 1960.
- (2) Before the result of the race is known.
- (3) There is no check because no check is required. It is a standard investment of one win and one place on each and every runner irrespective of the number of runners and of the result.
- (4) The operations of the Totalisator Agency Board are not clothed in secrecy, but the board considers that it should be permitted to operate in a prudent and business-like manner.
- (5) Answered by Nos. (1) and (4) above.
- (6) £2,104.

Operations: Legality

15. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the T.A.B. operating in contravention of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 20 of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act, 1960?
- (2) If its operations are considered to be in compliance with the legal requirements, are they also in compliance with the spirit and intention of section 20 of the Act?

Bets: Closing Time for Acceptance

- (3) How long before the advertised starting time for races on metropolitan race and trotting courses is the prescribed closing time for the acceptance of bets in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 20?
- (4) How long before the advertised starting time for races on metropolitan race and trotting courses would the prescribed closing time for the acceptance of bets need

to be to enable the T.A.B. to transmit the bets received to the totalisator on the course?

- (5) Why is the T.A.B. retaining bets on local races which are not impracticable for it to transmit to totalisators on race and trotting courses?
- (6) Under which section of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act is the T.A.B. empowered to retain bets on local races which are lodged before the prescribed closing time for the acceptance of bets and the transmission of which to a totalisator on a racecourse is not impracticable?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) In my opinion—No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Regulation 14 prescribes that—

Bets made by the deposit of the amount of the bet in cash shall be accepted by the board only during the hours advertised in each totalisator agency for the acceptance of such bets, etc., etc.

In the main a closing time of three minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the race has been fixed.

- (4) In order to be fair to on-course patrons, approximately one hour is considered to be the time necessary in the metropolitan area.
- (5) and (6) The Totalisator Agency Board in its opinion is not retaining bets on local races which are not impracticable for it to transmit to totalisators on race and trotting courses.

STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES AND BANKSLADALE MILL

Net Proceeds Anticipated

16. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

What is a fair and reasonable anticipation of what the Government will receive as the net proceeds of the disposal of the State Building Supplies and the Banksladale mill upon the realisation of the assets and the payment of liabilities?

Mr. COURT replied:

At this juncture it would be unwise to go beyond the broad estimate of asset realisation originally made public.

So far as net proceeds of sale of the State Building Supplies are concerned—i.e., proceeds from realisation of assets less liabilities—much will depend on final settlement of the State Building Supplies' contingent and accrued

liabilities at the 30th June, 1961, and have little relationship to Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies Pty. Ltd.

In view of the need to assess these amounts in a more exhaustive manner at the 30th June, 1961, than at normal balance dates, some time may elapse before these figures are accepted as final. The amount realised for assets will depend substantially on the amount realised for trading stocks as at the 30th June, 1961. Reference to clause 5 of the agreement will indicate that it would be unwise at this stage to reveal any estimate of likely final realisation of stocks under the terms of the agreement.

HOSPITAL FOR OSBORNE PARK

Completion Date

17. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Health:

When does he expect the Osborne Park Hospital to be completed and ready for occupation?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The Public Works Department advised that it will be ready for occupation about the end of March, 1962.

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

Number Registered

18. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Labour:

How many—

- (a) trade association and
- (b) agreements

have been registered under the Trade Associations Registration Act?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

(a) Trade Associations:—

Number finalised	107
Number in course of registration	26
	<hr/> 133

(b) Agreements:—

Number finalised	18
Number in course of registration	32
Number being investigated	8
	<hr/> 58

SCHOOL EXERCISE BOOKS

Printing and Unit Cost

19. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

(1) What printing establishments have been doing the work of ruling school exercise books during the last three years?

- (2) What was the unit cost of this work?

Quotes from Government Printing Office and Private Firms

- (3) During the last three years has the Government Printing Office submitted quotes?
- (4) If so, what were the quotes?
- (5) What were the quotes submitted and accepted from private firms prior to and subsequent to such Government Printing Office quotes?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) W. J. Coates, Spicers, Government Printing Office.
- (2) 1959:
- 48-page exercise book—Coates, 72s. per gross.
 - 64-page exercise book—Spicers, 85s. 4d. per gross.
 - 112-page exercise book—Spicers, 188s. 4d. per gross.
 - 128-page interleaved graph book—Spicers, 339s. 8d. per gross.
- 1960:
- 48-page exercise book—Government Printing Office, 70s. per gross.
 - 64-page exercise book—Spicers, 85s. per gross.
 - 112-page exercise book—Spicers, 186s. per gross.
 - 112-page interleaved graph book—Government Printing Office, 320s. per gross.
- 1961:
- 48-page exercise book—Spicers, 65s. 6d. per gross.
 - 64-page exercise book—Spicers, 82s. 6d. per gross.
- (3) Yes—in 1960 and 1961.
- (4) 1959: No quotes.
- 1960: Successfully quoted for—
- 48-page exercise book, 70s. per gross;
 - 112-page interleaved graph book, 320s. per gross.
- Did not quote for other books.
- 1961: Quoted unsuccessfully for—
- 48-page exercise book, 66s. per gross.
- Did not quote for other books.
- (5) See No. (2) above—1959.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr. I. W. Manning, leave of absence for six weeks granted to Mr. Craig (Toodyay) on the ground of urgent public business.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: ELEVENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from the 29th August on the following motion by Mr. Craig:—

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

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

DR. HENN (Leederville) [4.47 p.m.]: I would like to commence by paying a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Andrew who was a former member for Victoria Park. He undoubtedly put everything he had into the work required of him as a member of this Assembly, and he did his very best for those whom he represented.

In the short time I have been in this House—it is very short—two members of the Legislative Assembly have passed on; which makes me think that the work required of a member of this Chamber is much more arduous and exacting than the public at large would think. One gets the impression—it may be erroneous—that the public think the work of members is not arduous and exacting, because every time the House sees fit to raise the salaries of members of Parliament, there seems to be a great outcry from the public.

I have been engaged in an occupation which keeps those who follow it busy all day, and sometimes part of the night; and I felt that that calling was an arduous one—and I still think it is. Since coming here I have not changed my mind about my former activities; but I do think the work of a member of Parliament is extremely arduous and exacting, not only in regard to the physical system but to the nervous system as well. At the moment, I am only referring, of course, to private members.

Mr. Rowberry: Every three years it is exacting on the nervous system!

DR. HENN: It is exacting all the time, I think. I have been referring to private members; but when one considers those who represent Her Majesty's Opposition on the front bench, one realises that the work is much more arduous in their case; and it must be even more so in the case of the Ministers of the Crown, who exercise greater responsibility and are required to devote even more time to their work. So I would like to leave those remarks as just being the observations of a newcomer to this House, because I think they are factual.

What I actually got up to speak about was the question of compulsory chest X-ray examination. I do this for several reasons: firstly, because of the recent publicity that has been given to certain activities concerning them; secondly, because it is a matter of great public importance; thirdly, because the member for Guildford-Midland referred to this question last night; and, fourthly, because there came to my hand a pamphlet which is distributed by The Australian Health Freedom Council to which I take exception. Those are the main reasons for my speaking on this subject.

If I may, I will first deal with the remarks made by the member for Guildford-Midland yesterday evening. I think he may have left a wrong impression in the minds of members—he certainly left a wrong impression in my mind—and I think the reason for his doing so was that he was running short of time. However, I feel sure that if he were given more time to discuss this subject on another occasion he might throw a new light on it. As a result, I feel that anything I may say in criticism of his speech will, to some extent, be exonerated by the fact that the member for Guildford-Midland was pushed for time when he raised the matter.

He asked the Minister for Health if he would look into the question of whether there was any liaison between those in charge of the linear accelerator and those in charge of the Perth Chest Clinic in regard to mass X-rays. The impression he left with me was that there was a mix-up between those parties; that members of the public were being examined at the linear accelerator branch of the Health Department; and that the doctors there did not know that those people were also being examined simultaneously at the Perth Chest Clinic; and so on. His remarks in this regard were rather nebulous, and they may have left a wrong impression in the minds of members. I feel certain that they would leave a wrong impression in the minds of members of the general public.

The point is, of course, that the people who are X-rayed at Nedlands—the headquarters of the linear accelerator—receive a treatment dose of X-rays. Most of those patients have cancer, which is a deadly disease, and the X-rays are being used on them for the purpose of killing the cancer and saving the patients. On the other hand, at the Perth Chest Clinic, those who report for examination are getting a diagnostic X-ray to ascertain whether they are suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis in the early stage.

Therefore, I do not think the remarks made by the member for Guildford-Midland have any significance, because when we speak of the linear accelerator at Nedlands we are dealing with a desperate situation; whereas at the Perth Chest Clinic we are dealing only with the question of a process which has been most

successful in prevention of the spread of pulmonary tuberculosis throughout the Commonwealth, and particularly Western Australia.

Mr. Toms: Is there any possibility of a particular person suffering harm as a result of continued X-ray examinations? I think that was the point raised by the member for Guildford-Midland.

Dr. HENN: I propose to touch on that subject in a few moments. The member for Guildford-Midland also referred to Sir McFarlane Burnet. I cannot quote the honourable member's words exactly, but he gave me to understand that Sir McFarlane Burnet had made a certain statement wherein he expressed the opinion that continued X-rays in certain circumstances were harmful. However, the honourable member did not finish his quotation. I propose to quote Sir McFarlane Burnet's remarks in full and put that quotation in its correct perspective.

Finally, still dealing with the remarks of the member for Guildford-Midland, he referred to a number of his electors who had been asked to report for X-ray examination. I think there are several of those people at the Midland Junction Workshops who, of course, constituted the first body of people to be X-rayed in this particular series of examinations.

In fairness to the department of tuberculosis control, it is only right to point out that in regard to the four people who objected to being X-rayed, the department took great care to interview them to find out why they objected. One of them did not want to have an X-ray because he was scared of it, and the department then asked him if he would have a Mantoux test. This is simply an injection under the skin; and, if the test proves to be negative it is indeed proof that that patient does not have pulmonary tuberculosis. That person was submitted to the Mantoux test and did not have to undergo the X-ray examination. Those are the circumstances surrounding the first person.

With regard to the second person, he felt that he had had too many X-rays in recent years, and therefore asked to be excused from having to undergo another examination. The department deferred his examination for 12 months, which I think was fair and reasonable. The third person who objected was given the opportunity to forgo the X-ray examination, but was asked to submit himself to the Mantoux test. He refused to have it, and he was one of those who was prosecuted. The fourth person who objected to the examination failed to answer any correspondence in the matter and gave no help in connection with the examination, and he was the other one of the two persons who were actually prosecuted.

I think it could be fairly stated, therefore, that the department, although it has power to enforce a compulsory X-ray examination, is not approaching the question in the manner of a steamroller, regardless of a person's feelings, but is interpreting the law very carefully and justly. I think it is worthwhile to have a quick look at the history of the legislation concerning the efforts that have been made to eradicate pulmonary tuberculosis from the continent of Australia.

This disease is not hereditary, but is mainly contagious; that is, it is easily caught by close contact with a patient or by drinking from utensils used by a patient who is suffering from the disease. The first onslaught on it was by the Commonwealth Government in 1948. After consultation the matter was referred to a Premiers' Conference held in the same year, and finally a Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives in November of that year.

Actually, the Commonwealth Government could not cover all aspects of the administration of this Act, owing, I understand, to the sovereign rights of the States. Two particular parts of the Act which could not be administered by the Commonwealth Government dealt with the compulsory supervision of patients and the notification of same. These were two main aspects of the scheme which were passed over to the States after the Commonwealth Act was passed; and the Commonwealth Government asked the States to go ahead with the scheme in so far as those two aspects were concerned; and I may say that only two of the States—namely, Western Australia and Tasmania—have really made an all-out effort to take advantage of the opportunities that were given to them by the Commonwealth Government to eradicate this killing disease. In both Western Australia and Tasmania great strides have been made in the eradication of tuberculosis. Of course, these two States have the lowest rate in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Nulsen: Western Australia has been very successful in its methods of combating this disease.

Dr. HENN: We have done a greater job because of the widespread areas which had to be controlled. Only two States in the Commonwealth have done their utmost to take advantage of the opportunity, given by the Commonwealth Government, to attack this problem in the best possible manner.

I now refer to a pamphlet issued by the Australian Health Freedom Council. This is one of the main reasons for my contribution to this debate. This council is said to be non-political and non-sectarian. I shall refer to the points in the pamphlet, one by one, and answer them as I go. The pamphlet is headed—

Compulsory Chest X-ray Examinations.
Health Freedom by Right.

The first point is—

Are you aware that this unjustly severe measure of compulsory chest X-ray examination, is an infringement of the fundamental right of the individual—that of freedom of choice in health matters.

In answer to that point, I would say that tuberculosis is a dangerous and an infectious disease which spreads mainly by direct contact. The Government of Western Australia has accepted the responsibility for its control. In the carrying out of that responsibility there must of necessity be some restrictions on individuals, as is the case with other infectious diseases and public health matters.

It will be obvious to all members that if this legislation had not been in existence in Western Australia to compel the people to undergo chest X-rays, we would not have been able to conduct the surveys. Surveys would have been useless, because only a small proportion of the population would have been X-rayed, while the carriers in the other portion of the population were free to run around with positive sputum, and spread tuberculosis.

The second point raised in the pamphlet is as follows:—

Are you aware that this hazardous compulsory measure is a violation of the United Nations charter, Article 55 (c) universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all . . . It is also a violation of our Australian Constitution Section 51 (xxiia)—medical and dental services (but not so as to authorise any form of civil conscription).

In reply to this point the remarks which I made on the first point also apply. This pamphlet indulges in misinterpretation of the Constitution Act. Section 51 (xxiia), which is referred to, relates to a specific but limited power given to the Commonwealth, as a result of the referendum held in 1946. The States, as always, have residual health powers, including that of legislating with respect to infectious diseases.

The third point raised in the pamphlet is—

Are you aware of the dangers of X-ray? Ever since Roentgen discovered the X-ray in 1895, the safe dose has been reduced periodically, and recent studies by groups of world authorities have presented evidence of the health hazards and given warning against its indiscriminate use.

The pamphlet quotes extracts from various authorities, which are open to question in one or two cases. The dangers referred to are mainly the damage to bone marrow causing leukemia, and the

genetic effects from scatter to the gonads, which are the male and female reproductive organs.

With regard to the effects on the bone marrow as a result of X-ray, I quote from an interim report of the British committee of the Ministry of Health and Department of Health in Scotland on radiological hazards to patients, 1959, page 7. The report states—

A person who has 10 miniature films over a period of years would increase his chance of developing leukemia at the most by one in a million, and may not have it increased at all.

With regard to the hazards of X-ray, the main objection seems to have arisen from earlier doubtful findings of possible increased incidence of leukemia in children of mothers who had had pelvic X-rays during pregnancy. However, those findings are now discredited, apart from the consideration of the much larger doses required by pelvic radiological procedures, as compared with miniature chest films. In fact, the Medical Research Council has found that amongst 40,000 mothers who had pelvic X-rays during pregnancy, the incidence of leukemia in the children was no greater than could be expected in the general population. I am quoting from page 12 of *The Hazards to Man of Nuclear & Allied Radiations* published by the Medical Research Council in 1960.

In regard to genetic effects, which naturally worry people of all ages—particularly the younger ones—on page 10 of the report of the British Committee on radiological hazards to patients, it is stated that the total gonad dose received by the British population from mass chest radiography amounts to less than 0.1 per cent. of the total genetic dose received from general diagnostic radiology. Such examinations are a relatively unimportant source of gonad radiation exposure. The exposure to the Western Australian population is of the same order. In addition, careful precautions are always taken to minimise gonadal exposure by coning of the X-ray beam, the use of light intensifying screens, etc.

To summarise those points, the Australian National Radiation Advisory Committee, the chairman of which is Sir MacFarlane Burnet, in its report of July, 1958, states—

The risk of detectable effects on the population and on the individual from mass X-ray chest surveys is very small indeed and should be accepted at the present time. In this connection, the committee noted that although modern methods of treatment have effected a sharp reduction in the death rate due to tuberculosis, from a public health point of view the disease is still significant. Cases are still being detected at a fairly uniform rate throughout Australia and consequently

the committee is in accord with the policy adopted by the tuberculosis control authorities to continue mass X-ray chest surveys in a form that meets the requirements of the community.

I might add that the authorities in Western Australia controlling tuberculosis have no intention of rushing all over the State to undertake a mass survey whenever they feel like doing so, or every four or five years. The period which elapsed between the previous survey and the survey which started in 1961 was five years. This period is one year longer than the intervening period between the previous two surveys. No doubt there will possibly be an intervening period of six to seven years between the 1961 survey and the following one. The intervening period will be lengthened, until pulmonary tuberculosis is completely eradicated from Western Australia.

The fourth and last point in the pamphlet states—

Are you aware that Federal Government has spent over £65,000,000 since 1949 (Senate Hansard, 26/10/60) falsely claiming to have stamped out the disease of tuberculosis, which has been naturally declining for over the past 50 years:—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Misleading in the extreme.

Dr. HENN: I agree with the Minister that it is extremely misleading. I do not like to be so extreme myself. It is misleading; although there has been a natural decline in the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in Australia, the other States of Australia have not pursued the steps with the same efficiency as Tasmania and Western Australia; consequently the figures in the first-mentioned States are not nearly as good as those for Western Australia and Tasmania.

Mr. Nulsen: Anyone coming from the Eastern States into Western Australia should be X-rayed; otherwise he could spread the disease of tuberculosis, if he were affected.

Dr. HENN: I agree. I would like to make some further observations. A reading of the proceedings in the Senate will indicate that members on both sides of the House were in complete agreement when this matter was brought up this year. It was brought up to stimulate the interest of the other States which had not gone ahead, like Western Australia, in undertaking surveys.

Mr. Toms: It was not a controversial topic.

Dr. HENN: This matter was not made a political issue, and there was a very sensible approach by the Government. From the debate it was quite apparent that the Government wished to implement the principle of compulsory mass X-ray

surveys because it realised that the results, as indicated by the figures in Western Australia and Tasmania, were so good that the other States in the Commonwealth should adopt the same practice. All the members in the Senate complimented Western Australia and Tasmania on the excellent results of their tuberculosis control programmes which have been the means of putting them far ahead of the other States.

It is considered by the department here that such surveys must continue for some time. The present metropolitan survey—begun in May, 1961—is the third of the series, the previous surveys having been conducted in 1954 and 1957. On the basis of cases so far detected, it is expected that a total of about 80 persons in the metropolitan area will be required to have treatment for tuberculosis. In the 1954 survey 285 cases were detected, and in the 1957 survey 121 cases. So it will be seen that each time a survey is undertaken a smaller number of cases is picked up.

A system of voluntary attendance would have meant that almost all of those detected cases would have remained undiscovered, and would have provided an infectious pool in the community, resulting in a rise of notifications of new cases within three or four years.

It is true that our death rate has fallen to a low figure—one of the lowest in the world—of 4.1 per. 100,000 population in 1960. The occurrence rate, although falling, is still substantial, and only by continuing efforts can the incidence of this disease be reduced to an absolute minimum.

Mr. Nulsen: Not many years ago the rate was 30 in every 100,000 population.

Dr. HENN: The honourable member recalls the time when the rate was very much higher. Therefore, he will naturally agree with me that this survey is most necessary.

Mr. W. Hegney: The cost of dying has gone up as well as the cost of living.

Dr. HENN: I have, I hope, demonstrated that it is most essential to have this chest survey from time to time; and I hope, too, that I have demonstrated that the dangers which are attached to the mass survey are negligible. I must agree with the point made in this pamphlet: that there is an actual decline in the incidence of tuberculosis; but I do not think that is a reason for the Government to be complacent about the matter by reducing its activities.

After all, one remembers that last year a Bill was passed in this House for the purpose of trying to reduce the mortality rate of women in childbirth. I think we had the lowest figure in the Commonwealth for maternal mortality; but that did not stop the Minister for Health from introducing a Bill in an attempt to further reduce it. I think it is very important

and noteworthy that the Minister did introduce this Bill; and I am sure that in the next few years we will see an improvement in the maternal mortality figures. I say again that it is important for us to continue the mass chest survey so that we do not just reduce the figures of pulmonary tuberculosis but completely eradicate the disease.

While I am on the subject of the Minister for Health—and this has not been possible on many occasions because I have not been here long enough—I realise that since he has held this portfolio, he has brought down some legislation which is not only worthwhile, but will be of great benefit to the people of this State in the coming decade.

Mr. Brady: Before you get off radiation, can you tell us what a safe dosage would be?

Dr. HENN: No; because I am not a technician, and I have not dealt with X-ray apparatus for, I think, ten years. If I did quote figures, they would be quite erroneous.

I was saying that while the present Minister has been in charge of the portfolio of health he has achieved several notable things, one of which was the formation of a committee, which is known as the Stephenson Committee. This committee recently issued a report which I do not intend to discuss on this occasion; but I do propose to say something about it at a later date. I have had a cursory look at the report, and I feel that those responsible for it have done a magnificent job.

I have already made reference to the maternal mortality Bill which the Minister introduced last year. I will also state that he has not neglected mental health. I know he is paying a great deal of attention and giving much time to matters of mental health and also prison reform.

I have spent the last two or three minutes in eulogising the Minister, but I have great pleasure in doing so, just as I have great pleasure—and have had for the last 2½ years—of sitting behind the Premier and his colleagues and supporting them on every possible occasion. I only hope that my electors will give me another opportunity to support this Government which, in my opinion, is doing a magnificent job.

MR. CURRAN (South Fremantle) [5.20 p.m.]: I wish to deal with one or two matters which concern my electorate, and perhaps two or three others which, I think, should be of general interest to the House. I would like to say at the outset that prior to becoming a member of this House I was busy earning my living by working in industry. At that time I heard a great deal about plans for this and plans for that; and they generally had my approval because I believe that plans are something which can be of benefit to the community. However, since I

have been a member of this House I have not altogether been in agreement with certain plans which have taken away the amenities of the people.

I am referring now to the highly intensified industrial activity along the foreshore of the South Fremantle electorate. I believe this has resulted almost in the desecration of some of the most popular beach resorts in Western Australia. Without disagreeing for one minute with the necessity for industries in this State, and even those in the Kwinana area, I would like to point out to members the situation that has developed from South Coogee almost to Rockingham itself. I know that it is necessary for the oil refinery and the steel works to have access to the sea for the purpose of loading cargoes, but what do we find? We find that the land is fenced on the Rockingham side of the oil refinery and also on the Fremantle side right down to the water-line on the foreshore.

It is logical to assume that the only beach required for the purpose of loading and discharging cargo, and for the pumping of oil, would be perhaps 200 yards to 300 yards in that particular area. I took a photographer with me to these particular sites—B.H.P. and the Kwinana Oil Refinery—and had a photograph taken of the fences, which were not only along the roadway, but also right down to the water-line itself. Miles and miles of beach which could be at the disposal of the people in those areas have been completely fenced off; and the people there, particularly those in the Medina area, have no amenities available to them.

As I said before, I agree with plans being made; but when we plan housing schemes in those areas—I refer to Spearwood and Coogee—we should also have enough foresight to preserve some amenities for the people for whom the housing is being developed. That is something that seems to have been lost sight of. I think it is true to say that with the exception of the small portion of the foreshore which I mentioned, the whole of it could be made available to the people of Western Australia.

Now that South Beach has been almost destroyed by the elements, and since the people have been denied access to the beaches between South Coogee and Rockingham, surely it is the responsibility of the Government to do something with regard to the restoration and reclamation of South Beach. I have no need to tell members that this beach, not so many years ago, was one of the most popular resorts in Western Australia. I have said before that there used to be anything up to eight or nine excursion trains each Sunday bringing children from country districts to enjoy the amenities that this beach had to offer.

The area of South Fremantle, which used to contain thriving small businesses, has now become almost decadent because of the fact that there is no beach resort there. Because of the deterioration of this beach, many rehabilitation committees have been set up and representations made to councils and Governments; but no action has been taken to restore this popular resort.

I investigated the position today and had a look at the present groyne, which extends from Scott Street towards the fish-markets groyne; and I found that in less than 12 months almost 200 yards of beach has banked up on the north side of the groyne that is in process of being completed at the Scott Street end.

If it is possible to build up such a beach in 12 months by the establishment of a groyne, why was this fact ignored when South Beach was being pounded and undermined? Why was no action taken to try to preserve one of the finest beach resorts in Western Australia? Many committees over the past ten years have made representations for the preservation of this wonderful resort, but those representations seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

I suggest that when making plans for industry in the South Fremantle area, the Government should have regard for the preservation of beach amenities for the people. I welcome the fact that industries are being established in Western Australia. But do not let us be so short-sighted that we do not recognise the needs of the people who will reside in the housing areas that will be set up. Surely we do not want the people who reside in South Fremantle to have to take their children to Scarborough, City Beach, or somewhere else so that they can enjoy amenities which should be available at their own door-step.

I would now like to speak of the suburb of Willagee, a matter which I have raised before in this House. If any member has had the opportunity of visiting this suburb in recent months, he would know that it is rapidly developing into a slum area because the Housing Commission is spending nothing on maintenance. The houses in this area are practically all State rental homes. In the initial stages, because of necessity, most of the homes erected were of the Austrian type, and they have a very poor resale value.

When the tenants in the Willagee area ask the Housing Commission to do this or to do that, they are always told by the commission that it is not prepared to do anything, because the houses have no resale value. As a result of this policy, the houses have deteriorated to such an extent that they are almost unfit to live in. Surely it is the responsibility of the State Housing Commission to see that these houses are at least painted at certain periods. If any member of this House

were to drive down to Willagee at the present time, he would find that most of the houses are unpainted. Yet the State Housing Commission refuses to do anything about the position.

I have drawn the attention of the Minister to this fact, because the houses are rapidly becoming a dead loss. They should at least be maintained in a decent state of repair so that if any of them are sold at any time the Government will be recompensed to some extent. If the Government allows these houses to deteriorate any further, they will be worth nothing at all—they will simply be salvage.

Another factor regarding this particular area is the obnoxious system of grease traps. They are so prevalent in this district that they constitute almost a danger to the health of children.

I think all members will agree that working-class areas always appear to have more children than any other areas. This community is densely populated so far as children are concerned. One house has a grease trap in the kitchen; and one side of the kitchen faces another kitchen. The two houses are separated by a fence; and if one grease trap is cleaned out, the occupants can still smell the grease trap in their neighbour's kitchen.

I have asked the Minister to have a look at this matter. He has advised me there is insufficient finance to do anything about the grease traps. I do feel, however, that if an epidemic broke out, the Government would then find the necessary money. There always appears to be a lack of finance when anyone asks that something distasteful should be eliminated—such as these grease traps, which should have been abolished many years ago in the Willagee area.

There is another feature which will back up the point I have just made; and in saying this I think I will be supported by other members from Fremantle; namely, that if anyone applies to the State Housing Commission for a home, it is for a home in any area but Willagee. That is an absolute statement of fact.

I hope my remarks will reach the ears of the Government, and that it will do something in respect of the maintenance and proper care of the houses in this area; because houses are becoming vacant in Willagee, but few persons wish to acquire State Housing Commission homes in that district.

Another local problem concerns the lack of power in the Jandakot area. In one locality foundations of houses have been laid down for up to 10 years. The people who laid them down have been patiently waiting for power to be taken through that area before being prepared to complete their homes. Verna Road in Jandakot has the foundations of six houses. I have applied for power for that area; and at the time I did so there were

the foundations of five homes. But I have been told by the Minister that there are not sufficient tenants for the Government to envisage the spending of money for the erection of power poles.

Let us have a look at the situation. We find that the development of these areas has been retarded by reason of the fact that no power lines have been put through. The main power line, for instance, is only about 200 yards from Verna Road; but Verna Road has been without power after foundations of homes have been built in the area for up to 10 years; and people who have laid foundations of houses have been unwilling to proceed with the work because of that lack of power.

To give members an example of the backwardness of the back-blocks of Fremantle, I might mention Hope Road. That road is four miles from the Fremantle Town Hall; and for 27 years people have lived in Hope Road without any power or light whatsoever. And I repeat that the road is four miles from the Fremantle Town Hall.

It is really fantastic that people living only four miles from the Fremantle Town Hall have, for the past 27 years, been without power or light. It is only recently that the Minister has approved the putting through of power for Hope Road; but that is after residents of the area have, for 27 years, applied to be provided with that necessary amenity.

I refer now to a matter which also concerns Fremantle; namely, the set-up of the Harbour Trust Commission. When this Government took office it dismissed the only representative of the workers on the Fremantle Harbour Trust Commission. I believe we are entitled to take a very dim view of the actions of the Government in respect of this matter; because if it is so concerned about peace in industry, surely it should also be concerned with listening to the worker's side of the story.

Under the present set-up, we have the Harbour Trust Commissioners—who represent themselves, when all is said and done—introducing all sorts of mechanisation on the Fremantle waterfront; issuing all sorts of orders to reduce gang strength; and introducing new speed-up methods on the waterfront. I have no objection to the latter; but is it not only fair that working people, on whom we are highly dependent for the maintenance of peace in the industry, should have their representatives on the Harbour Trust Commission, in order that these things can be discussed? Methods of speeding up automation or mechanisation could then be discussed over the table. Such matters could be discussed in a peaceable manner, with both sides agreeing on certain issues involved.

Mr. Rowberry: That is too hard for this Government.

Mr. CURRAN: The workers had only one representative on the Fremantle Harbour Trust Commission before this Government assumed office. On taking office, the Government immediately dismissed that representative. The Government appears to run amuck on this question of the workers' representative. Not only did it do away with the workers' representative on the Fremantle Harbour Trust Commission, but it sacked the representative on the Milk Board; and it did the same with the Egg Board. It is idiotic. The Government would have no reply to that.

Mr. Nalder: Do you know what you are talking about?

Mr. CURRAN: I certainly do.

Mr. Nalder: It doesn't sound like it.

Mr. CURRAN: I wish the Minister knew what he was talking about when he gave an answer yesterday concerning processed peas. I could have contradicted him, if I had wanted to.

Mr. Nalder: Then it was up to you to do so.

Mr. Heal: The Government will finish up getting sacked this year.

Mr. CURRAN: Evidently the Minister does not agree that the workers should be represented, anyway. But surely anyone who has any commonsense at all, and who wishes to see progress made—not only commercially but industrially—would agree that the workers are entitled to have some voice in the production targets that have been set by employers. Even in countries behind Australia in economic development workers participate in management boards, where representatives can sit down and discuss over the table the processes of manufacturing from the employer and the employee point of view. Evidently the Minister for Agriculture does not believe in that.

Mr. Nalder: You are talking rot!

Mr. Fletcher: The Government did dismiss the employees' representative on the commission. Did it, or did it not?

Mr. Nalder: The member for South Fremantle said the Milk Board.

Mr. CURRAN: Another important matter which should be brought to the attention of the House—and I feel that both Government members and Opposition members should be in complete agreement on this one—concerns the Children's Court. When I attended the Children's Court in Fremantle, a case was being heard concerning teenagers who had been arrested for creating a disturbance at the Bicton tearooms during the summer months. A natural thing for teenagers of 16 years of age to do is to wriggle out of the grasp of the constable; and these particular teenagers did that and absconded. When I attended the Children's Court on this particular occasion I found

that the teenagers concerned were charged under the Police Act with being incorrigible rogues.

I protested to Acting Magistrate Young that I considered this a very wicked Act to be introduced into the Children's Court; because surely it is only natural for any teenager of 16 years of age to try to escape from custody! But these youngsters were charged in the Children's Court, just the same as an adult would be charged in the Criminal Court, with being incorrigible rogues. I believe that the Minister should have a look at that part of the Act, because teenagers are being charged with this offence.

Mr. J. Hegney: Were they living at home?

Mr. CURRAN: Yes.

Mr. J. Hegney: Yet they were charged with being incorrigible rogues?

Mr. CURRAN: Yes; they were charged under section 67 of the Police Act, which deals with incorrigible rogues. I do not know whether other members are aware that this sort of thing is going on in the Children's Court; but while it does, how can we expect a teenager to start out in life and continue to behave decently if at the age of 16 he has been charged with being an incorrigible rogue, and convicted, simply because he escaped from a policeman's custody?

That would be the natural thing for teenagers to do; but because there is no other Act under which they can be charged, they are charged under section 67 of the Police Act, the section which is used for hardened criminals in the Criminal Court. I ask the Minister concerned to see whether the Act can be amended in such a way as to prevent that sort of thing happening; or, if that cannot be done, to divorce completely from the Police Act charges laid against children in the Children's Court.

Mr. Burt: Were they first offenders?

Mr. CURRAN: Yes. There is one other matter I wish to discuss. In this regard I should like to support the remarks of my colleague in another place concerning the Fremantle gaol. I have read the honourable member's speech, describing what he saw at the gaol, and I fully agree with it.

I, too, was in attendance; and without repeating the honourable member's remarks, I would like to stress one particular point that perhaps he may have overlooked or did not acquaint himself with: I refer to the solitary confinement cells. I believe that in a modern society, such as ours is supposed to be, solitary confinement with a diet of bread and water is completely medieval and barbaric.

Surely we have reached a stage where a man does not have to be treated like an animal in a cage simply because he contravenes the rules of the particular

prison in which he is confined! I went into the solitary confinement cells, and I found that the first door is about a foot thick, and studded with nuts and bolts. Then I came to a second door, which is about a foot behind the first door; and that door, too, is a foot thick and studded with nuts and bolts. All that the confined person has in the way of comforts is a palliasse on the floor. There is nothing upon which he can sit, and the only light is a peephole at the top of the cell; and the light from it is so dim that it would be impossible for anyone even to see around the four walls of the cell.

I was absolutely disgusted to think that any human being should be asked to live under such conditions, and fed on bread and water, particularly in these modern days. Surely there is some other way of punishing a person who contravenes the prison rules! Surely the gaol authorities could take away some little amenity that he may enjoy! But to incarcerate a man in a cell, under the conditions that I witnessed, is completely wrong.

I inspected those cells, and to confine a person in such a place is worse than putting an animal in a cage; because at least an animal can see through the bars, and knows what is going on around him. Men who are in solitary confinement are completely shut off from society and they are fed on bread and water. This is something that should definitely be stopped; and I am sure that if the public knew what is going on at the Fremantle gaol there would be such an outcry that something would be done about it. It is inhuman to treat a human being in that way. Robert Burns referred to "...man's inhumanity to man"; and that is demonstrated at that gaol.

Mr. Lewis: Have you any information as to how many people have been so incarcerated?

Mr. CURRAN: I have quite a lot of information; but I am not prepared to say how many have been so incarcerated, or how often they go into these solitary confinement cells, because I do not want to divulge the source of my information. However, I can give the honourable member an assurance that this sort of thing occurs at present whenever an inmate contravenes the prison rules: he is isolated from his mates in those cells and is fed on bread and water.

Mr. O'Connor: How many were in there when you were down there?

Mr. CURRAN: I only visited the empty cells; I did not go into those which were occupied.

Mr. Lewis: What about in solitary confinement? Were any of them occupied when you were down there?

Mr. CURRAN: Yes. I now wish to discuss the question of alcoholics. This is a problem which is becoming bigger every day; it is day by day becoming a greater

evil. I have noticed in Fremantle—and no doubt the same applies in Perth—that the disease is getting worse as the months go by. In this regard I should like to quote some figures which were given at a meeting of the Social Service Council on the 12th May, 1961, by Professor Wright, of the United States. The Minister for Health was present on that occasion. Professor Wright gave the figures for the consumption of beer up to 1959; they were the latest figures he had. In 1938, it was 86,450,000 gallons, on which there was a total excise duty of £7,360,000. But let us examine the figures for 1959. The consumption of beer was 221,346,000 gallons, and the total excise duty was £105,638,000.

Mr. Oldfield: You are getting your share, I trust.

Mr. Nalder: Is that for Western Australia only?

Mr. CURRAN: No; these figures are for Australia. If the Commonwealth Government is receiving such an enormous amount of revenue from the excise duty on such a huge quantity of alcohol, surely it should be approached by the States which are faced with the problem in an endeavour to have some of that enormous amount of revenue returned to the States to enable them to rehabilitate people who have become victims of the liquor that is being consumed in this country.

Mr. J. Hegney: That's a good point.

Mr. CURRAN: I do not intend to throw all the responsibility on to the Federal Government. I think that the State Government, and the public of Western Australia, too, have an obligation in this regard. At the same council meeting, Dr. Ellison gave the figures for the alcoholics who were inmates at Heathcote Hospital during the last 12 months. The alcoholics at Heathcote represented 19 per cent. of the inmates; 16 per cent. were males and 3 per cent. were females. That gives us a rough idea of how many of these poor unfortunate creatures become afflicted with this disease. It is of no use our saying that we will leave it to the Salvation Army to look after these people at the Seaforth Home, because that is not the solution of the problem.

In this regard I should like to quote from *The West Australian* of the 1st July, 1961. The heading of the leader is "We Need a More Realistic Approach to Alcoholism," and it reads—

Alcoholism has been a problem since the first man made mead. Yet it is only in recent years—as late as 1950 in this State—that the public and the medical profession have come to regard the alcoholic as a victim of something more than a weak will.

We still do not know what causes a person to become an alcoholic, though some research is being done in an

effort to discover what types of personality are most vulnerable. There is still some doubt in the medical profession on the treatment of alcoholism and the growing number of people who are being treated is still pitifully small in comparison with the increasing incidence of alcoholism as the pace of life quickens.

What does emerge clearly from our appalling ignorance of the subject is, that the alcoholic needs help. And he needs help of a highly specialised kind.

I want members to note that. Continuing—

The Salvation Army has taken a step in the right direction with its proposed rehabilitation centre at Seaford and its plans for a city clinic. Its appeal for £40,000 for the project should be supported strongly by the public.

However, the problems of alcoholism are far too complex to be loaded on to the shoulders of individual organisations, such as Alcoholics Anonymous and the Salvation Army. Their efforts will always be invaluable. But it is time the State, and the nation, accepted full responsibility for providing special institutions for the treatment and rehabilitation of alcoholics.

To some people alcohol is an easy-to-get drug and they are addicts. They should be treated as such. In 1961, our society should not leave the bulk of alcoholics to sink or swim as best they can. Exasperated courts should not have to send them to gaol as a last resort, and there should be facilities—beyond private efforts and outside our mental hospitals—where alcoholics could get the essential combination of medical and psychiatric treatment.

Alcoholism is a human and national problem that will continue to grow as long as it is approached haphazardly and with mixed feelings of embarrassment, ridicule and contempt. In fact it is a complaint that can, in nearly all cases, be treated and cured. It should be treated and cured—promptly, openly and without sniggering.

That leading article represents a frank analysis of the position of the alcoholic. Are we doing what we should be doing in respect of this disease? I know that in the Fremantle Police Court we still find the same average number of drunks spending a night in gaol and being fined week after week in the court.

These people are not being treated for the disease from which they are suffering. Instead, they are being scorned not only by members of the community but by responsible authorities. Surely it is the responsibility of this Parliament to ensure that some commission is appointed to study

the problem; and, if necessary, make recommendations as to how it should be handled.

I believe this is a task for experts, as this leading article has suggested. It cannot be handled by amateurs, and the problem cannot be solved by any individual giving a helping hand to an alcoholic; because the moment he is away from the side of the person he is attempting to help, the person who is seeking to reform again falls a victim to the disease. The only people that I know of who are endeavouring to do something in the way of a permanent cure are those who form the Good Samaritan Council—of which I am a member. I am proud to say—which has been established in Fremantle.

Dr. Henn: But a person cannot be treated as an alcoholic unless he volunteers for treatment.

Mr. CURRAN: There are many alcoholics who are anxious to obtain treatment, but they are being ignored—except by those who are willing to give some advice as to how they should be treated—by people in authority, who should be responsible for their treatment, and they are left in the wilderness—as this leading article in *The West Australian* has stated—to sink or swim as the case may be.

Mr. W. A. Manning: How much do the breweries contribute towards the rehabilitation of alcoholics?

Mr. CURRAN: If a commission were appointed by the Government to inquire into ways and means to deal with this problem, that would be one of the aspects that could be given consideration. The commission could also investigate the possibility of having a body of professional men, on fixed salaries, appointed to assist these people to solve their problems. In short, it is the responsibility of the Government, or a commission appointed by it, to find ways and means of providing money to assist these unfortunate people.

The final item I wish to discuss is unemployment. I have no intention of bandying figures to show whether there is more unemployment this year than last year, or the year before that, as some speakers have been doing in this House since this question was first raised. What I am concerned about is what we intend to do about unemployment now. I do not care if there were 200 more unemployed last year, or that there was a greater number of unemployed this year, as compared with some previous year. My main concern is with the problems that result from people becoming unemployed. It is in regard to these problems that the Government can assist materially.

I refer to the eviction of people from State Housing Commission homes as a result of the breadwinner becoming unemployed and being unable to pay his rent. Members are being inundated with such cases. Why cannot the Government show

some sympathetic consideration towards these people? Even if unemployed people are not receiving notices of eviction, or final notices from the State Housing Commission because they are in arrears with their rent, they are getting notices from the State Electricity Commission pointing out that they are in arrears with the payment of their electricity charges, and that if the amount is not paid the electricity will be disconnected from their homes. In my opinion greater concessions in rent could be given to men who are unemployed through no fault of their own.

Mr. Watts: Do they advise the Housing Commission that they are unemployed?

Mr. CURRAN: Yes. Even although they may be granted a concession in regard to their rent, they are still unable to meet their commitments of regular rental payments; and, as a result, they are being evicted. But apart from that, they do not receive any concession whatsoever from the State Electricity Commission for electricity charges. I know many people who have no possible chance of paying their electricity accounts within the seven days' notice which they are given following the final notice; and apart from a short extension that might be granted by the officers of the State Electricity Commission, sooner or later their meters are disconnected.

If the Government could make a bigger concession in rent to those who are unemployed through no fault of their own, surely it could also grant concessions in respect of the payment of their electricity accounts. People with children, or even those without children, should not be placed in the position of having to sit in a house with only candles or lamps as a means of illumination because, through no fault of their own, they cannot pay their electric light accounts at the end of the month. If the Government could see its way clear to extend these two concessions to the unemployed it would be of great benefit to them and would be thoroughly appreciated.

The other matter I wish to raise also concerns the State Housing Commission. It relates to those people who are unemployed and who occupy houses owned by private landlords. Every one of us, at some time or another, has to go through a period of adversity; and, unfortunately, some people become unemployed. Following this, and as a result of their being unable to pay the rent, they are evicted from privately-owned homes. They approach their local member of Parliament and say, "Is there any possibility of obtaining a State Housing Commission home?" However, in this situation, we are confronted with the fact that anyone who has been evicted from a private home because of being in arrears with the rent will not receive any consideration whatsoever from the State Housing Commission. That is a definite fact.

Surely any person who has not been a tenant in a State Housing Commission home previously and has been evicted from a home owned by a private individual should receive some consideration for himself and his family and be given permission to take possession of a State Housing Commission home at the concessional rate that is granted to unemployed people who are already occupying such homes. In the main, the objection that I have in regard to such cases is that these people are denied the privilege of even applying for a State Housing Commission home because of the fact that they were, as a result of falling into arrears with their rent, evicted from a house owned by a private landlord. I have just about covered all the matters on which I wish to speak. I feel that consideration should be given to the points I have raised concerning evictions and concessional rentals for people who are unemployed. I trust that the Minister, in conjunction with his colleague, will give consideration to these matters. I am sure they will find, on examination, that these things are justly required by those unfortunate people who find themselves unemployed. I hope some action will be taken in the matter.

MR. OWEN (Darling Range) [6.1 p.m.]: In supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply there are one or two matters I would like to bring to the notice of the House. The first is a subject on which I have spoken on many occasions in this Chamber. It relates to water supply and water conservation.

As we all know, Western Australia is—and, I think, always will be—short of water until methods are evolved for the desalination of salt water. I believe the time is coming very close when this will be a commercial proposition. At present, however, we must rely on our annual rainfall, and do the best we can to conserve the water in our dams for use during the dry season.

We have had a very good rainfall this season in the south-west and the lower great southern; and in those areas there is no crisis with regard to the storage question, or the conservation of water for the coming dry season. I understand that, with its increased capacity, the Wellington Dam is at present overflowing. So the position is good for irrigation and for the supply of water to the towns along parts of the great southern; their supplies are assured.

The position in the metropolitan area is somewhat easier than it was this time last year, and this is mainly due to the increased storage in the new Serpentine Dam. I think most people are aware that the amount of water impounded in the Canning Dam is considerably less than it was this time last year. In the other parts of the State—particularly in the goldfields and

the central wheatbelt areas—which are dependent upon Mundaring Weir, the position is not quite so good, because at the moment Mundaring Weir has, I understand, about 2,000,000,000 gallons less than it contained this time last year.

Although the rain in the last few days gives some encouragement for believing that the position will be improved in the next week or two, the position is not altogether reassuring in the winters when the rainfall, quite apart from being less than average, is so distributed that less water than usual runs into the water catchment areas.

Last year I advocated a trial of the cloud-seeding technique to induce rain. I might say here that the C.S.I.R.O. has made great improvements in this technique over the post-war years, and I understand that trials of this nature may be made in this State during the next year or so. I do hope that the Government will make it possible for the cloud-seeding technique to be tried out over the hills area which, of course, supplies Mundaring Weir with water.

Another big water problem is that of securing sufficient water for irrigation in various parts of the State, quite apart from the actual supply of this commodity for human consumption and for the watering of stock.

When moving the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, the member for Toodyay put forward the suggestion that it might be possible to form a water conservation authority comprising all those departments interested in the exploration of underground water, and in the conservation of surface water. If these departmental activities were concentrated in one authority, I am sure there would be a better chance of providing more efficient storage facilities for water, together with a more direct approach to further this end.

I understand that at present arrangements are made through the Mines Department for the search for water to be carried on. I would like to say here that, some two years ago, I was very grateful to the Mines Department for the services of an expert geologist from that department who paid a visit to some of the hills areas in an endeavour to help the settlers explore for underground water. Unfortunately, the geological formation in the hills gives no indication whether underground supplies of water are available.

The hills area, particularly the section south of the Helena River, is blessed with fairly good and reliable sources of underground water, but over the past few years the draw has been so great as to somewhat deplete those supplies. A very intensive search on the part of primary producers has been undertaken to augment the supplies. It was unfortunate that the

geologists I referred to could not give any indication of the most likely spots on which to drill or search for water.

I have had considerable experience of searching for water in these areas. It is usually possible to find at least some water on every location in the hills. Where water is required for irrigation, one needs for preference a supply of several thousand gallons per hour, but in many cases it is difficult to obtain such a large quantity. During the last season the search for water was intensified because of the need for extra irrigation to overcome the heavy evaporation caused by the very hot weather in the summer months, and because the existing water supplies had been somewhat depleted as a result of the lower rainfall experienced over the past two winters. When an underground supply was indicated, firstly a bore was put down. It struck a supply in the region of 1,000 gallons per hour. When a well was sunk at that spot, it was found that the supply tended to decrease as the pumps were kept going continuously. Further exploration became necessary.

It was decided to put in horizontal bores, running parallel to the surface of the earth to tap underground streams in the locality. One such bore which was put in 10 ft. to 15 ft. developed more water than usual. This encouraging result led to a bore being put in, in the opposite direction; and at a distance of 40 ft. further supplies were encountered, which added to the reasonable supply obtained from the well.

It has been shown by the experience of the settlers that the normal vertical bore which is sunk straight downwards could, at times, be within a few feet of the head of a fairly strong underground stream, but fail to tap that stream. It appears that rather intensive geological work should be carried out to ascertain whether it is worth while to put in a trench to allow horizontal bores to be established.

A person cannot develop a horizontal bore down the narrow confines of a well, because there is no room to operate the drill stem; it would be necessary to cut the stem into short pieces, and add on the pieces as the horizontal bore lengthened into the sides of the well. This is a tedious job. I therefore advocate a fairly intensive survey by the Mines Department to show the possibilities of finding underground streams.

The water supplies in the hills area are in no way similar to the underground water supplies along the coastal plain, where there is a great depth of sediment lying over the native rock. In the hills area the position is different, and it is not unusual to strike bedrock 30 ft. or 40 ft. down. In other instances bores have had to be sunk to 80 ft. before striking bedrock.

The underground streams in the hills area are generally very narrow. They may be only cracks in the clay subsoil, and

they may be only a few inches wide. It would be very easy to miss them when putting down a well or a normal vertical bore. These cracks which accommodate the streams of water can be much easier tapped by a bore put in horizontally. If it were possible, the section of the Mines Department which undertakes the search for underground water should conduct a search in the hills area by the methods I have outlined, so that settlers can be given a lead on the best methods to adopt for tapping the underground water supplies which do exist in most of the hills areas.

I would like to touch on the subject of traffic and road safety. In common with most of the other States, Western Australia has a very bad record of traffic accidents and road fatalities. Over the last month or so it has been encouraging to notice that much heavier penalties have been inflicted for speeding offences, and that the number of road accidents has been reduced. I would not like to say, at this stage, whether this reduction in the number of accidents was caused by stricter control over speed, but undoubtedly that did have some effect.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. OWEN: Before the tea suspension I was speaking of the reduction in the number of traffic accidents in the metropolitan area, brought about possibly because of the severe penalties being imposed on those drivers caught for speeding. If the tightening up has accomplished that, then it has accomplished something considerable. I personally believe that speeding in many instances is quite safe, provided the driver is alert and his reactions are quick. However, it is unfortunate that many of our drivers are perhaps a bit slow in their mental processes, and perhaps a little slower still in their muscular reactions. In order to realise that, one has only to notice how slow some drivers are in getting under way when the traffic lights change to green. Therefore, it is just as well that drivers are compelled to drive at 35 m.p.h.

The marking of the centre line on roads has been a great safety factor, particularly in the hills areas. The Main Roads Department has marked most of the roads with either single or double lines. The safe or straight portion of a road is usually marked with a single broken line; and at places where it is dangerous to cross this line in order to pass another vehicle, the road is marked with either a continuous line together with a broken line or a double unbroken line. Since this policy was put into operation about two years ago, one has felt much safer when driving in those areas. If motorists keep to the left at the points indicated, it is impossible for them to have a head-on collision. I feel that has materially reduced the accident rate in

the outer areas where there are many curves and sudden rises or crests on the road.

I think, too, the position could be improved if there were a traffic regulation—as far as I can ascertain there is none—to prohibit the parking of a car on the side of a road adjacent to where there is a double line indicating a curve. It is quite common to see thoughtless drivers park their cars in order to pick a few wildflowers or get a few pieces of wood. When this is done on a blind curve, the parked vehicle is definitely a hazard to other motorists using the road. I think that what I have suggested would be a big advantage, particularly on roads which are barely wide enough to be marked with a line. I understand that the Main Roads Department does not mark with a centre line any road which has less than 20 ft. width of running surface. If a regulation were promulgated making it an offence to leave a car stationary on such bends, it would materially reduce the possibility of accidents in those areas still further.

Over the years there has been a considerable reduction in the number of advertisements along our roads. That is very good, because undoubtedly those advertisements distract the attention of motorists from the road. In addition, many direction signs or approach signs that are provided by either the local shire council or the Main Roads Department can be overlooked if a motorist becomes confused because of the many advertising signs along the road.

I understand that under the Town Planning Act there is a uniform by-law in regard to advertising signs, which has been adopted by practically all shire councils in the State. Unfortunately, this by-law is not policed as much as it ought to be. Its policing should be a constant job. I know this from experience gained in the shire in which I hold office. Periodically road workers are instructed to pull down signs, but they seem to be erected again after a short time. If there could be concerted action by all shire councils and the Main Roads Department to bring to the notice of the people who erect signs in order to get a cheap advertisement for their goods that their erection is an offence if not authorised by a shire council, I think it would do a lot of good.

Another matter which I feel is worth mentioning is that of the fruit fly. Some two or three years ago there was considerable agitation in all fruit-growing areas in the State because of the sudden increase in the prevalence of fruit fly. At the time, I felt the increase could have been caused through seasonal conditions; and I felt, too, it was not the time to panic and go to great extremes by putting on more inspectors in an endeavour to get fruitgrowers to carry out pest control.

I was of the opinion that the problem should be tackled by providing better methods of control.

It was shortly after this that chemicals were introduced which gave better control; and these were advocated by the Department of Agriculture. Almost from the day that growers started using these new materials, there was a reduction in the fly population. I would say that there was less infestation last year than there has been for quite a long time. I am not able to quote the exact figures, but I do know that in the hills area, and in the south suburban area, the number of condemnations was very low. It was a heavy stone-fruit season, and I think the results are proof positive that the newer chemicals give a wonderful control over that pest.

In the metropolitan area, where so many people are growing a few trees, it is only natural to find some who are not using fruit-fly baits. Therefore, it is difficult for those who are carrying out baiting methods to get any worth-while results, because the fly gets over one fence or many fences and infests other fruit in the neighbourhood.

Besides the use of malathion and yeast products as a bait, systemic sprays have been very helpful. When sprayed on the fruit, the systemic poison is absorbed to such a degree that it will inhibit the development of the fruit-fly egg or actually kill the fly maggot in the fruit. These chemical poisons are of such a nature that their toxicity to humans is very low. Therefore it is quite safe to spray the trees with them. The use of these systemic sprays has given excellent control both on orchards and in the instances where experimental work has been undertaken by the department. However, I feel the time has arrived—

Mr. J. Hegney: How often do you have to spray?

Mr. OWEN: Once or twice, depending on the particular variety. It is effective from 10 to 14 days, so that if it is used 10 to 14 days prior to ripening, the activities of the maggot or fruit fly are brought pretty well under control.

The time has now come when we should get some idea whether this pest can be not only effectively controlled but eradicated. This could be ascertained if the department would undertake the spraying of trees in some particular portion of the metropolitan area over, say, a square mile. Such an experiment would certainly cost a few pounds, but it would be money well spent and should be taken from the fund which has been set aside for the control of fruit fly. If it were found that it was possible to eradicate the fruit fly in the area sprayed, then we would know that it would be worth while to aim at an eradication programme rather than carry

on in the way we have done over the last 50 years, which has been merely to control the disease or stop it from spreading to fresh districts or zones.

I made this suggestion to one of the members of the Fruit Fly Advisory Board, but unfortunately the board had just had a meeting and there would possibly not be another one for some time. However, I feel the department should give some consideration to a plan such as I have outlined, because it would be much better to aim for eradication rather than mere control. If eradication were achieved, thousands of pounds would be saved by the fruitgrowers.

In the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech the statement was made that the fruit industry was flourishing. That is true as far as the growing side is concerned. Over the last year there has been a bountiful crop of all varieties of fruit. It is unfortunate that there was a certain over-supply. However, one of the tragedies of the season was the waterside trouble at Fremantle which resulted in a strike of waterside workers. This seriously interfered with the export of fruit, particularly to the Singapore market. Stone-fruit growers were really receiving some good returns for their fruit from that market. If the strike had been planned deliberately it could not have been more suitably timed.

As one of the representatives of the West Australian Fruitgrowers' Association, I visited Singapore to try to promote the export sales of our stone fruit; and I think we achieved considerable success. However, while we were there this strike occurred and further supplies were held up and later arrived in poor condition. I think it is going to take a lot of talking next year to persuade those people in Singapore to take our stone fruit. The strike interfered with the export of some 10,000 to 20,000 cases of fruit, most of which were a total loss to growers. What was not lost completely was put on to an already over-loaded local market; and consequently returns to growers were very low indeed.

In reply to some of the criticisms of members opposite in regard to the unemployment situation, I would like to mention that as far as orchardists are concerned there has been some unemployment caused by the lack of returns from fruit because of the waterside strike. Even the well-established growers had to reduce their staffs because they could not afford to retain them. Some of them lost quite a few hundred pounds as a result of that strike. On the other hand, the smaller growers who were struggling to establish their properties had to seek employment elsewhere; and naturally that meant that someone else was deprived of employment. This demonstrates how a

chain reaction results from such occurrences as waterside strikes. The unfortunate part about this particular one was that it appeared to be more of a domestic squabble between two unions.

Before I conclude I would like to express my appreciation of what has been done by Government departments in providing certain amenities in my electorate of Darling Range. The folk in Maida Vale are appreciative of the fact that the water supply will be extended to them. The work is to be put in hand this year; and, although they know that most of the money this year will be utilised in providing the main, they are most hopeful that the work will be continued next year and finalised.

Mr. May: Wait until they get their rates.

Mr. OWEN: I hope that as the main will be taken past the Maida Vale School, provision will be made to put that school on supply. I feel it is most urgent that our schools should have a proper water supply to enable them to have septic sewerage installed.

The people of the hills area are grateful for the police station, which is almost completed. Although the people in that area are very law-abiding, they feel that the provision of a police station and a resident policeman will be a great asset to the district.

Mr. Hawke: Where is that?

Mr. OWEN: Kalamunda. The Leader of the Opposition will agree with me that the people of that district are very law-abiding. At the same time, they feel they need some protection in view of the outsiders who sometimes come into the area.

Mr. Hawke: I haven't been there for a year or two.

Mr. OWEN: It will be a great event in the affairs of the hills area when our new high school changes over from a junior high school to a full three-year high school next year; and it will be officially opened in the very near future.

MR. W. HEGNEY (Mt. Hawthorn) [7.52 p.m.]: First of all, I would like, briefly, to extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Ronald Davies, the member for Victoria Park, on his recent brilliant victory. I think members of the House will very shortly realise that the Labor Party in this State has a distinct acquisition in the new member for Victoria Park.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: We all regret the passing of the late Mr. Hugh Andrew; but I am sure that Mr. Davies will be a worthy successor. In passing, I would say that the Premier and the Minister for Industrial Development will have to walk a long way along the Albany Highway if they want to win that seat.

To my mind, the legislation which the Government envisages this session is very weak. I propose to read a few of the legislation items which the Government proposes to deal with in the form of Bills. They include the Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act; the Pig Industry Compensation Act; a Bill to consolidate the law relating to explosives and dangerous goods—probably that will include some of the crackers—and a Bill relating to the construction and repair of dividing fences between certain lands.

The Government has laboured for many months to bring down this brilliant programme. I mention this to illustrate the apathy of the Government with regard to matters relating to human welfare. There is no mention of any move or proposal to amend the Workers' Compensation Act, which affects so many workers throughout the length and breadth of this State. I will go no further in regard to that at present.

There is another Act which has been outmoded for years, but there is no provision in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech for amending legislation. As a matter of fact, I think the Minister responsible indicated some time ago that the Government did not propose to do anything to meet the requirements of unionists in this State. I refer to the Factories and Shops Act, and amending legislation to bring the Act up to date.

The present Opposition, when it was in office, made a serious attempt to cut out a lot of the dead wood from the present Act, and to bring the Act more into line with modern conditions. However, its attempt was defeated. I propose to give members a brief commentary on what is in the present Act. I think the Act was substantially passed about 41 years ago. It includes a provision that the minimum rate of pay shall be 9d. an hour; that there shall be a minimum of 10 shillings a week; and that, unless certain things happen, there shall be a maximum of 48 hours a week.

Members know that, although much opposition was engendered, a 40-hour week is the standard today. Yet the 48-hour provision still appears in the Factories and Shops Act. There is, apparently, no intention to bring such an Act, affecting so many people, up to date. I hope that even at this late stage the Government will take time off to look at that Act, and will do something to bring it into line with present-day conditions.

Mention was recently made in the Press that the Government proposed to introduce legislation regarding the franchise for natives. I wish to say that the time is long overdue when full citizenship rights should be extended to the native community of Western Australia.

When the Opposition was in office, attempts were made to bring about a widening of the franchise; but members of the present Government fought our proposals very vigorously. If the newspaper report is correct, it indicates that the Government proposes to introduce legislation which will provide for automatic citizenship for children born after the 1st January, 1955.

I will await with interest the legislation that will be introduced later in this session by the Minister for Native Welfare. I say unequivocally that whether a person is black or white, he or she should automatically receive the rights of citizenship of Western Australia.

An Act passed in 1944 was known as the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act; and under that measure application for citizenship rights had to be made by residents of Western Australia and certain tests had to be passed. Later on, the Liberal Government amended the Act to provide that in addition to a magistrate, a prominent member of the community must sit with the magistrate and the decision must be unanimous. No matter how desirable were those two men, or how impartial, they had the responsibility of saying "Yes" or "No" as to whether or not a resident of this State could have citizenship rights.

I feel that the time is long overdue when natives should be given citizenship rights. It has gone beyond being a State concern; this is a matter which will reach the United Nations, and the Government will be forced to do something about it. The Commonwealth Government recently appointed a committee of inquiry for the purpose of determining, or bringing down, recommendations on what should be done. This is a sovereign State, and the Government should take some definite action towards removing the present disability under which natives labour. I have here a leading article which appeared in *The West Australian* on the 7th June, 1961. Among other things it says—

National needs suggest that Western Australia will have to expedite the granting of citizenship under State legislation. The real drive to increase mutual respect between white and black must come from within the State.

That is one idea expressed in a leading article of a daily newspaper of this country. Here is an extract from another article, dated the 12th July, 1961—

Full citizenship under State legislation is of more direct importance to non-primitive natives than a Federal vote, because it would give them a voice in community affairs such as housing and education.

Further on the article states—

Once the question of citizenship had been settled—and that is the only major point on which political parties

in Western Australia disagree—there would be open for an all-Pair native policy to ensure speed and continuity of integration.

This Government—and it may not be the Government much longer—should direct its attention to this matter. I think private members of both sections of the Government, Country Party and Liberal Party, should try to convince the Minister that the time is overdue when people of this State, half-bloods and full-bloods, should be given automatic citizenship rights. I shall not go into any further detail on this problem at the moment; suffice it to say that I consider it advisable and desirable to grant citizenship rights and make enrolment voluntary or optional. Some people will say that if that happens natives would not vote or they would not know what they were voting for. But every State of Australia Government have had to make voting compulsory, to force white people to vote.

The other evening the member for Bunbury read from an official report, and I should like to mention the same one. It is a fact that in the Victoria Park election, where voting was compulsory, out of every 100 people did not vote. For Legislative Council elections—enrolment restricted by a property qualification where voting is optional, the figures indicate that approximately 44 per cent. of the people on the roll vote. So the argument about people not knowing who they are voting for, and not voting if they are enrolled, does not hold water; and I hope the present Government will do something to remove the blot which exists in Western Australia so far as the native community is concerned.

As regards Moola Bulla—members have heard of that before—I do not intend to spoil the wonderful case put up the other evening by my successor—I was going to say predecessor—the member for Pilbara. He is indeed a worthy successor, as we all recognise, and he put up an explicit and concise case in answer to the speech by the member for South Perth. The member for Pilbara took great pains in going through the files; and, in my view, he put up an unanswerable case.

When I spoke in the House some little time ago, in regard to an amendment which was before the Chair, the member for South Perth made certain accusations and charges. I was so sure that the Government of the day had acted fairly, in partially, honestly, and sincerely, that I invited Ministers, or anybody else, to tab the papers. I invited the member for South Perth to add to the amendment that was before the House so that a Roy Commissioner could inquire into the Moola Bulla sale.

Mr. Moir: He is not interested now.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Now that the Victoria Park by-election is over, members opposite are not interested in the sale of Moola Bulla. I would like it to go on record that in 1955—the member for Pilbara has gone into detail in regard to this matter—I was Minister for Native Welfare; and it is a fact that the Department of Native Welfare passed the property over to the Lands Department, and the Government of the day set up a committee of five senior officers of the Public Service including the Under-Secretary for Mines, the Director of Agriculture, the Surveyor-General, a senior officer of the Treasury Department, and the Commissioner of Native Welfare.

Sir Ross McLarty: Did you say the Under-Secretary for Mines?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: After its deliberations that committee made a certain recommendation. Now I come to the climax of the matter. In due course the Government—or the Land Board, which had the disposal of the property on its hands—decided that the property should be sold, and tenders were called—I emphasise the phrase—for the sale of Moola Bulla. I said the other evening, and I repeat, that that is the vital difference—

Mr. Bovell: So they were for the disposal of the State Building Supplies.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: —between the disposal of Moola Bulla and the recent giveaway of the State Building Supplies, when no tenders were called. I leave it at that.

Mr. Grayden: But you didn't accept the highest tender.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: In reply to the interjection, I would like it placed on record that when I spoke the other evening the Minister for Lands asked me whether the highest tender was accepted. I had not seen the papers at that stage and I said that off-hand I was not in a position to say whether the highest tender had been accepted. Since then I have had a chance to look at the papers, and I invite the Minister for Lands, or anybody else, to have a look at them; the highest tender was £120,000, but that tenderer could not provide the requisite deposit, and the Land Board—

Mr. Grayden: But what about—

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The honourable member is not going to side-track me. He had about 10 hours on this. The Land Board, which was the appropriate authority, decided, and the Government agreed, that the tender recommended should be accepted.

Mr. Grayden: But there was still—

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am not a technician, as the member for Leederville mentioned earlier; but I am concerned with the proposal to exploit the bauxite deposits in the Darling Ranges. I have read the report of a deputation to the Minister for Lands, and I have also read reports about

the concern of the sawmilling industry. I have also read a letter written by Dr. Gentili, from the University, on the same subject. I propose to read Dr. Gentili's letter to the Press, because I am concerned that unless steps are taken to protect the native timber, and to protect our countryside, the confines of the Darling Ranges may be in a sorry state in a few years' time.

Mr. Bovell: The Conservator of Forests made a full investigation into this matter.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The Minister, when he replies, if he elects to do so, will be able to assure the House, including me, that there will be no denuding of the timber and that Dr. Gentili's concern, and also the concern of sawmillers and tree-lovers, is groundless.

Mr. Bovell: I can assure the House that it is in the best interests of the State, and of the people of the State.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Dr. Gentili's letter appeared in *The West Australian* of the 17th June, 1961, and it is worth recording in full. The heading was, "Effect of Bauxite Extraction," and the letter reads—

J. Gentili, Nedlands: The report of the intended agreement on the bauxite and alumina industry raises several important issues. Bauxite, unlike most other ores, is found on the surface and is quarried or scraped; the removal of the ore therefore affects relatively large areas.

The map showing the intended leases shows that the following vital areas may be affected:

The catchment areas of the metropolitan water supply.

Most of the land with a rainfall of more than 40 in. a year.

Most of the prime jarrah forests. The Forrest National Park.

Mr. Bovell: The Conservator of Forests has thoroughly investigated the position.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The letter continues—

The removal of bauxite and bauxitic gravel from large areas is likely to result in accelerated run-off where the underlying granite is exposed, with consequent rise in the water-table and increase in the swamps of the coastal plain. If clay happens to be exposed, "badlands" will result from this accelerated run-off.

Balance of Nature

Before any binding is signed the company should disclose its methods of removal of the bauxite. Detailed reports should be obtained from the Public Works Department, the Metropolitan Water Supply experts, the Department of Agriculture, the Forests Department, the Government Botanist and the Town Planning Department on what the intended exploitation of the deposits is likely to

cause. From what I know about the balance of nature, I should say that great caution is needed.

I understand that Dr. Gentilli is a University professor and—

Mr. J. Hegney: He is an eminent authority.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: —his opinion should be worth considering. I hope the Minister for Lands will give every consideration to ensure that the Darling Ranges are safeguarded. There are fires there year after year and the country is being denuded by degrees. Therefore, I hope every protection will be given to the area so that it will still remain a scene of beauty for those who wish to enjoy it.

Mr. Bovell: I will give you that assurance now; the matter has been fully investigated.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I have other letters in my possession in regard to this question, but I will not read them. Dr. Gentilli's letter to the Press is an indication of the seriousness of the position. I hope the members of the Government, and other members, too, are concerned enough about the natural beauty of our countryside to make every effort to preserve it. I am a tree-lover, and I have seen what goes on from time to time in regard to the destruction of the beauty of our countryside. I was concerned about what happened in the Floreat Park district only recently, when trees were bulldozed down at the junction of Cambridge Street and the Boulevard.

Mr. Bovell: You are not blaming the Government for that, are you?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: No; I am not. But if the Minister will hold his horses for a moment he may be able to help. This small tract of land comprised natural virgin bush. I can remember the time when there was all virgin bush between Reserve Street and City Beach. I admit, of course, that a great deal of subdivision has taken place in Floreat Park which has necessitated the clearing of much of that land. At the same time, I have heard auctioneers who have been disposing of blocks in that suburb appealing to the young people who bought them to make every effort to preserve as much of the timber as possible. As I was saying, a couple of bulldozers at the junction of Cambridge Street and the Boulevard mowed down all the trees in sight; but now the Perth City Council has reconsidered its proposal to plant a rose bed on the site and has decided to replant native trees instead.

That is only one instance of how the trees in this State are destroyed. I can also recall, quite clearly, how I was opposed by members, not only on the Government side of the House but also on this side, when I spoke against the erection of an aquatic centre in King's Park. If that

proposal had been agreed to by Parliament, I shudder to think what the bulldozers would have done to the trees there.

I agree that it is necessary for the State Electricity Commission, the Main Roads Department, the P.M.G.'s Department, and the local authorities concerned to carry out their works along country roads. Nevertheless, I am inclined to believe what I have seen; and, in my opinion, there has been an unwarranted and unnecessary destruction of our native trees along many of our country roads.

Mr. W. A. Manning: You are on the ball there.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Although the Minister for Lands has interjected that what has occurred in the Floreat Park district was not the fault of the Government, the time is long overdue for the appointment of some competent authority to have a say in regard to what timber should be cut down and what should be preserved.

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Crommelin) took the Chair.]

On the question of water rates, I have received numerous complaints. Despite the statements made by the Minister for Works from time to time, in the metropolis there are thousands of people who are not at all satisfied with the water rating; and I am sure that many of your electors, Mr. Acting Speaker, are just as confused and disappointed with the new system as are those in my electorate. The Minister has made a statement on the "pay-as-you-use" scheme. I invite him, either tonight or at some appropriate time, to explain to the House what he means by his "pay-as-you-use" scheme.

As I understand the Act, as it is framed today, if a person owns a property but uses no water from the main, and his next-door neighbour uses the whole of his water allowance, and if the assessment on the annual value is the same, they will pay the same amount in water rates.

Mr. Wild: Don't you think they should have to pay something for the privilege of the water mains going past their properties?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: If each of two persons is entitled to an allowance of 200,000 gallons of water per annum, and one of them uses the complete gallonage allowed and the other none, is there any difference in the amount of water rates paid?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You cannot make that comparison.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: There is the simple question! The Minister for Health immediately runs to the assistance of the Minister for Works to indicate that they should both pay the same. That is an indication that the Minister's scheme is not on a "pay-as-you-use" basis, and therefore the misleading statements he has

made over a period in regard to this "pay-as-you-use" scheme are similar only to those made by other Ministers in an effort to mislead the public.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You are not being fair!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: It has been said that this is a step in the direction of the implementation of the "pay-as-you-use" scheme. I invite the Minister to state to this House how, in principle, the rating of water today is different from what it was when the Government took office. Admittedly, the amount paid for excess water has altered slightly, but many people are paying more in water rates today than they were two years ago; and in some cases in my electorate they are paying up to 50 per cent. more than they were two years ago.

The other day I asked a question about apprentices employed by the Public Works Department. I understand that about two years ago last April there were about 1,600 men employed in the day-labour organisation of the Public Works Department, but now there are approximately only 1,300. That indicates that about 300 have left the department, of which number possibly a few have retired, but most would have been retrenched. I asked the Minister the following questions:—

- (1) What number of apprentices were registered in each of the years ended the 31st July, 1959, 1960 and 1961, for—

carpenters,
plasterers,
bricklayers,
painters,
fitters,
motor mechanics?

It is interesting to note that 542 apprentices were employed in the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department on the 30th June, 1959, but that, on the 30th June, 1961, there were only 435. I make a correction there. Those figures apply to the whole of the State and not only to the Public Works Department. Quite a number of them were previously employed by the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department. The number of apprentice fitters employed on the 30th June, 1959, has fallen from 257 to 253 as at the 30th June, 1961, and the number of apprentice bricklayers has fallen from 58, as at the 30th June, 1959, to 36 on the 30th June, 1961. Further, the number of apprentice plasterers has fallen from 48 to 39 as at the 30th June, 1959, and the 30th June, 1961, respectively.

With the growth in the State's population it seems to me that the number of apprentices should be increasing, but as a result of dismembering the day-labour organisation of the Public Works Department—which was an excellent field for the training of apprentices—the opportunities

for these young men have decreased and their numbers have fallen considerably, as the figures in answer to my question will indicate. My question was—

How many apprentices were engaged by the Public Works Department Architectural Division as at the 31st July, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961?

The Minister replied that on the 31st July, 1958, there were 224 apprentices registered as being employed with the Public Works Department organisation, but that on the 31st July, 1961, there were only 42. Those figures speak for themselves, and I think the Minister for Works has done a disservice to the apprenticeship potential in this State by dismissing so many competent men who were performing such good work in the interests of the State.

At this stage I do not propose to say anything about the State Building Supplies; but I might mention that there will be more said about the State Building Supplies before the end of this session. We have endeavoured to point out the unfairness, and the dubious practice of the Government in engaging in what is called negotiations for the sale of the State Building Supplies, without calling tenders. The Government leaves itself open to the sharpest of criticism, and the public is entitled to be told the reason why the Government gave away this asset in the State Building Supplies. Even though our request for the appointment of a Royal Commission was opposed, the public is still entitled to that information.

The Minister for Industrial Development has been very forward in criticising State undertakings and favouring private enterprise, free enterprise, and so forth. He has been the spearhead of the move to dispose of the State Building Supplies. The paragraph I propose to read from *The West Australian* of the 2nd August, however, stands out in bold contrast to the thinking of the Minister for Industrial Development. It reads as follows:—

Court Hopes To Speed Up Ship.

Industrial Development Minister Court said on his return from the Eastern States last night that there were good prospects of expediting delivery of the new State ship Kangaroo as a result of talks he had had with the Australian Shipbuilding Board and contractors.

A complete review of the building timetable was to be undertaken to see if an earlier delivery date than September, 1962, could be achieved.

The installation of air-conditioning equipment had caused delays.

He was anxious to get an early delivery date from the Brisbane shipyards because of heavy interest costs

accruing while the ship was being built and also because of the prospect of having it in service for part of the 1962 cattle season.

Mr. Nalder: He has been successful.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Why did not the Minister for Industrial Development approve of the sale of the State Shipping Service? Members of the Government have been crying calamity with regard to State enterprises, yet we find that this Government, if necessary, would extend the State Shipping Service; and the member for Murray, who was a former Premier, knows why.

If the Government was consistent it would dispose of the State Shipping Service. However, the Government knows why the State Shipping Service was established; it knows it was established for the same reason that the State Building Supplies was established. I mention this matter to let the Minister for Industrial Development know that he is rather inconsistent in expediting the delivery of State ships on the one hand; and, on the other, rushing around enthusiastically and hurriedly to give away the State Building Supplies.

Mr. Grayden: What about the railways?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The Minister for Industrial Development has on many occasions said that a certain industry is starting here; that another industry is starting there; that men are wanted here; and that men are wanted there. The members of the Government may believe that sort of thing, but it certainly will not hoodwink the public. The public is awake to all the propaganda that this Government is putting out. If all the industries that the Government says are in operation, are in operation, then why are there so many people registered for unemployment in Western Australia? Why are there so many unemployed part time who are not registered? There is the answer.

An advertisement was published by the Liberal Party a little while ago telling us the marvellous things that are going to happen—not tomorrow—

Mr. Fletcher: Next year.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: No, not next year, but in 1970! I have been speaking to a number of people unemployed in my electorate, and I can tell the Government that these people are not at all interested in what is going to happen in 1970; they want to know what the Government is going to do for them now.

Mr. Bovell: We are laying the foundation stone for future prosperity.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Incidentally there are about 4,000 people on unemployment relief.

Mr. Brand: Before you go on—

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I will go on. The Premier could not answer a simple question I asked yesterday. I shall deal with his department now.

Mr. Bovell: He wants a rise in salary.

Mr. Brand: What about the 7,000 you had unemployed?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I want to deal with the "impropaganda" put out by this Government; and I will quote from *The West Australian* of the 29th March, which reads—

Mr. Wild: You once read to us for three and a quarter hours; so don't stop now.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The leading article in *The West Australian* on the 29th March 1961, reads as follows:—

In Western Australia the image is also becoming remote, for Mr. Menzies has shown his indifference toward this State by staying away from it for more than two years.

He accuses the newspapers of being the cause of the distaste which many Australians have for Mr. R. G. Menzies. The leading article says—

It is not their fault, though it is certainly a great pity, that the Prime Minister completely lacks the common touch.

I do not quote that to decry the Prime Minister in any way.

Mr. Bovell: Not much!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: We all know that he recently came to this State.

Mr. Bovell: And what a hit he made.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I will give the Minister for Lands an idea of the hit he did make, by showing him that all the publicity was rigged; even though it was no as bad as that for the State Building Supplies. Here, too, I would point out that it is not my intention to decry Dame Pattie Menzies, because I have met her and consider her a very fine woman indeed. But I will read from an article which appeared in *The West Australian* on the 26th July, 1961. It is as follows:—

Dame Pattie Makes Unscheduled Visit

Dame Pattie Menzies yesterday snatched 20 minutes from her tight programme to pay an unscheduled visit to the oil tanker British Robi which was tied up at Kwinana, loading oil for Walvis Bay in South-West Africa.

Dame Pattie made a special request to go on board the tanker after she had completed a tour of the refinery.

She talked to the captain and crew and made a brief inspection of the ship which was dressed with flags for the occasion.

There, we are told, was an unscheduled visit. This is the sort of propaganda or "impropaganda," that goes on. In the next day or two we saw where Bob Menzies himself met and spoke to an employee of the City of Perth who was charged with the duty of keeping the streets clean; and on this occasion we found that the Press and the Public Relations Officer just happened to be on the spot; as they were when the Prime Minister was talking to Jack Sheedy. The photographer happened to be on the spot at the time and was able to take the picture.

I emphasise that this is the sort of propaganda in which the Premier indulges. In an article to the Press on the Chevron-Hilton Hotel, which the Premier did not deny, he tended to mislead the public. When I asked him a simple question as to when the work on the Chevron-Hilton Hotel was likely to be resumed, if at all, the Premier spoke for about three minutes. He wandered all over the place without answering my question. And when I asked again whether the Premier could tell us when the work on the Chevron-Hilton Hotel was likely to commence, the reply he gave me was, "No." Why could not the Premier have told the public that? That is the sort of misrepresentation that goes on.

Mr. Brand: You read the article in the Press and you only asked the question to make political capital out of it. You could have drawn your own conclusions.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I want to know from the Premier what his Government's attitude is in regard to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act?

Mr. Brand: We got rid of it; and it is not likely to be brought back while we are here.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: We will find out in due course what the Premier will do. Here is a report from *The West Australian* of the 18th August, which is headed, "Government Plans to Curb Monopolies."

The Federal Government is going ahead with its plan to seek authority to control monopolies and restrictive trade practices in Australia.

It will be unable to introduce legislation until after the elections because it is awaiting the reactions of the State Governments to the Commonwealth's draft proposals.

The Federal Attorney-General, Sir Garfield Barwick, has asked the States if they are prepared to pass complementary legislation to strengthen the constitutional force of measures proposed by the Commonwealth.

The extent of their assent will likely determine the form of legislation for submission to Parliament.

The draft proposals were prepared after detailed examination of the anti-monopoly and restrictive trade practices laws operating overseas, particularly in Canada and the U.S.

I do not know whether or not that report is correct. I have no reason to doubt its accuracy, because the Premier did not deny it. The Premier will be required to inform the Commonwealth Government of his attitude to legislation on monopolies and restrictive trade practices.

I know one member of the Government in this House who supports such legislation. This is not the only place where it has been in operation. The legislation which was passed in 1959 was rather innocuous. When Labor was in office in 1958, a debate on monopolies and restrictive trade practices took place when the Bill was introduced. That was a couple of years after the present Attorney-General introduced legislation to try to curb monopolies in Western Australia. A Royal Commission was appointed in 1958, as a result of which some majority and some minority recommendations were made.

This was what one member who now supports the Government said in 1958 in the debate on the Unfair Trading and Profit Control Act Amendment Bill—

As far as I am concerned, the sky is the limit as far as profit is concerned, provided there is no attempt to restrict trade or injure anyone in the process of obtaining that profit. If we amend the title so that the Act will be known as "The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Control Act," then all the fears will be allayed, because there is legislation by that name in every country in the world. It has existed in the United States for years. Before any industrialist contemplated coming to W.A. he would look at this Act, if brought before his notice, and see that W.A. has restrictive trade legislation known by the same name as similar legislation in his own country.

He went on to say that he believed in free competition and enterprise; so do we on this side. He stated further—

I believe in free competition and enterprise as distinct from private enterprise. I believe there is a distinction. On the one hand, we have enterprise which by competition results in better goods and prices being brought down to a reasonable level; but on the other hand we have private enterprise which, in fact, means a small group of businessmen who have banded together to dominate the business world in a particular country. Therefore, there is a big difference. While I stand for free enterprise, in

no circumstances would I have anything to do with private enterprise. I ask everyone to note the distinction which I have drawn.

That is an indication that all members supporting the Government are not against monopolies and restrictive trade practices legislation. The quotation which I have just read was from the speech made by the member for South Perth, and he is now a supporter of the Government. There is much to be said for his comments. A younger brother of the honourable member adorned this Chamber for some years, and he introduced legislation to restrict monopolies; but he was succeeded by the present member for Nedlands as a result of his efforts.

What I want to know as soon as possible is the attitude which this Government proposes to adopt towards the request of the Commonwealth Government to put forward the views of the various States on such legislation.

Mr. Watts: At least we are taking part in the conferences; but we have not yet had the draft proposals.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am indebted to the Attorney-General for that impromptu reply, because it shows that the Commonwealth Liberal-Country Party Government realises there is a position arising in Australia, and rising rapidly, when it will become incumbent on the Commonwealth Government to take action to protect small business people and the community at large from monopolistic tendencies and restrictive trade practices.

I now deal with the report made by the Attorney-General when he returned to this State after his recent trip. He said that a change was needed in our apprenticeship system. I asked him a question concerning the conditions of apprenticeship, and concerning some of the details of the suggested changes. He said he would not give the information at that time, because there were to be conferences. There should not be anything secret about this matter. Surely the Attorney-General was not in the Bloody Tower or in Madame Tussaud's all the time he was overseas! He must have gained some information, and he should have given the House the results of his experience.

What will be the result? Will a commission be established in lieu of the present organisation? Will the Arbitration Court be superseded by the education authorities in taking over the training of apprentices? Is it proposed to increase the age limit of apprenticeship, or to reduce the period of training and make the course more intensive? Surely this Parliament, representing the community, will appreciate a few ideas from the Attorney-General, after his return from overseas!

Mr. Watts: All you would appreciate them for would be to make another speech about them.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: That is not so. I am interested, and quite a number of members are interested, in the training of apprentices in Western Australia. I have been associated with the training of ex-servicemen under the post-war reconstruction training scheme since the first meeting of the committee in 1943 or 1944. I am still a member of that committee. Thousands of adults have passed through that training school, and their period of apprenticeship was reduced from five years to four years, because their training was more intensive.

After his overseas trip, the Attorney-General should be in a position to give us a little information on the direction in which it is proposed to replace or amend the present apprenticeship scheme.

I now deal with a matter affecting the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Health. A report appeared recently in the newspapers relating to milk production and the standard of milk being supplied to the metropolis. I shall find out by questions in due course if I cannot get the information I desire in any other way but I understand that the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Health have agreed with the milk producers' organisation that there will be no prosecutions for the supply of inferior or under standard milk in the next twelve months.

Mr. J. Hegney: That is rough, isn't it?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I would like to know and the public is entitled to know—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The public has been informed.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: —just what the Minister, the Health Department, and the Department of Agriculture are doing to ensure that the milk that consumers receive for the next 12 months will be up to standard.

Mr. Nalder: It certainly will.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You have been informed through the Press.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I want to know what the position is.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Haven't you read the statements which have been given out? Apparently you have some of them.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: They are so conflicting. I will pass on to the Chief Secretary since he has referred to the Press. I read a report in the Press in regard to the building of hospitals and other health institutions. It was a long screed in the daily Press regarding the activities of the Minister and his department, stating what

buildings were going to be erected and what was going to happen. I asked this question of the Minister the other day—

Concerning the reply of the Minister for Health to a question asked by the member for Leederville in connection with the Stephenson Report—This concerns the building of hospitals—can the Minister indicate briefly the year in which the programme is expected to be completed?

The Minister replied as follows:—

The period which the report covers is up to approximately the end of the century.

That is the sort of stuff that is being fed to the public time and time again. It is an example of the misleading publicity—and, in many cases, duplicity—on the part of the Government in regard to the people of Western Australia.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Mr. Acting Speaker, I would ask you to request the member for Mt. Hawthorn to confine his remarks to something approximating the truth. He has said that I was misleading the House into duplicity. I feel sure he does not fully subscribe to that statement, and I ask him to apologise to me.

Mr. Tonkin: What is the point of order?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: If the honourable member objects to the word "duplicity" I will withdraw it unreservedly. I will say "misleading." I think the time has arrived—and this is not a joke—when responsible Ministers of the Government should stop misleading the public and give factual reports on each and every occasion when they desire to inform the public of what is going on. The Government should not, by innuendo, imply to the public that something is going to be done forthwith, in the near future, or at the end of the century.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: This report covered a long period.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The position is clear to me; and all I am doing is pointing out that the public are not ivory from the shoulders up. The public realise that the Government has, on occasions, tried to mislead them, whether consciously or unconsciously.

Here is something for public consumption. It is headed "1970." It is a long column which I think appeared in the *Daily News* of the 11th April last. The marvels that are going to happen in 1970!

Mr. Bovell: It would be happening now if you had done your job properly in 1953.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The Minister seems to treat these things in a facetious way; but it is not facetious to thousands of people in this State who are unemployed; and many of whom are threatened with eviction from their homes; and thousands of whom cannot determine when they will

get further employment. In the meantime, the Government is trying to get the public to believe—

Mr. Bovell: That is a gross exaggeration.

Mr. W. HEGNEY:—that many industries are being established; that there will be a shortage of labour; and that many thousands more men will be required to fill the jobs that will be available. We hope that will be the position. However, my point in conclusion is that there should be more factual statements and less fanciful ones made by the Government. I support the Address-in-Reply.

MR. I. W. MANNING (Harvey) [8.45 p.m.]: I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I want to take this opportunity of making a few comments on a number of matters. First of all, I offer my congratulations to the member for Victoria Park on his election to this Chamber; and I trust his term in Parliament will be rewarded with achievement.

We members who are associated with the dairying districts in the State are watching with considerable interest to see what the outcome of Britain's application to join the European Common Market will be. If Britain does throw in her lot with the European community, we will be interested to see what the effect will be upon her trade with Australia, with particular reference to meat and dairy produce. One very noticeable effect we have already seen is the stepping up of our own interest in the Asian markets and other potential markets in that part of the World.

It is very interesting to note that the leading dairying companies in Western Australia are very alive to the potential of that area. Already some trade has been established. One which I would like to mention is the new market in Singapore to which frozen milk is forwarded. This milk is packed into 4-gallon tins, and it arrives in very good condition. It is sold in Singapore as liquid milk. Unfortunately, these tins add to the cost to the extent of 1s. 2½d. per gallon when it arrives in Singapore. My purpose in mentioning this is to draw the attention of the Government to the need for taking a greater interest in that particular market.

New Zealand has been very alive to the opportunities in that market; and I would like to read an article which appears in the July issue of the *Massey-Ferguson Review* and indicates the steps New Zealand has taken. It comes from New Delhi, and reads as follows:—

The largest and most modern milk products processing plant in Southern Asia has been established here.

The factory, which cost £A1 million, is a gift from New Zealand to the people of India.

It will serve as a model training school for dairy students from India and neighbouring countries.

The factory has Swedish equipment and will eventually process 100,000 gallons of milk daily.

Similar dairies are planned for other Indian cities.

New Zealand is also assisting in the construction of a factory in Hong Kong to reconstitute milk from milk powder and butter fat.

The factory will give Hong Kong its first reasonably-priced milk supply.

I think we all know that New Zealand is very much dependent upon its dairy products for its livelihood, and any loss of the market which it enjoys in Great Britain would be a very severe setback indeed. That country is not sitting down on the job. It is extremely active throughout India and the Asian countries in an endeavour to find new markets. It has also been active in the finding of new lines of dairy produce for those markets.

A great variety of dairy produce is now going forward, and I feel there is ample room for Australia to take a bigger interest in these areas also. We know that of the millions of people there, many do not have sufficient food. They are now taking a greater interest in dairy products; and slowly but surely their standard of living is rising. As time goes by they will demand more of our products. While at this time the Government is encouraging industrial concerns to establish themselves in Western Australia, I suggest that it should also encourage our dairy companies to establish factories and points of distribution in such countries as India and Asia. Surely there lies the great consumer market of the future.

Geographically we have a distinct advantage over New Zealand and the Eastern States. Time and distance, which are very important in the marketing of dairy produce, are very much in our favour. Direct trade connections would have to be established with these Asian countries in order to promote the use of Australian products.

Other countries, in addition to New Zealand, are interested in those parts of the world, and are apparently taking steps to establish themselves firmly in those markets. This latest move in getting milk to that part of the world which has great difficulty in getting milk and other dairy produce is a very big step forward indeed, and I would recommend that the Government look into the situation. We know that the dairy companies here are very interested and are doing what they can, but I think some encouragement from the Government would be very rewarding indeed.

I would like to commend the Government for what it is doing in the south-west to promote the production of dairy produce. Tonight on the news we heard that the

Minister for Works had received tenders for the construction of a dam at Logue's Brook, which is in my electorate. The construction of this dam and the conservation of water to supplement the Harvey irrigation district's supply will mean a very big step forward in the production in that area, particularly in regard to milk, but also in the production of beef, which is a large industry in the south-west. The construction of the dam is also very timely and opportune indeed, because during the past two summers there has been a shortage of water in the irrigation districts at Harvey, and all the farmers have been severely rationed.

The Government has also been very active in regard to drainage. The Minister for Works has a couple of schemes under way in my electorate which in themselves contribute to the ever-increasing stepping-up of production in that area. I think it is well to mention these things because there is considerable activity throughout the State; and while we are apt to think of some of the bigger projects the Government has under way, we must not overlook the fact that it has given consideration to the smaller but very essential public works in the district.

At a recent conference of the Country Party the need for more veterinary surgeons in Western Australia was discussed. A suggestion was made that the Government should encourage the establishment of a chair of veterinary science at the University of Western Australia. I mention this because there is a real need for more veterinary practitioners throughout the south-west. As is well known, my electorate is the most densely cattle-populated area in the State and the veterinary practitioners throughout the districts are not able to cope with the work offering. Their services cannot be dispensed with and the number is totally inadequate for the amount of work required of them. It is a physical impossibility for them to cover all the needs of farmers.

Because of the stepping up of the cattle production in the areas the necessity for an increased number of veterinary surgeons will arise. It takes some considerable time to train these men, and therefore an urgent decision will need to be made in regard to the establishment of a chair of veterinary science at the University in order to encourage young men to enter that profession.

I now want to touch on the subject of potatoes. Last summer was a long and dry one, and consequently the potato growers suffered considerably from the seasonal conditions. First of all, on account of the long, dry summer, things did not go well with the crop; and then came the wet weather, after which a substantial acreage was under water. But the point I want to make concerns rejections.

When the potatoes arrived at the markets, many truckloads were rejected. When a truck of potatoes is rejected, the grower has three courses open to him. He may have the potatoes sent back to the district from which they came; he can utilise the services of the Potato Board to pick them over at the board's store at Fremantle; or he can himself go to Fremantle to the store and pick them over. I came with a party from Harvey to the board's store at Fremantle to assist in picking over a truckload which had been rejected, and I was very disturbed at the loss and wastage I saw at the store.

No doubt a lot of the potatoes forwarded should never have left the districts from which they came. However, among the rejected potatoes were many which had some good commercial value. They were rejected merely because they had a knob on them and were therefore declared other than No. 1 potatoes. At that time during the last season, the board had been accepting potatoes of No. 2 grade which are knobby potatoes with the knobs cut off. These had been sold for a lower price. However there is a good deal of confusion in the minds of potato growers as to just what should be done with this class of potato. Some say that a potato with one knob on is a No. 1 potato. But if there are too many of these per bag the consignment is rejected in Perth.

Mr. Rowberry: We don't want potatoes with knobs on.

Mr. Graham: The "eyes" have it!

Mr. I. W. MANNING: Possibly not. But this serves to illustrate the need for a qualified potato-inspector to go into the growing areas and to indicate to the growers what is acceptable as a No. 1 potato, and what is not acceptable.

There is too much loss and too much waste at the present time. One of the big problems with potato-growing is that there has been no market for potatoes other than the No. 1 kind. However, there are many good quality potatoes which would come into the category of No. 2 potatoes—particularly the knobby ones with the knobs removed. The knobs do not in any way detract from the quality of the product.

Mr. Brand: In some cases they do.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I say to the Minister for Agriculture that he could do the potato-growing industry a very great service by directing a qualified person to instruct potato growers which potatoes are acceptable as the No. 1 kind, and which are not acceptable. By so doing, I think we would overcome a very great problem indeed.

Mr. Brand: Is that a practice elsewhere?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: No; it is something which is not practised elsewhere. Because of the seriousness of the situation there has, over the past, been a request

for country inspectors of potatoes; that is, for potatoes to be inspected and passed in the districts in which they are grown, before they come forward to the metropolitan area. If potatoes are not acceptable, or do not measure up, they can be turned back to the grower on the spot. However, the board and the Department of Agriculture is very much opposed to that.

I am therefore offering an alternative suggestion: that a qualified person be sent into these areas to instruct growers on the grading of potatoes. This is something which is favoured not only by the growers but by potato inspectors also. I therefore think the suggestion has merit.

I wish to mention the fact that during the term of this present Government I have made two visits to the Esperance district. I was interested in the comments of the member for Eyre. I am amazed at the transformation of the Esperance district during the past two years. Too much credit cannot be given to the present Minister for Lands for his handling of the situation at Esperance, with particular reference to the renegotiating of the agreement concerning the Chase land.

The previous agreement, entered into by the Labor Government, turned out to be something of a tragedy. We who were in Opposition expressed our misgivings; but we were persuaded by the Government of the day, which seemed to be completely bewitched by this man Alan Chase, and was convinced that he had the money and the know-how—the two things needed for success at Esperance, and the two things he proved he did not have. He had neither the know-how nor the capital. However, that is now history.

Thanks to the present Minister for Lands, Esperance has received a shot in the arm, as it were, and has completely leapt ahead in development. Not only is the area surrounding Esperance rapidly coming under development as pasture lands and for stock, but the land far removed from Esperance—on the outskirts of Esperance—is now being developed; and the Minister for Lands is having a survey and classification carried out of that territory many miles to the east of Esperance. It has been forecast in the past that this area is likely to be one of the most productive in Western Australia. At the rate it is now developing there is every indication that this forecast is taking effect.

I was interested in the remarks of the member for Fremantle last night when he said he favoured collective bargaining as against the system of arbitration as we know it. His remarks arose out of a comment made to him on the attitude of the wharfies to the loading of stone fruit during the recent fruit season. If ever we saw some restrictive trade practices, it was on that occasion; and I hope that such a tragedy never arises again in this

State, where the real workers of Western Australia—the hard-working fruitgrowers—saw a whole year's work go for nought when their products were left to rot on the wharf at Fremantle, due to the unfortunate attitude taken by the wharf labourers at the time. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

[*The Speaker (Mr. Hearman) resumed the Chair.*]

MR. HEAL (West Perth) [9.7 p.m.]: During the last session of Parliament the Treasurer introduced amendments to the Superannuation Act affecting those persons who come within the terms of the 1938 to 1958 Act, and those who come under the old 1871 Act. During the Committee stage of the Bill the Leader of the Opposition said—and I am quoting from page 2451 of *Hansard*, 1960—

It will be a shock to those who are to receive no increase, and to those who are to receive a very small increase, to find out how this formula in its application to them gives them a stone when they need some more bread. I do not put that forward in any melodramatic fashion. Finally, I appeal to the Treasurer and his colleagues to have another look at this one.

The Treasurer's comments were—and I am again quoting from page 2451—

I am prepared to have a look at it; but I feel the principle which we have established is one from which we can now work in respect of all State pensions in Western Australia.

That was just a part of the Treasurer's statement. The main purpose of the amendment was to bring the pension scheme on to a unified basis. However, since the Act has come into force some pensioners have been affected to the extent—as was pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition—that they have not received any increase at all. Actually, had the scheme been adopted in its entirety, some pensioners would have had their pensions reduced; but the Treasurer, in good faith, included a clause to say that no pensions would be reduced.

A lot of people in my area are receiving superannuation and live on fixed incomes; and I am sure the Treasurer will agree with me that with the cost of living rising, as it has done over the past four or five years, it is very difficult for these people to exist.

I have received a few letters in connection with this matter, and I propose quoting some paragraphs from them. One is dated the 11th April, 1961, and says—

Dear Sir:

As a Civil Service pensioner under the 1871 Act—I spent more than 40 years in the service of the Education

Department of this State—may I have half-an-hour of your valuable time—

I like that part! To continue—

—to point out recent rather ludicrous developments resulting from the 1960 amendments of the Act.

I received another letter, written in a similar vein, on the 23rd April, 1961, which says—

Dear Sir:

As a member of your constituency, I wish to discuss with you matters concerning the well-being of pensioners under the 1871 Act, and would consider it a favour if you would grant me a short interview for this purpose.

As an 1871-er who gave 47 years of service to the State under the Education Department rising from pupil teacher to inspectress and organiser of home science, I am qualified to speak on these matters and hope to bring to your notice facts overlooked in the recent readjustment of pensions.

I do not know whether, during this session of Parliament, it is the Treasurer's intention to introduce further amendments to the Superannuation Act, or whether he will do something to help those people who were unfortunately not eligible to receive increases under the amendments made last year. I am wondering whether he has discussed the matter with Cabinet or with his departmental officers.

These pensioners have formed an association; and, before the last report went to the Treasurer, or the department which handles these matters, this association forwarded some information to support its case. I would like to quote some of the facts they presented, because they will show the difficulties in which these pensioners find themselves. They wrote as follows:—

Points to be Stressed to Support Our Case.

The 1871 Act:

1. By the 1871 Act pensioners were definitely set out as a part of the emoluments of office for public servants.

2. Salaries were low but men and women considering joining the Public Services certainly were swayed by the pension guaranteed to them by the 1871 Act.

3. The amount of each pension was determined by the average salary of the recipient over the last three years of service together with his length of service.

4. The pension, thus earned assured to the recipient his "standard of living" for the period of his retirement. This "standard of living" was gauged by the

basic wage ruling at the time of his retirement. It was guaranteed by the 1871 Act and should be maintained.

5. Inflation has drastically slashed the purchasing power of most pensions earned under the 1871 Act. Pensions granted to retired public servants still alive date from 23rd October, 1920, to 14th February, 1956. All pensioners who retired between 1920 and 1948 were most severely hit by inflation. Those who retired in the 1949-1956 period benefited from increased salaries and all basic wage increases granted during their term of office. Their pensions consequently were more in accord with the "standard of living" provided for by the 1871 Act.

Surely, mere justice demands that the "standard of living" earned at the date of retirement and guaranteed by the 1871 Act, should be maintained.

This Act was a definite and solemn contract entered into by the Government with its public servants and no honourable reason can be found to excuse its violation.

Firmly convinced of this the 1871-ers have asked each successive Government since inflation started to hit us severely that we should be granted the basic wage increases (or decreases) from the date of retirement.

6. We candidly and gratefully admit that each Government approached, irrespective of its "colour" kindly and sympathetically received our representatives when presenting our case and each in turn granted some piecemeal measure of relief to some pensioners but never in accord with the basic wage increases.

7. These "piecemeal" measures of relief took the following forms:—

- (a) A 25 per cent. rise granted to a limited number up to £360.

That is, those on pensions up to £369.

As a charitable gift no exception can be taken to this. It was given to those whose pensions were below £360 but in no case were the pensions of this group to go beyond the £360 mark. This created a serious breach of the 1871 Act by destroying the relative values of pensions earned by length of service and position achieved at retirement. This consequently created anomalies due to disturbing the earned relativity.

- (b) Supplementation of £1 and 10s. All participated equally in these supplementations irrespective of the nature and length of service of the recipients. This further disturbed the earned relativity values and aggravated anomalies.

8. It was then decided to appeal to the Government for the appointment of an "independent committee" to investigate, report and recommend. We suggested that the committee should be composed of (a) a retired judge as chairman, (b) a representative of the Government, and (c) a representative of the 1871-ers.

The question came before Parliament and a motion for the appointment of an expert committee was adopted, but a single commissioner in the person of Mr. Nicholas was appointed. In due course his report with recommendations was presented to Parliament and included his formula for assessing the pensions for 1871-ers. This is dealt with lower down.

Apparently the Treasurer and the Superannuation Board decided to accept the recommendation of the Nicholas Report, and thus it has affected groups in the following manner:— Group "A", on a pension of £1,000 to £1,183, 10 in number, nine of whom received increases; Groups "B" to "G" all received increases under a special formula.

I would like to ask the Treasurer—and this was pointed out to him by the Leader of the Opposition during the debate on the amending Bill last year—if something will be done about the two sections of pensioners who did not receive any increase at all. The first group receives £300 to £399 per annum—there are 19 in this group—and the second group receives £200 to £299 per annum—there are only three in this group.

I do not know whether the Premier has given the matter any thought, or whether he intends to give these two groups some assistance by an amendment to the Act this session; but I sincerely hope that, if he has not given the matter any thought, he will give those people some consideration as well as all other people who are receiving superannuation benefits.

My electorate is not a very large one, but it is an old area and not much new development requiring Government assistance is being undertaken in it. However, over the past five or six years a large number of New Australians have come to live in the district, and, unfortunately, at present many of them are on the unemployed list. The question of unemployment has been dealt with several times in the House this session, but I feel it is my

duty to have something to say in relation to it, because I have not spoken on this subject previously.

We have heard quite a lot from the member for South Perth, and the Minister for Industrial Development, about the fact that the people of Western Australia gave the present Government a mandate to do certain things. They said that included in this was a mandate to sell, among other things, State Government enterprises. When delivering his policy speech the Premier said—and it was printed in *The West Australian*—that if his party were returned to power it would fire nobody. I would like members to keep that statement in mind because I have not heard the Premier refute it. Yet as soon as the Government took office the Minister for Works got to work and, over a certain period, retrenched quite a number who were engaged under the Public Works day-labour scheme.

I asked the Minister a question on this matter earlier in the session; and his answer was that this Government, since it has been in office, has retrenched 929 people, six have been dismissed, and 460 have resigned from his department. Those are interesting figures, especially when we realise that 460 people have resigned from a particular department. No doubt the reason they resigned was that they knew that within a certain time the axe would fall; and, that being the case, they thought it better to seek employment elsewhere.

Unfortunately, a large number of those people have had to go to the Eastern States to find employment. Some tried to find work in Western Australia; and I am sure that many in that group are still looking for work, because some of them have come to me to ask for assistance. Unfortunately there are some individuals who have been receiving social service benefits for 18 months to two years.

In a State such as Western Australia that is a disgraceful condition of affairs, especially for New Australians. I realise that the Government of this State is not responsible for bringing New Australians to the country, but that it is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. However, I consider that when these people do enter Western Australia it is the responsibility of the State Government to find employment for them. I was speaking to an Italian the other day who came to this country about four years ago and took up employment in a country district. He saved sufficient money to bring his family out to this State and after they had arrived he saved a further amount which enabled him to pay a deposit on a house in West Perth. He transferred his family to Perth and obtained employment, and he has been living in that house ever since.

Unfortunately, as a result of his retrenchment from the Public Works Department organisation he has been out of work

for the last four months. He cannot continue with the payments on his house; and it appears as though all his life savings will be lost if he does not obtain employment in the near future. When one hears of cases such as this, it is of no comfort to read the statements that are published by the Prime Minister, Commonwealth politicians, and the Ministers of this Government in relation to future employment prospects.

On Tuesday, the 8th August, 1961, the following report of a statement by Prime Minister Menzies appeared in *The West Australian*:—

Menzies: Credit Squeeze Has Gone.

Sydney, Monday.—The credit squeeze as people understood it was not with us today, Prime Minister Menzies said tonight.

He was speaking to a meeting of the N.S.W. Liberal Party at the Sydney Town Hall.

All that was left of the credit squeeze was two restrictions on bank lending, he said.

The real trouble in the economy was not a credit squeeze but a lack of confidence among the public.

It was not bank policy nor the unwillingness of banks to lend—

That is an amazing statement! Continuing—

—they all exhibited willingness to lend on a proper proposal—the real trouble was that there had been too many calamity howlers in the country.

The Government's economic policy had worked, he said. It had produced the most magnificent results in general and had saved our international balances.

From now on a steady state of affairs was needed in which people went about their affairs and did their buying in the ordinary way.

This process would not begin if there were people in Australia undermining the confidence of the 97 people in each 100 who were in employment.

Australia's overseas reserves as a result of the credit squeeze were today just on £100,000,000 more than they were at the state of January this year.

Australia was the most popular country in the world for investment purposes.

In the financial year just ended the flow of private enterprise money for business and development in Australia had been much higher than last year and was a record for Australia.

Mr. Menzies said he was an unlimited optimist about the future. He did not expect things to happen overnight but he believed in his bones—

I would say that they are getting pretty chalky. Continuing—

—that by this time next year many of us would be wondering what the argument was about.

He prophesied that Australia would never have another depression of the kind that occurred in the early 1930s.

People knew too much today for that to happen. It was one of those things that was impossible.

He had had a lot more practical experience in dealing with the economics of Australia than the theorists had.

The year 1962 would be a very great year in history for the prosperity of Australia.

The Government forecast a prosperous future for the next ten years, and the degree of development would surpass any previous decade.

Mr. Menzies explained why the Government had moved to slow up the motor industry.

By the time the credit squeeze was introduced about 1,000 vehicles a day were being produced and sold in Australia.

If ever there was one industry contributing towards inflationary conditions, it was the motor industry. It was a great industry, vital to the economy of Australia, but it was going too fast.

Through no fault of their own, people had become unemployed in the motor industry, but its activities had to be reduced in the interests of all and the economy of the country.

On the same day, and on the same page of this issue of *The West Australian* there was another article published as follows:—

Sackings Show Big Increase

Canberra, Monday: The number of workers who lost jobs through retrenchments rose sharply in the latest six-monthly analysis of labour turnover, issued tonight by the Commonwealth Statistics Bureau.

The March total was 2.5 per cent. of male workers and 3.5 per cent. of women workers, compared with 1.1 per cent. and 1.7 per cent. in March, 1960.

Therefore, in view of the information contained in that article, it is all very well for the Prime Minister and other Commonwealth Ministers to ask the people—especially unemployed workers—to remain calm and be patient for another six or seven months because the Government feels sure that in 1970 there will be great prosperity in Australia.

For example, at the present time the tobacco industry in this country is at the crossroads. In a matter of only three or four weeks tobacco growers have to make the decision whether they will go ahead and plant their next tobacco crop or put their land to better use. In *The West Australian* of the 29th August, 1961, the following article was published:—

Call for Patience.

There was little likelihood of the Federal Government taking any action to assist the tobacco industry until it received a detailed report from the growers' council, Interior and Works Minister Freeth said yesterday.

He called for patience by all those affected and warned that too hasty action by creditors could only cause severe hardship and damage to future prospects of the industry.

What are the future prospects of this industry? Unless, in regard to its continued existence, the Commonwealth Government arrives at some firm basis which will render these people some assistance, we will find that tobacco growers in this State will be placed in a most awkward position.

Yesterday evening we heard the member for Bunbury state—and there were similar comments from the Minister for Lands on a previous occasion—that when the Hawke Labor Government assumed office the unemployment position was worse than it is today. In this regard I intend to quote to the House a few figures. In March, 1959, there were 6,810 people registered for work in Western Australia. The latest figures, published on the 28th July, 1961, show that there are 6,811 people now registered for work, which is a difference of only one. However, the principal point we have to take into consideration is that in March, 1959, some 2,850 people were receiving social service benefits, but today we find that that number has been increased to 3,062, and the total amount paid out in social service benefits has been increased considerably.

It has also been said by Ministers and members on the Government side of the House that, since the present Government has been in office, there are 6,000 more people in employment than there were three years ago. Nevertheless, I think we must concede that if, over the past ten years we had not had an increase in our population each year, this State would have started to go backwards. Therefore, this increase is only a natural population increase as a result of migrants coming here from overseas and other places. I do not think we should take into consideration the fact that there are 6,000 more people employed today than there were three or four years ago, because in ten years' time probably 40,000 more people will be in employment compared with the number who are employed today.

Mr. W. Hegney: There are 60,000 more people in this State today than there were three years ago.

Mr. HEAL: Yes, and that trend will continue in our lifetime; and I sincerely hope our population will increase from year to year. I hope that the rail standardisation scheme will be put into operation as soon as possible because it will certainly help to relieve the unemployment position. In fact, it has been a source of amazement to me that the Commonwealth Government has delayed its decision on this scheme for so long.

I regret that the member for Bunbury is not in his seat, because I would like to point out that at the conclusion of the speech he made yesterday evening he stated that he would definitely be opposed to any Government desirous of being in control of any industry. Let us review the position when the Hawke Labor Government was in office and when it sought approval from the Commonwealth Government to export 1,000,000 tons of iron ore to Japan. At the time, the Commonwealth Government refused to grant its permission to the State to export iron ore, but had given permission for it to sell this 1,000,000 tons of iron ore to Japan. At the time I believe it was the intention of the Hawke Government to establish an iron and steel industry somewhere in the south-west of Western Australia.

I cannot imagine, for the life of me, that the member for Bunbury would be opposed to it, if it were to be set up in the area he represents. If private enterprise—or free enterprise as some like to call it—could not cope with such a big undertaking, and if the industry were instrumental in employing 500 to 1,000 men, I feel sure the member for Bunbury would have no objection to the establishment of such an industry by the Government.

The members on the other side of the House who support the Government are certainly entitled to their beliefs, and their desire to concentrate on private enterprise and free enterprise as much as possible; but if private enterprise cannot undertake the establishment of a certain industry in Western Australia, then surely there is no harm in the Government doing so. We have been told that this Government has always been opposed to socialistic enterprises.

Mr. Bovell: Hear, hear!

Mr. HEAL: I am very glad to hear the Minister for Lands say "Hear, hear," because his Government has socialised an industry since it has been in office. The industry to which I refer was previously run by private enterprise; and yet, under the Minister for Police, the Government has set up a Totalisator Agency Board. If that is not socialising an industry I do not know what is. It would appear that this Government is quite prepared

to support socialistic enterprise so long as it brings revenue to the Treasury Department.

I would now like to refer to the question of traffic. I asked the Minister for Transport one or two questions concerning the installation of traffic lights at the corner of Milligan Street and Hay Street, and also at the corner of Colin Street and Hay Street. We know that Graham Flats have been built in this area and that many pensioners live in them; and that the growth of the city has been westwards. Many doctors and professional men have set up their offices in Colin Street, and this has meant a decided increase in the flow of traffic in that area.

Accordingly I hope the Minister for Transport will be able to see his way clear to install the lights for which I have asked at the corner of Colin Street and Hay Street. There have been a number of accidents at that corner. On one occasion when I passed in that direction, I found that a truck had ploughed its way into a chemist's shop which is situated at the corner of Colin Street and Hay Street. Quite apart from this, the crosswalk at this corner is used by children, and I am sure that the installation of lights would provide an extra safety factor for them.

I have also had protests from business houses at the corner of Hay Street and Milligan Street about the lack of traffic control in that area. As the Minister knows, the traffic there is very dense; and the business houses to which I have referred feel that traffic lights should be installed at the junction of Hay Street and Milligan Street. I believe the Traffic Department has approved of the installation of these lights and that the recommendation has been sent on to the Perth City Council. I am informed that that body intends to hold it over until a decision is made on the switch road. I do not know how long that will be; but I do think that these lights should be installed in the meantime to control the flow of traffic in that area. I propose to have a talk with the authorities concerned about this and see whether I can expedite the installation of these lights.

It might interest members to know that the King's Park Board in many recent meetings has made a decision to clean up the banks on Mount's Bay Road. The board is perturbed at the condition of Mount's Bay Road extending for its whole length right up to the University. The King's Park Board has approached the Perth City Council and asked that cement kerbing be placed around the area. We know that at present that body has not the finance to carry out the job; and that it, in turn, has written to the Main

Roads Department asking whether that department would carry out the work under suggestion.

Some of us had the mistaken belief that the part of Mount's Bay Road from the University to William Street is the responsibility of the Main Roads Department; but, after having received a reply from the Minister for Works to one of the questions I asked him, we found that the responsibility of the Main Roads Department starts and finishes at the University.

I would like the Minister to have another look at this to see whether his department cannot undertake the resurfacing of the road, and the kerbing of the area up to the University. It is not an unreasonable request, particularly when one considers that this is one of the main outlets from the city.

It is a strange thing, but we find that every main road that comes into our city ceases to be such as it enters the Perth City Council area. Why that is so, I do not know. These roads pass through areas controlled by other local authorities, and they are maintained without any trouble; so why they should cease to be maintained when they enter this particular local authority's boundary, I cannot understand. I do know that this body has a tremendous amount of work to do in the repairing of roads and in the construction of new roads, and that this is a great expense. If the Main Roads Department can attend to the main inlets and outlets to and from the city, surely it can give these other roads some attention.

I know it is a big job and that it takes up a lot of money, but I do feel that the people of Western Australia are entitled to have this money spent on these main roads, particularly when we consider the amount they subscribe in petrol tax.

The other matter on which I wish to touch is the sale of crackers on bonfire night. In recent months, and particularly after the last bonfire night, there were many protests in the *Daily News*, and many references to the banning of fireworks. Since these articles appeared, the present Government has discussed the matter in Cabinet with a view to introducing legislation banning the sale of fireworks. In the early part of the session I asked the Premier a question about this and he said that Cabinet had decided to take no action in the matter.

Mr. Bovell: For the present.

Mr. HEAL: While I am partly in favour of banning the sale of fireworks, I have no desire to take away from children the great enjoyment they derive from them; nor do I wish to deprive the business houses of the money they make from the sale of these fireworks. It is quite obvious, however, that something should be done

about their sale, because we find that year after year some child or other loses his eyesight, or is severely burnt. We also find that a number of children are admitted to hospital, while others are treated by their local doctors.

Surely the display of fireworks could be organised in a manner similar to that which was adopted at Gloucester Park, where fireworks displays were held, and where people paid a sum of money to attend. This money was eventually passed on to charity. That is one way in which people could enjoy a bonfire, or a fireworks display.

If I remember rightly, I think the Farmers' Union was rather perturbed about the sale of fireworks in the country areas, particularly when the weather was warm and there was danger of fire damage to properties. There is no doubt that they had cause for great concern. Accordingly if the Government is approached by certain organisations about this matter, I trust it will have another look at it with a view to taking some action to control the sale of fireworks on the 5th November.

That is all I have to say at the moment. There are other matters I would like to mention, but I shall deal with them when speaking to the Estimates. I support the motion of the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [9.39 p.m.]: First of all I wish to congratulate the newly elected member for Victoria Park on his elevation to this Chamber. I feel sure the experience the honourable member has in conducting himself, and the knowledge he possesses, will be of great advantage to him and to the State.

As were other members, I was very interested in the Speech the Lieutenant-Governor delivered on the opening day of Parliament, but I thought the matters dealt with by His Excellency were not nearly as important as some matters which could have been dealt with, and which I consider should have been included in his Speech.

The first subject which should have been included in the Speech was the inaction of the State and Federal Governments in regard to coming to grips with the problems which confront the producers of Australia—in primary industries as well as secondary industries. I am referring to the problem which will confront these producers if Great Britain joins the European Common Market. Over the past few weeks we have heard a lot about this subject; and, personally, I think the public have not taken sufficient interest in it and do not realise its impact on the life of the Australian people.

The entry of the United Kingdom into the European Common Market, irrespective of concessions granted to our primary producers, would be detrimental to this

State and Australia. We would be forced, more and more, to look for markets in the Asian countries. Although these markets are much closer to us than the European markets, the peoples of the Asian countries live on a much lower standard than ours and their low income would not enable them to pay the price for our products.

Regarding the credit squeeze imposed by the Federal Government, criticism has been levelled by those on this side of the House—and the Commonwealth Government truly deserves such criticism. On the other hand, bouquets have been showered by the Liberal Party of this State on the Commonwealth Government for having imposed the squeeze. Benefits are supposed to accrue from the credit squeeze, but the recent increase of 12s. per week in the basic wage has increased the wage bill of Australia by £60,000,000 per annum. As workers, we know what happens when such increases are granted: it is the producer and the worker who have to foot the bill.

Neither the State Government nor the Federal Government has, to date, taken any action to control the prices of goods and services, or to keep their costs down. This evening the member for Mt. Hawthorn told us that the Federal Government intended to call conferences of representatives of the various States to find ways and means to control monopolies and restrictive trade practices. Why this had not been done before to keep a control on the prices of goods, is beyond my comprehension.

Another matter which should have been included in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech is the increase in expenditure on water supplies, and particularly on the extension of country water supplies. Some people may claim that I am being parochial, because this matter affects Geraldton more than other country towns. We know that from time to time water restrictions are imposed in various country towns, and insufficient water is available even for domestic purposes. The State Government should have approached the Commonwealth Government long before the present time for the purpose of forming an all-party committee to determine what could be done on a national basis to raise a few million pounds for extending the water supplies in this State.

The water supply position in Geraldton is fortunate because of the success of bores which have been sunk. We are not satisfied by any means, but our position could have been much worse had it not been for the various Ministers for Water Supplies, including the present Minister, acting quickly when the Geraldton water supply looked like failing. The present supply position is not good enough, and we should have something better.

Some people are trying to get on the band-wagon in urging for the provision of a de-salination plant or nuclear plant for

the extraction of fresh water from salt water. Those schemes are all right, but they take too long to bear fruit. We in the northern part of the State could be placed in a very serious position if we have to wait for such plants to be put into operation. I shall have more to say on the water supply position during the debate on the annual Estimates. At that time we will have a clearer picture of the action that will be taken in this State in regard to the extension of water supplies.

One other matter, relating to amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act, should also have been included in His Excellency's Speech. The existing Act should be amended to give the workers in this State a fairer deal, and to ensure injured workers and their families sufficient compensation when workers become injured, totally incapacitated, or killed.

Last year and the year before we tried to introduce amendments to this legislation, but we did not get much satisfaction from the Minister in charge. We thought he was being very harsh; and that still applies. This Government should have introduced amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act to bring it up to date and to help the people I have referred to.

Another subject which should have been included in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech has been agitating the minds of various people and committees: the principle of equal pay for women in industry. This is a much-needed reform and should be introduced as soon as possible. There exists a ridiculous state of affairs at the present time, because a woman doing the same work as a man receives between 65 and 75 per cent. of the wage of the male worker. A female worker should receive the same pay as a male worker, if she does the same work.

I have already mentioned the Geraldton water supply and the amount of money that I consider should have been allocated for this purpose by the Government. In answer to a question asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition concerning desalination of water, the Minister for Works replied that there was no more information available on this subject, and that as far as Geraldton was concerned we would have to depend on bores. He was quite satisfied that this method would satisfy the needs of Geraldton.

I agree with the remarks of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition; I do not think the Minister for Works has told us enough about the action that is being taken by the Government in connection with the desalination of water. I have read various reports about this process being adopted in different parts of the world, and about the progress being made, but we in this State are not getting any information about this subject.

In connection with housing, Geraldton is growing, and it is still short of houses. I would like the Minister representing the Minister for Housing to make an effort to have more houses built for rental purposes; and I would like to see more flats for aged couples than the number that is being built at the present time.

I do not want members to think I am opposed in any way to these houses being built for sale under the Workers' Homes Act. Far from it. I would like to see the rate increase; but there are people who are not in the position to buy a home, because they are transferred around the State in their employment. These people would prefer a rental home when they are transferred by their firm or by a Government department. However, they find it hard in a place like Geraldton to get accommodation. I think that last year I commended the previous Minister for Housing—the present member for East Perth—who initiated the flats scheme for aged couples and childless couples. The only thing wrong at the present time is that we have not enough of them.

At this stage I would like to mention the regional hospital. We had this matter out with the Minister last year, and the site for the regional hospital in Geraldton is now levelled; and we are waiting for the land to become consolidated, and for the Minister to get the money from the Treasury so that the building of the hospital can commence. I can assure him that this hospital will do much to help in Geraldton, as the position has now reached the stage where it cannot be neglected by any Government. Geraldton has grown quite large; and the population has increased so much that we must have a new regional hospital. In connection with hospitals generally in my district I would like to say that although they may not be adequate, they are well conducted and well maintained. I think much credit is due to the people who maintain the buildings and the staff who run the hospitals.

The Northampton gaol is a hardy annual of mine. Anyone who knows Northampton will realise that it is one of the oldest towns in Western Australia. There is no courtroom; the office of the Mining Registrar is used. The Minister has agreed with me that Northampton should have a courtroom, a new gaol, and a barracks for the staff. In answer to a question earlier in the session, he told me that the work will be started as soon as the money can be made available. I would like the Treasurer to keep that in mind and earmark some money for the Northampton gaol, barracks, and courtroom.

In regard to schools, I can only speak highly of the way the people responsible for their maintenance, and the district architect, have carried out their jobs. These schools are kept at a very high standard. Members will recall that last

year I asked the present Minister for Education for increased accommodation at the Geraldton High School; and the Minister saw his way clear to provide it. Those additions have been completed and they are a credit to everybody concerned—the architect, the contractors, and the workmen. The Hawke Government also spent £60,000 on accommodation at this school. Despite this, and despite the fact that a similar amount was spent last year by the present Minister, the school is still too small. That gives some idea of the progress which is going on in the district; and that position has been reached despite the fact that the junior high school at Northampton commenced operating this year.

I want to bring this to the notice of the Minister in the House, although I know it has already been done in another way. Since the Geraldton High School was founded by the late J. C. Willcock, it has done a wonderful work in the district, and is continuing to do so; and the thanks of the people in the district go out to the staff of that high school. But the school certainly needs more classrooms, and an assembly hall is urgently needed.

I understand that the school is already 12 months behind so far as enrolments are concerned, as related to the accommodation that is available. The Northampton Junior High School, which was promoted by the previous Minister for Education—the member for Mt. Hawthorn—was continued and this year was opened by the present Minister for Education. I would like to tell the Minister and the House generally that that junior high school is giving every satisfaction in the Northampton district, which has a very active and progressive parents and citizens' association.

Again, the classrooms are inadequate; and even though this was the first year of the junior high school at Northampton, we find that the school is short of at least one classroom. That also goes to show what progress is being made in the Northampton district; and we all agree that this is for the good. I want to give both the previous Minister—the member for Mt. Hawthorn—and the present Minister all the credit that is due to them in regard to the happy position in which we find ourselves in this district as regards schools.

After the Bill to close certain railway lines was passed last year, an approach was made to the Minister for Railways to make sure that, when disposing of property, the section from Bluff Point to Waggrakine was allowed to be taken over by the people adjoining it—as allowed by the Act—so it could be used by the municipal council and the tree society. The local authority and other people are interested in keeping the railway bridge over the

Chapman River, which is at a point approximately three miles from Geraldton. I would like to tell the Minister that the bridge itself is a very strong structure, as it is built of concrete; and it crosses the river at a very picturesque spot.

The tree society and the municipal council in Geraldton are endeavouring to make that area along the river foreshore—it is an "A"-class reserve—a place for enjoyment. The programme that has been laid out is a credit to all concerned; and that bridge will blend in with the picture that has been planned both in regard to the area and the natural flora. In the first place, I would recommend to the Minister, and any other members who might be in Geraldton, that they pay a visit to the Chapman River to see some of the natural flora which is there at this time of the year. They will be surprised.

As far as roads are concerned, those under the Northampton Shire Council are my main concern. This council would like the Main Roads Department to take over the Ajana road as far as Kalbarri. The local authority finds that because of the nature of the country—it is mostly sand-plain—and the number of tourists that visit the area at the present time, it is beyond its capacity to keep the road in decent repair. The length of this section of the road is 40 to 50 miles; so members can see that the local authority is quite justified in asking the Main Roads Department to take the weight of maintaining that road off the shoulders of the local authority, because it is mostly used by visitors and tourists.

The same thing applies as far as the Main Roads Department is concerned at the Hutt River Crossing. The Minister has recently promised that an investigation and inspection will be made by the engineer. This is very pleasing to learn, but the only point is that the engineer may say that the crossing is in good condition. This is so. The main problem is that it is not high enough. The stream has to rise only a little before the crossing is completely covered with water and is consequently impassable. The district is becoming more populated because new land is being opened up in the vicinity of Urina Springs to the coast. It is not right that these people, when doing their shopping, should have to go back to Binu and Ogilvie before they can get into Northampton. Surely the people who are developing this country are entitled to be able to enter Northampton without having to go 20 and 30 miles out of their way just because a crossing is not high enough.

In regard to the fishing industry, in Geraldton we are beginning to say that we are riding on the backs of the fishermen as far as prosperity is concerned. There is undoubted prosperity in the town at present and we only hope that it will

continue. The reason for the prosperity is the terrific price being paid in America for crayfish. As far as the crayfishing industry is concerned, it is to be hoped that the President of Cuba and the President of the United States will continue to disagree in order that we may go on receiving £20 a bag for our crayfish.

We know that last year legislation was introduced to close the waters in certain areas for three months from early August. The request for the closure of these waters was made by the crayfishermen themselves because they did not want the industry damaged. They are now worried that because of the high price being obtained for crayfish, many people will try to get into the industry, which would easily upset the good work achieved by the introduction of the restrictive measures. I would like the Minister to study this matter and ensure that some restraint is exercised in the issuance of new licenses to crayfishermen.

In the year just past, a fishermen's jetty was completed in Geraldton. Members will recall having heard me speak of this jetty for several years. It is quite an old subject for the member for Melville, who was the previous Minister concerned. This Government was fortunate to follow on the work begun by the Fishermen's Association and Co-operative, and the previous Minister for Works. I desire to state that the jetty does credit to the Ministers, the engineers, and everyone else concerned. It was a dire necessity in Geraldton; and those of us who pressed for its erection knew it was only a matter of time before it would be provided. As long as the industry kept on an even keel we knew we would get it. Our thanks go to all those concerned.

In connection with the tourist industry—in which the Premier is greatly interested—I suppose that our northern areas provide more attraction for the tourist and holiday-maker than any other part of Western Australia.

Mr. Brady: More than Bunbury?

Mr. SEWELL: Yes; more than Bunbury and more than Warren, Manjimup, and Albany. Of course I refer not only to Geraldton but to Shark Bay, and Horrocks Beach out from Northampton, and to Port Gregory which is one of the oldest ports in Western Australia. I understand that some of the first railway lines to be put in from Northampton to Geraldton were unloaded at Port Gregory, so members can understand how old it is. These places are ideal for camping and fishing. Although the Premier does not perhaps know them as well as I do, he does know them, and I am quite sure he will see that everything possible is done to advance the tourist trade in those areas, including his own Dongara. At present the Sunshine Festival is in progress in Geraldton. I hope the rain eases up a little for them.

Mr. Nalder: There were 56 points yesterday.

Mr. SEWELL: The town and district have been flooded over the last week-end, not only with water but with visitors. The festival, which is the third to be held there, appears to be very successful; and the committee is on the right track in encouraging people to go north in the winter time to get away from the damp and cold conditions of the south.

There are quite a few amenities needed in the area, but most of them are under the control of the local authorities. I feel certain that the Premier, who is the Minister controlling that department, would know all about them; and, as I said before, he will lend a sympathetic ear to any reasonable request submitted.

I have been requested to ask the Minister for Lands to study the situation at Kalbarri townsite. He may be surprised to know that more building blocks are required. It was not so long ago that a survey of the area was carried out and a number of building blocks made available, but I believe that at the moment there is not a block in the area which can be purchased.

The tomato-growing industry is still not enjoying the best of times, mainly I think because of the growth of hot-houses in the Eastern States. The Melbourne market has been spoilt by this factor. However, the people in the industry are doing a good job. I believe that shortly the Minister for Agriculture will have to consider the commencement of an experimental garden to cultivate other types of vegetables besides tomatoes to see whether something can be done to supplement the vegetable industry instead of relying so much on tomatoes and peas.

The mining industry has been in the doldrums so far as lead ores and copper are concerned. A lot of activity by way of inspections by overseas people has taken place, but what will become of this activity only the future will reveal. Announcements have been made in regard to iron ore from Tallering Peak; and of course everyone knows what importance these deposits are to Geraldton and the surrounding districts. Their development would help to stabilise the town and increase its growth, to say nothing of making a tremendous difference to the economic life of the State. We can only hope with the Premier that the Western Mining Corporation's activities will be crowned with success so that within 12 months iron ore will be exported from the port of Geraldton. In this way we will obtain some much-needed overseas capital.

In connection with harbour improvements, and the dredging of the channel at the entrance, an announcement was recently made by the Treasurer. I do not intend to deal with that announcement at this stage, except to say that, as in the

case of the water position, there may be something more definite when the Estimates are presented and we know where we are going financially.

However, I would like to say to the Treasurer, and to the Minister for Works, that if it is at all possible it would be in the best interests of Geraldton if one of the dredges could commence work as soon as possible. As far as I am concerned, I hope the dredging will begin as soon as the winter months are over; namely, in October or November.

The Premier recently made a statement in the Press concerning negotiations with a particular firm to blast rock that might need to be shifted from the harbour entrance. This particular firm is experienced in blasting rock under water. I understand there will be a minimum draft of 28 feet 6 inches after any rock is removed. It appears to me that this depth will not be sufficient to carry ships exporting iron ore. Where the money is to come from to increase the draft, I would not know. I feel that the Federal Government should be brought into the picture; and if the Federal Government can find money for rail standardisation, with which I agree, it could possibly find the money to make Geraldton a better and a safer port than it is at present.

The Geraldton wharf was the first concrete wharf built in the southern hemisphere. It being something new from the point of view of engineering, there were engineering mistakes made in its construction. During the war the wharf was under the control of the Railways Department. However, when Mr. Strickland became Minister for Railways and Minister in charge of the Harbour and Light Department, the control was removed from the Railways Department. If that had not been done, the wharf would have collapsed in view of the fact that the Railways Department was taking the revenue and putting nothing back into the wharf.

Due to the action of Mr. Strickland in placing the wharf under the control of the Harbour and Light Department—in spite of what the member for Bunbury had to say last night—the engineers concerned in the Harbour and Light Department—and I would mention the name of Mr. Henry—are doing a very good job.

Improvements undertaken by Co-operative Bulk Handling, including a new bulk installation plant, are fairly up to date.

Mr. Roberts: Are you in favour of the establishment of a harbour board?

Mr. SEWELL: Yes; I am in favour of anything that will assist in obtaining moneys for improving harbour approaches and the wharf itself.

During the last twelve months Co-operative Bulk Handling, by providing modern facilities for handling grain, has spent an

enormous amount of money on the port of Geraldton. No doubt members have seen such facilities in other areas. I am led to believe that those at Geraldton are the most up-to-date in Australia, if not in the world. The amount of money spent in this direction would run into well over £1,000,000. Co-operative Bulk Handling has great faith in the district, and apparently it has faith in everything in connection with it. It is up to us to see that the facilities provided are utilised to their fullest extent by loading boats to their capacity, and as many as we can handle in the harbour. There are several other matters involving finance that I will leave until we have a clearer picture in our minds of what moneys will be available for public works next year.

Before supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply I would like to pay a tribute to all the people in my electorate, irrespective of political colour, for the progress they have made and are continuing to make; and for the co-operation I have received from them at all times. Personally, I consider that is the only way that any district of any State of any country can progress. If we are going to have cat-and-dog fights over various issues we will get nowhere. I would like to have recorded my grateful thanks to all those people in the electorate who are doing such a good job for the benefit of Geraldton and for the Victoria district.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [10.16 p.m.]: I would like, first of all, to pay tribute to our late colleague, Mr. Hugh Andrew. I had the pleasure of not only sharing his political beliefs and working with him, but of sitting near him and knowing him intimately. I would not like this opportunity to pass without saying a few words in memory of our late friend, and offering my own personal sympathy to his widow.

Whilst on the subject, my thoughts turn to the new member for Victoria Park, and I would like to publicly congratulate Mr. Ronald Davies on taking his seat. The taking of that seat was no mean battle and our new member triumphed admirably. I feel sure that the people of Victoria Park will receive the same high level of unselfish service that was rendered to them in the past. I am sure that from the new member who has taken his place here, and who promises to become a prominent member of this Assembly, they can look forward to receiving a standard of work unequalled, or at least unexcelled, in any other district.

The Address-in-Reply debate can be likened to one of Lewis Carroll's famous sayings—

"The time has come," the Walrus said,

"To talk of many things:
Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-
wax—

Of cabbages—and kings—"

When I say that, I would not like members to be disconcerted at this *quasi*-late hour. I will therefore give members another quotation which may provide them with some comfort. The quotation is as follows:—

While we may all wish for our speeches to become immortal, there is certainly no need for them to become eternal.

The first matter on which I propose to touch must, of course, arise from the announcement that was made last week-end: one that was of momentous importance to Australia in general, and to Western Australia in particular; and one most definitely of importance to my own electorate of Kalgoorlie. I refer to the proposed rail standardisation from Kalgoorlie to the coast.

As long as I can remember, rail standardisation has been a topic of economic interest; namely, whether standardisation was an economical measure in terms of competing with air transport. I feel sure that many of us who considered the subject in the past, debated it in terms of whether it would be an economical measure; and I am afraid that many people did not think of this as being something that was inevitable. I am particularly pleased at the good news, and I am sure the people of Kalgoorlie also share this spirit because of the national importance of the programme.

Mr. Nulsen: All Governments have been wanting the standardisation of the railway; it has only been a matter of money.

Mr. EVANS: That is true. History records that a move was made by the Federal Labor Government to have the railway standardised during the war. At the beginning, the people in Kalgoorlie will be at the end of the activities that will take place, but when the line is completed they will be in the centre, as it were; in other words, Kalgoorlie will be the symbol of standardisation because the line will be one gauge right through to the Western Australian coast. When that state of affairs is reached, those who are now engaged on transshipment activities at Parkeston will be deprived of their employment; but I feel sure that, as in other cases when measures are proposed, planning will go ahead to provide alternative opportunities for employment for the people who will be detrimentally affected as a result of the standardisation.

Over the years decentralisation has been loudly proclaimed, but very few people have been able to offer an economical or practical solution to the problem, particularly as it affects Kalgoorlie and other inland towns. I feel that the standardisation scheme will give us an opportunity of doing something about decentralisation, and that this in some way will compensate Kalgoorlie for the loss of employment opportunities for about 100 people directly,

as far as I am aware, and a large number indirectly. Of course, one cannot calculate the indirect effect that this loss of employment opportunity will have on the Kalgoorlie district. At the moment the State has a golden opportunity to negotiate with the Commonwealth Government—and in this regard the State will have to be fairly tough if it is to succeed—to have some form of railway works, whether they be maintenance or manufacturing works, established at Kalgoorlie to provide some other form of employment for those who will be displaced as a result of the standardisation scheme.

I trust the Minister will make some comment on this aspect and will not think it is too airy-fairy. I hope that something will be done in this regard and that it will be done quickly; otherwise it may be too late. The State will have to press its case, or it may miss the bus, and that is why I hope the State will do something about the situation before it has gone too far.

I now want to address some remarks to the Premier, and I hope that at some time in the near future he will be able to give the House some guidance. In Kalgoorlie we have several organisations, such as the local authorities, the St. John Ambulance, the fire brigade, and other associated bodies, which are keenly interested in civil defence. Recently demonstrations were staged by some of these bodies to illustrate what should be done in cases of emergency. However, Mr. Foxton, the health inspector of the Kalgoorlie Shire Council, has advised that there is no co-ordination between these various bodies, and I understand that he discussed the matter with the inspector of police in Kalgoorlie. I believe he was guided by the participation of the inspector of police at Geraldton in the work done at Carnarvon during the recent turmoil there.

Mr. Foxton realises, of course, that the inspector of police has his own duties to carry out, and would have no authority to go ahead off his own bat and mould or guide these interested people into an organisation to carry out civil defence work. I feel sure that the inspector of police in Kalgoorlie is keenly interested in the subject—in fact I know he is—and I am also certain that these bodies in Kalgoorlie, which I previously mentioned, are sufficiently interested in the subject of civil defence to be guided by somebody like that. They want some form of co-ordination, and I am certain that the same applies to other districts as well as Kalgoorlie.

They may need some encouragement in the way of a monetary advance from the Treasury, but I feel that the first need is for some direction or suggestions for co-ordination between the various organisations concerned, such as the St. John Ambulance, the local authorities, the fire brigade, the boy scouts, and so on. All

these organisations could be moulded into one for civil defence purposes, and in that way Western Australia could have a form of voluntary but effective civil defence.

The next subject with which I wish to deal is that of prospecting; and I would be grateful if the Minister who represents the Minister for Mines in this House would take some note of what I am about to say and refer to it later on when he has the opportunity to do so. I heard over the air tonight that the Commonwealth Government intends to amend the Goldmining Assistance Act. Briefly that Act functions in this way: Those who mine or prospect for gold are divided into two classes—(a) those who gain, over a period of time 500 ounces or less; and (b) those who gain a number of ounces exceeding 500 in the period of one year. Naturally the big producers are included in the second group.

Apparently the Act is to be amended to provide that those in the second group—that is, those whose return is in excess of 500 ounces per annum—shall be permitted to regard themselves as entitled to receive the benefit paid to those in the first group. When I say that, I should explain that those who win or gain up to 500 ounces are paid a flat rate of £2 8s. per ounce of gold won; whereas the producer in the second group is assisted, but on a different scale altogether, depending on the amount of expenditure on developmental work. There is also a limit to the profit that can be won by the producer in the second group.

As I understand it, the Act is to be amended in the Commonwealth Parliament to provide that the producer who just exceeds the 500 ounces shall be paid on a scale similar to that used in the case of the small producer.

I completely agree with that proposed amendment to the Commonwealth Act. Nevertheless, it is the small prospector—the one who is encouraged and assisted to produce up to 500 ounces a year—who should be granted further assistance. This could come either from the State or the Commonwealth Government. There is a responsibility on the State Government to do what it can to assist the small prospector financially; or, alternatively, to make every endeavour to encourage the Commonwealth Government to do something along those lines.

The Act which the Commonwealth Government proposes to amend is designed, of course, to assist not only the small prospector but also the one who produces more than 500 ounces per year, and therefore I would like to see the State Government take some steps in the manner I have indicated. I would like to point out that it has always been the small prospector, in the main, who has discovered the shows which have proved to be the backbone of the goldmining industry.

I now pass to the subject of education; and, once more, I may play a bar of the music of the subsidy song. I refer to the Kalgoorlie Central School, which is known by that name for two reasons. Traditionally, it has always been known as the Kalgoorlie Central School because it is in the central part of Kalgoorlie. Its over-all appearance, however, from an aesthetic point of view, leaves much to be desired, especially in these modern times when we find that the Kalgoorlie townspeople, over recent years, have taken an extremely keen and noticeable interest in the appearance of their homes which are now attractively painted.

In contrast to this trend in the township, the Kalgoorlie Central School presents a neglected appearance because it has not been renovated for some years. I know that renovations are planned and I ask the Minister to expedite this work and ensure that the over-all renovations will bring the Kalgoorlie Central School up to the standard that is met by other schools in the district. After all is said and done, it is the central school of Kalgoorlie, and I consider its importance warrants the necessary renovations to bring it up to modern-day standards and thus enhance its prestige.

I notice that the Minister for Railways is now present in the Chamber, and I would like to bring to his attention the dangers that exist at the railway crossing in Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie, which crossing has been the subject of several questions and correspondence that I have directed to the Minister. Last week I was informed by him that the Level Crossing Protection Committee had met and considered whether the installation of warning lights was warranted at that crossing. It came to the decision that a "Stop" sign would be sufficient warning. Although I will concede that is an improvement for which the people of Kalgoorlie will be grateful, I feel sure that the crossing calls for more than a "Stop" sign.

My original letter to the Minister was sponsored by news of a near accident that had occurred at this crossing. It involved a worker from Parkeston who was crossing the line at the same time as a train was approaching. Fortunately, due to his quick thinking, he was able to reverse his car and avert an accident. Shortly afterwards, however, an accident did occur at this crossing, and the following is the report that was published in the Press:—

The driver of a sedan car was shocked and his vehicle was badly damaged when he collided with a goods train at the Hannan Street crossing at about 5.40 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The person concerned was driving in a westerly direction when he struck the first truck behind the engine of the train, which

was travelling north. The report goes on to state that a Kalgoorlie traffic inspector attended the accident.

This railway line crosses Hannan Street, which road leads on to Parkeston. At the moment, Parkeston is the central depot of the Commonwealth Railways where transshipments take place. One hundred workers are employed on transshipment activities at this centre, and many other workers are engaged on both State and Commonwealth activities. All those workers travel along this road from Kalgoorlie to Parkeston.

Since the transshipment activities were transferred from the Kalgoorlie railway platform to Parkeston, the business people of Kalgoorlie travel along that road to Parkeston to take delivery of the goods which have been consigned to them from the Eastern States. The road is also an outlet to a big residential area in Williamstown and East Kalgoorlie, and its chief characteristic is that many aged people reside there. It is a well-known fact that many pensioners live at Williamstown. They are people who are not as alert as others, and they are required to negotiate this rail crossing in Hannan Street.

Another hazard is created by the trains travelling from Kalgoorlie to Boulder in recent years not keeping to a regular timetable. Therefore, the residents of Kalgoorlie are not in a position to know when a train is expected to cross Hannan Street at this point. This railway crossing, therefore, definitely warrants the installation of warning lights. Although it is proposed to erect a "Stop" sign, the time is not far distant when warning lights will have to be installed there.

In a memo addressed to the Commissioner of Railways from the Minister, which was forwarded to me for my information, mention is made of the fact that so far as the Level Crossing Protection Committee is concerned the programmes for the installation of flashing lights are much ahead of the rate at which equipment can be obtained and installed. I consider that when the requirements of those programmes have been met and other more important installations are made, the committee could perhaps give some attention to the Hannan Street crossing; and, if the money is forthcoming, see its way clear to install warning lights at this point, because I would not like any more accidents to occur there.

Mr. Court: You know, of course, that any decision in regard to these lights is not made by the Railways Department.

Mr. EVANS: Yes; I realise that. Whilst I was speaking I mentioned the Level Crossing Protection Committee. I am pleased to see that there are some other Ministers occupying their seats, because I would like to refer to another subject which concerns the Premier's Department. It has been the tradition—and a very healthy and helpful tradition—that where

hardship has existed in relation to some person requiring to travel to Perth for medical attention—particularly specialist attention, or attention that is not available in the country—and where such attention is definitely required for the person concerned, a rail pass has been issued from the Treasury Department.

This service has been greatly appreciated and has been wisely and carefully used. However, on one occasion this year I wrote on behalf of a person who I thought was a very needy case indeed. From the point of view of the economics of the case the person to whom I refer had equal claims, if not greater than those people who had been assisted on similar occasions. On this occasion the little girl of the person in question had to travel to Perth not for medical attention, but for dental attention. Such attention could not be provided in Kalgoorlie. My application on behalf of this person was refused. I then wrote to the Premier, and he replied—

Sympathetic consideration has always been given to assistance of this nature for those persons in indigent circumstances who must of necessity travel to Perth to obtain specialist medical attention, but I do not feel that this concession can be extended to cover travel for dental needs.

I cannot see the equity in this—when a distinction is made between medical attention and dental attention; when it is understood that such services as (a) medical, or (b) dental, cannot be obtained in the country; and when the person requiring such attention must travel to the metropolitan area. Particularly do I fail to see the justice of this when I consider the economics and the merits of the case of the person concerned. I would be glad, therefore, if the department would review the situation.

I now wish to direct a few remarks to the State Housing Commission. It may be remembered that last year I asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing in this Chamber certain questions as to whether the commission would send an officer to Kalgoorlie to conduct an on-the-spot inquiry into the housing needs in that area in the field of, firstly, rental homes; and, secondly, purchase homes. I asked this deliberately because I have had previous experience of asking for an inquiry to be conducted, only to find that an inquiry had been made, but that it had been made by correspondence with the estate agents in Kalgoorlie.

What kind of answer do members think estate agents would give to an inquiry from the Housing Commission? They were asked, "Do you need more homes in Kalgoorlie?" and they answered, "No; the needs are quite adequate." Of course it was in the interests of the estate agents to furnish such an answer.

When I asked for this inquiry on the second occasion, I requested an on-the-spot inquiry, because I mentioned later in correspondence that I felt I could clearly demonstrate to anyone who came to Kalgoorlie that such a need did exist. But what did I find? After writing to inquire whether a decision had been made, I did not receive a reply for some weeks. Finally I wrote again asking when an inquiry was going to be made; or if a decision had been made to hold such an inquiry; and I received a letter saying that an inquiry had already been held.

I found that the officer went to Kalgoorlie on a fleeting visit; and came back and recorded that the need was not very great. To quote his exact words, he said, "The demand is neither great nor urgent." I was shocked when I received that letter to learn that the officer had been to Kalgoorlie; and that even though I had asked for the inquiry to be made, I was not given so much as the courtesy of being told that the officer was going to Kalgoorlie. There was no advertisement in the paper to indicate that he was there, which would have given the people interested the opportunity to contact him. Hardly anybody knew he was there at all.

However, by hearsay, I learnt that the officer was in the town; and I only learnt that as a result of my wife having received a telephone call from a lady who knew that Mrs. Jones over the road had seen the officer concerned; and that as she herself wanted to see him she wondered whether my wife could let her know where he could be contacted. My wife was unable to give her the information she required, because I had not been notified of the officer's presence in Kalgoorlie. By the time I had made my inquiries the officer from the Housing Commission had gone back to Perth. I then wrote to the Minister for Housing as follows:—

I acknowledge your letter of the 9th inst. relative to the survey that was made of housing needs in this district.

When you say that to condense the report issued by the officer of the Commission who visited Kalgoorlie, would be to the effect that the "demand is neither great nor urgent", is remarkable indeed.

Surely you in your visits to Kalgoorlie, which by necessity have been brief and hurried, have observed the standard—or perhaps I should say the low standard of some of the obviously rented houses people are obliged to live in around town, for the simple reason that no other alternatives are available.

In relation to the officer's survey I must say that I was greatly disappointed, that no publicity was given to his visit, to notify the public, of the purpose of the survey, or where and when the officer could be contacted

whilst in Kalgoorlie. For my own part I was utterly disgusted that as the one responsible for asking for a survey, I was also ignored as to when the visit would take place, and was also ignored by the officer whilst he was in Kalgoorlie. The mere courtesy of a phone call would have found me available, to indicate to the officer what was in mind, and to introduce him to people who are most certainly in need of a standard of housing in comparison with that available in other districts, where the Commission have been active.

The only intimation I had that an officer was visiting town was several phone calls from people who had heard of the visit and wanted to contact the official. Under the circumstances I was not able to assist these people.

As far as the small number of actual applications received by the Commission is concerned, having influence on the decision of the Commission that its activity in this district is not warranted, two important factors have to be taken into consideration. One of these I have mentioned in correspondence before, and that is, that the previous attitude of the Commission as far as this district has been concerned over the last ten years or so, has certainly not been such as to enthruse people to submit applications. It is only natural that people like to feel that there is at least a reasonable chance of something being done, in response to an application, before they make same.

The other important factor concerns publicity of the Commission's interest in building in a district, and this is closely correlated with the previous factor mentioned. It also concerns the availability of application forms, to the public at a central office in Kalgoorlie, and the necessary publication of this fact, as to where they are available. A survey I conducted yesterday, of the Mines, Water Supply and Public Works Department branches, and the Clerk of Courts office in Kalgoorlie, revealed that no application forms were available from these sources.

Because I feel that the survey recently conducted has failed to reveal the true state of conditions prevailing here, I would be glad if you would kindly inform me, as to the following:

- (1) When the survey actually took place.
- (2) What period of time did the officer devote to the survey.
- (3) What actual steps, apart from interviewing current applicants, did the officer follow in the conduct of the survey.

- (4) Why no publicity of the survey and where the officer could be contacted in Kalgoorlie, was given to the public.

In regard to the point on the availability of application forms, I have been informed by the Minister representing the Minister for Housing that they are now obtainable in Kalgoorlie. In reply to my letter the Minister did say it was not the policy of the commission to publicise the visits of its officers. Surely if an inquiry is made, and the inquirer has something in mind, the department should pay some attention and contact the inquirer so as to assist him if it is possible. On this occasion I was completely ignored.

Later on in the reply the Minister stated that the activities pursued were along these lines: The officer concerned visited Kalgoorlie on the 18th or 19th May and he conferred with the various Government departments, and local authorities—and even the estate agents—concerned with the position of housing. Once again the estate agents were contacted, but they were not directly interested in encouraging the building of houses in Kalgoorlie. I was interested—on behalf of persons who were in dire need—in the building of homes; but I was not given any intimation of the visit.

I learned with great interest that the Criminal Code is to become the subject of some amendments. I have received information that the amendments may include the provision of probation or parole opportunities for persons sentenced by a criminal court. In this enlightened year of 1961 we in this State are using a code which, by and large, has not been changed since 1902. Our Criminal Code was adopted from the facsimile of the Queensland code, which was drafted by one of the first Chief Justices of the Commonwealth High Court (Sir Samuel Griffith), and one of the movers of federation. By and large the code in this State remains identical with the code of 1902; I speak in terms of our concept of punishment.

I feel that in 1961 we should orient our ideas on punishment. We should cease to think in terms of punishment and begin to think in terms of treatment. In this regard I would point out that there have existed various schools of thought in regard to punishment and penology. The main school was the classicist school; this was an Italian movement and attracted two significant figures in Rousseau and Voltaire. These people maintained that an individual always calculated pleasure in advance of any action contemplated; in other words, the person contemplating the crime would calculate what pleasure would be derived; and what pain he would suffer if apprehended. If the amount of pleasure exceeded the amount of pain, the person would commit the offence. This

was one way of looking at the study of the behaviour of persons in regard to criminal offences.

When these people looked at the penalties provided for violation of the law they concluded that it was necessary to make undesirable acts painful, by attaching punishment to such acts and making the amount of pain entirely definite, so that a prospective criminal could make his calculation that the pain exceeded the pleasure. Such persons must know that the pain exceeded the pleasure, and they must know that the penalty was definite.

This attitude in some degree is reflected in our Criminal Code; but in some of our *quasi* criminal offences there is no calculation for criminal responsibility; in other words, anyone who commits a particular offence must suffer a definite penalty.

This school of thought later attracted others who claimed that the central idea was right, but that in principle this doctrine had to be modified to take in the fact that young persons and insane persons could not calculate pleasures and pains, so they should not be regarded as criminals and punished as such. This school, known as the neo-classicists, extended the principle to take in other considerations, such as mitigating circumstances, and criminal responsibility became a factor of importance in criminal law.

The final school of penology was the positive school. This was an Italian group of theorists who contributed a great deal to the study of criminal law. They denied the individual responsibility of any criminal. They maintained that a crime, as any other act, was a natural act, just as a cyclone or a storm was a natural phenomenon. They therefore denied the desirability of punishment. They admitted that in self-protection the group must do something about crime, just as it must take precautions against storms or cyclones. They maintained that such precautions, even if they involved death or premature segregation of the criminal, should not be considered punishment any more than methods to deal with the insane should be regarded as punishment.

These people contended that criminals who could be reformed should be reformed, and that it was important to modify the conditions which produced the criminal. Those remarks are of such significance as to be written into our Criminal Code and offered as advice to legislators: offenders who can be reformed should be reformed, and we should try to modify the social conditions which produce the criminal.

I mention these things trusting that some cognisance will be taken of them by the Crown Law Department which, after all, initiates a great percentage of the legislation that emanates from this House. Very little important legislation which is

drafted by the Crown Law Department leaves this Chamber in any other form than that which was presented for the consideration of the Legislature. I feel that these are ideas of treatment rather than punishment; and ideas of crime prevention rather than punishment are such that we, in 1961, must cast our eyes upon, remembering that our criminal code in 1961 is, by and large, the same code that was commenced in 1902.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Davies.

House adjourned at 11.1 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 31st August, 1961

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