

could not meet that demand. If we are to allow farming to become run down, or to reach a depressed state, how will we ever be able to meet a demand for our produce when such a demand comes?

It is not so long ago that many people were prophesying that before the turn of this century we would not be able to feed the starving world. I think it was in the 1940s and 1950s people were saying that by the 1970s we would not be able to feed the starving world, and politicians of all political parties were calling for increased production. Finance was made available for agricultural development and farmers were encouraged to borrow. Farming consultants, bank managers, and economists were advocating that the farmers should develop their properties in an effort to feed the starving world that was envisaged we would see before the turn of the century.

In this State we boasted about throwing open for selection 1,000,000 acres a year. We thought this was a good move. It was claimed that this was necessary in an effort to balance our overseas payments. Of course, now that we have mineral development we do not seem so concerned about our agricultural production. In my view all the blame for the current crisis cannot be placed on the farmer alone; there are others who have to share it. One of our problems, of course is the marketing of our produce. Big manufacturing companies concern themselves not only with the manufacture of their products but also with the marketing of them. They would resent any suggestion that it was not their right to do that. Yet when the primary producer demands to have control of the marketing of his produce there is a hue and cry.

We have had two referendums in Australia since the last World War in regard to the marketing of wool. Thousands of dollars were spent on propaganda in an effort to defeat these marketing proposals that were put forward by the primary producers. Now we have another marketing proposal which looked as though it was almost off the ground but in the Eastern States there has been some opposition to it. If it is good enough for the secondary industries to control the marketing of their products, why should not the primary producer have some control over the marketing of his produce?

Before long we will have in Western Australia a referendum in regard to the marketing of lamb. If this scheme is accepted I have no doubt it will benefit not only the primary producers but also the consumers because they will get their lamb at a cheaper price. As a matter of fact, I am sure such a scheme would benefit all concerned. However, already there has been some opposition to the proposal.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Who are these people who are opposing these things?

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: They are not our people. The honourable member would have read about it in the Press.

The Hon. J. Dolan: They are not our people; they are your people.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: They are not my people.

The Hon. J. Dolan: They are the ones you support.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: I trust that the members of this House will not only support the single marketing authority, but I also sincerely trust they will give it statutory powers.

I do not want to jump on the bandwagon, but I cannot let this opportunity pass without registering my disapproval of the way in which our old-age pensioners are treated today. I would remind the House that we are living in the year 1970. This is not 1370 or 1570. I believe that the old-age pension could be calculated as a percentage of the basic wage. I am not saying here what that percentage should be, but I believe it should be a percentage that will give pensioners a reasonable standard of living. The pension should be tied to the basic wage, so that every time the basic wage goes up the pension goes up, too.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Ten years ago I said it should be 75 per cent.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: There has been a good deal of criticism of the Federal Government in this regard, but I am of the opinion that the pension should be tied to the basic wage so that every time the cost-of-living goes up, and the basic wage is increased, the old people can be provided for. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. V. J. Ferry.

*House adjourned at 8.58 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 25th August, 1970

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. W. A. Manning) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### QUESTIONS (32): ON NOTICE

1.

#### POLICE

##### Prosecutions

Mr. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Police:

During each of the years 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70—

- (1) What number of persons were prosecuted on all grounds who gave their place of living as—
  - (a) no fixed address; or

(b) an Eastern States address?

- (2) Approximately what percentage of total prosecutions were those categories listed in (a) and (b) above?
- (3) What number of persons were prosecuted during the same years on all grounds who gave their occupation as—
  - (a) labourer;
  - (b) unemployed?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) It is not practicable to give an answer to this question.

I might add that it is really practicable, but it would take many months of work to obtain the information the honourable member desires.

## 2. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

*Kwinana Power Station: Barring Gear*

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) On what date did the mishap occur in respect of damage caused by "barring gear" becoming engaged during running up tests at Kwinana power station?
- (2) Have any running up tests been carried out since that date?
- (3) If not, is the reason attributable to rectifying damage mentioned in (1) above?
- (4) What revolutions per minute had the unit attained when the "barring gear" became inadvertently engaged?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

- (1) Barring gear suffered damage on the 7th July while it was being engaged as a normal operation. Damage was only minor and such incidents are part of the normal process of commissioning plant. This incident will have no delaying effect on the commissioning. The commission's plans for this machine allowed six months for the elimination of these teething troubles.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) See (2).
- (4) Nil. The unit was not turning when the barring gear was engaged.

## 3. WALYUNGA NATIONAL PARK

### *Development*

Mr. CASH, to the Minister for Lands: In regard to the eastern section of Walyunga National Park what are the future proposals for the

development of this area of the park, particularly the access road and the parking area?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Planning of the future development of the Walyunga National Park is not yet complete, but the provision of public facilities, road areas, and car parks in the eastern section are being considered in the overall plan.

## 4.

### TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

#### *Statistics*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Can he supply the statistics relating to—
  - (a) fatal accidents;
  - (b) accidents resulting in serious injury;
  - (c) other accidents,
 for each year from 1966 expressed as a percentage of population and vehicle registrations?
- (2) Is he able to demonstrate how these results compare with other Australian States?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

(1)

Period	Casualty Accidents	Casualty Accidents per 100 Motor Vehicles on Register	Casualty Accidents per 100 of Mean Population
1966	4,346	1.33	0.51
1967	4,659	1.32	0.53
1968	4,708	1.24	0.52
1969	4,809	1.16	0.51

Period	Non- Casualty Accidents	Non- Casualty Accidents per 100 Motor Vehicles on Register	Non- Casualty Accidents per 100 of Mean Population
1966	13,856	4.23	1.63
1967	15,908	4.52	1.81
1968	18,380	4.82	2.02
1969	(Not available)	....	....

Period	Persons Killed	Persons Killed per 100 Motor Vehicles on Register	Persons Killed per 100 of Mean Population
1966	253	0.08	0.03
1967	256	0.07	0.03
1968	320	0.08	0.04
1969	311	0.07	0.03

Period	Total Casualties	Total Casualties per 100 Motor Vehicles on Register	Total Casualties per 100 of Mean Population
1966	6,250	1.91	0.74
1967	6,682	1.90	0.76
1968	6,873	1.80	0.76
1969	7,099	1.71	0.75

Source—Bureau of Census and Statistics, Western Australian Office.

It is interesting to note from these figures that, in 1968, the number of persons killed was 320, and the number of persons killed per 100 motor vehicles registered was

.08, whereas in 1969 the figures were reduced to 311 and .07 respectively.

- (2) Comparable figures are not at present available but this information will be supplied to the member when received.

## 5. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

### *Oil Refinery: Warnbro Sound*

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is the establishment of an oil refinery in or near Warnbro Sound contemplated?
- (2) If "Yes" have discussions taken place between representatives of the company concerned and the Government, and what was the date of the most recent talk?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Nothing is known to me or my department of any such proposal or discussions.

## 6. HEALTH

### *Kidney Machines: Use of Fluoridated Water*

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

With reference to answers given on the 3rd September, 1969, to the effect that the matter of the United States Public Health Service having issued statements admitting that fluoridated water should not be employed for artificial kidney treatment without prior removal of the fluoride was being investigated, will he state what the investigations revealed?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

A copy of the statement by the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service was obtained subsequent to the member's question on the 3rd September, 1969. The relevant extract is as follows—

Because various solutes may be absorbed from the water as it is normally supplied during long term dialysis, most water used in dialysis should be deionized. It should be pointed out again that the need to process some water supplies before therapeutic use in large quantities in artificial kidneys has no bearing on the ingestion by anyone of optimally fluoridated water from community water supplies, recommended by health authorities as a medically safe procedure for the reduction of dental caries.

The United States Public Health Service endorses water fluoridation as a safe and effective public health measure and urges all communities to make its benefits available to people at the earliest possible time.

Mr. Tonkin: What has that to do with the question?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Continuing—

In addition the matter was referred to the National Health and Medical Research Council which has recommended that the evidence to date is not sufficient to advise against the use of non-deionized water in kidney machines.

7.

## POPULATION

### *Increase: Target*

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government made any targets for population increase for the current year and the years immediately following?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the target for the current statistical year and for each of the following four years?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) In relation to immigration it is anticipated that new settler arrivals for 1970-71 will approximate 23,500. The target objectives are governed by the availability of suitable migrants for absorption into the State's economy.

As well as immigration, the natural increase in population has to be taken into consideration, and there is not a great deal we can do about that.

8.

## EDUCATION

### *North Perth Primary School*

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it still proposed to acquire five houses facing Olive Street in order to enlarge the North Perth Primary School?
- (2) If "No" why?
- (3) If "Yes" how much longer will it be before this acquisition is completed?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) Properties will be purchased as they become available. Resumption action is not contemplated.

9. EDUCATION

*Senior High Schools: Driver Training*

Mr. LAPHAM, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many high school teachers hold certificates of the National Road Safety Council for instruction in driver-training at senior high schools?
- (2) How many senior high schools conduct driver-training in—
  - (a) metropolitan area;
  - (b) country?
- (3) What facilities are supplied by—
  - (a) the Education Department;
  - (b) other bodies?
- (4) What does the syllabus embrace?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) 120.
- (2) (a) 21.  
(b) 12.
- (3) (a) (i) Teacher-instructors.  
(ii) A comprehensive insurance scheme.  
(iii) The cost of fuel used.  
(iv) Official instructional manuals.  
(v) Car first aid kits and car fire extinguishers.  
(vi) Special teaching aids including films.
- (b) National Safety Council:  
The training of teacher-instructors.  
Advice and assistance from a full-time officer.  
Use of National Safety Council training area, facilities and vehicles in special cases.  
The motor firms:  
Through their dealers vehicles are made available free of charge to all senior high schools conducting driver education on the basis of one permanent car fulltime to each senior high school and others part-time when needed.  
Local governing authority and commercial interests:  
In several cases special parking areas and the extensive surfaces of drive-in theatres are made available for the lessons in driver education.
- (4) I have sighted the answer to this part, but it does not appear to be attached to the answers to the other parts of the question. I undertake to supply it at the next sitting.

10. MINING

*Greenbushes: Restoration of Forests*

Mr. H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What area of the Greenbushes district has been subject to mining operations in the past ten years?
- (2) Does any Government department have any responsibility in the matter of restoration of forest or improvement of aesthetics after mining operations in a particular area are completed?
- (3) Does(do) the mining company (ies) involved have any obligation or responsibility in the matter of restoration?
- (4) If so, what is the nature and extent of such responsibility?
- (5) If answers to (2) and (3) are negative, does the Government intend to take action to restore forest-denuded areas of this district; if so, what action is contemplated?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Most of the area surrounding Greenbushes townsite and South Greenbushes has been subject to mining over many years and again in the past 10 years and it is not possible to delineate all such operations.
- (2) The Mines Department is responsible to see that the present two mining companies at Greenbushes level their mined areas to a reasonable contour after completion of mining. Although the area is now dedicated State forest it was a mineral field prior to the passing of the Forests Act.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) They are required to level mined areas to a reasonable contour to the satisfaction of the State Mining Engineer. In addition they are also required to—
  - (a) Submit to the Conservator of Forests in January of each year, a plan indicating the area over which they plan to work during the 12 months commencing on the 1st July next following.
  - (b) Permit the Forests Department to remove any marketable timber from such area in advance of mining operations.
  - (c) Comply with the provisions of the Forests Act and the regulations thereunder.
  - (d) Pay to the Conservator of Forests royalty at the same rates now applying to timber used in coal mining at Collie,

for any timber cut on the lease and within State forest and used in connection with these mining operations.

(5) Answered by (2) and (3).

# 11. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

## Power Stations: Price of Fuel Oil

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

Will the recent increase in fuel costs result in an increase in the price of oil being supplied to—

- (a) Kwinana power house;
- (b) South Fremantle power house;
- (c) East Perth power house?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

- (a) to (c) No.

# 12. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

## Kalgoorlie: S.E.C. Power

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is it intended to extend the S.E.C. power to Kalgoorlie and other towns in the same region?
- (2) If "Yes" when will the extension be made?
- (3) If "No" would he outline the reasons why the extension will not be carried out?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

- (1) Not in the foreseeable future.
- (2) See (1) above.
- (3) The area is at present sufficiently catered for with diesel plant.

# 13. TOWN PLANNING

## Mundaring

Mr. DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Has any town plan been submitted for Mundaring?
- (2) If so, what was the outcome?
- (3) Is it known, or can it be anticipated, when such a plan is likely to be operative?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Mundaring Shire Council has been asked to redraft its scheme because it was not in conformity with the Metropolitan Region Scheme. The council is now revising its proposals.
- (3) Not at this stage.

# 14. "A"-CLASS RESERVES

## Acreage

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Would he express as a percentage the acreage of "A" class reserves in Western Australia, as against the total acreage in Western Australia?
- (2) Would he accept that five per cent. is the internationally accepted minimum area which should be reserved as national parks?
- (3) If not, would he advise what he considers a reasonable percentage would be?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) to (3) 2.5 per cent. However, the total area of reserved land in the State exceeds 90,000,000 acres, or 14.4 per cent. of the State. In addition to national parks, reserves for public purposes include areas for conservation of flora and fauna, water catchment, State forest, recreation etc.

During the past year the area vested in the National Parks Board has increased from 843,449 acres to 3,507,407 acres, in addition to which areas in excess of 6,000,000 acres have recently been set aside for conservation of flora and fauna. The policy of reserving suitable land will continue.

15. *This question was withdrawn by request.*

# 16. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

## Land Acquisition: Naval Base

Mr. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) On what date did the Department of Industrial Development purchase lot 481 Dooley Street, and lots 494 and 495 Lionel Street, Naval Base?
- (2) What was the price paid for each?
- (3) Has the department approached the owners of any of lots Nos. 495, 496, 497, 552 and 553 Lionel Street, with offers to purchase?
- (4) If "Yes" did the department make these approaches on its own behalf or on behalf of an industry?
- (5) Has an industry approached the department with a view to purchasing lots 481, 494 and/or 495, as above?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The Department of Industrial Development did not purchase Lot 481 Dooley Street or Lots 494 and 495 Lionel Street, Naval Base.

(3) and (4) Preliminary discussions by departmental officers with some of the owners have taken place at the request of Western Aluminium N.L.

(5) Yes. See above answers.

# 17. METROPOLITAN REGION IMPROVEMENT TAX

## *Receipts*

Mr. TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

For the financial year ended the 30th June, 1970, what was the total of receipts under the Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax Act?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:  
\$1,324,823.

# 18. MUSEUM

## *Expenditure on Historic Wrecks*

Mr. HARMAN, to the Minister for Education:

(1) What is the total amount expended by the Western Australian Museum since the 1st July, 1964, on all work associated with historic wrecks along the Western Australian coast?

(2) How many items, excluding coins, have been salvaged by museum surveys?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) From and including the financial year 1964-65 to May 1970, a total of \$108,602.06 has been expended by the Western Australian Museum on the programme of work on historic wrecks.

(2) Museum surveys have obtained approximately 2,000 objects from the wrecks, excluding coins. These objects can be grouped under the headings of ship's structure and fittings (timber, metalwork, sheathing, ballast bricks); armaments (cannon and their fittings, cannon balls, musket balls and sundry firearm fittings); domestic utensils and personal items (cooking and eating utensils, glassware, pottery, grindstones, wire cutters, candlesticks, mortars and pestles, seeds, coal, pieces of clothing, buttons and buckles, clay pipes and seals) and cargo (e.g. elephant tusks).

# 19. RAILWAYS

## *Section Line Results*

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Railways:

What were the W.A.G.R. section line results for the period 1969-70?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. O'Connor) replied:

This information is not yet available.

20.

## EDUCATION

### *Metropolitan High School Grounds*

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many high schools are in the metropolitan area?
- (2) What area of playground is attached to each school?
- (3) How many of the high school grounds are continually waterlogged each winter?
- (4) How many high schools have to obtain grounds away from the high school to enable sports activities to be carried out?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) 24 senior high schools.  
7 high schools.
- (2) School site areas (nearest acre)—  
Note: area utilised for play and sport—not available.  
Applecross—20 acres.  
Armadale—25 acres (approx.).  
Balcatta—28 acres.  
Balga—25 acres.  
Belmont—20 acres.  
Bentley—29 acres.  
Cannington—41 acres (combined primary and secondary).  
Churchlands—25 acres (approx.).  
City Beach—25 acres (approx.).  
Como—25 acres (approx.).  
Cyril Jackson—26 acres.  
Eastern Hills—47 acres (combines primary and secondary).  
Governor Stirling—33 acres (approx.).  
Hamilton—36 acres.  
Hampton—27 acres.  
Hollywood—13 acres.  
John Curtin—31 acres.  
John Forrest—22 acres.  
Kalamunda—25 acres (approx.).  
Kent Street—33 acres.  
Kewdale—26 acres.  
Kwinana—67 acres (combined technical, high and primary).  
Melville—13 acres.  
Mirrabooka—35 acres (combined secondary, primary and occupational).  
Mount Lawley—20 acres.  
Perth Modern—12 acres.  
Rossmoyne—27 acres.  
Scarborough—22 acres.  
South Fremantle—24 acres.  
Swanbourne—33 acres.  
Tuart Hill—11 acres.

(3) A portion of the river flats at Governor Stirling Senior High School is subject to seasonal flooding. Approximately four other grounds may become waterlogged for short periods through compaction or turf cricket wickets.

- (4) All secondary schools use external grounds or facilities, for some form of sport.

## 21. CROWN LAND

*Mt. Marshall*

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Lands:

Has the Government any plans to open any more blocks of land for farming purposes in the Shire of Mount Marshall?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

There are no immediate plans for the release of Crown land for farming purposes in areas such as the Shire of Mount Marshall, where wheat growing forms a major part of agricultural production.

Subdivisional design is proceeding in order that Crown land will be available when economic conditions warrant.

## 22. PENSIONERS

*Motor Vehicle Licenses: Concessions*

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) Have inquiries been made in Queensland for full details of concession rates on motor vehicle license fees applicable to pensioners in that State?
- (2) If "Yes" is it not so that in Queensland, as from the 1st July, 1969, a concession of 50 per cent. of the normal motor vehicle registration fee is being granted to persons in receipt of a full pension, in respect of new registrations and renewals, and that the said concession will apply to age, invalid, civilian widow, T.B., service age, and service permanently unemployable pensioners, single pensioners with guardian children, and Australia-United Kingdom reciprocal pensioners, all in receipt of a full pension, and blind and war widow pensioners?
- (3) If so, have the same or similar concessions since been granted in this State, or will they be, and, if so, when?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. Concessions of 50 per cent. are granted, provided the pensioner has not had his pension reduced because of means as assessed.
- (3) Concessions of up to 100 per cent. are granted to invalid, T.B. and permanently unemployable service, T.P.I. pensioners. The matter of concessions to other pensioners is under consideration.

## 23. EDUCATION

*Governor Stirling Senior High School*

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Education Department taking any action to enable the Governor Stirling Senior High School pupils to use the ten acres of ground at West Midland, at present unusable because of being waterlogged (with the exception of approximately one acre)?
- (2) As the area of land owned by the Education Department north of Black Adder Creek drain is higher and more easily drained, can early action be taken to grade this land to enable its use by school pupils?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) The problem of developing this area is associated with the degree of filling required and the construction of levees to prevent flooding. Engineering surveys have shown that at least 90,000 cubic yards of filling are necessary.
- (2) This matter will be referred to the Public Works Department for investigation.

## 24. PORT DEVELOPMENT

*Conference: Ministerial Attendance*

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Which Western Australian Ministers attended the conference at Southport in July, 1970, to discuss development of Australian ports?
- (2) Which Ministers have attended to represent Western Australia at similar previous meetings?
- (3) What requests or suggestions were made at the meeting for legislative or administrative action by the—
  - (a) Commonwealth;
  - (b) State?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) No Minister from this State attended either of the meetings called to discuss development of Australian ports. On the first occasion I was in Hong Kong and I was unable to attend the last meeting because of illness. On each occasion I was represented by the Under Secretary for Works (Mr. J. McConnell) who is Chairman of the Western Australian Port Authorities' Association as well as Chairman of the Fremantle Port Authority.

Prior to the first meeting I had discussions in my office with Federal Minister Sinclair and Mr. Somers (the permanent head of

the Department of Shipping and Transport) regarding the agenda for the meeting. We discussed matters relating to Commonwealth aims and objectives at the time. Mr. McConnell was also present at the discussion. Mr. McConnell, who was well aware of my views, was shown the same consideration as was given to the other State Ministers at the meeting.

At the meeting at Southport, the Commonwealth suggested a meeting of Commonwealth and State officers to catalogue and examine port needs and requested consideration of co-ordination of port planning.

It was decided that the Commonwealth would convene this meeting of officers and report back to Ministers who would meet in Perth next February.

## 25. LOTTERIES COMMISSION

### *Investment of \$815,000*

Mr. DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

Under what conditions, with whom, and at what interest rates, was the \$815,000, as shown on the Lotteries Commission financial statement for May last—tabled paper No. 48—invested?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

\$380,000 with Capel Court Securities Ltd., official short term money market operators, at interest rates varying from 4.5 per cent. to 6 per cent.—secured by the Reserve Bank of Australia Safe Custody Certificates against Commonwealth Treasury Bonds.

\$435,000 with Martin Discounts Ltd., unofficial short term money market operators, at 5.25 per cent.—secured by marked transfers over State Electricity Commission of W.A. Inscribed Stock.

## 26. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

### *Number of Employees*

Mr. DAVIES, to the Minister for Works:

What was the total number of employees in the Public Works Department day labour force as at the 30th June, 1970, in—

- (a) permanent;
  - (b) temporary;
- capacities?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (a) Permanent capacity—2,471.
- (b) Temporary capacity—828.

27.

## POLLUTION

### *Trade Waste Disposal: Cockburn Sound*

Mr. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Are all industries discharging into Cockburn Sound obliged to obtain permission from the Fremantle Port Authority?
- (2) Has any other Government department or instrumentality authority to grant permission for such discharges?
- (3) Which department or instrumentality is primarily responsible for—
  - (a) recording type and quantity of such discharges;
  - (b) checking on any possible abuse of such permission?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes, except where individual companies have statutory authority.
- (2) No.
- (3) (a) and (b) Fremantle Port Authority.

28.

## POLLUTION

### *Trade Waste Disposal: Cockburn Sound*

Mr. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What average volume of liquid waste is discharged into Cockburn Sound each day from each of the major waterfront industries in the Kwinana area?
- (2) What materials, and in what average percentages per volume of waste materials, are discharged into Cockburn Sound each day by these industries?
- (3) What average volume of cooling water is discharged into Cockburn Sound each day from the same industries?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Up to 350 tons of gypsum per day may be discharged into Cockburn Sound by CSEB and Farmers Limited, under Clause 27 (1) of the Agreement ratified by the Industrial Land (Kwinana) Agreement Act No. 93 of 1964. The gypsum is discharged into Cockburn Sound with a large volume of cooling water, actual quantity of gypsum is not known.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Alcoa of Australia—None. State Electricity Commission Power Station—4 million gallons per hour cooling water for each unit.

(Note.—At present only one unit is operating.)

Australian Iron and Steel Pty. Ltd.—1,800,000 gallons per hour cooling water.



B.P. Refinery (Kwinana) Pty. Ltd.—4 million gallons per hour cooling water.

Kwinana Nitrogen Co. Pty. Ltd. and CSBP and Farmers Limited.—Approximately 1 million gallons per hour cooling water.

## 29. RAILWAYS

### *Private Office Accommodation: Rents*

Mr. MAY, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Will he advise particulars of private office accommodation currently being occupied by the Railways Department in the metropolitan area?
- (2) What rents are being paid by the Railways Department?
- (3) Is it the intention of the Railways Department to occupy further private accommodation in the near future?
- (4) If so, will he give details?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. O'Connor), replied:

- (1) (a) Portion of Bank of New South Wales Building, 110 William Street.
- (b) Portion of Building Society House, 297 Murray Street.
- (c) Maynard Wright Pty. Ltd.'s building, 609 Wellington Street, Perth.
- (2) \$155,518 per annum. (This includes provision for a section of the Traffic Branch, to take up as per (1(b)), by end of August, 1970.)
- (3) There is no such intention, at present.
- (4) Answered by (3).

## 30. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

### *Major Projects: Completion and Production*

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

Does he know what major industrial projects are scheduled for completion, and production therefrom commenced, during the current financial year; and, if so, can he give the approximate dates on which production will commence in each case?

Mr. COURT replied:

In the balance of the current financial year the following major industrial projects are expected to be completed and commence production—

Western Aluminium N.L., \$30 million expansion adding 5th and 6th units to Kwinana alumina refinery (October, 1970).

Cockburn Cement Ltd., \$9 million expansion of production facilities at South Coogee (April, 1971).

Colonial Sugar Refinery, \$14 million gyprock plasterboard factory, Kewdale (June, 1971).

Jason Industries, \$650,000 factory, Kewdale (October, 1970).

State Electricity Commission, first of two 120 M.W. units (which together, including general services, will cost \$26 million), Kwinana (September, 1970).

By "major" projects, I refer to projects valued at \$200,000 or more, which is the level used in the Department of Industrial Development publication "Major Investment Projects—Public and Private—Current and Proposed". These are the only projects for which the department collects individual details—and then not necessarily for every such project. The above list represents only a portion of industrial establishments that will come into production between now and the end of the financial year. There will be a far greater number of industrial projects completed which, although individually involving smaller capital investments, are nonetheless significant in the aggregate. Often in terms of employment they are more significant in overall total than the bigger and more capital intensive projects.

In each of the last two years, over 200 new factories have been established. In 1967-68 (the last year for which the Commonwealth Statistician released factory statistics) 237 new factories were established and on their book values land and buildings rose by \$28 million, and plant and machinery increased by \$46 million. There is every reason to expect that these figures will be surpassed in the current financial year 1970-71.

The ten month period to the end of June, 1971, will also see considerable progress made in the construction of many major industrial projects and the commencement of others such as—

In the field of alumina production, work is well under way on the construction of the Pinjarra refinery, the \$50 million initial stage of which will be completed in 1972, with a production capacity of 420,000 tons per year.

Construction will start on the Amax Alumina Refinery at Admiralty Gulf. This project, worth \$294 million, should commence production in 1973 at the rate of 1 million tons per annum.

Construction will begin on the Robe River iron ore project involving approximately \$260 million for its development. It should commence exporting prepared sinter fines by late 1971 and pellets in early 1972.

In addition, the three Pilbara operating iron ore companies—Goldsworthy, Hamersley and Newman—are at present undertaking major expansion programmes involving several hundred millions of dollars.

It is impracticable in an answer of this kind to list all significant industrial undertakings in construction or about to commence construction.

Also, the answer has been confined to purely industrial undertakings—as was stated in the question—and does not embrace major commercial, real estate and similar propositions.

31.

## RAILWAYS

### *Private Contracts*

Mr. MAY, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What work normally carried out by railway employees has been let to private contractors over the past two years?
- (2) What further contracts are envisaged over the next 12 months?
- (3) Is it the intention of the department to advertise for tenders?
- (4) If not, will he indicate the reasons for placing restrictions on tenders?
- (5) How many permanent-way gangs have been disbanded resulting from work being directed to private contractors?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. O'Connor), replied:

- (1) (a) Over the past few years there has been an increase in contract work in regard to track tamping, reballasting and resleepering.
- (b) Cleaning and oiling of points in the Kewdale-Forrestfield complex.
- (c) Loading beer traffic at Kewdale.
- (d) Inter-gauge transfer of traffic consisting mainly of timber and potatoes, with some other

miscellaneous types of traffic at North Fremantle, Kewdale and Forrestfield.

- (e) Unloading of motor bodies at North Fremantle. (d) and (e) involve new work resulting from introduction of standard gauge operations and has not necessarily been performed previously by railway employees.
- (2) (a) Not any further major track work contracts are envisaged for the next 12 months. There will be the normal calling of tenders for building construction, ballasting and works connected with standard gauge etc.
- (b) Consideration is being given to inter-gauge transfers at West Kalgoorlie and Merredin.
- (3) All large contracts are advertised for tender except works of major engineering significance for which tenderers are registered. Minor contracts are let on the basis of quotations received from firms interested in the type of work concerned.
- (4) Answered by (3).
- (5) Improved gang transport by road vehicles has made possible concentration of gang strength at larger centres, and use of mechanical plant, both departmental and contract, on a cyclic basis has resulted in longer gang lengths. Disbandment of gangs has been by transfer of staff to other centres and not by retrenchment.

32.

## MR. J. C. R. McMANUS

### *Police Court Charges*

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Will the Minister lay on the Table of the House copies of the charge sheets or court lists for courts presided over by Magistrates Hogg and Syme respectively at Fremantle on the 10th August, 1970?
- (2) At what time did Magistrate Hogg take his seat on the bench at Fremantle on the 10th August, 1970?
- (3) Was an application made to Magistrate Hogg—
  - (a) To remand the hearing of charges against one James Cornelius Ronald McManus—
    - (i) to a later time in the day; and/or—
    - (ii) to another magistrate; and if so—
  - (b) (i) By whom was the application made?

- (ii) What were the grounds upon which the application was made?
  - (iii) At what time was the application made?
  - (iv) Was the application granted?
- (4) If no application was made to Magistrate Hogg for the remand of the accused McManus—
- (a) At what time did Magistrate Syme take his seat on the bench at Fremantle on the 10th August, 1970?
  - (b) At what time did Magistrate Syme complete the hearing of the cases on his list?
  - (c) Was Magistrate Syme prepared to take over some of the cases on the list of Magistrate Hogg and if so—
    - (i) Who was notified thereof; namely, Magistrate Hogg, the police officer prosecuting before Magistrate Hogg, or someone else?
    - (ii) Were cases transferred and if so so how many from the list of Magistrate Hogg to that of Magistrate Syme?
    - (iii) Who selected the cases to be transferred from Magistrate Hogg to Magistrate Syme?
  - (d) At what time did Magistrate Syme commence to hear the cases transferred to him from Magistrate Hogg?
  - (e) At what time on the 10th August, 1970, did Magistrate Hogg complete the hearing of the cases on his list?
  - (f) Did McManus appear before Magistrate Syme; and if so—
    - (i) Was he charged with resisting arrest?
    - (ii) Was an application made for leave to withdraw the charge; and if so—
    - (iii) By whom was the application made?
    - (iv) What were the grounds submitted for the making of the application?
    - (v) Was the application granted?
  - (g) Did McManus appear before Magistrate Syme charged with disorderly conduct; and if so—
    - (i) Did McManus plead guilty; and if so—
    - (ii) Did the Magistrate exercise the powers conferred upon him by section 669 of the Criminal Code?
  - (iii) Did the magistrate dismiss the complaint; and if so—
  - (iv) Did the magistrate give the reason for the dismissal; and if so—
  - (v) Was the dismissal made on one or more and if so which of the following grounds—
    - (a) the youth of the offender;
    - (b) the character of the offender;
    - (c) the antecedents of the offender;
    - (d) the trivial nature of the offence;
    - (e) the extenuating circumstances under which the offence was committed?
  - (vi) Did the prosecution oppose the use of section 669 of the Criminal Code in the circumstances?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) No—but the court lists and charge sheets will be made available to the honourable member for scrutiny.
- (2) 10.15 a.m.
- (3) (a) (i) Yes, application was made for remand until 2.15 p.m.
- (ii) No; but Magistrate Hogg believes he remarked he would be unavailable in the afternoon but would arrange if possible for Magistrate Syme to hear the case.
- (b) (i) By Prosecuting Sergeant K. G. Browne by arrangement with Defence Counsel, Mr. T. Walsh.
- (ii) The grounds of the application were that he was awaiting important character references which would not be available before lunch time.
- (iii) No later than 10.30 a.m. The usual practice is to call cases first on which counsel is engaged.
- (iv) Yes—because both prosecutor and defence counsel requested it.
- (4) Does not apply as application was made to Magistrate Hogg.

**QUESTIONS (5): WITHOUT NOTICE****1. BUILDING BLOCKS***Shortage in Metropolitan Area*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Premier:

Having regard to the statement contained in the article on the front page of *The Independent* of the 23rd August, headed "Land at Boom Prices", is it likely that a new shortage of building blocks will develop in the metropolitan area?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

I would like to thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

No; substantial quantities of land are available for sale throughout the metropolitan area and more land is being subdivided in many districts all the time. At the recent Rural and Industries Bank land sale in Hamersley, some of the blocks were passed in unsold at the reserved price of \$3,900. Further Rural and Industries Bank land sales will continue regularly in this area and private land is also available for sale in quantity in Hamersley.

Sales will also commence shortly to the north of Hamersley in the Whitford area, and land is in the process of development to the east, in Mirrabooka. Similar developments are occurring along the length of the Armadale corridor and in the Parmelia area, Rockingham, and elsewhere.

High prices are still being obtained for prestige land, such as that in City Beach and in areas overlooking the Swan River, and prices in such areas are not expected to fall.

**2. HERBARIUM***Kew Gardens Curator*

Mr. BURKE, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What was the name of the Curator of Kew Gardens who was here in 1965, and on the advice of whom it was decided not to duplicate herbarium facilities in Western Australia?
- (2) Was he here by invitation and, if so, who invited him?
- (3) When was he here, and how long did he stay?
- (4) Was the Minister involved in any formal discussions with the gentleman referred to, on the subject of the herbarium?
- (5) Who else had discussions with the said Curator?

- (6) Did the curator have any discussion with the King's Park Board or Doctor Beard?
- (7) Did he submit a written report and, if so, to whom?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

I thank the member for Perth for some notice of this question.

- (1) Sir George Taylor, Director.
- (2) No. Sir George was inspecting various Australian herbariums prior to officially opening one in Lae, New Guinea.
- (3) The 21st March, 1965, to the 23rd March, 1965.
- (4) No.
- (5) and (6) Sir George Taylor had discussion with the Premier. He also saw the Director of Agriculture and departmental officers concerned with botanical and herbarium services. I do not know what other people he saw.
- (7) Not to my knowledge.

**3. DROUGHT RELIEF***Federal Aid*

Mr. GAYFER, to the Treasurer:

Could the House be informed what moneys were granted to Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia for drought relief by the Federal Government in each of the last five years? If not, could this figure be procured?

Before I resume my seat, I would like to make an apology. This question really follows on from question 28 on Thursday last, but by the time I reached the Clerk the closing time for the receipt of questions had been reached. Consequently the question has been a question without notice since that day, for which I apologise.

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1965-66	14,200,000	.....	7,500,000	.....
1966-67	13,031,000	.....	4,888,000	.....
1967-68	7,643,000	8,000,000	2,957,000	1,000
1968-69	8,520,000	9,000,000	2,015,000	1,300
1969-70	21,000	170,000	13,893,000	.....

**4. IRON ORE COMPANIES***Air-Conditioners: Supply*

Mr. BICKERTON, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

Is the Minister aware that just recently an iron-ore company let a contract to a South Australian firm for air-conditioners costing in the vicinity of \$500,000?

Arising from that, what steps, if any, were taken by the Department of Industrial Development to ensure that, where possible, local Western Australian firms received some form of preference from these companies, particularly as it is mentioned in their agreements?

Mr. COURT replied:

Firstly, I can say that I did read of a major contract for air-conditioning going to South Australia. This was one of many contracts that are let from time to time and I could not pinpoint the particular project it was for. I remember reading of such a contract, which, of course, is a fairly small amount in the overall total of these huge projects.

As far as the matter of local preference is concerned, we have had first-class co-operation from all the projects. We have an officer in the Department of Industrial Development whose duty it is to keep close liaison with the Chamber of Manufactures, potential suppliers, and the companies. The work force here has been under considerable pressure and, in many respects, the fact that the Eastern States have been able to take up the slack has been the salvation of the projects; and at one time I think we literally lifted South Australia out of its recession because of the fringe orders that State was able to get for our projects.

The companies are very conscious of the fact that this preference clause was written into the agreements. The clause has been honoured in the spirit, I believe. It would be idle to deny that there are occasions when some local manufacturers lodge complaints because they feel they should have been given some preference. In some cases this is justified but in the main I think it is fair to say we have had a good crack of the whip from the companies and the liaison is good and continuing. The main point upon which we insist is that above all else the local company must have the opportunity to tender. It then has to win on reasonable merit. In cases when all things are equal, in my experience the companies have usually decided in favour of the local concern.

## 5. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

### Formation

Mr. BICKERTON, to the Premier:  
Could the Premier explain to the House the reasons for setting up

the proposed public accounts committee under the Standing Order rather than introducing legislation for its setting up?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

It is a practice that has been followed in all States, I think, except the Commonwealth, which has legislation.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr. Davies, leave of absence for four weeks granted to Mr. Graham (Balcatta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) on the ground of private business.

## BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Craig (Minister for Police), and read a first time.

2. Lotteries (Control) Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Craig (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.

3. Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act Amendment Bill.

4. Betting Control Act Amendment Bill.  
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Craig (Minister for Police), and read a first time.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SEVENTH DAY

### Motion

Debate resumed, from the 20th August, on the following motion by Mr. Cash:—

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

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

MR. MENSAROS (Floreat) [5.09 p.m.]: Before I make a few remarks on His Excellency's Speech, and the reaction it has so far received from the opposite side, may I place on record—with your permission, Sir—my sincere congratulations to those officers of the House who have recently been promoted—the Clerk, the Assistant-Clerk, the Clerk of Records, and the Assistant Clerk of Records. From my very pleasant past experience, I have

no doubt whatsoever that Mr. Joss Bartlett, Mr. Bruce Okely, Mr. Lionel Farrell, and Mr. Ian Allnutt, will carry out their respective duties with the greatest credit to themselves, to the benefit of the House, and to the satisfaction of every member.

I would also like to congratulate the new member for Albany. Although it would not be quite sincere if I were to wish him long tenure in this place, I can at least sincerely trust that he will have an interesting time during the term of this Parliament.

The Speech His Excellency was pleased to deliver contains a host of very impressive and remarkable facts concerning this Government's record during the past year—facts which do not receive, either in this Chamber or outside in the media of communication, the notice and appreciation they deserve. I believe therefore that these facts cannot be repeated often enough to let it be clearly seen that the programme of this Government is not based on empty imagination but on solid achievements, which in turn reflect previous programmes and previous promises which have not only been fulfilled but have also been over-delivered.

Let us have a quick look at a few examples to see what the Leader of the Opposition has called the "paucity" of mind of Ministers. The Speech tells us that within a year the State Housing Commission will lift the number of units completed by 27 per cent. compared with the number completed in the last financial year. The amount of road building and maintenance by the Main Roads Department and local authorities will increase considerably through direct and indirect grants. The increase by nearly \$2,000,000 in capital expenditure on hospitals and general health services is a very important item which represents an increase of more than 24 per cent. over the previous year, and the net increase in population was just over 3 per cent. during this period. Even allowing for some depreciation of monetary values, the percentage increase in capital investment in this portfolio amounts to approximately eight times the percentage increase in population. The same impressive story could be told about practically all portfolios, some of which have been mentioned by other speakers from this side of the House.

The most significant part of His Excellency's Speech, to my mind, was the short and humble paragraph which tells about the increased capital expenditure on education—a field in which the Government has been subjected to a most unjustified, grossly exaggerated, and concentrated attack by all the supporters of the Opposition. This unfounded campaign became a bandwagon which was readily pushed ahead by all media of communication and was jumped on by all and sundry without consideration; yet the first sentence of the

humble paragraph to which I have referred, by its sheer force of facts, ought to ridicule the whole campaign. That sentence is worth repeating. It says—

Capital expenditure on education increased last year by \$3,240,000 to \$13,993,000.

That represents an increase of 30 per cent. in capital expenditure on education during one year, when at the same time the student population in State schools increased by only 3 per cent. The rate of increase in capital expenditure on education was therefore ten times the rate of increase in the number of students.

Yet all this progress has been achieved during a period when our State is experiencing an extraordinary rate of development—a rate which we all know to be much higher than the average rate of development in other parts of Australia. As it was rightly pointed out by the member for Mirrabooka when he ably moved this motion, this progress has been achieved at a time when even a standstill or the mere keeping up with the rate of development on the part of Government services and investments would have been a commendable achievement. Yet these achievements exceed many times—as I have said, in education, 10 times—the accelerated rate of development, and they have bettered in real terms the lot of the increased population.

However, it is interesting to note that these are the facts and figures of the remarkable achievement of this Government—which the Opposition describes as being without substance. This significant record of the Government is contained in His Excellency's Speech—the Address-in-Reply to which we now debate—which was described by the Leader of the Opposition as one of the most flat and uninspiring Speeches he has ever read during the nearly four decades he has been in this Parliament. Bearing in mind the respect I have for the honourable gentleman, I would say that his description should be surprising. It is not surprising though, if we look back in the records. If we consider his past utterances, his present description cannot be taken more seriously than his frequent cry of, "wolf."

Looking back in the previous years one finds that the very policies and programmes of this Government from which its present achievements emanated were received in a similar fashion by the Leader of the Opposition. Only last year—on the 6th August—he described the Governor's Speech, containing this programme, as a most colourless document. In 1967, on the 2nd August, as the then Deputy Leader of the Opposition, he commented—

If one is to take the Speech . . . as a guide to what is in store for us . . . then one must come to the conclusion that it will not be a very exacting programme.

Back in 1963, on the 14th August, his comments were not different. He said then—

However, I have not much admiration for the Speech he delivered; I do not think there was very much that was inspiring in it.

Yet these allegedly flat, colourless, and uninspiring Speeches contained—as I said before—the policies and programme upon which this Government's unique achievements were based.

I realise and appreciate that the task of the Opposition is to oppose and criticise. I should have thought, however, that this criticism ought to be constructive by showing alternative solutions to the policies which are criticised and opposed. I also expected that at least in this session—the last before an election—we in this Chamber and the public, generally, would hear something about what members of the Opposition have in mind to do if they seriously consider themselves to be the alternative Government. I would have thought that points would have been made which, in the view of the Opposition, were omitted from His Excellency's Speech, and which would indicate the policy of an alternative Government. But nothing of this kind has happened so far, and one can hardly expect that the Leader of the Opposition would leave this task to his lieutenants and supporters.

In lack of such alternative policies by the Opposition, I shall have to restrict myself to deal with the few and insignificant detailed criticisms which have been put forward so far. The criticism has been levelled not so much at the policies of the Government, as at some circumstances which do not necessarily follow from our policies and actions, but are due to causes far beyond the control of the Government or—as I shall endeavour to point out later—are the result of actions taken by a small group of the community which most ardently supports the Opposition.

The first criticism was directed against the collection, and, indeed, the introduction, of receipt duties. The question I asked about receipt stamp tax duties a fortnight ago was not geared to chide the Treasurer for having provided a convenient and just source of revenue from the limited resources left to him under the Constitution.

I do not think there is any justification for criticising the Treasurer—as did the Opposition—for providing this revenue. I merely wanted to know whether the Treasurer had any knowledge of what the Commonwealth intended to do, because I thought that if the Commonwealth Government wanted to keep its promise regarding reimbursing the States for what was taken away from them by the High

Court, it had the opportunity to directly incorporate a suitable measure in the Budget and in this way practically eliminate the possibility of rejection in the Senate.

If I may digress for a moment and say so, Mr. Speaker, I think it is a rather sad state of affairs when the judiciary branch takes over policy making—indeed, one could almost say, “legislation.” This happened in the United States during the past 15 years or so; and I can add my personal observation—gained during the few weeks I spent in that country towards the end of last year—to the numerous reports one reads: that it was not a politically popular development. In fact, I think it could be fairly stated that one of the causes of the present President's election was his unmistakable disapproval of the policy-forming carried out by the United States Supreme Court, combined with his clear stand for true federalism and decentralisation by returning the traditional and constitutional rights and powers of the states.

I, who have no British ancestry, can perhaps judge more objectively, and I might, perhaps, be permitted to be so bold as to say that it was a pity that the Commonwealth—based on false patriotism—rejected the natural advantage which Australia had by submitting domestic legal and Constitutional differences to the—through ancestry related, yet uninvolved, and through long generations learned and experienced—judgment of the Privy Council.

However, coming back to the criticism levelled at receipt duties, it is rather ironical to hear the Opposition complaining about the collection of this revenue. For all we know, should the political tide ever turn—as a result of a temporary misjudgment of the electors in Australia—a State Labor Government's sources of revenue would be even more restricted due to the centralist policy of the Labor Party.

Another criticism was based on the allegation that housing loan interest is as high as 14 per cent. This criticism has two interesting and noteworthy features. Firstly, it was made in a way which could lead the public to believe that genuine home purchase finance commands a rate of interest of 14 per cent. Of course, nothing is further from the truth, as the Minister for Housing rightly said by way of interjection. Fourteen per cent. could be the interest rate—in one or two isolated cases—of a practically unsecured second, third, or last mortgage, or the interest rate of bridging finance paid by an overzealous, too enterprising developer. The second interesting feature of this criticism is that it was directed against a few isolated cases which are by no stretch of the imagination the result of State Government policies.

I submit that if 14 per cent. interest can be asked and obtained for loans on real estate, even in a few cases, this undoubtedly is the result of fear of serious inflation in the minds of people. Such fear is not caused by the healthy and balanced development of our State; neither is it caused by the stabilised—indeed, down-turning—real estate values. It can only be caused, and is caused, by the exorbitant demands for wage rises backed by strikes. Such wage rises are not based on a corresponding increase in *per capita* production.

Mr. Lapham: They are due purely to the needs of the worker himself.

Mr. MENSAROS: This is what I am trying to point out; that wage rises are against the rules of economy and cause inflation if they are not based on the *per capita* increase in production. Strikes and stoppages are often entered into not for better conditions of employment, but for political reasons or inter-union differences. These are strikes which are not decided by the majority of the work force involved, but by a few dictatorial union leaders; strikes under which both the employees and the general public suffer, and which make a mockery of democracy and of the principle of majority decision. These sad facts have been lucidly illustrated by the member for Bunbury without, of course, having been challenged by subsequent speakers on the opposite side; because there is no valid argument against his clear and factual submissions.

However, if we think in terms of trying to remedy the situation in these few cases of high interest rates—and I do not suggest that we should not; I merely pointed out that this is a poor and isolated field for starting a major attack—my mind would search for quite a different remedy to the one suggested by the Opposition. I do not think that making provision for it to be an offence to charge interest rates above X per cent.—whatever that percentage may be—and creating penalties for the offenders would be a workable solution.

Restrictions and compulsions are never desirable and never work against the rule of supply and demand in the field of economics. The only thing economical restrictions invariably do achieve is a black market of one kind or another. The proper and lasting solution in economical matters is to induce people to do or not to do something by creating circumstances to which they react as human nature would naturally react.

To my mind—within the small scope of the State Government to influence the economy—one solution would be to guarantee the security of second mortgages in a broad way. I know that the Commonwealth Government does this, but under rather restrictive conditions as far as mortgagees and the types of loans and

amounts are concerned. Neither is it advertised enough to be known outside large lending institutions.

I am thinking of a form of guarantee which could channel the small investments and humble savings handled by small mortgage brokers towards these second mortgages, thereby securing a supply of money which would automatically reduce interest rates. I think the risk involved and the cost to the State Government would be insignificant in comparison with the results to be expected.

The main attack of the Opposition which was contained in an amendment of no confidence has been directed against certain anomalies in land tax; anomalies which the Government does not deny and which in fact it has promised to try to remedy. These anomalies, however, only affected a small proportion of the electors and resulted in an undesirable by-product of the many healthy benefits which accrued from last year's Land Tax Act and Land Tax Assessment Act amendments.

To emphasise the anomalies and to stress them out of all proportion, while at the same time ignoring the many benefits which were enjoyed by a much larger section of the community, is like criticising the weeds which grow in a rose bed without taking some notice of the roses which happen to be in bloom at the time. Praise must be given where it is due.

Mr. Jamieson: The weeds were pretty tall.

Mr. Rushton: Rubbish.

Mr. Bovell: And so were the poppies.

Mr. MENSAROS: Despite the interjection, which I did not quite hear, I feel that for the Opposition to base its main attack against a problem which affects only a few people is like sending a battleship with full armament to attack an isolated outpost. It can do the job but it is never used for such a purpose.

In point of fact most of the complaints—even if justified—prove that the Government did achieve its main aim by introducing its land tax legislation last year.

Mr. Lapham: What was the aim?

Mr. MENSAROS: The aim was to discourage speculative investment in unimproved property without putting it to use, and also to arrest the increase in urban land values. The greatly decreased turnover in sales of real estate proved the withdrawal of speculative accommodation by capital which resulted not only in stabilised land values but, in most cases, in decreased land values.

Mr. Lapham: That is sheer rubbish.

Mr. MENSAROS: In the past the public has been used to ever-increasing land values and any periodic revaluation which might result in higher land tax would be sustained by the public with only a slight



shock; a shock from which it quickly recovered when a year or two later the new values became obsolete.

This trend has now been reversed, which proves that the Government's policy was successful, and the public for the first time in many years finds that last year's revaluation might represent a higher value than the current year's market price. Accordingly the complaints come in. There are, however, a few genuine cases, and I am now referring to cases other than those which have been mentioned in the fringe areas and the foothills, where slightly different problems exist.

There are, as I have said, genuine cases where single unimproved building sites have been purchased and retained for future building purposes. This has been done because choice sites are becoming scarce as a result of building development, and it is only natural—and I would think commendable—for families to try to provide for their children.

I believe that consideration could be given to such cases. I appreciate that it would be difficult to find satisfactory proof which might indicate which are the genuine cases, but I am sure that some action could be taken either by extending the four-year grace period for rebate and/or making the higher rate of land tax for certain unimproved land payable only if the land is sold as still unimproved land.

This would not be contrary to our land tax structure because, as I pointed out last year, land tax is not a pure indirect tax, for it is not rated on the individual land itself but on the aggregate value of all properties owned by one particular land owner.

Changing the subject, I wish to commend the Government for its intention to ease the burden of probate duties.

Mr. Tonkin: You are guessing a bit.

Mr. MENSAROS: My guess is based on the contents of His Excellency's Speech and I think I am justified in guessing along these lines. Like all taxes based on progressive rates—where these rates have not been adjusted to monetary inflation—the burden to the taxpayer becomes heavier each year, because the same values will represent a greater amount of money.

The original intention regarding the degree of progression is soon lost because humble assets will command an increasingly higher monetary value and will accordingly become subject to the higher rates on the progressive scale, which rates originally were designed only for high real values.

There are, of course, few if any Governments which are willing to give up, or even decrease, already-established revenues, even if these revenues increase disproportionately as a result of shifting monetary values without altering the legislation on which they are based. It

ought to be recognised that by easing probate duties, the Treasury would not actually lose anything from the originally designed revenue; it would only mean that an unexpected surplus would cease. Against this submission the argument could be put forward that the Government needs increasing revenue to meet increasing expenditure. The fact remains, however—other things being equal—that the smallest as well as the greatest monetary inflation merely causes arithmetical progression in the growth of expenditure, whereas the result is a geometrical progression in the growth of such revenue—in our case probate—which is based on unchanged progressive rates.

The difference between the geometrical and arithmetical progression creates the surplus I have previously mentioned. The only justification the Government would have for not returning this surplus to the taxpayer, and keeping it for its own use, would be if it were used to cover accelerated capital investment necessitated by an increased rate of development. It should not be used to proliferate the Administration as described by Parkinson's law. As I pointed out at the commencement of my remarks, this justification could apply to our State Government.

The Government's decision must be applauded, however, for two other reasons: one is an existing reason, and the other a potential reason.

The existing reason is that probate duty is the most inhumane tax ever devised. It is inhumane because it taxes the most natural endeavour—one might almost say the most inherent instinct—of mankind, which is to try to provide for one's family and descendants.

The potential reason is if the Treasurer were to accept, besides other easements, the Liberal Party's recommendation to exempt from assessment for probate duty the amounts of insurance policies which are specifically designed to pay probate duty.

This would not only ease part of the burden, but it would also channel the surplus towards capital investment, which could be reasonably expected if the money is channelled to the insurance companies rather than being spread among individual taxpayers.

There is, of course, another way to ease the burden considerably without, perhaps, losing any revenue at all. This could be done by closing the legal loopholes which virtually exempt any estate from probate duties; and this is brought about by the formation of a company and the retaining of one decisive share in the company while selling all the other shares to potential inheritors with the condition that the purchase price be due only on demand. As no deceased person can demand anything, there would be no assets which could be assessed for probate duty after death.

All I wish to add to this subject is that I wholeheartedly agree with the opinion expressed much more learnedly and far more eloquently elsewhere to the effect that the best solution would be to abolish Federal probate duty. This would necessitate a much smaller sacrifice by the Treasurer in question. This however, is an aim which must be advocated by our representatives in the Federal Houses of Parliament.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Government on its decision to set up a ministry of conservation, or a ministry of environment, or whatever it is to be called.

I do not think that the question of conservation—the protection of the balance of our environment upon which the basic needs of human life depend—is only a vogue which has become fashionable in recent years and which, as a political problem, is considered to be the “in” thing. I believe that the importance of this decision lies in the prospect of having a department with all the necessary facilities for research; a department which could make use of all the scientific research and observation which is already known elsewhere, and which could thus offer expert advice to the minister in charge, to Cabinet, and, indeed, to all members of Parliament to make them more aware of the importance and urgency of this question.

I hope we will all be more aware of the fact that conservation does not merely constitute the striking of a balance between necessary industries, human habitation, and primary production on the one hand, and, on the other, some odd scientists and pious naturalists—usually grouped together as jolly conservationists—who have lately acquired considerable popularity and therefore some political influence.

Through the endeavours of the new ministry of conservation I hope we will be aware that though this balance must be struck the problem goes much further and ultimately becomes a question of the self-preservation of the human race.

We read reports to the effect that the essential oxygen and heat needed for human life might be depleted; that trees and natural vegetation might be destroyed; that the pollution of the rivers and oceans by DDT will endanger the microscopic flora existing in such waters—flora which produces 40 per cent. of the earth's oxygen—that air-polluting refuse particles in the atmosphere cause a drop in temperature as the sun's rays reflect on these particles, thus supplying less heat; and that with further worsening of air pollution a new ice age may result. Having read such reports I do not think we can easily reject the views expressed without having them examined and without acting upon the results of such examination.

Australia, generally, and our State, in particular, are in a much better position than many a more densely populated and more industrialised country. I believe, however, that without subscribing to any form of hysteria we must use this initial advantage to our benefit; we must gear our actions to prevention, rather than permit industry and subdivisions to spread in a fashion in which they can destroy the natural environment. I again commend the Government for its achievements, and support the motion.

**MR. COOK (Albany)** [5.44 p.m.]: This is to be the first of many speeches which I hope to make in this House this session and, for many years to come. I would like to pay tribute to the late member for Albany. He was a man whose heart and soul were in Albany. I cannot recall his having missed an opportunity in this House to try to further the interests of Albany; and he certainly never missed an opportunity to seek some redress of the problems associated with the people of that town. If I have one regret concerning my entry into Parliament, it is that it was due to the resignation and subsequent death of a man I was proud to call a friend.

I would like to thank the people of Albany for the confidence and trust they have placed in my ability to represent them in Parliament, and I would also like to thank them for their expression of confidence in the policies of the Australian Labor Party. We faced a most concerted effort by the Liberal Party, and it was due in no small measure to the many hundreds of people who rallied round the Labor Party that our efforts to retain the seat were successful; and to these people I offer my thanks.

The campaign had a few surprises. I am sure the Liberal Party was as surprised as we were at the revival of the old public meeting. All the five major public meetings held in Albany during the campaign were extremely well attended.

There was another surprise, too. I think this is probably the first time that a Government has acted as openly as an Opposition in an election campaign. An Opposition can go to the people and only explain its policies and tell them what it proposes to do if elected to Government. A Government should be able to go to the people and say, “This is what we have done for the people; this is what we are doing; and this is what we propose to do.” In the Albany by-election, possibly due to the neglect of the area for so long, the Government was placed in the position where it had to retine projects, such as the foreshore road and the alterations to the hospital, to coincide with the election campaign, and to make promises in an attempt to induce the people to vote for it. When a Government makes promises

at a by-election, it is incumbent upon that Government to maintain those promises even though its candidate may have been unsuccessful.

Evidence is now to hand that the Government will not be keeping at least one promise it made, and that, therefore, casts doubt on its ability or its willingness to fulfil others. Just after officially opening the Liberal Party campaign in Albany, the Premier handed a typed statement to the Press and portion of it read—

We are planning to build a new technical school in Albany within the next two years.

Now "within" does not mean "approximately"; it does not mean "if finance is available"; it does not mean "proposals have been made." It means that the people of Albany can expect to see a new technical school completed in Albany by the 6th June, 1972.

On the 13th August I asked the Minister for Education the following question:—

- (1) When will a new technical school be built at Albany?

The answer I received was—

- (1) The Education Department has submitted proposals to the Commonwealth for the new Albany Technical School to be included in the programme for the triennium commencing 1971.

On the 12th August, in a question directed to the Minister for Education in relation to the use of a building for temporarily housing technical education classes, I asked the following:—

- (3) For what period does the department plan to rent it?

The answer was—

- (3) Until a new technical school is built at Albany. Proposals for this building have been submitted to the Commonwealth to be undertaken in the 1972-75 triennium.

I am not quite sure to which triennium these proposals have been submitted. However, one thing seems quite clear; that is, the people of Albany cannot expect to see a technical school completed in June, 1972. In regard to my next question to the Minister for Education on the same day, I must take him to task for the answer. The question was—

- (4) Is there any proposal to renovate or alter the interior of the shed?

The answer reads as follows:—

- (4) Yes. It is being altered and renovated for specialist instruction in welding and motor trades.

My next question was—

- (5) If so, when will work commence?

The answer was—

- (5) This depends on allocation of loan funds.

I would ask the Minister: Who is paying for the alterations and renovations being done if the loan funds have not been allocated?

Still on the question of technical education at Albany, on the same date in answer to questions, the Minister indicated that the temporary accommodation was costing the Education Department—that is, the public of Western Australia—\$45 per week to rent, and that the department was proposing to spend \$12,500 on renovations. If the Premier's promise is to come true, the department must spend \$12,500 plus \$45 a week for a building it will use for a maximum period of two years.

I would submit that it would have been better for the department to purchase two demountable classrooms and install them on land it already owns. That would cost at the most \$12,500 and the Government would still have the classrooms available for use at other schools when the technical education section had no further use for them. In addition the Government would save itself \$45 per week rent. This, surely, would have been a better proposition than to spend \$12,500 on some other person's property, when the improvements and renovations would have to remain on the property when it was vacated by the department in approximately two years' time.

The issue of technical education is not the only one confusing the people of Albany. I wish to quote from a letter written by the District Superintendent of Education in Albany to the Director of Primary Education in Perth on the 16th September, 1969. It was circulated to all primary schools in Albany, and reads—

The planning of the allocation of children to Yakamia school has had three aims—

- (1) to eliminate the class at Albany Junior Primary
- (2) to eventually remove the demountable from Albany Primary
- (3) not to allow for general growth which is adding to the enrolment at Mount Lockyer and Spencer Park to cause overcrowding at these schools.

It goes on to say—

I was not instructed to reduce Mount Lockyer numbers so that it lost its 1A classification, or the Albany Junior Primary so that it lost its Class 1 classification, neither was it opportune to begin the phasing out of the Albany Primary School or in other words the consolidation of the two schools (the Albany Junior Primary and the Albany Primary). I have

planned therefore to reduce the numbers at Albany Primary by approximately half a class so that over a period of four years the two classes will be eliminated, and to proceed with the third aim. To accomplish this it will be necessary to alter boundaries and re-route buses.

The Albany Junior Primary School Parents & Citizens' Association received notification that the school is to be downgraded. The boundaries were altered approximately last November and apparently somewhere along the line someone has slipped up because any other assumption would indicate the direct opposite of the policy propounded by the department last September.

Extreme concern is felt by the parents and citizens' association in regard to what is to happen at the Albany Junior Primary School. This downgrading means it will lose the headmistress, or she will have to teach a class, and the school will lose its part-time clerical assistant. We would have to be pretty naive to believe that no-one would ever visit or ring the school, and the parents and citizens' association is most anxious to ascertain what is to happen regarding the education of the children while the headmistress is answering the telephone or attending visitors, to say nothing of carrying out the administrative functions of her office.

The other point which concerns the association is the unit progress system which has been in operation at the school and which apparently requires a teacher, apart from the class teacher, to examine the children. Therefore an explanation from the department at this point of time would help considerably to clear up the confusion which exists in Albany over this downgrading.

The downgrading will have other effects too. If the Albany Junior Primary School is to be downgraded, it could well lead to the Albany Primary School being downgraded. The department says it proposes to reduce the numbers at the Albany Primary School by approximately half a class a year, so that in four years the class at the Albany Junior Primary School will be eliminated as will the class in the demountable classroom at the Albany Primary School. Somehow the whole policy of the department has been accelerated.

I would point out, too, that in answer to questions, the Minister informed me that there were two vacant classrooms at the Albany Junior Primary School and three vacant at the Lockyer School. Yet the department is to build six classrooms at the Yakamia Primary School. Why has a decision been made to build six new rooms when five are already vacant? Surely the solution would have

been in an alteration of the boundaries. Someone has apparently made an error and the obvious thing to do would be to correct it. It seems almost incomprehensible that six new rooms should be built when five are already vacant in the town.

I would now like to make a brief comment on the hospital in Albany. On the 27th May, 1970, an advertisement appeared in the *Albany Advertiser* calling for applications from young ladies who wished to learn nursing through the Government School of Nursing which is affiliated with the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, the Geraldton Regional Hospital, and the Northam District Hospital. On the 18th August I asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health the following question:—

What are the reasons for not training nurses at the Albany Regional Hospital?

The answer was—

Albany Regional Hospital is a nursing aide training school. It could not yet provide the experience necessary to meet the curriculum of general nurse training.

I believe that the Albany Regional Hospital is the finest hospital in Western Australia and it is a long-established hospital. I believe it is incumbent on the Minister to ensure that the hospital is provided with the facilities necessary to meet the curriculum of general nursing training, especially when the other hospitals to which I have referred are already providing this training.

I will not go into the details associated with the problems of sending young girls away from the town to do their general nursing training, but I hope the Minister will in the near future announce a decision to train girls for general nursing at the Albany Regional Hospital.

I did wish to deal with shipping tonight, but time is eluding me so I will deal with it at a later date. At the moment I wish to refer to housing and firstly to the provision of public open space at the flat project in Hardy Road, Albany.

On the 13th August a reply to a question indicated that the commission has provided four areas of public open space, totalling 16½ acres, around the flat project. Let us examine the 16½ acres involved. Lot 133 at the corner of Reidy, Nesbitt, and Warden Roads, is a swamp, as is also Lot 123 at the corner of Collingwood, Mokave, and Nesbitt Roads. Lot 107 at the corner of Burvill and Mohave Roads, while shown on the new proposed town plan for Albany as public open space, has been accepted by the residents of Albany for many years as being a flora reserve for the protection of the Albany

pitcher plant. The top end of the reserve is at present being developed by the Lions Club of Albany as an adventure playground.

The department is obviously allowing local organisations to provide facilities which I believe it should provide. However, I would point out to the department that for the children to get to this adventure playground they must cross a very busy intersection. Around the intersection are situated the Spencer Park Kindergarten and the Infant Health Centre. At the time the children come out from school, it is an absolute shambles with parents coming to pick up their children from the kindergarten. Members can imagine the dangerous situation encountered by the children crossing to the flats at lunch-time. If the commission intends the area to be used by the children of the flats, I hope it will provide an overhead footbridge from the flats to the playground to ensure that the children can cross safely.

The Minister mentioned another lot in the answer to the question. I do not think it can be the correct lot number, because Lot 1 is shown on the town plan as a building block. However, a lot further down the road is dedicated as public open space. It is a good quarter of a mile from the flats and the children have to cross the main road to the hospital and walk along two roads to reach the area of public open space. No footpaths are provided in the area and, once again, I think this is a very dangerous hazard.

The outcome of all this is that there is not one area in Spencer Park where children can kick a football, fly a kite, play hockey, or participate in any of the activities which children enjoy. I hope the commission will immediately set out an area which can be developed as an oval to be used by the children there.

At the moment there are 206 applications lodged with the Housing Commission for houses in Albany. Currently the department is allocating accommodation to people who applied in August, 1968. In other words, the commission is almost exactly two years behind in its allocations. Despite the fact that there are 206 applications for houses, the commission's building programme this year is for 24 houses and 24 units or flats. Therefore, it seems that the commission will not catch up this year on the backlog of applications. Next year the situation will be the same, if not a little worse. I appeal to the commission to make more funds available to extend the building programme in Albany in an effort to catch up on the backlog.

There is also the question of the maintenance of State houses in Albany. Many of the houses are falling into disrepair and urgently need maintenance. I was

asked to visit a particular State house recently, but I had to go back to the people and advise them that I could not find it. In actual fact, I had passed the house, but it was in such poor condition that I could not believe the State Housing Commission would own such a building. I am not exaggerating when I say that I have a beach shack on the coast and it is in better condition.

The lady of the house showed me through it. I saw buckets on top of the wardrobe to catch the rain which came through the roof and a gap of 1½ inches in the wall of the main bedroom where the wind howls through. I approached the local office of the State Housing Commission and I was told that the house was so old and dilapidated it was not worth spending money on, but it was a roof over somebody's head.

I shall mention another instance of a lady who approached me recently. One of the two bedrooms in her house had not been painted for 9½ years. She had asked the commission for a three-bedroomed house and the commission offered to close in the back verandah to make an additional bedroom. In doing this, the commission took the window out of the bedroom, filled the hole, and painted that wall. Members can imagine the situation. The room had not been painted for 9½ years and now one wall only is freshly painted. Surely it is reasonable to expect the commission to paint the whole room at least. These are the types of maintenance problems which exist in Albany.

I should like to refer to the question of Lockyer drainage, which the late member for Albany raised time and time again in this House. I would not live in the area and neither would the Minister. Unfortunately many people have to live in State Housing Commission accommodation in an area like Lockyer where the drainage situation is deplorable.

People cannot drive their cars into their blocks because they get bogged. This is a fact. I invite any member who disputes it to come to Albany at any time and I will show him the area. Children walk through the yards and are up to their ankles in mud. They tramp the mud through the house, which starts to smell terribly. There is so much moisture in the ground that it comes up through the floor boards and people who put down new linoleum find that it buckles or the glue dissolves because of the moisture. Time is running out, but I appeal to the Minister to give urgent consideration to drainage in the area and to connecting the area with the big drain provided by the Public Works Department.

#### *Amendment to Motion*

At this point I wish to move an amendment to the motion. I move—

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

; and we respectfully wish to advise Your Excellency that it is our desire that you proclaim as a Reserve class "A" the Fitzgerald River area comprised in the "C" class flora and fauna Reserve, Kent & Oldfield (Bremer Bay) No. 24048.

I would emphasise that this is not a motion of no confidence; it is not a motion of censure. The Opposition is simply trying to give the Government the opportunity to support a move in line with its declared policy to give protection to the reserve which is so urgently needed. The Opposition could, of course, submit this proposition in the form of a motion to the House, but anyone who is familiar with parliamentary procedure—I know you will agree, Mr. Speaker—would know that the delay before the matter was heard would be quite considerable. The matter is urgent and the Opposition feels that it will receive immediate attention if it is submitted as an amendment to the Address-in-Reply.

I point out, too, that the fact that a warden is dealing with applications to mine on the reserve is no reason for the Government to shirk its responsibilities. Protection of the reserve is the demand of the people, and it is incumbent upon the Government to declare where it stands on the issue. The amendment will give the Government the opportunity to commence a positive, planned approach to the question of conservation; it is an opportunity the Government should grasp with both hands.

Western Australia has, for two reasons, a particularly heavy responsibility in the field of conservation. Firstly, we have not yet suffered the serious air and water pollution problems that have been experienced in other countries. We can devote our time and energy to preventing the occurrence of the problems instead of trying to find a solution to already established problems. This can be done, provided action is taken urgently.

Secondly, Western Australia, because it is surrounded on three sides by sea and on the fourth by desert, has an enormous number of unique plants and unusual animals. It is the responsibility of the Government to adopt policies and make laws to ensure that the unique flora and fauna remain in their natural habitats in perpetuity for generations of people—not only people in Western Australia but people throughout the world—to enjoy, marvel at, and study in the years to come.

One wonders whether we, as a Parliament, have the right to deny these privileges to these people. The people of the

State do not believe we have, as the rising voice of protest indicates. Let us examine the Government's activities in the field of conservation in recent times, with particular reference to the Fitzgerald River reserve. On the 27th December, 1948, John Septimus Roe found coal at the Fitzgerald River and on the 28th December Mr. Roe reported seeing the camp of the botanist, Mr. Drummond, who was on a botanical expedition to the area.

From the earliest times this particular region has excited the imagination of scientists, but the area had no protection at all from exploitation by individuals or mining companies until the Hawke Labor Government saw fit in 1954 to declare the area a "C"-class reserve for the protection of flora and fauna.

In 1962, the Western Australian sub-committee of the Australian Academy of Science recommended that the reserve be given further protection and made an "A"-class reserve. The Government admits this report in its blueprint, and I quote from a letter written to *The West Australian* by the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna (The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon) who referred to the report and said—

The report has long been accepted as a blue-print for a basic series of nationally important reserves and most of the land concerned has been held untouched in "cold storage," pending firm decisions as to its status and control.

It has been held this way for eight years. The Government has not made a firm decision and, as a result of its indecision, it has failed to make funds available to scientists to allow them to thoroughly examine and investigate the potential of the area. Now the Government is caught up in a web of indecision. It wants to help the mining companies, but it is unsure of public opinion.

Instead of the Minister for Mines proclaiming a ban on mining tenements in the area, as he did in the case of the Avon Valley reserve because of its scenic and scientific interest, he—and the Government—has preferred to adopt a sit-on-the-fence policy. This has meant that the people concerned in protecting the area have had to make rush expeditions and prepare rushed reports in an attempt to prevent destruction of the area by mining companies.

On the other hand, the mining companies are placed in the position of not knowing where they stand. This was evidenced by Mr. Kailis's report in *The Independent* last Sunday.

That the Fitzgerald River reserve is of national importance cannot be disputed. The Australian Conservation Foundation has asked that mining in the reserve be banned.

I should like to quote a small section of an article which appeared in *The West Australian* on the 23rd July, 1970, under the heading "River case backed by foundation." It says—

The fact that the foundation had decided to intervene over the Fitzgerald reserve emphasised that the matter was not merely a local controversy but one involving the entire Australian public.

In *The West Australian* on the 27th July, 1970, a letter appeared from Dr. Ronald Melville, lately botanist for Australasia at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, writing from South Africa. He said—

I am aghast that this proposal should be made.

Not only is this reserve an area of great natural beauty, but it contains a unique sample of the flora of this part of Western Australia, with more than 40 endemic species found nowhere else in the world.

He goes on to say—

Historically it is an area from which a number of Australian plants were first described.

It contains unique plant communities, the composition of which is not yet fully worked out. In these communities the endemic species are found.

A number of species that throw light on the evolution of flowering plants occur and these are still under investigation. For all these reasons it is of the utmost importance that the reserve should be preserved for future research and education.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

MR. COOK: Before the tea suspension I was establishing the fact that there is rising public protest against the destruction of the Fitzgerald River reserve. I had pointed out how the Australian Conservation Foundation had intervened on the issue, and I read parts of a letter from Dr. Ronald Melville. Then I was about to quote a letter to *The Countryman* from one Sherwin Carlquist, Professor of Botany, Claremont, California. The letter reads—

Reports from Australian friends of mine indicate that the Fitzgerald River reserve may be threatened by exploitation for mineral resources, especially in a way which would grossly alter the region.

As a botanist and naturalist with experience and deep interest in this region (I discovered a plant new to science on East Mt. Barren in this reserve in 1967), I wish to express my concern with that of many Australians in the potential destruction of this area.

In all my travels in Western Australia, I have never seen an area so rich in unusual plants and animals, as well as scenically so beautiful.

Further down the letter reads—

Never in my entire field work have I experienced such stimulation as that provided by the Fitzgerald River region.

I wish we here in America had a region of such great potential interest to save as a wilderness area. The areas left for us here to save are not nearly so valuable.

I would think that as a natural area, the Fitzgerald River reserve would be an asset whose attraction for Australian and foreign visitors would repay preservation not merely for its own sake but for the economic advantage of having one of the high points of Australian natural history accessible as a natural area.

Its value in its present form might well outweigh in dollars alone the profit of short-term exploitation.

Some 200 people from all walks of life in Western Australia recently signed an advertisement in *The West Australian* calling for Government action on conservation. Approximately 300 people from all walks of life in my own electorate signed a petition from the Ongerup Conservation Committee calling on the Government to protect this reserve.

I wish to re-emphasise that my amendment is not a motion of no confidence; it is not a motion of censure against the Government. What we are attempting to do is to give the Government an opportunity to support a move which is in line with its declared policy so that this reserve can be given the urgent protection it needs. I believe it is a golden opportunity for the Government to make a decision now and to tell the people, the warden, and the mining companies, the wish of this Parliament. I commend the amendment to the House.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [7.34 p.m.]: Might I join with other members in congratulating the member for Albany on his election to Parliament. I listened with keen interest to what he said during what is usually termed a maiden speech. I must say that it was an unusual speech in two respects. It is usual, of course, for a member in his maiden speech not to introduce controversial matters.

Mr. Bickerton: You should tell some of the members on your side about that.

MR. BOVELL: The member for Albany certainly has introduced some controversial matters; and might I congratulate members on their restraint in upholding

the traditions of this Parliament by not interjecting during the course of the honourable member's speech.

Mr. Bickerton: I think he did a Mirra-booka.

Mr. BOVELL: In my long experience never have I known—and I should say in the longer experience of the Leader of the Opposition never has he known—of a new member in his maiden speech to move a censure motion against the Government.

Mr. Tonkin: It is not a censure motion.

Mr. BOVELL: Of course it is. The Leader of the Opposition knows it is a censure motion—

Mr. Tonkin: Of course it is not.

Mr. BOVELL: —because the Governor's Speech is delivered to Parliament and any alteration to it is a censure of the Government. Therefore, let us discard all that pretence—

Mr. Bickerton: Do you think it is deserved?

Mr. BOVELL: —of its not being a censure motion.

Mr. Brady: Tell us whether you agree with it or not.

Mr. BOVELL: All members know that is virtually what it is.

Mr. Lapham: And it is very deserving, too.

Mr. BOVELL: Let me say that no Government, in the long history of Western Australia, has been more mindful of the need to conserve areas for posterity.

Mr. Bertram: Where is there evidence of that?

Mr. O'Neill: There is plenty of it, as you will see.

Mr. BOVELL: If members have read the Governor's Speech they will see reference to what has been done and, with your indulgence, Sir, I will read a portion of it.

#### *Point of Order*

Mr. TONKIN: On a point of order, Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Mitchell), I understand that under our Standing Orders all the Minister can address himself to is the amendment before the Chair. If he wishes to speak to the Address-in-Reply debate, generally, he may do so at a later time.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: He is talking about the amendment.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Mitchell): The Minister will address himself to the amendment before the Chair.

#### *Debate (on amendment to motion) Resumed*

Mr. BOVELL: The Leader of the Opposition is impertinent.

Mr. Brady: He is right on the ball, though.

Mr. BOVELL: The amendment is about a reserve and surely I am entitled to inform the House what this Government has done to conserve areas before I proceed to deal with the actual area that has been referred to in the amendment.

Mr. Tonkin: Not on this amendment.

Mr. BOVELL: Surely democracy in this Parliament is not to be downgraded in such a way that I cannot explain what this Government has done to conserve areas for posterity by proclaiming reserves?

Mr. Tonkin: But not on the amendment.

Mr. BOVELL: The two points are associated—the question is directly associated with the amendment.

Mr. Tonkin: I am sorry we cannot strain the Standing Orders for you.

Mr. BOVELL: The amendment is a censure against the Government on the matter of preserving areas for posterity—

Mr. Tonkin: No it is not.

Mr. BOVELL: —as far as "A"-class reserves are concerned.

Mr. Court: Of course it is and nobody knows that more than the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Tonkin: The Leader of the Opposition denies it.

Mr. BOVELL: Saint Peter denied something three times.

Mr. Davies: Wrong again.

Mr. Tonkin: Now get on with the amendment.

Mr. BOVELL: The cock was crowing at the time, but I hope it is not when I finish this evening. Now let us be serious about the amendment.

Mr. Tonkin: I wish the Minister would not get excited.

Mr. BOVELL: I am not. Apparently I have roused the Opposition.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You have touched them on the raw.

Mr. BOVELL: In his Speech the Governor said—

The Government has also been conscious of the need to set aside particular areas for posterity.

Mr. Tonkin: The Governor's Speech does not mention the Fitzgerald River area.

Mr. BOVELL: The Governor went on to say—

During the past year the area under the control of the National Parks Board has increased from 843,449, to 3,507,407 acres.

He also referred in his Speech to the fact that two additional areas embracing more than 6,000,000 acres were in the process of being declared Class "A" reserves. Since



the Governor's Speech was delivered to Parliament the 6,000,000 acres referred to have been declared "A"-class reserves for the conservation of flora and fauna. Reserves for this purpose have been created during the time of this Government from as far north as the Kimberley, through the Murchison River area, and along the south coast.

#### *Point of Order*

Mr. TONKIN: On a point of order, Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Mitchell), what the Minister is saying is most interesting, but I draw your attention—

Mr. Bovell: Of course you don't want to hear it.

Mr. TONKIN: —to the fact that the amendment refers to one reserve only, and that is a "C"-class reserve at Fitzgerald River. The proposition before the Chair is that His Excellency should be asked to proclaim this particular reserve as of Class "A." I suggest to you, Sir, that the Minister is obliged, whether he likes it or not, to address himself to the amendment. He will have all the time he wants, subsequently, to talk about all the other reserves.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Mitchell): The Minister will proceed and address himself to the amendment.

#### *Debate (on amendment to motion) Resumed*

Mr. BOVELL: I am leading up to the reserve referred to, and in this regard—

Mr. Bertram: It is a tortuous track.

Mr. BOVELL: —I was pointing out the vast areas that have been created reserves for posterity. This Government and, indeed, any responsible Government, must have a balanced approach to the utilisation of the State's reserves.

Mr. Tonkin: What are you going to do about this reserve? That is what we want to know.

Mr. BOVELL: I am leading up to it, and the Leader of the Opposition is not addressing the protest meeting in the Town Hall. He is in the Parliament, now.

Mr. Tonkin: And he is protesting here.

Mr. BOVELL: Yes, and he can protest. If he wants a battle royal, I will have it with him.

Mr. Tonkin: All right! We will see.

Mr. Court: He is trying to use up your time.

Mr. BOVELL: I do not care about that, but when the Leader of the Opposition is in this mood I know he is rattled—I have sat opposite him for almost a quarter of a century and I know that that is so.

Mr. Tonkin: You obey the rules. That is all I want you to do.

Mr. Bickerton: If the Minister had any political sense he would sit behind the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. BOVELL: It is the responsibility of all Governments to ensure that the State's reserves are used to the best advantage. The predecessor of the present member for Albany asked me, in my own right as Minister for Lands, and also as representing the Minister for Mines, who is in another place, why we did not do something to allow mining on the beaches east of Albany. That was almost a permanent question asked every year by the predecessor of the present member for Albany. We did not prevent it but, nevertheless, it shows that the present member for Albany is endeavouring to capitalise and jump on the band wagon in regard to conservation. As regards the Fitzgerald River reserve—

Mr. Tonkin: At last!

Mr. BOVELL: —he has asked a number of questions. However, before we get onto that aspect—

Mr. Tonkin: Don't disappoint us.

Mr. BOVELL: —I think I ought to say that whatever is intended at present as regards the utilisation of some area, there is always a protest. For instance, there is an area in the electorate of the member for Darling Range where the shire council and the people, generally, want a small portion of a reserve, which is for recreation, for the general public benefit. There has been a storm of protest about that. I have not dealt with the problem yet, because of the protests that are coming in from some people. We all remember the protests there were about Lake Leschenaultia, which is in the district of the Mundaring Shire.

Mr. Bickerton: What about the Fitzgerald River reserve?

Mr. BOVELL: I will get onto that. As regards Lake Leschenaultia, there were protests against the local authority leasing portion of the reserve for certain purposes, and so I could go on *ad infinitum* quoting various cases. It took some time to make a decision in regard to Lake Leschenaultia, but a decision was made. A decision in regard to the problem at Kalamunda has not yet been made, because the Government wants to be quite sure that it is making the right decision.

Let us now see what the member for Albany has asked about the Fitzgerald River reserve. After a little tour around Western Australia—to some advantage, I think—members will realise what this Government has done about creating reserves for the benefit of posterity. I feel sure the Leader of the Opposition will be pleased that I have eventually got around to mentioning the Fitzgerald River reserve.

Mr. Tonkin: He would be pleased if you would get on and speak to the amendment.

Mr. BOVELL: I have arrived at the Fitzgerald River reserve now. The member for Albany asked me, as the Minister in this House representing the Minister for Mines, a question on Tuesday last, as follows:—

- (1) In view of its scenic and scientific interest, will he exercise his ministerial power under the Act and announce forthwith that no further mineral tenements will be granted in the Fitzgerald River reserve No. 24048?
- (2) If not, will he indicate the reasons for declining this request?

On behalf of my colleague, the Minister for Mines, I replied—

- (1) There is a warden's court hearing part heard in respect of applications for prospecting areas for coal on the Fitzgerald River Flora and Fauna Reserve No. 24048 at which evidence is being given by several parties interested in conservation. In these circumstances it is not intended to exercise the ministerial powers contained in section 267A of the Act.
- (2) When the hearing is concluded and the warden's recommendation is received the Minister will deal with the applications under section 30 and make a recommendation to the Governor.

On the same day the member for Albany asked me, as Minister for Lands, this question—

Would the Government give an undertaking to forthwith declare the Fitzgerald River Reserve No. 24048 "A" class, in view of its established scenic and scientific interest, and in view of the recommendation of the Australian Academy of Science made in 1962?

I replied as follows:—

The future use of this area is under current review and consideration is being given to all aspects.

That is the crux of the whole argument which will lead to a proper examination of all the proposals which concern a Government.

Mr. Tonkin: And has been since 1962.

Mr. BOVELL: Why was such a step not taken before 1959? Why was it that when we became the Government the number of national parks and "A"-class reserves that had been created in Western Australia was at the absolute minimum? Up until that time no Government had taken any interest in conservation. It was not merely because of the pressures that are being applied by the public at the present time that the Government has taken action to create more reserves and national parks; this work has been carried on during the

whole period of this Government. I have quoted two instances of how the Government has approached the utilisation of the State's reserves; one at Kalamunda, and one at Mundaring. A decision has been made on the reserve at Mundaring, but no resolution has yet been made on the reserve at Kalamunda.

The position in regard to the reserve at Fitzgerald River is the same; that is, the Government will adopt the proper constitutional means to ensure that this reserve, like any other in this nation, is used in a way which will meet the best interests of the people.

Mr. Tonkin: How many more years do you require to arrive at that conclusion?

Mr. BOVELL: In the Government's own time, when it has all the facts and all the circumstances before it to enable it to arrive at a considered decision. The Government will seek all the advice it can obtain before making its final decision. If this Government had not introduced a system of creating reserves and establishing national parks for the posterity of the State, I could understand an amendment of this nature being put forward, but in view of the Government's magnificent record, I can only say that the Opposition is grasping at straws, and to ask a new member, in his maiden speech, to contravene the general ethics—

Mr. Tonkin: Oh no! He did not contravene the general ethics.

Mr. BOVELL:—by introducing such an amendment, is unprecedented in this House. I ask any honourable member to read the report of my maiden speech which I made whilst I occupied the seat in which the Minister for Railways and Transport now sits. At that time I had the late Sir Norbert Keenan, then Mr. Keenan, on one side of me and Mr. Hugh Leslie on the other. Mr. Leslie later entered the Federal Parliament, but he is now retired. It has never been the custom for any new member, in his maiden speech, to introduce controversial subjects. I again commend members for their restraint in not interjecting on the honourable member whilst he was speaking; but for him to climax his controversial speech by moving a censure motion on the Government is unprecedented in this Parliament, and I oppose it.

Mr. Jamieson: I thought you might.

MR. H. D. EVANS (Warren) [7.52 p.m.]: I for one at least am pleased that the member for Albany introduced this amendment and I commend him on the job he performed in doing so. Those on this side of the House have long regretted that the Fitzgerald River reserve has not been upgraded from a "C"-class flora and fauna reserve to an "A"-class national park. This has now become a matter of great urgency and the reason for it is obvious. Nothing could have

focused attention on this reserve so pointedly as the present controversy; the warden's court hearing, which was deferred; and the current newspaper publicity. In addition to the mining activity that is still proceeding apace in the Fitzgerald River area, all the matters that have been brought forward have made it imperative that some action be taken.

Prior to all this publicity, the existence of the Fitzgerald River reserve was relatively unknown, but during the last few months it has become one of the most widely known pieces of land in Western Australia. At this stage the only action that can be taken is to declare it an "A"-class reserve and so afford it the protection such a decision will bring about. It is not the ultimate step, but at least it would be a step in the right direction, and it will serve a useful purpose, as I will show in a moment.

The reserve has a history that goes back many years, as was mentioned by the member for Albany. Designated Reserve No. 24048, it was known as the Kent Old-field reserve and gazetted on the 22nd October, 1954. Known as the Fitzgerald River reserve, it has an area of 604,670 acres. On the 30th August, 1956, 530 acres were excised to create an aerial landing reserve, and in 1957 two vacant blocks of Crown land, totalling 160 acres, were included. In effect, in the last 16 years, the area has gained a total of 370 acres.

Without a shadow of a doubt, the Lands Department has shown that it has an unblemished record which has been maintained in this instance. There has never been any danger of land being excised from this reserve, and, indeed, I draw the attention of members to page 81 of the report by the Western Australian sub-committee of the Australian Academy of Science Committee on National Parks and Nature Reserves in Western Australia. In that part of the report a tribute is paid to the Lands Department for its fine efforts in protecting reserves of this kind.

I agree fully with the sentiments expressed in that report; I do not detract from them in any way. Nevertheless, there are limitations in regard to what the department and the Minister can do. We have to pay some regard not only to matters of excision but also to matters of control, and control is sadly lacking. Already a road has been pushed through the reserve to the foot of East Mt. Barren, and it goes right to the heart of the endemic country. How much planning and thought was given to permitting such an act to be performed in one of the most unique areas not only in Western Australia but also in the rest of the world?

In addition, for the purpose of mineral or oil exploration, or something of that nature, a deal of bulldozing has been done in the area. To open up the reserve in that way borders almost on criminal

negligence. The Fitzgerald River reserve should be declared an "A"-class reserve immediately. In 1962 the advisory committee recommended that it be gazetted an "A"-class reserve, and several years subsequent to that the Reserves Advisory Council submitted a recommendation to the Minister that the reserve be created, but the Minister has made no mention of that recommendation, despite the fact that I hoped he would. That is the position at the moment, and we are awaiting a full declaration that the area will be created an "A"-class reserve.

As pointed out by Dr. Ride, the Director of the W.A. Museum, the area has not been fully investigated as yet. Therefore that is something that is lacking. At the same time the area is being eroded and bulldozed and unrestricted entry has been granted to the reserve to certain sections of the populace. However, according to the newspaper report I have in my hand, a member of another place recommends that a portion of the Fitzgerald River reserve area should be thrown open for the purpose of mining coal to extract montan wax. This Press report is dated the 21st August, 1970, and the statement has been made without any suggestion of a proper inquiry being made into the area as a whole.

The Minister for Lands dwelt long on the record of the Government in establishing national parks in this State, and on the need for national parks generally throughout Australia. I would like to make two points. Firstly, national parks and reserves of this kind are necessary, and the Fitzgerald River reserve fits into this pattern, because it well and truly conforms to what a reserve in Western Australia should be. Most members, I feel sure, are fully aware of the pamphlet titled *Conservation "Bill of Rights" 1970* which, earlier this year, was circulated among them. Under the heading of "Reserves and National Parks," and under item (B), are listed the requirements for declaring areas to be national parks. I will not read all the six requirements and suggestions that are made here. In fact, they are more than that. One could call them declarations of faith. However, they do draw attention to the subject. The final item reads "Wilderness areas are to remain in their natural state."

It should be noted—and I think it is fairly sound comment—that Professor Webb drew attention to this fact in the book titled *The Last of Lands*, which I think is fairly good reading for any honourable member.

The United States of America is often quoted as having a large area of reserves and national parks. These were acquired in the western parts of the country in large numbers, but only because none were available in the eastern parts. When

the population became conservation conscious there were no large areas available in the eastern parts of the country. As a consequence the true and proper function of national parks is not being fulfilled in the U.S.A. as well as it might be.

We in this State can be much more discriminatory than the U.S.A. We are being more discriminatory, and I hope we will continue to be. The Minister made reference at considerable length to the areas in the State that have now been designated reserves. I am very pleased to see the increase that has taken place. He quoted whole areas of reserves; and he included forest areas and timber reserves which are not designated for the purpose of reserves as we understand them, but are designated purely for the function of timber management and, if I might use the phrase, of timber farming. It is verging on the extreme to introduce these in the same context as reserves. However, the figure of 2.5 per cent. is a pleasing improvement, though this figure lags considerably behind accepted world standards.

Mr. Bovell: You know the purpose of national parks.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: They are not even defined in the Act, but a national park has a connotation beyond an "A"-class reserve.

Mr. Bovell: The 6,000,000 acres just declared to be an "A"-class reserve is proposed to be vested in the wildlife authority. That is not a national park, but it is virtually one.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: I think the area in question is a legitimate and a desirable one to be designated a national park, and I prefer to think of it in those terms. The need to be selective and discriminatory in respect of areas which have been chosen as such reserves must be borne in mind the whole time; and the Fitzgerald River area lends itself most aptly and most flatteringly to this purpose.

The fauna and flora to be found in the Fitzgerald River area are unique. There are examples, although not fully proven as yet, of the existence of animal life which was thought to be extinct at this stage. We have the situation where the noisy scrub bird could be found in another area. This locality offers scenic and aesthetic beauty that is not found elsewhere in Australia.

The issue at this stage is one of basic and fundamental conservation and preservation. I know that the term "conservation" is fraught with misunderstanding and overtones, and sometimes it is construed erroneously; but I think in the light that we do regard it, conservation in its broadest sense means a symbiosis—of man living in harmony with nature—and this is a statement with wide ramifications. It entails the proper use and conservation

of all natural resources at man's disposal. Conservation does not merely mean the saving of a particular species from extinction—species like Leadbeater's possum or the leathery turtle. It is best summed up by Gerald Durrell who is among the world doyens of conservationists and naturalists. He sums up the position in a very concise thesis: that we cannot begin to preserve any species of animal unless we preserve the habitat in which it dwells. If we disturb or destroy that habitat, we destroy the species just as effectively as if we have shot it, or disposed of it in some other way.

This line of thought is followed up in a symposium on conservation held in Western Australia in October, 1968, at which Dr. Serventy, the officer in charge of wildlife research in the C.S.I.R.O. expounded this basic principle which Durrell introduced. He applied it to birds, as well as to other creatures. He pointed out that indirect influences of man have a far more devastating effect on wildlife in general than direct intervention. The hunter, the boy with the shanghai, the collector—they are not the true cause of diminution of birds; they are insignificant when compared with the devastation caused to the habitat of the creatures. The rareness of the night parrot or the noisy scrub bird could hardly be attributed to the ravages of the man with the gun.

By contrast, in the earlier years of this century it is recorded that 20,000 silver eyes were destroyed in one day at Gallop's orchard in Dalkeith. In the years between 1928 and 1965 over \$3,500 was paid in bonuses annually for the destruction of wedgetailed eagles. Mutton birds have been taken commercially in Tasmania at the rate of about 1,000,000 each year, but the colonies are still increasing in numbers.

Endeavours to exterminate species like the rabbit by wholesale slaughter have shown that such methods are not effective in reducing the numbers. If we hope to save wild species we can forget about the creatures to a large extent and concentrate on saving the natural surroundings upon which those creatures depend for their existence.

I now turn to the specific reasons as to why it is desirable to entertain the need for fuller protection of the Fitzgerald River area. In the first instance it could be—as has been pointed out—the last habitat of the rare dibbler, a type of small native cat. It is hoped that this species could continue to exist in this particular region. It could also be the last habitat of the broad-faced potoroo, a small rat kangaroo, last reported in 1875 in that area, but this does not preclude the possibility of the species having survived. It is also the habitat of other marsupials which are becoming rarer with the expansion of the agricultural areas. It is

possible that some of these species will survive in regions such as the Fitzgerald River area.

If we relate the presence of these creatures to the concise thesis of Gerald Durrell, that if we destroy the environment we destroy the species, then we can readily see the need for action in regard to increasing conservation efforts. Floristically, this area contains a very large assemblage of species of wildflowers; and, next to the Stirling Range, it probably contains the greatest breadth of species. In this area are found the pick of the species of the south coast wildflowers, as well as the overlapping species of the Albany and Esperance types of flora. The varieties found in the Fitzgerald River area include a great number of the habitat types, including coastal, sandheath, riverine, swamp, and other varieties.

Culham Inlet is included in the Fitzgerald River area, and this is a very important region of high botanical interest. Botanically the area is highly endemic, and from the present state of our knowledge seven species, which are new to science, are found there. This is remarkable. It also contains 27 other species of plants that are restricted in distribution to this area. So, here we are looking at an area of the State which is unique in many ways.

Further, it is an area of extensive fossilisation; and the fossilised beds could be 20,000,000 years older than the oldest beds that we know of—and they are about 40,000,000 years old. This fossilised region lies in the area of coalmining exploration activity; so, there is need for extreme caution.

With regard to birds, the area is the habitat of the mallee fowl, the scrub turkey, and numerous other varieties. It could even be another home of the noisy scrub bird; but, be it flower, fur, fin, or feather, the axiom of environment and survival prevails. If we destroy the environment we destroy the species. That is what we have to face up to.

The reference to tourism and the letter quoted by the member for Albany bear testimony to the importance this area could have on the pure economics of tourism in this State, let alone on anything else. This aspect has to be considered in its proper light. I do not think there is any point in, and I do not think the Opposition will agree to, merely declaring this area as a reserve and letting the matter rest at that. Much more is involved.

I think several things have to be taken into consideration. The first is the manner in which this reserve should be used. Proper regard should be paid to the purpose for which reserves have been set aside. In Queensland we find there are five classifications, and in that State the

reserves come under the Forests Department. Under these classifications some reserves have been set up to exclude totally all human activity. This would be justifiable in some instances where there is a need to preserve the habitat; but against that there is also the need to provide facilities to enable people to enjoy the outstanding scenic attractions, and this is something at the other end of the scale. Each classification carries with it a degree of accessibility, and this is necessary to enable a reserve to fulfil the function for which it has been set aside.

This is the type of thing to which we have to pay some regard, and it is the type of thing to which the Minister must have some regard if he sees fit to have the area in question declared a reserve. Management must not only have regard to human access; it has to have full consideration for fire control methods and protection. This will be one of the most demanding and exacting functions.

There is also the establishment of roading into the heart of the reserve; then there is the question of research and recording, which plays a very important part in the management of such an area. I make the point that the University of New England is the only university which offers a professional course for training in the management of reserves of this kind.

To go back to the situation that is before us at the moment, if the controversy that is raging at the moment has done nothing else it has highlighted the two lines of thought that we find at the extremes. On the one side we find a line of thought that is preoccupied with conservation to an extent where it virtually verges on obsession.

On the other hand we find that we have others preoccupied with mineral gain. But, of course, there must be a balance somewhere between. The question is one of balance but it is a matter of making a start. We have to determine areas which will be designated as reserves and this particular area is one which must be designated a reserve. It has such outstanding and unique features that we cannot, for a moment, contemplate not seeing the area in this light.

Once it has been determined that the area is suitable and desirable for this purpose of reservation it would then be declared inviolate. I hope this will eventually come about, through legislation. However, in the existing situation we find that the Minister, under section 267A of the Act, still has the prerogative and discretionary power to withdraw any area he sees fit from mineral activity, and such would be the case with regard to this particular reserve. How much better positioned would the Minister be if he were dealing with a Class "A" reserve!

I am not suggesting, in any way, that the Minister would not have proper regard to the present situation; this does not enter into the argument. However, the Minister's strength would be greater if he were dealing with a Class "A" reserve. The present case is strong enough, but once such a declaration can be made, then the case becomes so much stronger.

I commend the amendment moved by the member for Albany to the Address-in-Reply motion. He pointed out that it was not a motion of censure, but an opportunity to expedite what is already a situation of some urgency. The present hearing before the warden's court does not enter into the matter because the Minister still has exactly the same power. The point in the Minister's favour is that he would be dealing with something which has a greater recognition in the eyes of the public—Class "A" reserves and national parks. I support the amendment.

**MR. HARMAN (Maylands) [8.18 p.m.]**: I wish to support the amendment moved by the member for Albany. I feel it is a most opportune time for this subject to be discussed in the House. In supporting the member for Albany I wish to raise three points which, I think, will bear out, firstly, the delay occasioned by the Government in dealing with reserves, and in particular with this reserve in the Fitzgerald River area. Secondly, the present discussion will highlight the Government's attitude to the report which has been quoted on many occasions in this House.

**Mr. Rushton**: How many acres are there in this reserve?

**Mr. HARMAN**: I refer to the report of the subcommittee of the Australian Academy of Science, when it reported on national parks and reserves. The third point I will make is that this particular upset concerning the Fitzgerald River reserve suggests to me that it is high time the National Parks Board and the Wild Life Authority were united as one organisation in Western Australia.

Going back to the first point I mentioned, way back in 1962 the Government was aware of the need to upgrade this reserve from a Class "C" reserve to a Class "A" reserve. Since that time there has been opportunity for the Government to have the area properly investigated by professionals and experts in flora and fauna. It is unfortunate that no investigation has been carried out.

I defy the Minister to convince me that the warden, in considering the particular application, will be able to satisfy himself in the space of one or two months that a proper survey has been made of the area. It would take at least 12 months for a professional scientific survey to be made, and that is why the area should be protected and classified an "A"-class reserve. A proper inquiry could then take place

before mining was allowed in the area. Any decision would then be one delivered by Parliament, and Parliament would make its decision on the facts which were made available to it.

**Mr. Tonkin**: The Minister for Lands is reading his maiden speech to see if there is anything of a provocative nature in it.

**Mr. Bovell**: It is a magnificent speech; I did not know I could make such a good speech.

**Mr. HARMAN**: I hope it is better than the speech made by the Minister a few minutes ago.

**Mr. Bovell**: I can remember Mr. Keenan commending me for the speech.

**Mr. Tonkin**: I found something controversial in it.

**Mr. HARMAN**: The second point I wish to elaborate on is the attitude of the Government towards the report by the National Parks Board in 1962 on fauna reserves in Western Australia. The Minister for Lands was told, tonight, that the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna, in 1969, had the following to say:—

The report has long been accepted as a blueprint for a basic series of nationally important reserves and most of the land concerned has been held untouched in "cold storage", pending firm decisions as to its status and control.

That would indicate to me that the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna had accepted the report which I have referred to as describing a basic need, and as a blueprint upon which the Government could make decisions. However, let us consider what the Minister for Lands has to say about the report, and this is interesting. In reply to a question I asked earlier this year the Minister for Lands answered as follows:—

The report of the Australian Academy of Science was made independently of the Government. That organisation issued two complimentary copies, one to myself and one to the Premier, and I thank those concerned. The report was studied and certain action was taken in accordance with the recommendations. The report is not binding on the Government; it is not a Government report, and the Government will take progressively the action it thinks fit in this regard.

So it can be seen that whilst the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna accepts the report as a blueprint for further decisions, the Minister for Lands almost rejects it out of hand by saying that he received a complimentary copy, for which he thanks those concerned, and that he has looked at the report. The Minister said it is not binding on the Government and the Government will decide what to do.

Mr. Dunn: Would you accept that report as binding on the Government?

Mr. HARMAN: The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna accepted the report as a blueprint, but such was not the case with the Minister for Lands.

Mr. Bovell: I am more cautious.

Mr. HARMAN: This is the result of the Minister being over-cautious. Let us consider the Manning Reserve, which again was recommended in 1962 as an area to be classed as a Class "A" reserve. However, Manning is now covered by a temporary mining claim for iron ore, and 75 other mineral claims which I think total up to something like 25,000 acres. The Manning Reserve will be the next matter of controversy in Western Australia, all because the Minister is over-cautious.

Another area of land, again recommended in the report, is west of Norseman in the Bremer Range area. No action has been taken by the Government to reserve that land, and it is now covered by a number of mineral claims. The area is not contained in the reserve we are referring to, but again, because the Minister for Lands is over-cautious, it will cause controversy in the future.

Mr. Bovell: I am so over-cautious I have created millions of acres of "A"-class reserves.

Mr. HARMAN: The Minister has referred to 6,000,000 acres.

Mr. Bovell: I am referring to millions more than 6,000,000 acres.

Mr. HARMAN: Before the additional 6,000,000 acres there were only 3,500,000 acres of national parks in Western Australia.

Mr. Bovell: There are many "A"-class reserves in addition to the national parks.

Mr. HARMAN: I am talking about "A"-class reserves.

Mr. Bovell: There are many more acres of "A"-class reserves than the area of national parks.

Mr. HARMAN: For flora and fauna? The 6,000,000 acres referred to are well and truly east of Kalgoorlie. One is in the Victoria Springs area which is on the Nullarbor Plain, and another large area is also on the Nullarbor Plain abutting the South Australian border. They are quite remote areas; but, again, they are quite necessary. Those reserves indicate that the attention of the Government has been aroused, in recent months, to the need for conservation. However, it is an easy matter to reserve those particular areas because they do not include applications for mineral claims or mining tenements. Those areas are well and truly out of range of the known mineral deposits.

The last point I want to emphasise is the need—which has arisen from this controversy—to have unison in our approach to flora and fauna where it is related to national parks. In New South Wales the Wild Life Authority and the National Parks Board are one organisation. That means that all action which is taken regarding national parks is co-ordinated. However, in this State, we have the Minister for Lands in charge of the National Parks Board, and the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna in charge of the Wild Life Authority.

I hope that when the Premier announces his new ministry for conservation this is one aspect he will take into account. I refer to the tying up of the Wild Life Authority with the National Parks Board so that this co-ordination of purpose can be achieved, just as it has been successfully achieved in New South Wales.

Surely this particular instance of the Fitzgerald River reserve highlights the lack of co-ordination and unison, and perhaps lack of attention, by the Minister for Lands. The result of the lack of co-ordination and unison has meant that people are making applications to mine while we do not know the full extent of the fauna and flora in the area.

At the moment we have only scanty reports to go on but if a proper survey was undertaken, then within 12 months we would have all the knowledge on which a proper decision could be made. Surely if we agree to make the area an "A"-class reserve, the necessary information will be brought to Parliament, and then, in a democratic manner, we can decide whether the area should become subject to mining operations. I support the amendment.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [8.29 p.m.]: I would like to say that I go along with many of the arguments which have been put forward by members of the Opposition, particularly those pertaining to the creation of an "A"-class reserve in the Fitzgerald River area.

I hope that ultimately this situation will prevail, but I cannot see any necessity at all, at this stage, to amend the Address-in-Reply with the object of achieving that result. There is no real urgency, of course, because the Minister for Mines—with whom the present decision will rest as to whether people are to be allowed the right to mine on the reserve—is empowered to refuse any application for a mineral claim. I want to quote the relevant sections of the Mining Act which give the Minister this power; and I will quote only the relevant sections. I am pointing out that there is no necessity to amend the Address-in-Reply because there is ample provision in the Mining Act for protection of this area and the Minister for Mines will have ample opportunity to study

the objections which have already been lodged by people interested in preserving this area for posterity. Section 30 of the Mining Act reads—

The Governor may authorise any holder of a miner's right or the holders of miners' rights generally—

- (a) to occupy, for mining, any Crown land exempted from occupation under the last preceding section;
- (b) to mine upon or under any road, street, highway, navigable waters, or reserve; or
- (c) to construct drives under such land,

subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed.

The Minister on receipt of an application under this section shall cause notice thereof to be published in the prescribed manner, and no authority to mine shall be granted if, in the opinion of the Minister, any valid objection is lodged within the prescribed time after publication of such notice. The sum of ten dollars shall be deposited with every application to meet the cost of publishing notice thereof, and of an inspection of and report upon the land applied for.

We see that when anyone attempts to mine on a reserve in Western Australia it does not automatically follow that the mineral claim or lease will be granted to the applicant.

Mr. H. D. Evans: What about the shire council building roads—

Mr. GRAYDEN: For instance, as has been done in this particular case, an applicant for mineral claims on a reserve then has to get the consent of the Minister, and it does not mean that the consent will be given. Let me read it again. It says—

The Governor may authorise any holder of a miner's right or the holders of miners' rights generally—

- (a) to occupy, for mining, any Crown land exempted from occupation under the last preceding section;
- (b) to mine upon or under any road, street, highway, navigable waters, or reserve; or
- (c) to construct drives under such land,

subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed.

That is extremely clear. People have pegged mineral claims. They now have to apply to the Minister. There will be a prescribed time for the lodging of objections. Many people representing fairly substantial organisations have objected

and the Minister will consider these objections. If there are any valid objections the applications will be refused. It is as simple as that.

This is a section which has been in the Mining Act for many years. Recently we amended the Mining Act. Clause 21 of the amending Bill reads—

Where the Minister is of opinion that an area to which an application for a mining tenement relates, should not, in the public interest, be disturbed, he may, by notice served on the warden to whom the application has been made, refuse the application irrespective of whether the application has been heard by the warden.

So the Minister had the power to refuse these applications immediately they were received by the warden, but he has elected not to do that. The Minister will wait for the objections which must follow when mineral claims are pegged on reserves of this kind.

I now quote from *The West Australian* of the 24th June, 1970, to indicate the sorts of organisations which have already objected. The article reads—

The Fisheries and Fauna Department, the W.A. Tree Society, the Nature Conservation Council, which represents 16 organisations, and the Wild Life Authority will lodge objections.

The W.A. Museum plans to seek a postponement of the hearing till the area is investigated further.

Those are very substantial organisations. One, of course, is a Government department—the Department of Fisheries and Fauna. There is also the W.A. Tree Society, an organisation that is vitally interested in the preservation of flora. Sixteen other organisations are associated with the Nature Conservation Council. I understand all those organisations have lodged objections. The Minister must consider all those objections and if he finds that any of them are valid, then the applications for rights to mine will not be granted, because the latter portion of section 30 reads—

The Minister on receipt of an application under this section shall cause notice thereof to be published in the prescribed manner, and no authority to mine shall be granted if, in the opinion of the Minister, any valid objection is lodged within the prescribed time after publication of such notice.

We therefore have all the safeguards in the world, I submit. We have these organisations studying the situation, pointing out to the Minister that this is an area which demands a tremendous amount of study for it to be properly evaluated.



We know the Minister will take these matters into consideration and if, in his opinion, any of the objections are valid he will not grant the application for mineral claims.

In these circumstances, it is rather foolish to suggest that it is vitally important that the Address-in-Reply should be amended in this manner. We know that this Fitzgerald River reserve embraces an area of some 600,000 acres. Quite a number of organisations have made application in the past to have it declared an "A"-class reserve. The National Parks Board of W.A. was one such organisation; it applied several years ago to have the area declared an "A"-class reserve and I understand that application is now before the reserves advisory committee. In 1962 the W.A. subcommittee of the Academy of Science recommended that this area should be made a national park and an "A"-class reserve.

The suggestion that the Fitzgerald River reserve should be made an "A"-class reserve is therefore not a new one. It is one that I certainly go along with. I hope it will ultimately be declared an "A"-class reserve and I think it is reasonable that we should listen to the organisations and take heed of the objections which are put forward by the multitude of organisations that I have referred to, in order to find out precisely what they have in mind before action is taken to prevent mining on a small section of the 600,000 acres.

I do not know anything about the mining operation that is mooted but I understand from a member for the district in another place that the operation could be to the value of \$1,000,000,000 or more. If that is so, and if, as has been suggested, it is in an area where the wild flora and fauna will not be affected, it would be reasonable to permit the company to go ahead. We do not know at this stage what the situation is. We should ascertain what arguments are put forward by all the organisations, whose members, I should imagine, would be sufficiently responsible to be aware of any valid arguments that are available and would put them to the Minister. The Minister, in those circumstances, would not grant the application for mineral claims.

Quite recently some people in the community who were extremely interested in conservation wrote to the Premier an open letter in which reference was made to Fitzgerald River reserve. The letter was published on a full page of *The West Australian*, and it reads as follows:—

**POSTPONEMENT  
of the granting of  
RIGHTS TO MINE**

Open letter to the Premier, the Hon. Sir David Brand, K.C.M.G., M.L.A.

We congratulate you on your decision to appoint a Minister for Conservation.

This means that Western Australia is to have a Conservation Policy.

To ensure that conservation can become one of the future uses of all Crown lands reserved for parks, gardens, public recreation, fauna or flora, and National Parks, we request immediate postponement of the granting of the right to prospect or to mine on any of these reserves in Western Australia.

We reason that:

Everywhere mining results in permanent changes to the natural flora, fauna, and landscape.

Each claim for the right to mine on these Crown land reserves should be evaluated only within the perspective of all possible uses of all of these reserves taken together.

The values of conservation and beautification can be superior to the values of other development.

It is not necessary to permit mining on these reserves to keep the State moving.

Not every mineral deposit must be exploited.

Business should not have precedence over everything else in Western Australia.

The best use of some land increasingly is being seen as conservation in perpetuity of its natural state. The best use of other land is being seen as preservation of the natural landscape, and its enhancement by man-made beautification.

We recognise that your Government has the power to postpone granting rights to prospect or to mine on these Crown land reserves until the Ministry of Conservation has formulated a policy.

We request that you protect all these Crown land reserves (including the Fitzgerald River Flora and Fauna Reserve) from any new use, until the promised Minister for Conservation has formulated and announced Conservation Policy for Western Australia.

Finally, there is a general principle which goes beyond this request for immediate postponement of granting the right to prospect or to mine on these Crown land reserves.

This principle requires that the Mining Act be amended to generally prohibit mining on these reserves. Moreover, any person applying to use these reserves should be required to

demonstrate, before an appropriate tribunal, that his use is more in public interest than is their conservation and enhancement.

I think that is a particularly relevant letter. It is one that I was pleased to sign.

Mr. McIver: What is the date of the paper?

Mr. GRAYDEN: The 31st July, 1970. It was signed by about 230 individuals in the community, each of whom paid about \$5 for the right to sign it. It will be seen that they are individuals who are interested in conversation. I think a significant part of the letter is the last paragraph, which is to this effect—

Moreover, any person applying to use these reserves should be required to demonstrate, before an appropriate tribunal, that his use is more in public interest than is their conservation and enhancement.

I hope that ultimately the Mining Act will be altered to embrace the suggestion that has been put forward, and I would suggest that even now this is virtually what happens under the Mining Act, because it does not automatically follow that anyone who pegs a reserve is granted a lease.

It is a completely different situation from the normal pegging of mineral claims. When one pegs on a reserve it is entirely up to the Minister as to whether he grants or refuses the application. However, if in his opinion there are any valid objections, he is not empowered to grant it. I do agree that it would be more satisfactory to have a tribunal to determine these matters rather than that they be left to the discretion of a Minister.

The point I am making is simply this: that at the present time there is a tremendous amount of protection, and members of the House may be assured that a number of organisations are taking a very keen interest in this matter. As I have already said, they have lodged their objections, which must be taken into consideration by the Minister. In these circumstances, I cannot see any point at all in supporting an amendment to the Address-in-Reply, as suggested by the member for Albany.

MR. YOUNG (Roe) [8.45 p.m.]: I will be brief in my remarks concerning the Fitzgerald reserve. I doubt whether many members of this House have seen the reserve. I have seen it from three sides and from the air, and no-one here could realise the magnitude of 604,000 acres in one lump, which is the size of the Fitzgerald reserve. This is a tremendous area of ground. The mining company, which will be subject to most restrictive conditions, proposes to operate on some 6,000 acres, or about 1 per cent, of the total area.

The area is situated some 22 miles south-east of Jerramungup in scrub country which is typical of the south coast. I agree with the member for Warren that it includes many species of endemic plants and plenty of unusual bird-life and other fauna. However, to suggest that to use 6,000 acres for mining, with the attendant roads, would in any way endanger the fauna in this area, is absurd.

Mr. H. D. Evans: What about the roads and other interferences?

Mr. YOUNG: I ask the member for Warren if he has seen the area. One cannot get into it, because it is the roughest piece of land on the south coast. Nobody can get into it until it is opened up. We have the case of King's Park, where a person left his employment because he was not permitted to improve the area, which is ragged in the extreme. The honourable member should see the pollution in the King's Park-Subiaco area.

The town of Jerramungup is just about out on its feet at the moment, and if an industry is created in the area which could bring with it much needed water supplies, electricity, and other amenities, it would do much for the area. Some 50 families could be involved in the project, and it could provide a source of employment for young men who have gone onto the land and who, through no fault of their own, are finding it extremely difficult to make a living.

I think we should have a sensible, sane, concise approach to the matter. We should make use of all the material and officers that are available to the department in order to investigate the areas which contain endemic plants. Then we could say, "Hands off this particular place."

I agree that some of the area should be designated an "A"-class reserve; but I think it is silly to say that we cannot have a sane, sensible, balanced approach to the valuable assets which are situated in this State. If the figure quoted by my colleague in another place, who stated that the project is worth \$1,000,000,000, is anywhere near correct this State cannot afford to say, "Hands off this area completely." We have to investigate the area, and I am sure the project could be undertaken without any desecration.

The member for Warren mentioned shire councils pushing roads into the area. I know of one road into it, which leads into the eastern section of the Barren Range. The member for Warren then went on and mentioned tourism. I ask him: How will tourists get in there?

Mr. Cook: What about the road into the Twertup River, and the other from the river to the overland telegraph line?

Mr. YOUNG: That is quite a good road; but it has been there since the telegraph line was built—maybe it is not that old,

but it has been there for many years. Everyone knows how much land a road occupies. I am certain that if the Minister approved, scenic roads could be developed by the mining company. Surely we must give the Minister enough credit to say that he would survey the area to see whether there were any plants and other life which were likely to be disturbed. If we are using the other fellow's money, it does not really matter how long the road is; it does not have to follow a straight line from A to B. The road could be constructed so that it would not disturb or desecrate anything of vital importance to the State.

We who know the area well know the feeling of the local people. Mention has been made of the open letter to the Premier, and of the Ongerup committee which is opposed to any mining in the Fitzgerald River area. The figures quoted by the member for Albany are obsolete, because I received notice of a petition today which contains 745 names. I do not know how many of those signatories are from the Albany district or the Fitzgerald River area, but I would say that this proposition must be investigated to the greatest possible benefit of the State.

We had questions asked repeatedly in this House by the late member for Albany and we have also had some asked by the new member regarding the Port of Albany. These questions have been directed at decentralisation and at what is going to happen to that port. This industry would be between 80 and 90 miles from the port, and it would mean large exports of minerals from it. Surely that is something to be considered before we throw out the project willy-nilly and say, "Hands off everything." Let us have a sensible approach; let us decide that the industry is worth investigating; let us protect the area, as it needs protecting; and let us proceed with the industry if it is economically viable.

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

## Ayes—20

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

(Teller)

## Noes—24

Mr. Bovell	Mr. W. A. Manning
Sir David Brand	Mr. Mensaros
Mr. Cash	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Court	Mr. Naider
Mr. Craig	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Dunn	Mr. Ridge
Mr. Gayfer	Mr. Runciman
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Rushton
Dr. Henn	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Williams
Mr. Kitzney	Mr. Young
Mr. Lewis	Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller)

## Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr. Graham	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Jones	Mr. Burt
Mr. Taylor	Mr. McPharlin

Amendment thus negatived.

## Debate (on motion) Resumed

MR. GAYFER (Avon) [8.56 p.m.]: In the first instance I would like to congratulate the member for Albany on winning the seat, and wish him all the best. If he acts with the same decorum as his predecessor, and follows the same course, then I can assure him that he will have a long and happy time in this Parliament and that he will gain many friends. I considered "Drummer" to be one of my friends.

In addressing myself to the Address-in-Reply, I am mindful of the interest that has been shown in the drought conditions that pertain in the State at the present time—especially following the visit of the Minister for Agriculture and two members of Parliament to the Jerramungup-Ongerup area yesterday. However, before that happened, and if we had not received three or four inches of rain, it was my intention to draw the attention of the House to the position pertaining in the State, generally, in respect of drought and water shortages.

The area which is short of water starts at the town of York and goes through to the west of Quairading, then to just east of Beverley, down to the west of Corrigin, to the east of Brookton, through to Wickiepin, and finishes on the south coast on a strip of land running from just west of Mt. Many Peaks to Munghlinup, between Ravensthorpe and Esperance. I doubt whether anybody could find a dam which contains water in that entire area. If the dams had any water in them, it would be only one or two feet, and in an area which has an evaporation point of 60 or 70 inches, that means nothing at all. I know because I live in the area.

In all my life, and that of my father before me, of farming between Quairading and Brookton, last year was the first time that we had to cart water as early as the 23rd December. This year, if no rain of any consequence falls and we have the usual hot spring weather in September, I will have trucks on the road by the end of September carting water. I think this water carting will rise to a peak far beyond what I experienced last year—4,500 gallons a day, carted 20 miles by truck.

This sort of thing is unprecedented in the history of agriculture in Western Australia. In the central wheatbelt we are perhaps a little more fortunate than are my colleagues who have the Jerramungup area in their territory. Although we have some evidence of sand and soil erosion in these areas our ground feed is by and large a little more forward and perhaps

a little better than it was at this time last year; and the crops are, generally speaking, in about the same condition.

In our farming activities, however, we do lack that all-important commodity of water. The old-timers are pretty right when they say that if the dams are not full by the end of June they never will be. Unless we have another wee lassie in the shape of Ingrid coming over the horizon and deluging us with six inches of rain I cannot at this stage see any respite from having to cart water for 10 months. I am afraid this is the position with which we will all be faced.

I am informed that whilst in some parts of the State the dams are full—and this is mainly to the east—the farmers there have reached the point where lack of rain over the last few months has caused them to feed off their crops. This is evident from an interesting survey which was made to the north of Gibson, in the Esperance district.

Quite frankly the position is very serious. I feel that the problem of obtaining water will be even worse for some people than it was last year. In spite of this, however, we cannot lay any blame for it at the Government's door. In the past the Government has been blamed for not doing all sorts of things, particularly in respect of the drought last year. I can honestly say, however, that in a large part of this State the Government will, from now on, have to proceed on the same lines as it did last year in order that relief might be given to those who will need it. Some of these people will face a period of two years of drought.

The main factor that worries us is, of course, the spread of water and the availability of permanent water for our supplies throughout the State. It is interesting to note that to many of us the spread of water through the comprehensive water scheme seems to be particularly slow.

There is no doubt that in the agricultural areas water must have a greater spread, particularly from the comprehensive scheme; there must be a greater buildup of public key supplies and, above all, the third facet in the build-up of water in the country areas lies in the storage on farms.

It is an interesting fact that we have something like 44,000,000 acres of land in Western Australia which are alienated for agricultural purposes. Of this land 33,000,000 acres have been actually cleared and most of this is in the wheatbelt areas. Of the land in the wheat and sheep areas there are some 4,600,000 acres—or one-eleventh—which are reticulated by the comprehensive water scheme.

Originally reticulated water was brought into being to service the towns in the State, but there has been a build-up of the requirements in the agricultural areas for

reticulated water and it has been necessary to enlarge the mains behind the scheme; to put in extra pumps and dams, and consequently to try to build up the availability of water which is necessary to service the large areas of the State, which has no practical or easy way to secure water to alleviate a position which we are entering for the second year in succession.

From the Government's point of view, of course, the spread of water to these areas is a very expensive business. When the original comprehensive water scheme was mooted in 1946 it was estimated that 11,607,000 acres of land would be covered at a cost of \$18,660,000. If one works that out one will find the cost to be \$1.60 per acre.

When it was finally agreed in 1947 that there would be a start on the first stage of the modified comprehensive plan it was decided to irrigate an area of 4,100,000 acres at a cost of \$8,600,000, or \$2 an acre.

In 1963 the green book came out for the second phase of the modified scheme, and the cost factor for the further spread of water was something like \$6 a cleared acre.

On top of this the Government is spending annually \$1,000,000 and more from its own funds towards the spreading of water. It is necessary for the Government to match the grants given to it and which it is required to pay back over the years to the Federal Government.

The latest proposal that has been put forward to the Federal Government is in connection with 640,000 acres of land which will cost in the vicinity of \$10 an acre. If one looks at the submissions sent to the Federal Government last year one will be able to work out the figure involved.

The point I am trying to make is that it is fairly obvious that if most of the farms which lie within the areas mentioned are fortunate enough to get water from the comprehensive water scheme it will mean there will have to be a build-up and an upgrading of pipes to get the quantity of water through, because the pipes were originally meant to service the towns. It will mean larger booster pumps and more dams, and a property of 3,000 acres could have spent on it a capital outlay of \$30,000 so that comprehensive water could be provided.

These figures are frightening, particularly when one considers that it has taken 20 years to achieve a total spread of 6,000,000 acres as mentioned in the Governor's Speech; or the 4,600,000 acres which we have in the wheat and sheep areas of Western Australia.

If it has taken 20 years to achieve that and there are 30,000,000-odd acres which have yet to be provided for there will be a lot of territory in this country for which

it will not be possible to provide water for another 200 years. We will certainly want water on our properties much quicker than that.

Accordingly there is a need to explore every avenue of run-off water together with possible supplies of underground waters that might lie within our agricultural areas. I am particularly interested in the building of dams on farms—with Government money—to hold water which would normally run off such farms. Water should be held back on the farms in sizeable quantities to help our people get over periods of drought.

During the debate on the Appropriation Bill (Consolidated Revenue Fund) last year I mentioned this matter and I suggested to the Government that there should be a revolving fund whereby a farmer after paying, say, a 25 per cent. deposit on the cost of a large storage dam of 6 cubic yards per acre—or representing one sheep to the acre of water stored—should have the rest of the money lent to him on a long-term loan at a low rate of interest. If this is not done it will not be possible for this State to secure water in the quantities that are needed for farmers to diversify quickly to have reasonable security against drought.

We have heard a great deal of argument about diversification in farming, but lack of water is the one great handicap with which farmers are faced in any endeavour to achieve such an objective. The suggestions I have placed before the House on previous occasions in regard to storage of water on farms themselves, would not only help to relieve the present situation, but would also assist the Government in the long term in that the comprehensive water scheme could bypass many of the areas in which farms have their own water storage. It is very noticeable that in the Midlands area it is estimated that 60 per cent. of the dams that exist in that part of the State are actually leaking water because the ground on which the dams are constructed is, by and large, not good holding ground.

It is a well-known fact that, being a sedimentary area, good water can be obtained at depths of from 650 to 950 feet. Last year a supply of water was found at 960 feet, but the cost to a farmer to tap such a source of water could range between \$6,000 and \$10,000, and therefore this cost would be prohibitive to most farmers. Yet a comparison can be made with the possible cost of \$30,000 to bring a pipeline to that property. In doing so one can well realise that the Government could effect saving in expenditure.

I understand some 270 key dams have been built outside the comprehensive water scheme, and I am quite convinced the Government has made a sensible move in this way in order to provide water at

key sites. However, I fail to see why the provision of such dams should be confined to areas outside the comprehensive water scheme. In my opinion all sources of water on any farm throughout the State should be harnessed. Public key supplies of water represent another source that is of great interest to me, because these would play an important part in supplying water to agricultural districts situated in the remote parts of the State.

It is interesting to note that in most instances public key supplies of water are met by the provision of rock catchments that have 1,000,000 or 2,000,000-gallon cement reservoirs constructed on them. Each catchment costs approximately \$100,000, and the State is proceeding to construct one every year. A 1,000,000-gallon tank is equivalent, roughly, to a 6,000-yard dam which would not keep many head of stock watered for very long. Whilst this type of water tank construction is admirable, it is not the answer to an adequate supply of water in a district. I think greater assistance has to be rendered to those farmers who are operating in the surrounding areas to encourage them to put down earth dams with the object of conserving all the water that is running off catchment areas.

Last year the Government carted approximately 16,000,000 gallons of water for farmers who were badly in need of it, at a cost of \$150,000. That represents nearly \$9 for every 1,000 gallons of water that was carted and emptied into the reservoirs in those areas that were without water and when there was no hope of the dams being refilled. In addition, a great quantity of water was carted by the farmers from the existing standpipes in the agricultural districts. I understand that about 37,000,000 gallons of water was carted from these pipelines at a cost of \$9,350, which represented a cost to the Government of only 25c per 1,000 gallons.

One can readily realise, therefore, that water supplies in agricultural districts are absolutely necessary and the amount of money that has to be spent on this type of work, although it may be frightening in its extent, is vital to the needs of those engaged in agriculture. I am fully aware of the battle that is being fought at all times by the State Government with the Commonwealth Government to obtain more money for this State, but there is no doubt that we must procure more financial aid from the Commonwealth Government to harness every source of water in Western Australia, whether it is through the medium of the comprehensive water scheme, storage on individual farms, underground storage, or any other source. Every gallon of water that can be tapped must be harnessed.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What should be done about railway dams?

Mr. GAYFER: This is a very interesting point and I intended to raise it later, but now that the Minister has referred to it I will speak on it now. In my opinion, when one is aware that drought conditions exist in certain areas and there is insufficient water in the Mundaring Weir to service the pipeline, all Government dams should be policed so that the water in them can be used to keep stock alive. However, in a normal year when there is no likelihood of the water in those dams being required for the watering of stock, we should not let the water in them stagnate by saying to the people in any district, "You are not permitted to use this dam to water your oval or for any other purpose, because that is the policy that is laid down." In such circumstances, surely some amicable arrangement could be made between the Government and the local residents in regard to the use of the water.

Mr. McIver: What about the farmers who strongly opposed the comprehensive water scheme and the annual rates that were required to be paid for it?

Mr. GAYFER: In answer to the member for Northam, let me say this: Our fathers, by and large, fought against the original comprehensive water scheme. Every member in this House knows what happened to the original comprehensive water scheme legislation when it was introduced to this Parliament, but why should the sins of the fathers be visited on the third and the fourth generation; because this is exactly what is happening? One's viewpoint cannot be so narrow as to raise what happened years ago when there may have been 10 or 12 horses on a farm, compare the methods that are used on a farm at present, and then continue to maintain the opposition against the comprehensive water scheme that was raised in 1932.

Mr. McIver: They are still opposing it.

Mr. GAYFER: The Minister is well aware of the lack of water supplies in my area, and if he would be good enough to put down tomorrow a pipeline which would run past my front gate I would worship him as a brother. We certainly need the water.

That brings me to another point that must be made regarding the drought; that is, the disappointment that my colleagues and I felt at the refusal of the Commonwealth Government to recognise the existence of drought in this State and to render assistance to those farmers who have been affected.

Earlier this evening, the Premier, in answer to questions asked by me without notice, quoted figures representing the amounts of money the Commonwealth has granted to other States for drought relief

during the last five years. I do not intend to quote all those figures to the House now. I merely wish to say that the Commonwealth Government has paid out amounts as low as \$1,000, and as high as \$14,000,000 to other States. Yet in this State, in asking for matching moneys up to \$2,750,000, we have been spurned, as it were, and turned away.

I sincerely hope that the Federal Government does not treat in a like manner our plea for assistance to farmers in general, because of the economic plight in which they find themselves at the moment. There are two separate issues. If this happens in respect of drought, then I hate to think what will happen to our plea for financial assistance to farmers who are drought stricken, and whose economic position has been adversely affected by the downturn in agriculture.

Whilst I am on the subject of the economic position of farmers, I would offer some words of caution in respect of advice to farmers to diversify into other industries. I believe that farmers who are contemplating diversifying should give the matter serious consideration, because of the high cost of stock and the limited markets that are available. Some farmers are diversifying by establishing large pig runs and large cattle runs; and generally they are over-capitalising their properties at a time when they can least afford to do so. I would caution any farmer who intends to diversify into some auxiliary industry to do so only after a great deal of thought.

One aspect that is worrying the country people is the lack of carry-on finance. I read in the Governor's Speech that last year the State Government did, in fact, advance a sum of about \$1,000,000 for the relief of farmers. We all realise that greater strides must be made by those in banking circles, and in our approaches to the Federal Government through the Reserve Bank and through other sources, to tide these farmers over not only the economic straits in which they are placed at the moment, but also over the effects of the two years of drought which forced them into the predicament they are in.

There is an avenue of help which has virtually been unexplored by the State Government, and which offers all the required security; and possibly this could be looked into. In this State we have a mass organisation that handles the grain production, and it is known as Co-operative Bulk Handling. This organisation has no peers in the whole of Australia, and without it this Government or any other Government of Western Australia would, indeed, look sick. Over the years this bulk handling authority has been allowed to progress from a small company into one which now holds assets in excess of \$60,000,000—all provided from moneys received in respect of debentures taken

up by farmers. At the present time C.B.H. has an extremely difficult task in keeping up with its building requirements, especially at Kwinana and other ports, to cope with the various grains it is expected to handle as a result of diversity of activity by farmers, and as a result of the build-up of grains throughout the State.

With the exception of South Australia, in the other States this type of handling actually comes under the prerogative of the Government, and Government loan moneys are used to build the structures that are required for the handling of grain. In Western Australia the need of the Government to provide loan moneys is circumvented by the method under which the industry has built its own storage facilities; and the members of the industry personally would prefer to keep it that way. There is no argument about that.

The toll funds on which C.B.H. operates are paid out in a 10-year cycle; that is, one-tenth each year of each debenture that stands for the previous 10 years on a toll based on 5c a bushel. Last year C.B.H. seemingly ran foul of the farmers, because it had to hold back the one-tenth of the debenture in order that it might carry on its industry commitments, not on its building, but on handling the quantity of grain produced under tolls, decreased by smaller acreages and drought.

In order to make up the leeway, the balance of each of the debentures that will be paid out in the next nine years will have added to it a portion each year, to make up for the amount that was not paid last year. As a consequence of this, the farmers have experienced some trouble in understanding what really occurred. What occurred was fairly simple. If C.B.H. had not done what it did, then it would have had to increase the tolls.

A lot of money is invested in this company by the farmers by way of debentures. At present C.B.H. will buy back debentures only in respect of deceased estates or from aged persons. C.B.H. would prefer to encourage and to enlarge on this practice, but because of the lack of funds it is not able to do so. As a consequence, many farmers who are nearly destitute and who hold debentures are trying to flog them with various companies in Western Australia. One company which seems to be taking advantage of the present position is the Kimberley Finance Company. This company is offering farmers approximately one-quarter of the face value of these debentures, which are backed by Government guarantee money.

Mr. Fletcher: By the R. & I. Bank?

Mr. GAYFER: Not by the R. & I. Bank. They are backed by Government guarantee money. C.B.H. which at present owes in the vicinity of \$7,000,000 cannot possibly cash the debentures which farmers in necessitous cases wish to convert. If the

Government were to say to the Rural and Industries Bank, "We are backing C.B.H. It is our guarantee that is backing the company" then the bank would take cognisance of the fact and lend money against the debentures. Once the R. & I. Bank did that I am sure the other banks would follow suit. If this proposal was adopted and the bank overdraft interest rate of 6½ per cent. was used to discount the debentures then most of the farmers could expect to borrow up to 75 per cent. of the face value of their debentures. This would not be an impossible proposition for an institution to accept, because it would have all the security that was required.

If the Government is not a good enough security then I do not know what is. The Government guarantee has been good enough security for C.B.H. to borrow \$7,000,000 so that it could put up its installations, but so far no cognisance has been taken of this factor. If the Government decides to take over these debentures in special cases—possibly after examination by a committee, such as the drought relief committee—at 75 per cent. of their face value, then in 10 years' time the Government will receive back into its coffers 100 per cent. of the value of the debentures, and it could make money on the deal.

There is no possible chance of a loss on this venture. The only trouble is that farmers who have been willing to support this method of raising tolls cannot now wait for their interest-free money to be returned to them. I recommend that the Government should investigate the possibility to see whether the \$30,000,000, or some part of it, owing to the farmers by way of debenture money can, in fact, be put back into circulation by the redemption by the Rural and Industries Bank, or some other instrumentality, of what is actually the most gilt-edged of gilt-edged security debentures.

If it rains shortly, then this State will have a different face on it altogether. We do not have to accept the statement that there is no future in farming. At present we have an economic period against us and the good Lord is not actually helping in the matter at the moment. Believe me, a couple of inches of rain overnight and this would be a much brighter place in which to live than it is at present. Unfortunately, the kicks are coming and I suppose it is understandable, especially when one peers out day after day, week after week, looking for rain which never pours. In these circumstances one is inclined to drop down in the dumps a little.

However, I would implore the Press and members of Parliament not to continue to inject into the farming areas a completely pessimistic picture of the future outlook of farming. Do not make it a

political football. We know that conditions are bad, but for heavens sake if authoritative persons go around the countryside looking in the corners for the particularly bad spots, then they will do more to break the backbone of this wonderful State than anything else.

Farmers have lived on hope for years. They have been through recessions, and if ever we needed a ray of sunshine, it is needed right now. But we turn on our TV and read our newspapers and find that politicians are prattling on, and this is not good, particularly when those politicians are not even talking about their own electorates. When we hear this sort of thing, I am afraid it is only adding to the atmosphere of dejection that is, by and large, evident in our country areas.

Mr. Davies: I thought you wanted rain, not a ray of sunshine.

Mr. GAYFER: If the honourable member could help me with regard to rain I would be very pleased to hear him prattling in my area. People should realise it is no good praying for rain if no clouds are visible. Believe me, we must have those clouds first.

One final matter on which I would like to comment involves our country towns. These are reliant on farmers, but then farmers, in turn, are absolutely reliant on towns from which to obtain their goods. No district could rotate as a wheel around the hub of a town if that town was decadent, with shops closed, and was losing interest in its environment.

On Tuesday I asked questions relative to the movement of certain railway personnel in my electorate and I received some astounding answers, not that I had not heard this was possible. The Government in its wisdom is moving out of York some 22 families at a time. I know that those 22 families, or most of them, do not particularly wish to leave York.

Six families are being moved out of Beverley and dispersed all over the place. Two families are also being removed from Corrigin and other moves are mooted. To me this does not seem to be sensible at this stage. I realise that the Railways Department must make ends meet, but surely those personnel must be based somewhere and as they already have their homes established, why upend them and move them to centralise them in a town such as Northam?

Mr. McIver: We will look after them.

Mr. GAYFER: Virtually the Government is making a suburb out of York when it is 20 miles away. Some railway stations must still be served.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. GAYFER: Fettleers will still be required on the line, so when this mass migration of Government officials occurs at

a time like this, what will the shire council think? First of all there was the drought and then the economic structure, and now even the Government is taking its men away from the shire. Admittedly the shire has known for three or four years that this was likely, but in the case of York it was known that some other venture, railway-wise, within York would possibly result in the families being retained in that town. However, that plan has not eventuated and consequently before Christmas the families will be leaving.

I believe this is a lack of planning. Surely this situation could be dealt with by degrees instead of by the mass migration which is planned. These old towns are frankly disappointed with this turn of events.

I did wish to speak a lot more on this debate, but I do not intend now to commence on another subject, so I will continue my remarks at a later stage.

MR. HARMAN (Maylands) [9.38 p.m.]: I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the member for Albany upon his election and to commend him for the excellent manner in which he made his maiden speech tonight. I also congratulate those officers of this Assembly who have been promoted in recent times.

Last year when moving a motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into one-parent families, I suggested to this House and the Premier that the Government should consider the formation of a social welfare commission—that is, a commission similar to other commissions established by Governments—to study the overall aspects of social welfare in Western Australia. At that time I said I would develop this particular subject on another occasion and I propose to do so tonight.

What does "social welfare" mean? Many definitions exist, of course, but the one I have chosen tonight is from a textbook, and it reads—

"Social welfare" means "an organised activity that aims at helping towards a mutual adjustment of individuals and their social environment. This objective is achieved through the use of techniques and methods which are designed to enable individuals, groups and communities to meet their needs and solve their problems of adjustment to a changing pattern of society and through co-operative action to improve economic and social conditions."

That being the definition of "social welfare," what has been the history of social welfare? What has been the history of the relationship between Governments, private agencies, religious agencies, and



social welfare? The history of social welfare is quite interesting and to get my argument into its proper perspective, I think it is necessary to dwell for a few minutes on the development of social welfare over the years.

From our very beginning it has been shown that there is evidence of man's desire to provide assistance for the weak, the needy, and the infirm. In the B.C. empires religious definition was coupled with assistance to the poor. The same principles were evident in Jewish and Christian religions during the period of change from B.C. to A.D. In the early years of the Christian era the poor, the sick, and the orphans were cared for by the church, monasteries, and religious groups. It was believed in those days that almsgiving was an ennobling act and this resulted, to some extent, in mendicancy. In fact, mendicancy developed to such an extent that the secular authorities, in 800 A.D., passed a law which prohibited the giving of alms to beggars, and that law kept mendicant persons at the manors as workers.

In the 16th century many persons in Europe began to advocate reforms. Martin Luther advocated the common chest for the receipt of moneys. Another, Juan Vivers, advocated a programme for poor relief on a district scheme with an inquiry into each family. That was probably the beginning of what is now known as social case work.

In Europe the State authorities gradually accepted, more and more, the responsibility of looking after the poor, and this included the raising of money by taxation for distribution to the poor. Much the same pattern occurred in England. The early feudal system provided a mutual in-built service which was supplemented by the religious monasteries, convents, and in later years, by craft and guild organisations.

In 1349 Edward III issued a Statute of Labourers whereby it became illegal to give alms to the able-bodied. The able-bodied were compelled to work or be punished. In 1531 Henry VIII issued a Statute which provided that after an investigation by parish officials certain persons were to be allowed to beg in public. In 1536 Henry VIII issued a further Statute which provided that parishioners were to maintain their poor by voluntary collections.

Later, in 1572, Queen Elizabeth issued a Statute providing for a general tax for the relief of the poor. That was the earliest action taken by Government legislation, in England, to raise money by taxation and distribute it to the poor.

These Statutes were followed, in later years, by the famous poor law Acts. The first one was passed in 1601, and other Acts, passed in 1722, provided for relief

only to be given in workhouses, and quite a number of workhouses were established right throughout England.

In this period the cleric, Thomas Chalmers, began a system of investigation and assessment of each applicant coming forward for assistance. His system was regionalised with deacons in charge of each district. Self-support was the first aim and public support the last resort.

In 1834 a new poor law was passed which refused outdoor relief, and provided for relief at a rate less than that paid to the lowest paid worker. Then, of course, followed the years of the industrial revolution during which the gap widened between the millowners and the wealthy manufacturers, and the people who were the workers and living in the towns which had developed during the industrial revolution. During this period there was a rise in the number of charitable organisations which, in many ways, assisted the poor, the needy, and the sick.

In 1869—a significant year—the Charity Organisation Authority was founded to co-ordinate the work of all the organisations, private, parish, and Government, which were operating in England in an endeavour to reduce duplication and overlapping, and generally to co-ordinate the welfare system in England. Indeed, that is as far as our welfare has progressed in this State at the moment because all the agencies—Government, private, and religious—are not co-ordinated to give us a satisfactory welfare service. So, perhaps, in some ways this State has only reached the stage which was reached in England in 1869.

The Charity Organisation Authority worked effectively and a number of reforms were achieved. During this period the trade union movement began to make its presence felt, and was able to bring reforms into factory legislation. By applying pressure to the Government the trade union movement was able to achieve a number of reforms in social welfare. In fact, in 1905, a Royal Commission was set up in England to investigate the poor laws. The result of the Royal Commission was that a number of changes were made. Some of the results were the introduction of the old-age pension in 1908; the introduction of the Labour Exchange Act in 1909; the National Insurance Act in 1911; and The Widows, Orphans, and the Old Age Contributory Pensions Act in 1925.

In 1941 a committee was established in England, and it was chaired by Sir William Beveridge. The committee surveyed the structure and efficiency of England's social services and legislation. The report was made available some two or three years later and it became the blueprint for social welfare legislation in England. Except for some changes made after 1948 that report has been the basis of the English legislation since that time.

One of the Acts which was passed in 1944 was titled, "The Disabled Persons Act." That Act required firms employing 20 or more persons to employ disabled persons on a quota arrangement of 3 per cent. In other words, if a firm employed more than 20 persons it was obliged, under that legislation, to employ a disabled person at the rate of three per 100 in excess of 20.

Mr. Davies: The Minister for Labour is interested in this.

Mr. HARMAN: I am not saying that we need this type of legislation in Western Australia. However, I had an instance the other day of a young lad in my electorate who was dismissed from the railways because of his epileptic condition and he now has to seek work elsewhere. One would think that an organisation like the W.A.G.R. would be able to find a position for an epileptic sufferer. However, if the W.A.G.R. was to work on the basis I have mentioned, it would be interesting to see how many disabled persons were employed. I know that some are employed by that organisation, and I am not saying that it does not employ any. However, the case I have mentioned is factual; the person was dismissed by the W.A.G.R. for no other reason than his epileptic condition.

Let us look very briefly at what happened initially in Australia. In the early days of Australian colonisation poverty certainly existed amongst the free settlers because of the intake of convicts in a greater number than the intake of settlers. Convicts were subsequently released into the community and they took on positions which were inferior to those occupied by free settlers. In some ways they were treated almost like slaves.

The position soon rectified itself to some extent after the discovery of gold in 1851 when there was a large build-up in migration to Australia of people from countries all over the world. This fact, coupled with a build-up of the trade union movement in Australia from the 1840s and 1850s, culminated in the great strikes of 1890-91. In 1890 the trade unions realised that it would be impossible to achieve the reforms which they required for their members by direct action—that is, by strikes—and that it was necessary to have a political party which would be orientated towards their needs. Of course, the Australian Labor Party grew from this in the early days round the period of 1890.

When the Federal Constitution was drawn up, provision was made for the payment of aged and invalid pensions. The aged pension was introduced in 1909 and the invalid pension in 1910. Other services were left to the resources of the State. Pensions for widows were first introduced in New South Wales in 1925. Under the wartime regulations, the Commonwealth Government commenced pay-

ing widow pensions in all States in 1942. It is not so terribly long ago that all these things were occurring.

In 1925 a Royal Commission on national insurance was held and recommendations were made but, as we know, no further legislative move was made. It is significant that in 1941 a Commonwealth Joint Committee was established to inquire into and report upon ways and means of improving social and living conditions in Australia and rectifying anomalies in existing legislation. The committee produced six reports. These were related to maternity allowances; child endowment; pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits; student benefits; widow pensions; unemployment benefits; medical and dental services; and family allowances. In 1946 a referendum was passed which gave the Commonwealth Government power to legislate for the benefits which we now have in our Commonwealth structure.

The earliest Ordinance in Western Australia which I could find was the 1842 Ordinance for Juvenile Immigrants and Apprentices. In 1845 provision for destitute persons was made by Ordinance. In 1882 The Poor Relief and Neglected Children's Department was established to control outdoor relief and institutions for the orphans and the aged.

In 1886 the Aborigines Protection Act provided for a board of five persons and one inspector to cover the whole of Western Australia. It is interesting to note that the records of the board which was set up under the Act show that it provided an issue of one bicycle to the one inspector. I suppose he was expected to cycle his way all round Western Australia. He must have been a pretty tough guy!

In 1896 the State Labour Bureau was established in Western Australia. In 1907 the forerunner of today's Child Welfare Department was established by the State Children Act. About the same time the Aborigines Protection Board increased its staff and later became the Native Affairs Department. It changed its name again in 1954 to the Native Welfare Department. We have already received notice that another change will be made this year and that it will be called the Aboriginal Affairs Department.

In 1963 the parole and probation Act was passed. This gave legislative effect to the introduction of a system whereby prisoners would serve out their sentences in the community. The Health Department has extended its operations to include care in institutions, and outside, of mentally retarded persons of all ages. In addition to this direct State Government involvement, the local authorities have assumed some welfare responsibilities; namely, infant health care, care of the aged through community centres, senior citizens' centres, and organisations of this

nature. In addition, of course, agencies have been set up by religious organisations and, in some cases, by private charities.

I have traced very briefly the background of social welfare development. The position in Western Australia at the moment is that the Child Welfare Department is restricted in some ways because of the parent legislation, which narrows down its activities. In many cases that department has to fit in with the definitions which are provided in the Act before it can give assistance. To my mind this is somewhat restrictive.

There is provision in the Native Welfare Act for that department to operate for the promotion of the welfare of natives. In that regard it is not restrictive and certainly the department can assist anyone who is a native within the definition of "native." The Public Health Department is carrying out certain functions as is the Crown Law Department. In fact, seven Ministers in this Government are involved in some way or other with social welfare.

What sort of co-ordination exists at the moment? Is there any provision for someone to look at our social welfare legislation and our social welfare practices to see if there is a need to avoid overlapping and duplication? Is there a need to conduct research? Is there a need to look at the indicators in our society to see if certain trends are occurring—adverse trends in some cases or advantageous trends in others?

I say there is no such body in Western Australia that is doing just that. There are individual Ministers carrying out their functions; there are private agencies and the church agencies carrying out their functions; but there is no co-ordinating effort by any of those people and as far as I am aware no research is being undertaken by any department. Although some departments would like to carry out research, none has been undertaken.

I therefore feel that a stage has been reached where we could have a social welfare commission, comprising Government officers and representatives of the private sector; a commission which could meet regularly and which could undertake research, if not by its own research officers then through the facilities available at the University.

When I say that no organisation is attempting to do this, I should of course refer to the Council of Social Service of Western Australia Incorporated. This body comprises some very eminent persons but I notice that among its members there is not one Government officer from any of the portfolios I have referred to. It is an organisation that involves only private and religious charities.

Mr. Cash: The organisation has liaison with the Government, of course.

Mr. HARMAN: How good is the liaison? That is what I want to look at. The organisation makes certain inquiries, but who are the individuals who make the inquiries? Are they persons who can give their full time to these inquiries, or are they persons who are doing several tasks—perhaps married women who have their own children to bring up? Are they persons who make it their first job or is it rather a second task which they have to fit in when convenient? They may not be able to attend meetings at night. I think this detracts from the efficiency of the organisation.

Another thing about this organisation is that it seems to be afraid of politics. I know it gets \$2,000 a year from the State Government but I cannot understand why it should be afraid of playing politics. I can give an instance of this. Last year I proposed a motion calling for a Select Committee to inquire into aspects of one-parent families. At the time I was not aware—and I say this quite truthfully—that a sub-committee of the Council of Social Service was also investigating some aspects of one-parent families.

Mr. Cash: What you said, however, was pretty close to its report—word for word.

Mr. HARMAN: That is more credit to me. I quote from the *Thirteenth Annual Report 1968-1969* of the Council of Social Service. Dealing with the family welfare subcommittee, the report has this to say—

Before the date of the A.G.M., a member of the L.A. tabled in the W.A. Parliament a notice of a motion dealing with the subject of the One-Parent Families. It is a good parliamentarian who does his duty as he sees fit therefore it is not in any spirit of criticism that it must be stated that from the point of view of this Council the timing was unfortunate. It is essential that this Council should be politically unbiased, and must be seen to be so. Therefore, instead of taking the floor at the A.G.M. in a military two-step, we felt it advisable instead to tread a sedate Minuet, lest we be deemed to be giving support to one political party as against another. We are most grateful to the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Health), to Mr. J. J. Harman M.L.A. and to all those who so kindly participated in the discussion.

Mr. Cash: I do not think it means what you imply.

Mr. HARMAN: I am reading what is in this report. Therefore, if this body is looking at some aspects of social welfare and at the same time a member of the Opposition gets up and tries to do something about those matters, this body will say, "We will take note of that but we cannot offer this member any support." I wrote to the

people and asked for some ideas; they were kind enough to send me their report. That was after my speech had been made.

If I had been a member of the Liberal Party who proposed this sort of thing, I wonder what the attitude of this council would have been.

Mr. Cash: That is not a very fair inference.

Mr. HARMAN: If this organisation continues to adopt this attitude, I cannot see any real future for it.

Mr. Cash: Why are you using the council for political purposes?

Mr. HARMAN: It is not political. A member of Parliament was trying to convince the Premier and Cabinet that they should look into the matter of one-parent families. This council is an organisation devoted to the abolition of poverty, distress, sickness, and helplessness in Western Australia; yet it was not prepared to get behind a member of Parliament and try to impress upon the Government that the Council of Social Service of Western Australia wanted this inquiry. The council's attitude was that it would submit a report to the Government. It submitted a report two years ago, apparently, and got nowhere.

Mr. Cash: You are saying the organisation should play politics.

Mr. HARMAN: Politics is the art of government. If one submits to this Parliament something that will help the people whom the council represents, it is logical that the council should support the move.

Medical social welfare is another aspect of social welfare in Western Australia. I have been told by certain members of the medical profession that up to 50 per cent. of people who consult general practitioners are not suffering from medical illnesses but have problems associated with anxiety or trouble at home. I understand that a welfare service is tied to a general practitioners' clinic in South Perth. People who are not really medical cases are referred to the social workers attached to the clinic. I am old that a considerable amount of excellent work has been done, which has resulted in assistance being given to families so that they do not deteriorate to the extent of becoming a burden on the State through the Child Welfare Department.

This is an aspect of social welfare which social welfare commission could look into, to decide whether we should broaden the scope of our social workers so that they can operate in the community and not be tied to a particular department. We all know that many people, for various reasons, will not approach a Government department—particularly the Child Welfare Department, which has this misnomer of "Child Welfare." Some people have the idea that if they go to that department their children will be taken away from them. We know that is not true but some people think it is true.

If the name of this department could be changed to "Social Welfare Department" I think it would perhaps be of some advantage. However, if we are going to have people who are not keen to go to Government agencies, but who are prepared to go to private agencies, then it should be our concern to see that the private agencies are geared and equipped to handle the cases referred to them. If it is possible to save much distress, poverty, and worry by having social workers attached to the medical field, at least in the metropolitan area, we ought to see if it can be achieved.

I wish to make some comments on Aborigines. There is not really much I can say because the Press has quite adequately covered this subject in recent weeks. I think the Minister is prepared to agree that a great deal more money is needed in this State in order to overcome the serious shortage of housing for Aborigines, not only in the south, but also in the north. During the visit to the north I was privileged to make some months ago, it was evident to me that in the Kimberleys alone a certain amount of money would be needed almost immediately in order to overcome the problem resulting from a large number of natives moving into the towns for various reasons.

We have the same problem again in the south. Owing to the recession in the rural industry we find that many Aborigines have moved from the country to the cities, and they are tending to build up in the bigger towns in the great southern because of the possibility of employment in those towns compared with the smaller towns. This movement may be attributed also to the need to feel socially secure and to have at least some form of housing which, of course, is provided at the reserves in major towns.

I know the Minister is relying on Commonwealth money to assist mainly with the provision of homes, and it is up to the Commonwealth Government to come to the aid of the State. We have seen how the Commonwealth treated us in regard to drought, and I do not know whether we will receive the same treatment in regard to housing for Aborigines. I noticed the amount allocated in the latest Budget was increased by some \$400,000, but I do not know how much of that money is allocated to housing. At the present time, of course, what is happening is that the Department of Native Welfare is undertaking the provision of conventional houses. The department is restricted by finance as to the number of houses it can build, and it is also restricted in some areas by the lack of contractors and labour to build houses.

However, in a State such as Western Australia it is necessary to have two Government departments providing conventional houses? I agree that a welfare

department should provide transitional houses so that Aborigines can be trained to look after a house; to pay rent; to pay for water, and light; and to develop a standard in relation to their neighbours. However, is it a responsibility of a welfare department to provide conventional homes such as those provided by the State Housing Commission? If we adopt that policy in this State we will find that the Department of Native Welfare will finish up owning thousands of conventional homes, and it will have to develop the same sort of ancillary services as has the State Housing Commission in order to cater for all those homes. The questions of maintenance, painting, and a number of other problems will occur.

We must make a decision now as to whether or not we are going to hand over the responsibility of providing conventional homes to the State Housing Commission and make that body responsible for all such houses. This system would have some advantages, and I can appreciate that there may be some difficulties. However, surely we have to be logical about this, and now is the time to make these decisions.

The other matter I wish to raise in respect of Aborigines concerns the reserves. There has been talk about how long the reserves will remain and whether they are only a temporary measure. Suggestions have been made that some reserves are not being looked after properly and that the conditions on them are not favourable. Of course, one of the reasons for this is that the local authorities look upon reserves as being something to do with the Department of Native Welfare, and not their responsibility. It may not be a bad idea to invite the local authorities to take over the management of native reserves in their towns. It would be necessary to provide funds to them for this purpose; but at least if they have any civic responsibility they would wish to ensure that their reserves—even though they are only of a transitional nature—were in keeping with the standards of their towns.

The local health surveyor would be responsible for the health of the Aborigines and the conditions on the reserves. As I see it at the present moment he has no direct responsibility, although he can go along and have a look around. However, if the reserve is the responsibility of the shire then the health surveyor certainly would have authority, and I am sure he would take pleasure in endeavouring to build up the standard.

I wished to make a number of other suggestions, but my time is running out. I want to mention a matter regarding my electorate which concerns an application by the Bond Corporation to develop an area of land for multi-storied high density living on the Maylands peninsula. Re-

cently this application went before the Shire of Perth, and the shire agreed to the proposition.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Toms): The honourable member has five more minutes.

Mr. HARMAN: Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker. The plan was passed to the Minister for Town Planning for his approval, and that is where the matter rests now. I have posed something like 18 questions to the Minister asking for a decision on certain matters before the development is approved. One of my objections to this development is that in the entire area of 33 or 38 acres, no provision has been made for outdoor playing areas. Provision has been made for flats rising to 18 storeys, for home units, for other types of terraced homes, and even for a lake—which is practically already there.

A hall has been included in the plans to provide for indoor entertainment, but nothing at all has been provided for people to enjoy themselves outdoors; to relax; to play football, cricket, or baseball; or simply to enjoy themselves in an open area. The Maylands aerodrome lies opposite the development, and it was pointed out to me the other evening that it will not be ready for development as a recreational area until at least 1975. The responsibility for the development of the old aerodrome rests with the Shire of Perth. I understand that the arrangement is that as soon as the shire can come up with a development plan for the area it will be released to the shire for recreational purposes.

Why should the Minister for Town Planning approve of a scheme which will allow 3,500 people to live in 18-storied boxes and yet which will not provide any open space for those people to get out and relax or play sport?

The development of this reserve will cost the Shire of Perth an unknown amount of money and I do not know whether it will be able to find this money in the short period of time. It is possible that it will take some years to develop this project in a piecemeal fashion.

I presume there will be some children living in this high rise development scheme and one aspect that concerns me is where these children will attend school. Has any thought been given to extensions being made to the schools at Maylands or at East Maylands? I do not know what has happened in this direction.

If we are to agree to this sort of planning development, surely some account should be taken of the provision of facilities for the area in question. I am not satisfied that provision has been made for adequate sewerage facilities. It has been suggested to me that the man in question will have to pay for his own pipeline from the peninsula to Guildford

Road. I have never been satisfied that provision will be made for the roads and footpaths connected with this particular development.

Apart from this I do not know whose responsibility these roads will be; whether they will be the responsibility of the Bond Corporation or of the Shire of Perth; nor have I been told the standard to which the particular roads will be developed.

I have asked the Minister for Town Planning whether I could have answers to the 18 questions I have asked before a decision is made, because such answers will provide me, as the member for the area, with an opportunity to look at the reasons advanced by the Minister for approving the scheme. The Minister may, of course, reject the proposal, but if he approves it I ask that I be given the courtesy of answers to the questions I have asked before a decision is finally made.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Ridge.

*House adjourned at 10.22 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 26th August, 1970

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

### SUPPLY BILL

#### Assent

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

### QUESTIONS (13): ON NOTICE

#### 1. YOUTH COUNCIL

##### *Distribution of Financial Assistance*

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

- (1) Since the 30th June, 1970, has the Youth Council of W.A. distributed any money to youth groups or organisations?
- (2) If so—
  - (a) how much; and
  - (b) to which organisations were grants made?
- (3) What amount of money for distribution has the Council still in hand from allocations made to it prior to the 30th June, 1970?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) \$350.  
(b) Boy Scouts Association.
- (3) \$6,820 is still in hand but this is already allocated for distribution in the near future.

#### 2.

### HEALTH

#### *Inspection of Native Reserves*

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What are the powers of a Shire Council Health Inspector in respect to native reserves within a shire?
- (2) Has the health inspector free access to the reserves and houses thereon?
- (3) If so, is he permitted to declare a house or houses unfit for human occupation unless certain improvements are carried out?
- (4) Is he permitted to declare a reserve area unhygienic and a health hazard?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH (on behalf of the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon) replied:

- (1) Native reserves are Crown property and therefore not subject to local authority jurisdiction.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) and (4) No; but he may so report to the authorities concerned, i.e. the Shire Council, the Department of Native Welfare, and the Commissioner for Health.

#### 3.

### RAINFALL

#### *Records*

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

- (1) Does a Government department keep records of the rainfall cycle of the State?
- (2) If so—
  - (a) during the period in which records have been kept, which years, for agricultural purposes, would be considered—
    - (i) good;
    - (ii) average;
    - (iii) bad; and
    - (iv) drought;
  - (b) would there be any specific areas under the above headings in each year?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) and (2) Government Departments rely on the comprehensive records collected by the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology. Assessment of the suitability of a particular year for agricultural production is a complex matter. It will depend on the district, the type of production being undertaken and other variables.