

Ayes.	Pairs.	Noes.
Mr. J. Hegney		Mr. Brand
Mr. Heal		Mr. Cornell

Majority against—2.

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 10.5 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 21st October, 1959

CONTENTS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE :	Page
Esperance superphosphate works, requirement potential	2280
Adoption of children, departmental and private, and adoptive parents' health	2280
BILLS :	
Katanning Electric Lighting and Power Repeal Bill, 3r.	2281
Companies Act Amendment Bill, 3r.	2281
Supply Bill (No. 2), £18,000,000—	
Standing Orders Suspension	2281
2r.	2281
Adoption of Children Act Amendment Bill—	
Com.	2307
Report	2309
Argentine Ant Bill, 1r.	2310
Entertainments Tax Act Amendment Bill, 1r.	2310
Entertainments Tax Assessment Act Amendment Bill, 1r.	2310
State Hotels (Disposal) Bill, Assembly's message	2310
ADJOURNMENT, SPECIAL	2310

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ESPERANCE SUPERPHOSPHATE WORKS

Requirement Potential

1. The Hon. G. BENNETTS asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Is he aware that much concern is being expressed by the residents of Esperance regarding the number of

farms required to be established and the estimated ultimate superphosphate needs of the farms before a superphosphate works can be established in the district?

- (2) What was the requirement potential when a superphosphate works was established at—

(a) Albany;
(b) Geraldton?

- (3) Is he of the opinion that a greater requirement potential exists at Esperance than existed at Albany and Geraldton prior to the establishment of the superphosphate works at those centres?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) The works at Albany were originally designed for 60,000 tons annual output but increased to 80,000 before completion. In the first full year of operation, the output was 65,000 tons.
(b) The Geraldton works were erected in 1929 and designed for an output of 50,000 to 60,000 tons annually. There is no record available of the estimates on which the project was based.
- (3) Comparisons between estimates of the superphosphate requirements of different areas when fully developed have no immediate bearing, as the economics of establishing a works must be based on current demand. There is no suggestion that the ultimate demand in the Esperance district will never exceed the minimum requirement for the economic operation of a works, which could be erected in under two years.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN

Departmental and Private, and Adoptive Parents' Health

2. The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON asked the Minister for Local Government:
 - (1) How many adoptions have been completed through the Child Welfare Department in the last five years?
 - (2) How many private adoptions have been granted by the Supreme Court in the last five years?
 - (3) How many of either adoptive parents in each category have had any history of—
 - (a) tuberculosis;
 - (b) any other infectious or contagious disease?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) From the 1st July, 1954, to the 30th June, 1959—368.

(2) From the 1st July, 1954, to the 30th June, 1959—1,065.

(3) (a) There are known cases, but the number is undetermined.

(b) Cannot be determined because the honourable member has not stipulated what "infectious or contagious disease" means. The expression could mean "measles," or something like that. If the honourable member likes to make the question more specific, I will get the answer for him.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING

1. Katanning Electric Lighting and Power Repeal Bill.
2. Companies Act Amendment Bill.
Passed.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2), £19,000,000

Standing Orders Suspension

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.37]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a Supply Bill to pass through all stages at any one sitting.

This is the usual type of motion moved by the Leader of the House in order to give the Government continuity of its housekeeping money; and if the House agrees to the suspension, I shall introduce the Bill straight away.

Question put and passed.

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.40] in moving the second reading said: This is the second Supply Bill to be introduced this session, and I am grateful to the House for agreeing to the suspension of Standing Orders so that it can be introduced and dealt with as expeditiously as possible. However, if Mr. Strickland, as the Leader of the Opposition, desires an adjournment I will have no objection to it. The Supply Bill is one which gives members an opportunity of discussing various matters, some of which are of a parochial nature; and many members take advantage of it in the same way as they do of the Address-in-reply debate.

This Bill is necessary because the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the General Loan Fund Estimates have not yet been agreed to in another place. The first Bill made available the sum of £21,000,000, being £15,000,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, £4,000,000 from the General Loan Fund, and Advance to Treasurer, £2,000,000. Out of this sum, £19,116,227 was expended during the three months ended the 30th September, 1959, being £15,600,755

from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and £3,515,472 from the General Loan Fund. The Bill seeks the further supply of £19,000,000 made up of £15,000,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and £4,000,000 from the General Loan Fund. This sum will enable the services of the State to be carried on until such time as the Estimates are passed.

Beyond formally introducing the Bill, and giving the basic reasons for the necessity to introduce it, I do not think it is necessary for me at this stage to make any comment. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North) [4.43]: It is customary—and I have often followed the custom—for essentially financial matters, and indeed solely financial matters, to be discussed during the debate on the Supply Bill. But this afternoon I desire to vary the theme considerably, realising as I do that we can bring within the ambit of this debate a discussion on the relative merits of the authorship of Bacon and Shakespeare.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Or Hamlet.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: My comments this afternoon will refer to activities, within the Commonwealth of Australia at present, of the representatives of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association who have come from many of the Commonwealth countries throughout the world. On this occasion the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has brought together many members of Parliament from British Commonwealth Parliaments. In all there are about 90 representatives including eight or 10 from England, 24 from Australia—12 of them being from the Commonwealth Parliament—five from South Africa, five from New Zealand, and 40 coloured representatives from Parliaments in coloured countries within the British Commonwealth. They are all representatives of Parliaments based on the foundations laid by the British Mother of Parliaments, the House of Commons.

Like us they are imbued with the wonderful system of parliamentary Government which the Mother of Parliaments, through generations, has bestowed on so many formerly totally British countries. These countries, collectively, were known as the British Empire, but are now known as the British Commonwealth of Nations. It is significant to note the change of name in the parliamentary association. I can recall representing this State at an Empire Parliamentary Association conference; and it was at that conference that the name was changed to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, because of the rebellion—and there is no other word for it—of many representatives of coloured countries against the use of the word "Empire."

The change of name to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was made in 1948. As all of us in this House agree that the British parliamentary system has achieved much in this and in many other countries, I think a lot of us will appreciate that much of what is valuable in it is at present being threatened by the divergence of opinion in countries which formerly were part of the British Empire and which have a coloured and racial problem in their midst.

On this occasion Australia, with true Australian hospitality, is showing her guests many things associated with her resources, her rural achievements, scenic beauties, wonderful coastal assets in land, the great industrial progress that has been made, and the potential there is for industrial expansion, and public works achievements, such as the Snowy River scheme; and, above all, Australia's representatives are showing these delegates our way of life. Some of the people who are our guests today—people from the under-privileged countries—will never before have seen such a land of plenty; they will never before have seen and mixed with people where so much freedom of thought and action is displayed; they will never before, in a general way, have seen so much food.

Many of these delegates represent backward countries, in so far as the standards of the majority of people within those countries are concerned. In many of their minds will be the fear that the indigenous people of their countries are not getting a fair deal from the mother country, and are not getting a fair deal from their associates within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, even though they meet on a basis of equality. Perhaps that is the only place where they can so meet on a basis of equality, because they are representing the Parliaments of the various countries within the British Commonwealth.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Yet we accept ex-enemies.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Very many of the coloured people, I think, will assume there is a sort of oligarchy in relation to the dominance by white people—the minorities of white people who control and rule the very countries from which they come. There is also, I fear, a thought far too prevalent in the minds of many of them that the white races are determined to keep large populations of coloured people in subjection. Those thoughts have almost been expressed in conversation already by some of our visitors. That is quite understandable when we realise that some of them come from coloured countries with a population density of 1,800 to the square mile; which is the density of population in Eastern Pakistan.

Some of our Indian friends and guests will come from the province of Delhi, where there are over 1,500 people to the

square mile. Indeed the whole of India, including the empty areas, has a population density of over 250 to the square mile. Eastern Bengal, of course, is perhaps the most densely populated part of any country represented at this conference. We will be taking these people and showing them, in our proud demonstration, development that has been carried out by a handful of people; we will be showing them what a tractor may do with one man in one day in this country; we will be showing the representatives of India's 300,000,000, with its under 1,000 tractors, what Australia has done with its tens of thousands of tractors in the development of its rural areas.

They will be able to say in very truth that this is a privileged country; they will be able to say to us that the country which we are proudly parading before them is being wonderfully developed; and even though the areas they will see are not as sparsely populated as we would interpret them, they would be sparsely populated to the Indian representatives. They will see in those areas the most intensely populated part of rural Australia. India is a country where the national fervour is very pronounced and very strong; a country where there are 600,000 villages representing 80 per cent. of the population which could be said to be the nurseries of malnutrition, poverty, want, and illiteracy.

I am most concerned at the ill-balance these people, as our guests, must see; we will show them these things because we are proud of them. The areas which they will traverse in the main will be those which are thickly populated, by our standards. But to go from one centre to another—for example in Queensland—they must pass between such towns as Gympie within 100 miles of Brisbane, and Cairns within 900 miles of Brisbane; and they will pass through such glorious country, still unused, as the Wallum country; particularly those parts in a 60-inch rainfall which are being used for grazing purposes.

I am concerned at the reaction of these people when it is pointed out to them that, in this continent and nation of 10,000,000 people, we are doing so much in our view, but so little in theirs—particularly when we consider that they have come from under-privileged countries and are being shown round a land of plenty with unlimited opportunities. All of us know there is a sensitivity in coloured people. They are sensitive because it has been far too long paraded by too many whites—more particularly in South Africa—that there is a rightful claim by whites to paramouncy. The paramouncy of the white man, as preached in South Africa, is something of which any coloured person must be sensitive.

This is something which, in their minds, is very unreal; particularly when it comes to considering side by side, and round a table, matters of equal moment in Parliamentary systems of government in

countries which are supposed to be integrated in interests as well as in political thought. I point out also that in these countries of which I speak, and which are represented by our coloured friends at present within our borders, Russian agents are teeming. These agents are glad to advise the people in question that Communism gives an equality and status in the life of a nation which no democracy can give under the system in which they live.

That is not only a provocative thought, but it is insidious propaganda, which is gaining ground in those countries, and which gives to us in the British Commonwealth of coloured people—that is to say a dominance of coloured people—something very provocative to think about. After all, within the British Commonwealth of Nations there are hundreds of millions of coloured people as against under 100,000,000 white people. Is it not understandable, therefore, that their thoughts will incline towards the idea that this is a coloured British Commonwealth; and that, if they are to be accepted around a table representing their countries and Parliamentary institutions as equals, we must go further in regard to this equality that we preach, or be silent about very many other things in connection with which we will not admit a basis of equality?

I hope that members heard the address given by Mr. Constantine last Sunday. He represented the West Indies at the Commonwealth Association conference. His first sentence was, "I am a black man." In half an hour's talk as the guest speaker on the National broadcasting service he gave an outline of his thoughts as a black man; of his acknowledged skill in sport in white countries; of his difficulties associated with ultimately becoming a barrister; and of the things which showed he was unwanted, even in England, because he was coloured. But he comes to this country as a special pleader. He comes, with representatives of thousands of other people of colour, asking us to deal with what he terms the outmoded and inherited White Australia Policy. He pleads with us to be Christian in our outlook and acknowledge that there is no paramouncy of thought or brain as between the coloured people and the white people of the world.

I am sure that we will be told at this conference to take place shortly in Canberra, that we, and many other British countries, are welcoming former enemy country representatives as migrants; that we are swearing in almost weekly to become Australian nationals people who viciously and vigorously fought against us; but that we will not tolerate any percentage at all, even from British Commonwealth countries, of coloured people who fought with us by the tens of thousands.

After all, India made available nearly 1,000,000 artisans to assist the allied cause right across to the Middle East.

It was Indian workmen who built the road through Arab countries to assist Russia when Russia could not get supplies by sea. Cannot we understandingly feel with them that something must be done to have the feelings of the coloured people of the British people not injured? Cannot we get a ready understanding of what is to be done for them if we cannot do it through migration?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Many of those countries have migration laws as strict as ours.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I had the great privilege, after hearing a most impassioned Indian speak at an overseas conference, of following him. He pointed out that Ceylon, in the first year of its determination by its own people of Government introduced into the Ceylon Parliament as its first Bill, one to restrict the inflow of Tamils from India. It is right and proper for any nation to control its immigration laws. Indeed, at the other end of the scale, the taking into Australia of 10,000,000 Indians would not solve India's problems but would make a mess of our economic circumstances. Neither would the bringing in of millions of Chinese or millions from any other country solve their problems in any sphere of employment.

The interjection by Mr. MacKinnon intensifies the point I am trying to make: There is need for something other than a parliamentary conference; there is need for something other than the settling of political differences, if we hope for very long to hold together the old British Empire, now the British Commonwealth. I think the answer is to be found not in any political associations; and not in any parliamentary conferences, but in a conference inspired from our mother country to inquire into the economic circumstances of the coloured countries and into the potential possibilities for further development. If this step is taken, racial and coloured problems will begin to disappear.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Education is the great leveller.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: We have the case of Scotland, that little part of the British Isles, which has given 1,000,000 migrants spread over every part of the world. They have been wonderful colonists. However, in this year of 1959, Scotland is finding many unexpected and unexploited assets of her own and does not want any more people to leave Scotland as there is much to develop. So it is in many coloured countries, whether they be North Borneo or Sumatra. Sumatra is perhaps the most undeveloped of all the East Indian countries. It has a potential of very many millions yet in population, and is under the

direction of Indonesia; yet Indonesia is not looking internally for a solution of her problems but is looking externally.

With the tenseness caused by the attitude of Russia to world problems, the most important thing today is to have an examination of the economic circumstances of the countries which consider themselves to be over-populated, particularly at a time when those people visit a country such as ours. I am provoked to express these sentiments, because of the misleading thoughts that can develop in the minds of our coloured friends at present representing their Parliaments in Australia, when they see what we have done in less than 200 years with a handful of people in this community.

It is pertinent to observe, I think, that within India itself there has only recently been an awakening as to the ability of that country further to develop its water resources to enable irrigation propositions to develop the necessities to feed millions of people. It is not a question at all of race, creed, or colour; nor is it a question of religion. We come from a community in the British Isles—all of us come from some part of them. That is a country which believes in Christian religions, but the major part of the British Commonwealth of Nations is not Christianised; and they have every right to believe that the teachings of Mahomet and the teachings of Ghandi are as important to them as the teachings of Jesus are to us.

I say that without being provocative on this subject. I would not wish to be provocative; but our representatives from this State to the Conference to take place next month in Canberra could, in common with all other Australian representatives, do much to dispel any foolish notions which our coloured friends might readily assume from what they have seen. They should bring to that conference the thought that, perhaps, the greatest need in a united British Commonwealth is to get an understanding of the peoples of that Commonwealth in so far as the circumstances in all their different countries are concerned.

My objective in raising the point is, I repeat, Mr. President, because it seems there is nothing more important than to have a clear understanding of the economic circumstances of all the countries where there is a British-based parliamentary system in existence; and for the rest of the better privileged parts of the British Commonwealth to endeavour to assist them in development, in education, and in their own internal responsibilities. Looking over the fence at somebody's opportunities will not help matters at all; but looking internally could help them much and help to make disappear the teachings of other countries which are so foreign to ours.

I had intended to bring in certain things in regard to the empty parts of Australia, but, perhaps, I have been too verbose on

this subject; and there will be other opportunities. I think it is sufficient to say that the population problems of our own country—Australia—will centre around the fact that a large area is peopled by such a small number of those who have assisted in its development. Our empty spaces are capable of absorbing millions; and we must give a complete answer to that fact, even if we do not do it only by our attempt to justify the White Australia Policy.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North) [5.10]: In supporting the Bill at present before the House, I intend to take the opportunity to briefly draw the attention of the Minister for Housing to a situation which has developed within my province, and to which I feel he could give consideration with a view to some alleviation. It was in late February that the previous Minister for Housing wrote to North-West members with regard to a rebate system of rentals on State North-West homes. The letter stated in principle that the first £5 in the weekly income of every person in rightful occupation would be disregarded when assessing payable rent, and that this amount would be regarded by the State Housing Commission as a North-West disability allowance.

Payable rent, therefore, will be calculated on the net family income in accordance with clause 12 of the 1945 Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. This method of alleviation was to encourage North-West development, and also to encourage North-West population. That information was quite clear, and it carried, so far as North-West members could see, no strings by way of qualification with regard to the obtaining of a rebate under the system.

Subsequently a circular was submitted by the State Housing Commission to tenants advising them of the new basis of rental calculation. It states—

The new rents will be calculated on the family income after making a special allowance for North-West living disabilities.

The concession will be granted as from the 6th April, 1959—provided you forward a complete and accurate declaration to the Commission's Perth office by the 2nd April, 1959.

Cash in the bank, or its equivalent having a value beyond £200—but not including household effects—must be declared in the Assets column on the attached declaration, to which also you are required to attach each employer's statement showing gross weekly earnings of each working member of the family.

Without this declaration it is not possible to receive any amelioration whatsoever; and the situation with regard to £200 in the bank can preclude many people from obtaining a concession.

Two hundred pounds is not a lot of money for any family man to have in cash today; and there is also the fact that the person concerned might receive a legacy. The breadwinner might receive a substantial amount of money in that way and might place it in a trust, hoping that it would not be required, but knowing it would be there to meet any difficult situation that might arise in the future.

A widow might be looking after a young family; and we have a specific instance of that kind. She has some money placed in a trust, and because of that she is precluded from obtaining any remission of rent under the position which developed in February last. A person might own what is commonly termed an old bomb, valued at £200; but such a vehicle is more of a necessity than a pleasure in the life of a family. I am sure the Minister will give this matter sympathetic consideration, in view of his deep interest in the North-West.

I did not know of this provision with regard to the £200, when it crept in; and I am sure the Minister does not realise how harsh its effect is. Some people, in applying for homes, call on the agent of the State Housing Commission, who, in North-West towns, is generally the Clerk of Courts, and are given information regarding rentals on the basis which I first quoted from the letter which I received from the State Housing Commission. I will now refer to the case of a woman, estranged from her husband, who is providing for three small children. Her letter to me says, *inter alia*—

I work on a full-time job, and would very much like to have labour saving devices such as a washing machine, polisher, and better furniture and linos on the floors. Because I do not want to use that money, I polish all the floors in my house, and I wash for our family by hand, and the furniture I have is just sufficient for our needs, with not even a lino on one floor.

Further on she says—

I feel that the whole business is unfair and unjust and, quite frankly, I would not have occupied the house if I had known I would have to pay such a high rent.

Next time I shall hesitate to accept any information from the Clerk of Courts.

Of course, it is not his fault—

He told me, to give me some idea of the rent I should have to pay, that one man who was earning £17 weekly paid a rental of £2 approximately, and that I, earning £14 odd would have to pay less. No mention was made of bank accounts or any other factor which might influence the rate of rental.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: If you will give me that letter, privately, I will have a look at it.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I will do that. I wish only to bring this question to the notice of the Minister on this occasion, and hope that from now on we will be able to take this provision out of the arrangement that has been made. Surely it is only a rule of thumb method; and it should be within the province of the Minister to have the matter rectified! I am sure the Minister will do his utmost to continue the principle that was envisaged in February, so that we can allow cheaper rentals in the North-West and thereby encourage a greater population in that part of the State.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [5.20]: The remarks of Mr. Wise in relation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association were most timely. I have had the privilege of attending an Australian meeting of that association; and, in fact, I was able to play a large part in the laying down of its constitution, because I attended the first meeting of the Australian branches. I have not had the privilege of attending, as a delegate, at an overseas conference, but I, like many others, would regard it as a high honour if I were so appointed.

I consider it a privilege to have met, in the last few weeks, some of those who are representing British Parliaments of the Commonwealth; they are in Australia at present. Talking to some of those men, of a different colour to our own, was indeed impressive, and in some instances left one with a deep sense of humility. I, like Mr. Wise, would pay a tribute to Leary Constantine, for his work during the present visit in relation to the association.

I was fortunate enough to hear Leary Constantine address the Rotary Club of Perth; but unfortunately his address was not broadcast. This man told us of his intense love of cricket, and thrilled his audience with many stories of the cricket field. He told us how he learned to play the game, and how he had continued to play it; and how much he had enjoyed his progress in cricket throughout a major part of the world. But with a very subtle statement he brought to light this question of colour when he remarked that he had never played cricket in South Africa; that it was not his fault, and the apology should be from others. He then went on to describe to us what had happened in his own country. To realise that this man, who had held many industrial posts in Great Britain, had returned to Britain at the age of 50 years to undertake a study of law, and had received his degree in four years, made one realise the intensity of purpose which lies behind everything he does.

He told us that he went back to his country, distressed beyond all measure by what he saw; and he was on his way to Ghana, where he thought he could be of service, but very shortly before he was to leave, some of his friends said to him, "This is the very first time you have ever run away." And so he said to us, "I did not run away. I stayed. We formed a new political Party, and now I am Minister for Works."

One of the points of deeper interest in Leary Constantine's address was his search for a word; and he eventually used the word, "Integrity," whilst apologising for it; but he made his meaning perfectly clear when he said his political Party in power had brought to his country an integrity in public administration which it had never known before; and he felt that when he could make that statement, the work of his Government had been worth while. Then, quite interestingly, as he finished, he said that the greatest tribute which could be paid to him for the pleasure that he may have given to the cricket-loving public of Australia, would be to found a scholarship for a West Indian to study engineering in this country.

I may be disclosing a secret when I say that a few of us have undertaken to see whether that challenge can be met; and it is possible that if our efforts succeed, we might, one day in the near future, be able to say that at least one scholarship has been made possible along the lines suggested. I believe there are numbers of people in this community who would assist us in that effort.

Meeting this man made me realise that, whilst one met among the visitors men of great timidity, and men who gave one the feeling of unsureness on their journey, there were many among them who were really men of excellence; men of culture; and men of learning.

The comment at the Rotary Club, when Leary Constantine had concluded his address, was that there had seldom been a more cultured speaker seen on the Rotary rostrum. This man—as he did on other occasions—there declared himself a black man; but one realised the intensity of culture behind him; and his life was profound indeed. It takes little further thought to realise that this is an association—particularly through its conferences—which may have the opportunity of altering considerably the future of the nations that form the British Commonwealth.

I would make a plea that, when we appoint our delegates to these conferences, we should not look around for the person who has held a post in this Parliament for the longest period, or the fellow we all like best. We should rather look for the person who can best represent the dignity of this Parliament at that conference; and we

convey to it the views and principles for which this Parliament of Western Australia stands.

It might even be said that the same applies to our own Australian conferences; because only through these local conferences can we build success for our representation at overseas conferences. There has been in the past, I believe, a suggestion that even at the Australian conferences there should be a representative from each political Party. I would rather appoint those best able to represent this Parliament at such a conference, no matter what political Party they represented, and in that way ensure the success of the conference.

I trust that these few comments on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will add to the significance of the meetings in some very small measure, and bring to the people of this State and members of this Parliament an idea of what a tremendous factor for good the successful continuance of these meetings of representatives of the Parliaments of the British Commonwealth of Nations can constitute.

However, much harm could result from ill-advised statements or misrepresentation. Therefore, I trust that we, as a Parliament, will continue to regard these conferences, which are held both in Australia and overseas, as one of the vital factors in maintaining the parliamentary privileges which the people of this State enjoy.

THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON (Suburban) [5.31]: When one is invited to the various charitable bodies in one's constituency, one realises the paucity of financial assistance that is given to them; especially to those organisations which are established to promote the welfare of the afflicted and the handicapped. I have always maintained that if the humanitarian angle was considered a little more seriously when the question of finance was being discussed, the money allocated could be used to greater advantage for those who need help, and we would thus create a better society.

I was extremely interested in the speeches made by Mr. Wise and the other members who have spoken, but although I agree with them in broad outline, I still say that charity begins at home; and there are many things yet to be done in our own State. I wish to point out that the other evening I was visiting the Home of the Aged Blind in Victoria Park. I was there to present a cheque to that home on behalf of the combined Buffalo Club ball committee, and I watched those old people and talked with a man whose life was written up in this morning's issue of *The West Australian*. This dear old chap was 96 years of age, and some of his reminiscences made me feel that although the Victoria Park institution for these aged blind

folk is well conducted—and I commend everyone who is responsible for its administration—we could make it less difficult for them to carry on.

Whenever I am handed a cheque to pass on to charity, I always think that these institutions should be part and parcel of a system to assist people in all walks of life from the cradle to the grave. This is an aspect which the Government should consider more seriously. Also, I recently attended the annual meeting of the Maimed and Limbless Association; and here again I heard the plea for more financial aid for people who really need it to enable them to become more useful in society. These people are quite eager to help themselves and to do everything that we would want them to do; and they would be much happier if they were provided with the means to achieve their own ends.

The granting of financial assistance to these organisations should be a Commonwealth-State matter, and the liaison between the two Governments should be closer than it is at present. It should not be so definite that we should always have to look to the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance in regard to these matters.

The Commonwealth Government should make enough money available to achieve these objects if the State is unable to provide the finance. Those responsible for the welfare of the mentally-handicapped people are doing excellent work and, in fact, have done so for many years. There are many such homes that could be made much happier. I have always maintained that if we do not have the means to make happy homes, we do not possess much that matters in any country or State. In this vast State of ours and throughout the Commonwealth as a whole—which is a young country—surely it should be our lot to ensure that these vital matters are considered in the early stages, and that more aid is given than is given now.

In regard to accommodation in schools for under-privileged children, I point out that those children who, through unfortunate circumstances surrounding their parents, are taken from homes that are broken up, would not need be so affected if sufficient means of subsistence were granted to supply the basic needs of such families. I would include civilian widows in this category. It is quite impossible for mothers with children to manage their homes on the pensions that they are given, and the assistance that they receive from charitable bodies. I see no reason why a woman who has been deprived of her breadwinner through no fault of her own should have to depend on charitable assistance. Such a situation is a poor compliment to the mothers of our young nation.

Very often we hear these women eulogised, and yet we continue to let them struggle and rely on charitable organisations for assistance. Many of our citizens give up a great deal of their time to help unfortunate people such as these, but the money should be found by the Commonwealth and the State Government to provide their basic needs and thus make life worth while for them, and put them on a par with ordinary folk.

I now wish to speak of the problem of delinquent children, which is a burning question in our present society; and it is a serious problem in our own State. I maintain that more money should be provided to conduct fullscale research and to provide proper facilities for the education and the reformation of juvenile delinquents.

This country continues to go deeper into debt because we do not spend our money wisely and well. The problems of humanity should be given first place; and if we gave them first place, and by doing so we made families happy by allowing them to live in reasonable comfort, we would be doing our duty as legislators. There is one suffering section of our community. This section comprises the men and women who have become forgotten after being neglected by society at large when they were children, purely because they were spastics. They have missed the benefit of a proper education, and many of them cannot read or write; but steps are being taken to bring education to the present generation of spastic children. We now have the problem on our hands of trying to teach these unfortunate adults; but we move so slowly.

The other day I was reading the parliamentary debates of 1912. The subject under discussion was workers' compensation. Mr. Plesse was reported as having said—

Mr. Davis treated the Bill in that light manner referred to by Mr. Sanderson and looked upon it as absolutely necessary for the protection of the worker, without giving one bit of consideration to the employer.

I have heard a similar argument since I have been in this House—

I do not know what the Federal Government are doing, but I think that instead of giving the baby bonus they might have done some good by insuring workmen, and I daresay that it could be done for the same money.

From that, members will realise how the same arguments are propounded down the years. I wonder whether anyone would now dare to suggest that the baby bonus should not be paid. The reluctance that was shown in past years towards assisting people who were unfortunately placed, is still being shown today. Another step forward I advocate is kindergartens for all. Last Saturday I attended two kindergarten fetes, and it was again brought home to me very forcibly that there is a pressing need

for more kindergartens. To send a child to a kindergarten for the morning or afternoon session costs 10s. a week; and in a large suburb I have in mind, there is room for only 30 children at the kindergarten.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Is that 10s. per week?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Yes. The kindergarten caters for only 30 children in a large thriving suburb. All members should make strong endeavours to ensure that kindergartens are brought under the jurisdiction of the Education Department to ensure that all pre-school children are catered for.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: The kindergarten at Norseman charges only 3s. a week, and it is the best in the State.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: In the metropolitan area, 10s. is the regular charge. I am not saying that is the fault of the Kindergarten Union, because that organisation pioneered the establishment of kindergartens. In my opinion it is time that legislators placed this matter in its proper perspective, especially as we are always talking about the emancipation of countries that are behind the times. I think we should at least move on in view of the opportunities that are afforded us to learn and the fact that we enjoy a high standard of living.

In view of our large native population. I consider we are moving too slowly, very reluctantly, and not very well in the implementation of the native welfare policy of this State. There is a great deal of work to do in this field. Members often refer to the appalling conditions and the plight of people in under-privileged countries, and yet we have the arrogance to deny those people who first inhabited this country the right of citizenship at birth. Each one of them has a mind and a soul just as each of us here has, and yet we display nothing but an arrogant attitude when we decree that they are not citizens of this country, in which they were born. Our native population presents a problem which requires a great deal of consideration now, and it will require even more consideration in the future. It is a question which will involve not a lot of argument but a lot of thought.

I will say now how I think these services could be financed. The Commonwealth Defence Vote for 1958-59 was £153,063,382, and for 1959-60 the estimate is some £157,390,000; that is an increase of £4,386,618 for this financial year. I noted that the Defence Department was not able to spend all the estimated expenditure last year, and in many cases the money was wasted.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: A lot was wasted.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: There is to be an increase of over £4,000,000 in that vote for this year. Surely the vote should not be increased when last year an amount

of I think, £71,000,000 of the vote could not be spent. The States are dependent on the Commonwealth Government for grants to carry out development, and those grants are small, yet the Commonwealth is able to provide an additional £4,000,000 in respect of the Defence Vote.

Even if three-quarters of that increase were made available for the purposes I have referred to, there would be a great improvement in the institutions and asylums of this country. It would do members of Parliament good to inspect each of the institutions and mental asylums here and become aware of the conditions. If they do so, many will alter the views which they now hold. I am speaking from the platform which I support and the matters which we, as a Party, advocate. I know that the hands of the people of this State are tied by the vote of this House.

I now refer to one matter which amazes me; that is the unfair deal which the Labor Party gets from the Press of this State. When Mr. Kingsley Martin gave a lecture at the University about the policies of the Press, he pointed out clearly that we have no right to the name of democracy when we get only one side of the picture published in our daily newspapers. We never seem to get both sides of the story. We get only the side which suits the Press.

Nowadays we appear to be quiet about this matter, but it was not always the case, because on the 3rd December, 1912, an urgency motion, which appears at page 4076 of *Hansard*, was moved by Mr. J. D. Connolly in the Legislative Council as follows:—

That the House at its rising do adjourn until 5 p.m. on Wednesday next on a matter of urgency for the purpose of protesting against the statements which appeared in the "West Australian" of yesterday made by the Hon. R. G. Ardagh, M.L.C., and Mr. A. E. Green, M.L.A.

He went on to say—

The statements to which I refer appear under these headlines, "Kalgoorlie Wages Board; Speeches by Union Officials; Peace can be Bought too Dearly; Legislative Council Attacked" and after some references to the dispute the following appear:—

Mr. R. G. Ardagh, M.L.C., in replying to the toast of "Parliament," said the Labour members in the Legislative Council had put up a good fight on the Arbitration Bill, but they had been outnumbered. The Bill, as it stood at present, was absolutely useless. The Workers' Compensation Bill was being slaughtered in the same manner. Many of those who were voting against it were getting their instructions from

the Chamber of Mines. He made that statement fearlessly, as the secretary of the Chamber of Mines was sitting in the President's gallery during the whole time the Bill was before the House, and he was not there for nothing.

Mr. A. E. Green, M.L.A., said that the Upper House was responsible for the difficulty which existed on the goldfields at the present time. If the Arbitration Bill, as it left the Legislative Assembly, had been passed by the Council, the unions would have taken their dispute to the Arbitration Court. The Legislative Council had, however, moved 54 amendments to that Bill, and had sent it back completely emasculated, and useless. The unions objected to going before the Court under the present Act, and he could not blame them.

That shows that some people have protested, as I am now protesting. Evidently *The West Australian* took more notice of the Legislative Council in those days, because generally it now ignores us. If we are to have a Press, we should find ways to insist that both sides of the debates in this House are published. I know one omission by *The West Australian* when a Legislative Council election is in the offing; it does not mention the election at all. It keeps the people in ignorance. It is a dangerous and unfair practice to keep people in ignorance by silence. One can do that for some of the time, but not always. Ultimately there will be a rebellion against such a practice. I know that even members on the Government side of this House agree with what I am saying, because *The West Australian* never publishes the fact that in respect of this House, which controls the destiny of the State, only one-third of the electors who are enrolled for the Legislative Assembly have a vote.

I am making this protest, because it is a matter which is becoming a social question. Very soon a question will be asked by the people as to why the Legislative Council is carried on in this redundant manner. I listened to the speech made by Mr. Wise during this debate. He referred to the dignity of Parliament, but I wonder what dignity we have when we refuse the basic right of the citizen to have a vote for the Legislative Council—a basic British right of a vote in the ballot box for some of the people.

That is my contribution to the debate on this Supply Bill. I hope that my words will be taken seriously and that you, Mr. President, will help the work of the men and women of this State; in particular the women who have battled against the tide and given their lives for want of

money, while the Commonwealth Government poured millions down the drain. That is wasteful expenditure on defence; it is not justified in peace time; and it is not justified in the age in which we live. It is about time we started to make a loud protest at the things we have to suffer, because humanity is suffering no matter who may ignore that fact.

THE HON. A. R. JONES (Midland) [5.53]: I take this opportunity to make a few observations. Before doing so, I want to say that I, together with other members of this House, am very conscious of what Mr. Wise and Dr. Hislop have reminded us about, in regard to our obligations towards the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Whilst it has not been my privilege to travel outside Australia, I was very thankful for being given the opportunity to meet some of the guests of the Parliamentary conference which is to be held in two or three weeks' time, and to enjoy their company for a short while. It struck me that we have much to learn. In being the hosts, we were very remiss in that we did not cater for the tastes of the guests of various nationalities. During the dinner given by the Government in honour of these guests, there was plenty of meat, fish, and vegetables to eat, and liquor was supplied; but no provision was made to supply suitable food to guests who did not eat fish or meat, or to supply non-alcoholic beverages. I had the misfortune to sit alongside such a delegate. He did not get anything to eat until the green peas and potatoes were served. He had some of them and a bun, but he did not spread anything on the bun. While jugs of beer and bottles of wine were spread over the table, there was no jug of water available for my friend.

It was forcibly brought home to me how remiss we are, and how much we still have to learn about the art of entertainment and the proper conduct of a host. In our role as the host nation, I hope we have learnt something from those honourable gentlemen who visited us.

I wish to draw the notice of the Government to the serious position in which the State finds itself now, when the season is about to conclude. The season was very indifferent, and the average rainfall was some 10 ins. to 12 ins. below normal. I think I can say that was the average for State. In centres where the average rainfall was 15 ins. or 16 ins. a year, the rainfall this year was between 8 ins. and 9 ins. Centres which generally received a rainfall of 35 ins. to 40 ins. received only 20 ins. to 25 ins. this year. So it can be said that generally the average rainfall fell by 10 ins. to 12 ins. during this season.

It is not difficult for us to know what that reduced rainfall means to the State. Every day we read in the newspapers about the inadequacy of the water

supplies; and already water restrictions are being applied. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have private water supplies drawn from underground at depths from 40 ft. to 60 ft. may find the supply to be inadequate this season.

This State also faces the driest season in regard to the feed position, and an emergency may arise. If we take notice of the long-range weather forecast made by Inigo Jones, we will find that his prediction has been fairly conclusively proved to be correct this season. If the prediction for the next season is correct, then we will have another dry year. The Government should inform the people of the danger which faces the State during this season and the next. To say outright that we should accept the predictions of Inigo Jones—although most certainly they have proved to be correct this season—is wrong in principle; but results this year have indicated that the prediction from that source is sufficiently correct to make us concerned about our security next year in regard not only to water supplies but feed.

It is the duty of the Department of Agriculture to broadcast talks over the air, and to publish articles in the newspapers, for the purpose of advising the people to conserve as much fodder as possible on the farms, and not to deliver as much oats as they have done in the past, so that more oats can be retained on the farms as fodder. The people should be advised to conserve as much water as possible, and they should be given advice on the best methods of conserving fodder and water for this season and the next.

I feel that people should be encouraged to keep as much fodder on their farms as is possible. It would be difficult to accommodate all the grain in the silos at the sidings and ports. If people have not enough finance to provide storage, I believe that the Government should render some assistance in order that they may keep a greater proportion of grain than they normally do. It is not much use keeping the grain in bags because of the damage and waste that is occasioned by vermin. The only real method of storage is, of course, in the steel or galvanised iron silos.

I trust that the Government will consider this matter; and if it sees any virtue in my suggestions, I hope it will take appropriate action. The Government should advise farmers and stock people generally to do their best to store as much on their farms as is possible, so as to be ready for another dry year. As I said before, I am not wanting to be an alarmist, but I feel we should take heed of what we have been told about the weather, particularly in view of the fact that we have found in previous years that the information has been reliable.

A further matter I desire to mention is one which I raised during my Address-in-reply speech. I am referring to the policing of vehicles which emit exhaust fumes

and filth. I then requested the Ministers in this House to advise the appropriate authority to see whether something could be done about the matter. Since then I have taken particular notice of vehicles, and I feel that nothing has been done about them. We only have to look at the Government buses and the transport trucks which travel around the city—trucks such as those belonging to Bell Bros. and other firms—to see the huge black clouds of smoke which are left in their wake. I wonder whether the practice is going to be allowed to continue, because if it is, we will soon find ourselves in the same plight as other countries where there is pollution and smog with which to contend. There is no excuse for that situation to arise here where we have such huge expanses. I again ask the Ministers to request the appropriate authority to attend to this matter.

A diesel engineer has advised that the trouble is due either to a worn-out vehicle or a comparatively new vehicle which is out of adjustment. I suppose that, summed up, the problem would be reduced to one of maladjustment of the vehicle due to the carelessness of those responsible for its maintenance.

Another matter which I have raised in the House recently is that of the poor price offering for our fat lambs. I have also asked questions in regard to what possibility there might be of the Government buying the meat during the peak markets, and so trying to keep the price of lamb a little buoyant against the time when we will be faced with a very grave shortage—I believe next May, June, and July—when the housewife will be asked to pay perhaps 3s. or 4s. a lb. for lamb. In this way the housewife could be saved 1s. a lb. later on.

I know it is a difficult problem for the Government to solve, but when a serious position arises which threatens the economy of the State or an industry, then it is the Government's prerogative to do something about it.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It is its duty!

The Hon. A. R. JONES: What thought the Government has given to this matter I have not been able to ascertain, but I know nothing has been done. Some four or five years ago, I think the Government did buy up a certain amount of lamb—I do not know whether or not it was for the same reason as I am suggesting now—and we were told that it lost money on that occasion. That may be so; but I feel there would be no possibility whatever of losing money this time, because it is not very difficult to sum up the position now. There are many thousands of lambs on the market because farmers cannot hold them, and when the time comes that there are very few lambs available on the market, we will be asked to pay prohibitive prices. Those butchers

who have been buying them very cheaply now will make 1s. a lb. on them then, and no one but the middleman will obtain any benefit.

Although I know we have given some consideration to this matter in the past, I hope that further serious thought will be given to the idea of chilling the meat at the abattoirs and having it graded and sold on a grade-and-weight basis. I feel that that could possibly be the answer to the trouble in which we find ourselves today; and it would be a means of keeping prices within the range of all rather than having the huge fluctuation we are experiencing today when the housewife does not know whether she will pay 3s. or 1s. 6d. a lb. for meat. It would be much better to have a uniform and stable price so that the producer would know what he was going to get and the housewife would know how much she would have to pay. In that way we could all budget, and budget successfully, whereas at the moment that is impossible. The industry cannot survive if this State of affairs continues.

It is very noticeable already that people who have, in the past, been breeders of fat lambs for market are seriously considering whether they will continue that practice. We could have the situation develop very quickly where there would be insufficient lamb to meet our own needs.

I offer those thoughts in the hope that the Ministers will take some notice of them; and in the hope that if they are deemed worth while, further consideration will be given to them.

THE HON. J. J. GARRIGAN (South-East) [6.8]: I feel I should say a few words in support of the Supply Bill and at the same time bring before the Government a few matters which I consider very important in the area I represent. I refer particularly to the Esperance-Ravensthorpe road, which not only gives access to one of the greatest tourist resorts in Western Australia, but is also a link for Esperance with the closer market of the metropolitan area.

We all know—or should know—that the produce that will be produced in Esperance in the very near future—in the way of lamb, stock, and barley, together with many other cereals—cannot be consumed in the Goldfields area and must, therefore, be exported to Perth. It is a long drag by rail, so I am going to ask that the Government, with the co-operation of the Main Roads Department, make every possible endeavour to provide a bitumen road from Esperance to Ravensthorpe. That is the first essential of that area; not only for the reason I have just mentioned, but also because of the school bus which travels from Esperance to Daleyup.

The copper industry at Ravensthorpe is one which should be fostered, and I hope and trust that the Government will give

further consideration to it. The copper which can be exported to many parts of the world has to be transported to Esperance over very rough roads. I am sure the Minister for Local Government understands the position, and I hope he will ask the appropriate Minister to give consideration to this matter.

Mrs. Hutchison referred to defence measures. We all know that Western Australia is a Cinderella State and is isolated. I would suggest to the Federal Government, or the Western Australian representatives of it, that as our railway line is at the moment our only outlet, the Federal Government should make funds available for the establishment of a bitumen road from the East to the West. That would not only be an asset for defence, but it would provide a great tourist link and would be valuable for commercial purposes. We all know that the ever-increasing motorised transport will outdo the railways in years to come, and I suggest that the first line of defence to be taken should be the establishment of an all-bitumen road across the Nullarbor Plain to the Eastern States.

The Minister for Mines is now present in the House and I would ask him to see whether it is possible for more support and financial assistance to be made available for diamond drilling and everything else that will assist the goldmining industry of Western Australia. If we take our minds back to the depression days of 1930 to 1934, we will realise who and what saved Western Australia. We have always talked about the great de Bernales. I know that if it was not for the British capital that came into Western Australia at that time, there would not be any goldmining industry today. De Bernales saved Western Australia then; I know, because I worked for the company concerned. I suggest to the Minister for Mines that an endeavour be made to obtain foreign capital for Western Australia. The previous Government brought foreign capital to Esperance through the Chase syndicate, which made Esperance. It was the greatest advertising medium for Western Australia.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are not serious, are you?

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I say that Esperance will be the capital of the south in a few years' time. Irrespective of the views of the Minister, the Chase syndicate was the greatest means of advertising which we have had in Western Australia. I was down at Esperance only a week ago. The Kirwan brothers started off with practically nothing but an axe and a shovel. Today they have 400 acres of barley, and it would be a very conservative estimate to say that their crop will yield 21 bags to the acre.

I believe that the port of Esperance should be given every assistance. While I am speaking of the town—and I am sure Mr. Bennetts will agree with me in this

matter—I would like to say that the railway station should be given further consideration. It should have received consideration from previous Governments years ago. I suggest that in a few years' time, there will be thousands of tons of cereals, and much livestock and other commodities going from Esperance.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I would like to bring before the Government three or four small matters, which are big matters appertaining to the great province I represent. I want to mention the establishment of a super works at Esperance. I would like the present Government to give this matter the consideration it deserves. Esperance is an ever-growing town; and in the district there is an ever-growing pastoral and rural industry. Irrespective of whether the super works are a private concern, a Government concern, or a Government-subsidised industry, I would like the Government to give them full consideration.

Dealing briefly with the Miner's Phthisis Act, I would like to reiterate the words of Dr. Hislop, who is conversant with this matter. Members can use me as a guinea pig; I worked underground for 26 years. In 1955 I was classed as having a 45 per cent. disability. Some two years later I was classed the same; but a month ago, I went to the Government laboratory at Kalgoorlie, and I was classed as having a 50 per cent. disability. I would like the Minister to give this question the consideration it deserves so that irrespective of how long a man has been out of the industry, and irrespective of what occupation in life he follows, he may be able to claim some compensation when he has given most of his life to the goldmining industry of Western Australia. I only hope and trust that the Select Committee which has been appointed will go thoroughly into the matter, not only for the benefit of myself but others in the same position.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is not a Select Committee, but a committee to inquire into the question.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I thank the Minister. I would like the present Government to adopt the attitude which was adopted by the previous Government with regard to the conservation of water supplies in Western Australia. We are not so fortunate in this State that we have rivers, mountains, or reservoirs, to any extent, for the conservation of water. I would like to see something done in regard to water conservation so that we could provide a supply to those people in the outback areas, who have the guts and initiative to stay in those places and pioneer the State.

It is all right in the metropolitan area—this side of the Darling Range—because there the people can put down a bore or

well and get water. But in the great towns of Norseman, Menzies or Coolgardie, people cannot put down a bore. In those places they have to rely wholly and solely on the Goldfields water scheme. So at this juncture, I ask the Government to leave us with the conditions we are enjoying today; do not take anything from us, but just leave us alone.

We sometimes talk decentralisation, but do not mean it. I have always maintained that the people who are producing so much for this country are the ones least thought of—the people east and north-east of the Darling Range. The majority of those people are pioneers, yet they have to put up with the increased burden of water rates, increased motor-car fees, and drivers' license fees, and increased petrol prices, and increases in the cost of many other items.

I also say to the Ministers concerned that they should have a look at the question of reopening the railways. I am not for a minute saying that the railways should be reopened, but that a more comprehensive view of the whole situation should be taken; and I would like the Minister, when he replies to the debate, to give me an idea of what railways will be reopened in the near future. I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What did you think about that question when you voted for their closing?

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West) [7.38]: It is obvious that this State has few problems that could not be solved if we could find the pot of gold at the foot of the rainbow, because there seems to be no problem that could not be wiped away with a few million pounds! But the fact remains that we have not got a few million pounds on which we can easily lay our hands, that is not already earmarked.

But there are some aspects on which we could spend the moneys we have to better advantage; and I would like to mention a problem that has become world-wide—in the Western world at any rate—and that is the expenditure of money on school accommodation. I was interested the other day to read an American account of the construction of schools. The authorities there are finding that with the local government school set-up in America they are constructing schools which are virtually putting them into bankruptcy because of the elaborate edifices they are building.

The climate in America has something to do with this because, as part and parcel of most of the schools there, some sort of hall or auditorium is required. I am interested to know that there is one school in Perth currently commencing an appeal for £60,000 for a hall. This sum, on the reasonable rate of interest today of 6 per cent., represents an income of £3,600 a

year. That is the interest bill alone without taking into account any amortisation of the debt.

It is easy today to get any Government structure out of proportion, to the ability to repay the cost. If one goes to an architect and says, "Design me a house or school, or something else; I want the best," then one must be prepared to pay for the best. There is no doubt that whether we think of motorcars, clothes, or homes, we all like to have the best; but as individuals when we go about acquiring a home, we generally decide whether we want two or three bedrooms and whether we want a lounge room, kitchen, and so on. We then get a rough idea of the basic space required.

We then go to an architect and say, "We want this house built in brick, or whatever it may be; what will be the cost?" The architect might say, "It will cost you £10,000." We then say, "We cannot afford £10,000, but only £5,000." The architect then says, "You will have to cut out this and that," and he brings down the price by a process of elimination; and we probably finish up building a house for £6,500; and, as most of us do, we pay a little more than we can really afford.

I am afraid that in the case of our school accommodation—this was borne out not only here but overseas, with particular reference to America—the trend has been to decide the ideal that is wanted, and to build it.

We are currently extremely short of classroom accommodation; and I feel that some consideration should be given to the basic requirements of education. What is the important thing? Is it education in its aspect of learning; or the accommodation in which the education is given? Obviously the important thing is what is taught. With our rapidly changing conditions, we would not be going too far if we adopted an attitude of mind by which we regarded classrooms as temporary structures, so that the main expense would be channelled to equipping the classrooms with teachers and the necessary facilities. In short, we would adopt a policy much the same as is adopted by an ordinary citizen when building a home. We would say, "We require as an absolute minimum, 40 classrooms this year. We have an estimated £8,408,600 to spend. It is going to cost so much for teachers, and so on, which leaves so much to spend on classrooms. Mr. Architect, design 40 classrooms for that much money."

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You might get them cheaper.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes. I am led to believe that it is costing us somewhere in the vicinity of £10,000 a classroom at present; and I am also led to believe that private schools are building

nearly four classrooms for that amount of money. These figures might be subject to some variation.

The Hon. J. M. Thomson: Does the £10,000 include septic tank installations?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: People get those when they are lucky; if they are in or around the city.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You get them in the country now.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes; thanks to a wise scheme introduced in collaboration with the local governing authorities; but that is a side issue. I can think of two schools—one is a Government school—which are beautifully designed and constructed.

I suppose the Government school is worth every penny of the money it cost. The corridor which is about 8 ft. wide, is fully enclosed, and it is floored with some material which deadens sound. In addition, the ceiling has been built of sound-absorbing material; and, because it is fully enclosed, people can walk along the corridor in all weathers.

There is another school where the roof has been extended on the lee side of the building, and it makes a covered verandah about 5 ft. wide. It is open on one side, and the floor has been built of boards about 3 x 1½ in. with about ½ in. between each board so that the debris can fall through. If a child wants to go from one room to another, and the weather is fine, he can walk by way of the playground; but if the weather is inclement he walks along this type of balcony which is far different from the fully enclosed corridor of the other school.

This fully enclosed corridor must have cost as much to build as a couple of classrooms at the other school I mentioned where the children are forced to walk along an open-type balcony if they want to get from one room to another.

This evening Mrs. Hutchison said that she would like to see the cost of our kindergartens met by the Education Department; in other words, she would like to see the school-commencing age moved from six to four years. But when one examines the capital cost of a kindergarten building, and some of the specifications that are laid down for an ideal set-up—perfect in every detail—one realises how difficult the problem is.

In some country towns there are kindergartens being run in places such as the church halls. If the teachers are good and well trained, the capital cost for establishing such a kindergarten would be from £150 to £200. The cost to the parents depends on whatever the teacher decides to charge, but it is generally about 10s. per week per child. In such a kindergarten or play centre, one teacher can handle 30 to 40 children.

But one sees many other kindergartens where the capital cost of establishing them is anything from £8,000 to £14,000. The teachers are properly qualified, but they can handle no more children than can the teacher who is running a kindergarten in a church hall. The cost is about the same, namely, 10s. per week per child, but with one the capital cost is about £14,000 and with the other it is only about £200. When one works it out one finds that we could probably hire four halls, use well-trained, part-time teachers, and handle four times the number of children if we spent the £14,000 in that way instead of spending it on establishing one kindergarten.

I am suggesting that there are many ways in which we could cut our coat according to the cloth. If a farmer has three sons who have to be housed on his farm, and he has only £10,000 to spend, he does not say, "I will build one house for £10,000, and the other two will have to wait for their homes, and live in tents in the meantime." He says, "I have three sons to house and, as I have only £10,000, I must build three homes for that figure." Certainly, if we carried that policy to extremes we could finish up with classrooms, schools, and kindergartens, of a very low standard because we could say that we had less and less money to do the work. However, I still feel that with our changing requirements in regard to classrooms we could adopt the policy of their being of a less permanent nature.

This policy has been adopted in other countries with a great degree of success. I think we could adopt a far more standardised attitude towards classrooms, and perhaps we could design a type of room which could be prefabricated; and by building one with an annexe for a washroom, we could have a one-classroom school. If we built three of these prefabricated rooms, with the toilet facilities at the end, we would have a three-classroom establishment; and with three banks of three we would have a nine-classroom school. We could use stramit board, or similar materials, which have a high insulation value, to partition these prefabricated structures. This material is easy to use, is fireproof, and would be ideal for the purpose. There are all sorts of boards of that type which could be used. Naturally, if one goes to an architect and asks him to design a building he will, if he is worth his salt, design the most modern and up-to-date structure possible.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The more it costs the more he gets.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Certainly; although that would not apply to an architect in the Public Works Department. But it is only natural that a specialist likes to see things done in the best possible way. I think we could compromise between our means and our desires. I have no doubt that every member

here would like to own a particular type of motor-car; some would like a Rolls Royce, while others would like to own an Aston-Martin. We all have our dreams but, because the limitation is the amount of money we have, we compromise and get what we can afford.

I suppose many people have walked around the foundations of a school and imagined the beautiful library and so on that would be built, and all the books that would be available in the library, while the head teacher has looked at it and automatically wrapped up the imaginary books and said, "We will put 40 children in that library and use it as a classroom." That position has been forced upon us through lack of finance. I know of one school where the master walked through it and saw the library and passage way, and said that he felt in his heart what an utter waste it was because he would have to put some children in the library, some in the washroom, and would probably have to use a corner of the corridor for a classroom.

This is a problem which has been exciting the attention of thoughtful people in many countries, including America—probably to a greater extent in America than here because there, owing to climatic conditions, they have a need for big auditoriums and halls. We have not gone overboard for those yet, and it is with the idea of co-operation that I offer those few suggestions to the Government and support the Bill.

THE HON. J. D. TEAHAN (North-East) [7.55]: I wish to take this opportunity of speaking on a few matters in which I have been interested for some time. Mrs. Hutchison spoke of social services and of mentally handicapped children. Recently I had first-hand experience of this question, and I know of a case where there was a mentally retarded child in the family. When the boy was about 13, the mother died and the child was left in the care of the father. He was not able to mind the child because he worked through the day, and his health was not the best.

Nulsen Haven, which has only recently been established, caters for this type of child, but children cannot be left at the home permanently. I believe three months is the maximum; but it does afford some relief to the parent. I interested myself in this case, and the child was taken to Nulsen Haven. But then the day came when the father received a notice, "Please come and take the child home at once. He cannot stay here any longer." This presented a first-class problem for that father and caused him many sleepless nights.

In an endeavour to assist him, I searched far and wide to see whether I could find a place where this boy, who was then 14 years of age, could be sent. I

found myself up against a brick wall. The only place I could find was the Claremont Hospital for the Insane, which institution would accept the child if he was certified insane; but while there he would have to fraternise with the adult male patients.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: That would not be too good.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Such a thought was revolting. This boy was only subnormal, and not nearly as bad as the majority of patients at that institution.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is the main reason for what happened at Nulsen Haven.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Yes. I will say in fairness to Nulsen Haven that he could not stay there because of his age. I give full credit to the home and the people there for what they are doing. But no place exists for children such as this one, and it is to be hoped that in the not too-far-distant future something will be done for these tragic cases.

I should now like to discuss the question of roads. It is often said, with a good deal of truth, that the creaking wheel gets the most grease. I think that applies in the case of our roads. Too often as we travel around we see well-built coastal roads which are really only adjuncts to other roads. We see the road from Perth to Northam being straightened where there are bad bends, and the narrow stretches widened; we see small culverts being replaced with more substantial structures; and that, I suppose, is all very nice for those who travel only along that road. But other districts are receiving very little for the upkeep and improvement of the roads in their areas.

Very little money has been spent on improving the roads in the North-East Province; and I would mention, as I have done on several occasions, that many of these are not temporary roads—they do not serve a mine which may go out of existence; they serve pastoral properties which will still be operating long after we are deceased. The quality of the wool that is grown in the pastoral country around Kalgoorlie is as high, and the production per sheep is as good, if not better than, it is in most other districts.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Bar Esperance.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: I do not doubt that, but I know that the pastoral districts around Kalgoorlie are most important. Knowing that we have substantial areas of agricultural and pastoral land available in that district, something substantial should be done about the position. The last time a bitumen road of any great length was put down was as far back as 1935; and then only about 25 miles of it was laid. During last week-end I travelled as far as Leonora by road; and, without any hesitation, I would say it is a long

and dusty road to travel. I have to do the journey only once or twice a year, but what about the people who live in that area and who have to traverse the road on several occasions? I trust some of the money that is to be spent on coastal roads, metropolitan roads, and the roads near Perth will be shortly diverted to some of the outback districts. If a certain mileage per year were put down, it would not be long before we would have worthwhile roads.

This, of course, would encourage people to stay in those outback areas. It is a tragedy to see the numbers of families leaving those districts, and it is very necessary to keep them there. We could do this if they were given roads in fair condition to travel on. At the same time it is not very pleasant to note the many imposts that the present Government finds it necessary to make. While there are many industries that can stand the additional imposts by putting on an extra penny here or there per ton or cwt., the mining industry, unfortunately, cannot withstand these additional imposts. Every one of these added taxes means that the mining industry will have a shorter life.

What is more noticeable is that in order to meet these added costs, it has been necessary on the Golden Mile to introduce more mechanisation. Although mechanisation is desirable, it is most unfortunate if, at the same time, it is necessary to reduce manpower. It is rather unpleasant to see that a number of men on the mines are put off each year, because, as a result, we are losing numbers of families which it is so essential to have to keep those places going. Accordingly if this is a firm decision of the Government, and if it proposes to increase rail freights, I hope every endeavour will be made to see that the mining industry is not called on to carry another penny of additional railway freight, because it could be the last straw and break the camel's back.

Some time ago I wrote to the Minister for Railways asking for some of his metropolitan work to be decentralised. In order to retain families in these outback areas, we certainly need every industry or extra bit of work that we can get in the country. In Kalgoorlie, Boulder, and Leonora, when boys or girls reach the age of 17 or 18 they find great difficulty in obtaining employment; most of the avenues there have dried up, and there are no opportunities for them. Accordingly, the father and the mother are obliged to travel to the metropolitan area and thus add another four or five persons to the already overloaded population of the capital.

I ask the Minister whether he will give consideration to the question of additional wagon repairs being carried out at Kalgoorlie. In past years the answer has been that the additional

machinery required has not warranted consideration being given to the job being carried out there. However, I have done some research into the matter and, from the information I have obtained, I find that additional wagon repairs could be undertaken in Kalgoorlie without one more piece of machinery being added. The material at present being used for wagon repairs is prefabricated at Midland Junction; and, in the work I visualise, it could still be prefabricated there. I feel that if I keep repeating this request, and if I am supported by other members from the country districts, it is possible that some day we will have success. Having mentioned those matters, I support the second reading of the Bill.

THE HON. G. BENNETTS (South-East) [8.6]: I did not intend to speak; and, indeed, I notified the Whip to that effect; but seeing that one of the members in my district has more or less drawn me into the debate, I must add a few remarks. Firstly I must commend Mr. Wise and Dr. Hislop for their references to the speech made by Mr. Constantine who was one of the Commonwealth parliamentary representatives who came to this State. Unfortunately I did not meet any of those gentlemen, because I was in Kalgoorlie at the time; I passed them on the way down. I am sorry about that, because I think every member should participate in such affairs in order to give these people some information of the districts we represent.

What Mr. Wise said was quite true. My mind goes back to the Goldfields of 30 or 35 years ago. If, in those days, anyone spoke in favour of bringing the Asiatic races into this State, he would have been very severely dealt with. Because of our White Australia Policy, nobody could speak of anything of that nature. On every occasion that I have spoken to the debate for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, I have said that we have, within a very short flying distance of our State, thousands of millions of Asiatics, numbers of whom are members of the Commonwealth of Nations.

I have with me an invitation, which I propose to accept, to a naturalisation ceremony in my district. The people to be naturalised are of different nationalities; and some were originally enemies of our country. I also have another invitation to attend a ceremony for the naturalisation, on Thursday, of 21 people. I have had to send an apology because it is not possible for me to be there.

This country of ours has the potential to produce an abundance of food with which we could assist nations such as India. Even if we could only supply them with food it would give them some advantage, and it would help keep them away from the Russian influence. We know that Communism is sneaking into

these countries, and if they are not assisted from outside they will certainly seek the aid of Russia. If we do not assist them we will not have them on our side in the future.

I can well remember my father going to South Africa 40 or 50 years ago to link up with my mother's brother. When he got back to Australia he said that the time was not far distant when there would be trouble between the black races of Africa and the whites, because of the manner in which the blacks were being treated in the mines of that country. I think we see that borne out today. We must do everything in our power to help our vast undeveloped areas produce enough in order that we may assist the peoples of Asia and thus bring about better relations with them.

I thought Mr. Jones made a very valuable contribution to the debate when he referred to the present prices of meat, with particular reference to lamb. As Mr. Jones said, this commodity is being sold at a price below that for which it is produced. I have also heard that said by people in my district. I think it would be a good speculation if the Government bought up surplus meat and stored it away for the time being so that it could supply the meat to the people later, and thus give the farmers a chance of obtaining an average price for it throughout a certain period.

I have always stressed that one of the most important things in the State today is water. This is one of our most vital requirements, and every spare penny should be spent in this direction. I refer members particularly to such places as Norseman and Kalgoorlie. The area around Kalgoorlie has a fair amount of holding capacity, and we are not so badly off there; but in the case of Norseman, the people are working on a very limited amount of water and it would be a great help if the Government could see its way clear to comply with the request that has recently been made by the engineers of that district for the storage of water there; particularly with reference to the construction of a larger dam. If this is done it will be a step in the right direction; because then the water could be pumped from here through the winter months when there is no excessive tax on the pumping stations, and the reservoirs at the places in question could be filled in readiness for the summer.

We all know just how important water is. We find that in the Esperance district the Government is doing experimental work, and is trying its best to overcome the water problem. The situation in the Esperance area is pretty awkward, but I think it can be overcome.

We all know at the present time that the Government wastes considerable amounts of money; indeed, only a short while ago a great deal of money was wasted on a Royal Commission to inquire into starting-price betting. This money could have been

used to help to build more schools, etc. We heard about the harm done by this commission, though it was never mentioned in the Press. The Press is all-powerful, and now it even has a monopoly over television. Very little of any import is ever printed in the Press; but if Sabrina or Mae West were to arrive in the country we would hear all about it. When we are given news, it is written in a most uninteresting fashion.

During the week-end the Minister for Agriculture commented on the potential of the area we visited together. There is no doubt that all members in this House realise now what Esperance is able to produce. Mention of this fact was made to-night by Mr. Garrigan. I was at Esperance on these properties—the properties of Mr. Sampson, and Kirwan Bros.—and the barley crops will produce 20 bags to the acre this season. They also have crops of oats and wheat; and their stock is in wonderful condition. The returns of wool at the research station were of high quality, which could not be beaten anywhere else in this State. Cattle in the district are thriving; and within five years I can see Esperance being one of the biggest producing parts of the State, providing that wool prices remain high. This is necessary because the people at Esperance are handicapped by being so far away from a market for their commodities.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: I hope that they erect a monument there for you.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: As the honourable member knows, I have been criticised for 13 years in this House whenever I have mentioned anything about Esperance. However, I said during that time that the people in this State would one day take their hats off to me and say that Esperance has proved to be everything I said it would be.

Several members: Hear! hear!

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I was at Esperance on Saturday when the Minister for Agriculture mentioned the great potential of the district. After the Minister made a speech, I was called upon to do likewise. I spoke on behalf of the people. When the super works are established at Esperance, it will make a wonderful difference to that area because the price of super is very high. Freight is £3 10s. per ton; and on top of that one has to pay £12 10s. per ton for the super. This makes it a very costly item for the people of the district. At certain parts of Esperance more super is, perhaps, required than in other parts of the State. There is a pyrites mine within 120 miles of Esperance, and that commodity is used in the manufacture of super. Also, on the Perth side, 120 miles away at Ravensthorpe, there are copper mines.

It was pleasing for me to note that at the research station the results from the use of copper from Ravensthorpe were much better than the results from the use

of copper from other districts. The cost of that copper is very favourable, and its quality is excellent. If members are interested, they can obtain the returns of the various plots from the research station. Two oil companies—Vacuum and Shell—are establishing installations at Esperance to handle kerosene, diesolene, and petrol; and when large firms of that kind spend capital in a place like Esperance, one can be assured there will be a guaranteed life for the district.

At a field day recently held in the district, 400-odd young people attended; and there were 112 motor vehicles in the procession. They contained the people who have taken up land and people who are requiring land. I understand that about 21 blocks are now available for selection, and 70-odd people have applied for them. These people have large sums of money and are practical farmers. It is obvious that there is a potential in the Esperance district, and the Government should be able to derive a large amount of revenue from it in another five years because by that time the super works should be established.

The stock produced on the properties at the moment is absorbed by new settlers coming into the district for the stocking of their properties. In addition, farmers at Esperance are supplying the Goldfields with meat; and I might say here that the meat we are receiving on the Goldfields is 100 per cent. quality. Ultimately there will be so many cattle in the district that a meat works could be established. That would be of great assistance to the State. I would like the Government to make long-term loans to young people with families who are now coming to that district. That is a better proposition than having companies take up large holdings. In some parts, 1,200 acres are required for a property; but in the different rainfall areas, different sizes of blocks are required.

There are only two other matters upon which I wish to speak. Mr. Teahan mentioned the case of a handicapped child which he said was in a home for a certain time, but the father had to take it away. One of the great problems which must be very worrying to the Government is that in regard to natives.

The Hon. G. E. Jeffery: Have you been to Merredin lately?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I visited a home at Norseman, and the native children in the home were all well-mannered and educated. At the last sports day organised by the Esperance-Norseman districts, the winners of all events were natives. Those children were better mannered than many one would find in an institution for white children. Their dining-room was spotless; and one could not find fault with the cleanliness of the home. The Government must find a means of assisting these native children when they reach the age of 16 years. At the present moment they are

thrown out on to the world. It is a big problem, and I do not know how the Government will face up to it.

Because of the influx of people into this country at the present time, and the problems of water and native welfare, I think the Commonwealth Government will have to do something better. The States are handicapped; and this applies particularly to Western Australia. It is only logical that if overseas industries are to be set up in Australia, they will go to the Eastern States where there is a greater potential than here. This is making it difficult for our young people to find employment. Each year a large number of children are leaving the schools at Kalgoorlie, and the only avenue open to them is mining.

Because of the high cost of production today, the mines have had to reduce their staffs and introduce mechanisation to the mines. Within the last month a few men were put off. A certain number were over age, but they had served in the industry for 40 years. They were capable men. I was talking to one of the mine managers, and he said it hurt him very much to put these men off, because they had served so long in the industry. However, because they had reached retiring age, the company said they had to be put off in order to make way for others who were seeking employment. In all fairness, I think that is right.

Last week, a civilian widow with a daughter who had just turned 19 came to me to see whether I could find employment for the girl. This particular lady has her aged mother living with her—she is about 85—and it is hard for the widow to manage on two pensions while her girl, aged 19, is unemployed. In many cases on the Goldfields both the husband and the wife are working. I could quote many of them. In some cases they are not content with working one shift; in the evening they work as ushers at the pictures. These people are making it impossible for single persons to obtain work. There is hardly a shop in Kalgoorlie without a full staff of married people. The result is that juniors are out of work.

Some organisations are nominating migrants from overseas; and some unfortunate people in the town lose their employment to make way for these migrants. In some cases the migrants only stay in the employment for three to four months, but the persons who were previously employed in those jobs are left high and dry. Governments should not support this policy, no matter what their political colour; and they should watch the position closely, in order to balance the Budget, in view of the huge requirements for schools, housing, and so on.

I believe that water supplies are an urgent necessity for the opening up of some of the undeveloped country which is available in Western Australia, in order that

the land may be worked, thus producing more revenue for the State. I am sorry to see measures coming before this House for the purpose of placing a further burden on the people of the country areas, who produce the wealth which keeps metropolitan residents in comfort and provides them with all the amenities in the world. If any extra charges are to be placed on the taxpayers, they should be divided equally between country and city people. I support the Bill.

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (West) [8.31]: I wish to draw attention to the necessity for assistance to be given by the Government to parents and citizens' associations which are endeavouring to build halls in their districts; and in particular I refer to the Applecross School, where there is a very solid parents and citizens' association which has, for a number of years, raised a sum of between £500 and £600 per annum at its annual fete alone. These people have built a fine playground at the school, where they have the only turf wickets to be found at any State school in the metropolitan area.

This parents and citizens' association has a sum of money put aside towards the building of a hall at the school for the use of the youth of the district in the evenings as well as during the day. However, they require financial help from the Government in order to erect the building. The original plan involved the sum of £10,000 and the previous Treasurer (Mr. Hawke) promised that, after the 1st July of this year, he would help them. However, there has since been a change of Government. On making application to the present Government, these people have received, in reply, a very cold, "No" on more than one occasion; and I cannot understand the attitude of the Government.

The last proposition put forward was that the Government should pay the interest on the money that they will have to borrow, or guarantee to the R. & I. Bank the necessary amount, which could be paid back over seven to 10 years. Very early this session the Minister for Child Welfare spoke, outside of Parliament, of his concern about the great number of children south of the river—he mentioned 6,000 children—who have no amenities and no means of useful employment of leisure during the hours of the evening. This is an instance where £6,000 is required, in addition to the £2,000 already in hand, in order to complete the hall, which will be available for use by the youth of the district every night, and by schoolchildren during the day.

We know what has happened at the John Curtin High School at Fremantle, where there is a large hall that is used by the youth of the surrounding districts; and we know how necessary it is for Applecross to have a hall. There are other parents

and citizens' associations also in need of help; and I realise that the Treasurer is so bereft of finance that he is able to reduce the entertainments tax to the tune of £80,000 per annum; but if he has that much to throw away, while at the same time imposing a burden of £400,000 on the people by means of land tax and so on, I believe the least he can do is to subsidise the parents and citizens' associations, which are working for the benefit not only of the children of the present but the children of the future.

I feel that the Government has a duty to help these people; particularly in view of the fact that the building that they wish to erect will be on the school grounds and will become the property of the Education Department. I come now to the question of water supplies; and in this regard I asked a question yesterday. In reply the Minister said that supplies of water piping are now coming into the metropolitan area. I did not ask that question facetiously, but because the position is serious.

I would suggest to those people who go for a drive on Sunday afternoons, that they drive as far as the Canning Dam or the Serpentine Dam, in order to see the position with which the Government is faced. I am sympathetic to the Government in the position in which it finds itself; and I commend it on having brought in water restrictions so early. There are great numbers of people in the metropolitan area who will endeavour to maintain their gardens by installing their own water supply systems; and for that reason the Government will have to ensure that supplies of piping and so on are available, and that would-be purchasers do not find that such items are being kept under the counter, or that all stocks have been bought up by a few people.

It is amazing that in the short time between now and the date when the prohibition was put on the use of sprinklers and fixed hoses, all the supplies of piping disappeared from the market. Some people who approached me do not belong to my political faith, but they have a business in Fremantle and are resident in Mt. Lawley. They are in a position to pay any amount of money for the installation of their own water supply; but when they went to purchase piping it simply was not available. These people were able to go direct to Stewart & Lloyds; but that firm simply did not have the piping to sell.

Some plumbers have had to go to the South-West for supplies, and last Sunday one of them went as far as Lake Grace in order to bring back six lengths of 2 in. piping with which to complete a job. I hope the Minister will see to it that the position does not get completely out of hand. I desire to ask the Minister for Water Supplies to ensure that those people who cannot afford to put in their own

water supplies get prompt service from the department when they want the pipe between the main and the water meter flushed out.

In some districts the water pressure is excellent; but in others it is very poor. The pressure is low in the Fremantle area, and, if people call on the department to flush out the pipe from the main to the meter, I hope that work will be done expeditiously.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We must take into consideration the fact that so many people wait until summertime before asking for that service.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: That is so, but if requests for that service are made by a number of people in a particular area, I hope the department will attend to them all at once, instead of sending men back six or seven times to attend to the various calls.

I wish now briefly to refer to the McKenzie appeal, in which I took part, and as a result of which the baby concerned was able to be sent to America. I would have liked to make a statement to the public of Western Australia in this House tonight; but I have today received from America some information which precludes me from doing that. However, a month has now passed since little Alan left this world, and people are beginning to wonder what has happened to the fund. I would like publicity given to the fact that an officer of the Treasury and I are the trustees of the fund, and we have an amount of money in hand. There are two accounts remaining to be paid, and when they are finalised in America, we will make a public statement in the Press.

The people of this State raised £6,300 in six days, and within eight days the child was on his way to America. There are many things which I hope, on a later occasion, to say in regard to the appeal. I support the Bill.

THE HON. J. M. THOMSON (South) [8.40]: Together with a similar measure introduced earlier in the session we will, on agreeing to this Bill, have agreed to the expenditure of £400,000 for the present financial year. No doubt there will be another Supply Bill brought down before the end of the session, giving authority for the expenditure of further millions to finance the various undertakings of the State. There is a great deal of work that must be provided for out of the £19,000,000 covered by the measure now before us, and I desire particularly to make reference to the Police Department.

We frequently hear reference to lack of accommodation in schools and hospitals. The Government has been anxious to provide additional accommodation for those services; but when one travels round the country and discusses the problems of various centres one will, if speaking to the

local justice of the peace, almost invariably find him asking when the Government is going to do something about the court or police accommodation in that centre. In Gnowangerup a sergeant and two officers are occupying a room only 14 ft. x 14 ft.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: What about the Katanning courthouse?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: That town at least has a courthouse; although the people there have been waiting for a long time for an additional courthouse.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Twenty-five years.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: That is quite true; and we are anxious that the new courthouse should be provided. However, there is some accommodation at Katanning, but there is very little at Gnowangerup. As I was saying, there are three officers who are required to work in this 14 ft. x 14 ft. room. A court is usually held every Monday morning, and the justice of the peace, with or without his colleague, has the offender brought before him from a room where all conversation in the courtroom is heard; and, as a result, the officers who occupy that room have either to vacate it and do their office work in their cars, or remain idle.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: You will have to buy them ear muffs.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: This situation is extremely serious and the honourable member should not make such a facetious remark. When we discuss the Supply Bill next session, I hope that some provision will be made to meet the present needs of the police officers at Gnowangerup, and that proper court accommodation will be provided not only at Gnowangerup but also at other rural centres.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Some money has been allocated for that purpose.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I am pleased to hear that, and no doubt it will be spent where the need is greatest. Albany is growing rapidly, and the number of police personnel has increased from eight to 10, and the accommodation is appalling. The first-class sergeant is required to share a room with the other sergeant; and when any interviewing has to be done, one of them has to vacate the room. Further, when people are being interviewed by the constables at Albany—and the position would be the same at Geraldton, Bunbury and Northam—no privacy is afforded them whatsoever.

The Government will have to face up to the dire necessity to provide adequate accommodation to meet the needs of these police officers. When the 40-hour week is put into effect by the Police Department, it will further aggravate this problem, and, therefore, I hope something will be done next year to alleviate the difficulties which these officers face.

I now wish to refer to the detention of juveniles before they are brought before a children's court. In one centre it was necessary for a young girl and a young man to be held overnight so that they might appear in the court to be tried the next day. The police officers were forced to detain them in a cell. The gaol comprises four cells, and naturally both the girl and the boy could not be placed in the one cell. Yet these cells are used to detain overnight the person who becomes intoxicated and also to hold in custody anyone who is serving a sentence ranging from a fortnight to six months.

On occasions, there have been 11 persons held in this gaol to serve sentences of anything up to six months. It is appalling to think that adolescents should be confined in close proximity to such people. Occasionally one witnesses the pathetic sight of a person who is being held in a cell pending his transfer to the Heathcote Reception Home or the Claremont Mental Hospital. Such a case is all the more distressing when the patient is a woman.

When all these various types of people have to be confined in only four cells, in my opinion it is incumbent on the Government to provide something better. I am sure the Minister for Child Welfare will be interested in the position as it affects juveniles. He must be very conscious of the problem. A children's court is, of course, not held in public, yet the people who are concerned in any case have to wait in the public corridor before they are summoned to the court.

The girl and boy to whom I have just referred, were thus brought under the public gaze, which, in my opinion, was entirely wrong. I, therefore, hope that in the Estimates for the next financial year, finance will be set aside to solve this problem.

I now wish to refer to the problem which confronts those parents whose children are required to have special dental treatment. In particular, I am referring to orthodontic treatment which is not available in the country because it has to be administered by specialists. It is necessary for anyone who requires this treatment to travel to Perth. As children are mainly affected, the parents are involved in a great deal of extra expense. Frequently, after the initial treatment, they have to return to the specialist in the city to have their teeth inspected; and this involves the mother and the child travelling down either in the family vehicle or by train or bus, staying overnight in Perth, and travelling back the next day.

Heavy travelling costs are, of course, involved, and there are the accommodation expenses for both the mother and the child. I have here a statement relating to one parent whose four daughters had to receive orthodontic treatment at various stages. I point out that orthodontic

treatment must be given when children are between the ages of eight and 14 years. The treatment is of no use after the age of 14. Because of the heavy expenditure involved in bringing children to the city for specialist treatment, I am sure there are many who do not enjoy the benefits of it; and, unfortunately, they have to suffer a physical handicap for the remainder of their lives.

Those children affected are very conscious and sensitive of their teeth because they protrude, and because their appearance is spoilt for the rest of their lives. The parent who had to have his four daughters treated for this complaint had to meet medical expenses totalling £140 up to last December. That is a large sum of money to spend on dental treatment. There is, admittedly, a £30 taxation concession, but that covers only ordinary and not specialised treatment. Such cases, therefore, deserve a greater taxation concession when specialist treatment is involved.

I have already raised with the Minister for Health the question of granting some fare concession to these people; and this also affects the Minister for Railways. My contention is that the parents of children who require orthodontic dental treatment should be granted concession fares if they have to travel by train or Government railway bus. In one town known to me, there are no less than 10 young children who have to travel to Perth for treatment at least once a month, or once every six weeks. It is desirable, therefore, that the parents of these children should be given some financial relief in the way of cheaper fares.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: There are some hardships suffered by the people in the country.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Yes; that is the price the people in the country have to pay. I might add that this is only one extra expense which people in country centres have to meet; but I would not leave the country to live in the city, despite all these disadvantages.

I now wish to draw attention to the position of school hostels which serve to provide accommodation for high school students; and I mention Albany in particular. In that centre we are fortunate in obtaining the assistance of the C.W.A. and other organisations which attend to the management of the school hostels. What I want to stress is that when these hostels are established no sick bay is provided in them. If a boy or a girl contracts a cold or influenza, he or she has to remain in the dormitory amongst other children, which is most undesirable. The question of expenditure is again involved, but there is no doubt that in these hostels a sick bay should be provided and properly furnished wherein a boy or girl may be treated during a short period of sickness and so prevent the complaint from spreading amongst other children.

I take this opportunity to pay credit to the C.W.A., the Methodist Church, and other organisations, in providing a much-needed and desirable service in the school hostel for boys and girls who attend high schools. I imagine it is very costly to those associations. Some of these places do provide a sick bay. The Education Department should ensure that such a facility is provided. I support the Bill.

THE HON. E. M. DAVIES (West) [9.11]: I support the Bill, which seeks to grant a sum of £19,000,000 to enable the Government to carry on until the 30th June, 1960. Having listened to many of the speeches in this debate, I wonder whether there is any of that sum left. If there is, I would like to make one or two claims for my province.

During the Address-in-reply debate one speech centred on the amount of money provided by the previous Government for the establishment of a groyne at South Beach. It is indeed fortunate that during this year we experienced a very mild winter, otherwise considerable damage would have been caused by the elements, and the State would have been called upon to find much more money to repair the damage.

The authorities responsible seem to be fiddling while Rome burns. Nothing has been done and nothing has been attempted. The Fremantle City Council showed its interest in this matter by agreeing to make available £7,000 to establish the Douro Road Groyne. That will be one means of protecting South Beach and preventing the elements from encroaching on the land through which the railway line now runs.

The Railway Department has been advised, over a considerable number of years, that steps should be taken to protect South Beach and the land on which the railway line is built. The department showed no interest. It did not consider the matter was its concern, because the erosion had not reached the property belonging to it.

Only two winters ago, the elements decided to take back what belonged to them. As part of the foreshore consists of made-up land, it can disappear readily through the action of the elements; and erosion crept to within 20 ft. of the railway line. Other people got busy and asked the Fremantle City Council what it intended to do. It agreed to make available £7,000 to build a groyne. Had it not been for the mild winter just passed, a great deal of damage would have been caused to the railway line, and the department would have had to bear a considerable part of the cost of repairs. I am hoping that before next winter the proposed groyne will be built, and some protection given thereby to the foreshore at South Beach and to the railway line.

The previous Government also set aside £35,000 in the Estimates for the provision of a fishing-boat harbour at Fremantle. Up to the present, as a result of disagreement between the Fremantle Harbour Trust and the Harbour and Light Department, no action has been taken. I am informed that £34,000 of the sum set aside in the Estimates has been transferred to some other works. It is anybody's guess as to whether or not the fishing-boat harbour will be built. We should ascertain the differences arising between the Fremantle Harbour Trust and the Harbour and Light Department in order to overcome any stalemate. Everyone will agree that a fishing-boat harbour in Fremantle is most essential.

The crayfishing industry has earned foreign exchange not only for Fremantle but also for the State. Furthermore, the revenue from this source helps the economy of Australia in general. If we are to have up-to-date fishing boats, capable of operating in the crayfishing trade, we have to provide facilities for their protection.

I would remind the Minister that the £35,000 set aside in the Estimates has apparently been used for some other purpose. I do not know whether it is the intention of the Government to set aside a similar sum for this purpose in this year's Estimates. I want to emphasise the great importance of establishing this fishing-boat harbour. I understand that a new type of boat is being built for this trade, and it is essential to give it proper protection, otherwise it will be liable to suffer damage during the stormy periods of the year.

I was glad to hear Mr. Lavery raise the question of financial assistance to the Applecross Parents and Citizens' Association. He rightly pointed out that money made available or guaranteed by this Government to that organisation will be money well spent. If any member of the Government or any officer of the Educational Department were to visit that centre, he would realise what a great amount of work had been done by the association. Some years ago the school at that centre was a very small one, but owing to the rapid growth of the district, considerable extensions were made. In addition the parents and citizens' association played its part in improving the surrounding land and oval.

What the association requests is a subsidy from the Government to match the amount it has in hand. The association is now being asked, by some of the people who subscribed the money, what is being done with the money. That becomes a serious question. The association wants to find out what the Government is prepared to do, and what assistance it is prepared to give so that the hall which has been contemplated for many years may come into existence.

If we can provide facilities not only for the use of school children during the school period but also for the use of teenagers during the evening, a great deal will be done to find an outlet for the unexpended energy of the youth in that locality. If that outlet is not provided, the unexpended energy will be used in a direction not beneficial to themselves or to their parents. By providing halls in the various districts, the requisite facilities will be available to the youth.

As one who has been associated with a youth movement over many years—being chairman of the youth committee in Fremantle for a number of years—I can say that when the committee received £8,000, it agreed to make that sum available to the Government towards the provision of a hall to be attached to the John Curtin High School. That has been brought into existence. As chairman of the committee which controls the youth there, I am proud to know that great use is made of the hall by the youth movement of Fremantle and districts.

I appreciate the anxiety of the Applecross Parents and Citizens' Association, because its members know that if money can be made available by the Government to assist them, they will have an incentive to raise the rest of the money which is required to build a hall. If the Government will guarantee or make available the money, the parents and citizens' association will do all in its power to raise the rest that is required.

Recently I met members of the parents and citizens' association, in company with the member for Canning. I understand that this matter will be raised again with the department concerned. I have raised the question here so that if it is brought before Cabinet, the members will realise it is of very great importance. I shall appreciate any assistance from the Government to bring this proposition to fruition.

THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND (North) [9.12]: This is a Bill which we are morally bound to support, and will support. I am astonished at the rate at which the Government is getting rid of the funds of the State. It was only in August last, a little over two months ago, when a similar Bill was presented to Parliament. On that occasion we were asked to supply £21,000,000 in order to enable the Government to carry on until the end of last month. Now the Government is asking Parliament to supply another £19,000,000.

When introducing the measure, the Minister indicated that this sum of £19,000,000 would enable the services of the State to be carried on until such time as the Estimates were passed. The Estimates can be expected to be passed within a month, at the outside. Therefore it looks as if this

sum of £19,000,000 will last the Government another month. However, I imagine it will go further than that. That is the information supplied to us, and I suppose we can accept it as being correct. I am at a loss to understand the action of the Government in reducing some sources of its revenue to comply with its election promises.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: According to the remarks of some of your colleagues, they want to know where this money is going.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: That is so. It would be a sorry day for the State if it were to go bankrupt, but I am afraid that at the rate the money is being expended that is a distinct possibility. On more than one occasion when introducing Bills this session, the Minister has remarked that they have been introduced to fulfil election promises.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Not this Bill!

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: Not this Bill, no. But in regard to the finances of the country, we are still waiting for the fulfilment of some of those election promises. For instance, we have been told that the land tax will be reduced; but the Government expects to collect an additional £56,432 from that source. We were also told that the stamp duties would be reduced; but we find that £15,000 extra is expected from stamp duties. Probate duty was another duty about which a lot was made during the election campaign; but we read that the Government has planned to obtain a further £8,666 from such duty.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: That will be so because a lot of people are going to die from fright.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: Therefore, these promises in relation to the finances of the country do not seem to be maturing. I have been waiting for the Minister to introduce some legislation, or to give us some satisfactory answers to questions which I have asked to indicate that the Government is implementing some of its election promises in regard to the North-West of this State.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That does not require legislation. It needs action, and that is taking place.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I am glad the Minister mentioned action, because we have seen a full-page advertisement in regard to the go-ahead Liberal action for the North-West. What action has been taken in the North-West? We will enumerate some of the proposed actions in this advertisement. One of the stars in the programme was the promise to cut out transport regulations and restrictions north of the 26th parallel. In reply to a question which I asked this session, the Government admitted that there were none to cut out.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It has fulfilled its promise then.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: There never have been any restrictions, but the Liberal Party advertised that it would cut them out. There were some very ingenious advertisements published four days before the election, which made it impossible for other candidates to have an opportunity of refuting or denying them.

Another one of the promises was to restore road subsidies. What happened about road subsidies? In reply to a question I asked on this matter in August, I was told that there were no road subsidies applying in the North-West. Therefore, the advertisement obviously did not apply. However, knowing that there were road subsidies, because I have been in the North-West for more than a year, I pursued the matter by asking further questions as follows:—

- (1) When, on the 17th March, 1959, in the pre-election advertisement, the Liberal Party promised to restore road subsidies in the North-West, was it the intention to restore the subsidies on Carnarvon bananas, beans and tomatoes, which were cancelled after it became the Government in 1947?
- (2) If that was not the intention, to which road subsidies in the North-West did the pre-election promise refer?

In reply to No. (1) the Minister commenced by saying "No." In other words, the Government did not intend to restore the subsidy which it had cancelled in 1947. The reply continued—

This was a subsidy paid by the Transport Board to meet special wartime transport difficulties.

- (2) It would appear that the general policy to restore road subsidies in other parts of the State was inadvertently included in an advertisement dealing specifically with the North-West. The mistake is regretted; but as no such subsidies had been payable, obviously nobody would be disadvantaged.

That is rather a remarkable reply when we consider the advertisement which said that the Liberal Party would meet the challenge of the North-West and develop Western Australia. We have all the promises, but when we investigate them we find that the two I have described are really frauds. There were no transport restrictions to take off the people. The only transport restriction that has operated in the North for many years is the restriction on aerial transport. That is all, north of the 26th parallel. There were also road subsidies paid on asbestos taken from Wittenoom to Point Samson. There was no

mention made of them. There were road subsidies paid on all goods which went from Broome northwards during the war years after the Navy stopped the ships at Broome.

What was the object of telling the people on the eve of an election that the Liberal Party would restore subsidies when I knew, and other members knew, that it was simply a vote-catching propaganda advertisement? However, it took a lot of questions to prove it.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You say it did not do any good, so what are you growling about?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I am not growling about it, but I do want the people in the North-West to know what to expect. I am sorry to see a Country Party member joining in support of this programme.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I did not say I was joining in.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I am surprised to know he is even interested in it.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I am always interested in what is going on.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: There is another one. It is a star! I would ask members to be patient while I find the reference.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Do not keep us in such suspense!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You must be very grateful to the newspaper. I thought you said it never did anything for you.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I am very grateful to the Liberal Party for having such tripe as this printed.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Come on, tell us all about it.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I just cannot lay my finger on it but it dealt with transport. It stated that the Liberal Party would allow producers to carry their own goods in their own transport. I remember Mr. Loton having that provision incorporated in the Act in 1950. Just imagine all this rot! What sort of people does the Liberal Party think live in the North-West? The people read this advertisement, but they did not react to it in the way in which the Liberal Party expected. The Liberal Party received no mandate to carry out any of these so-called promises in the North. It received no mandate, for instance, to carry out No. 1 on the list. It is as follows:—

Develop communications.

Construct deep-sea ports at all vital points—

but this is the star—

at least one to serve the Kimberleys and cattle area; another lower down, to export heavy minerals and asbestos.

"At least one." The Hawke Government started the one at Wyndham out of the £5,000,000 which was supplied by the Commonwealth Government; and that is the only one which has been proceeded with in the Kimberleys, despite the fact that the Commonwealth Government agreed to the Hawke Government's proposition to build another one at Black Rocks to serve Derby. The Hawke Government also assured the people of Broome that it would build a deep-water jetty there. That made three for the Kimberleys—not one.

We have one under construction which the Hawke Government started with Commonwealth funds. The other one which was approved at Black Rocks, and which was to be built out of the same funds, has apparently been shelved. The present Government engaged G. Maunsell & Partners to check up on its own engineers; in other words, to check up on the decision of Sir Russell Dumas who originally selected the site, and made more than one trip to Canberra pressing for funds for the Watts-McLarty Government and the Wise Government.

Black Rocks was considered to be the nearest deep water to the Derby area. But what has happened? We read in the paper that G. Maunsell & Partners, or their representatives, have been along to have a look at the site, but the Government will not be in a position to tell the public where that particular jetty might be constructed—if it is to be constructed at all—for another five months. Another five months! Heavens above! It will be two years this coming December since the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) advised the Hawke Government that £2,500,000 would be made available to construct a jetty at Black Rocks, one at Wyndham, and one to serve the new settlers who have taken up land in the North Kimberleys in the Napier Broome Bay area. What has been done? Nothing at all in respect to the Napier Broome Bay area. There has not even been an inspection made; and pastoralists took up some 5,500,000 to 6,000,000 acres more than two years ago. Yet the Liberal Party says, "Action for the North." There is no plan of action in that at all.

I repeat that I am getting very suspicious about this No. 1 in regard to at least one deep-sea port to serve the Kimberleys and the cattle area; and I am getting very suspicious when I read the reply which Mr. Willesee received in regard to a question about the Broome jetty. On the 15th of this month, he asked the following question:—

(1) In view of the fact that several months have elapsed since the completion of investigations regarding the deep-water port at Broome, will the Minister advise what recommendations have been made to the Government relating to this proposal?

The Minister for Mines replied:

- (1) G. Maunsell & Partners, consulting engineers, have been requested to advise the Government as to the most suitable location and type of structure for a deep-water port to serve the West Kimberley area. Investigations are proceeding, and it will be some months before a report is received.

In view of the advertising which appeared in *The West Australian* of March the 17th last, and the reply concerning the deep-water ports in the Kimberleys, it seems that the Government does not intend to build more than one jetty to serve that area. I could not interpret it any other way. The Government has been hanging back and dilly-dallying. It is now 18 months since the Federal Government passed legislation approving of expenditure on a jetty at Black Rocks to serve Derby; and it will be a further five months, according to the reply given on the 15th of this month, before the Government will be in a position to say whether G. Maunsell & Partners support the site as a jetty site.

I do not know how a Government can claim to be progressive, and to be developing the North-West when it does not turn a hand to look into the Napier-Broome area. It is shelving, as much as possible, the consideration of a deep-water jetty at Black Rocks. I remind the Minister that the Government did not get a mandate to carry out that type of programme; the people in the North voted for the Hawke Government's programme up there; they voted very solidly for the Labor candidates, and in each area they increased their majority. Surely this Government, because it was defeated badly up there, is not going to take it out of the people by delaying these works. The funds for these works are not State funds, but are a Commonwealth grant of £5,000,000. The only works that have been proceeded with, with that money, are the two works which the Hawke Government initiated—the extension of the Wyndham jetty, and the diversion dam on the Ord River, about which we read so much. In *The West Australian* of the 9th May, Mr. Uren, *The West Australian* correspondent in Canberra, had this to say—

Federal Treasurer Holt will introduce legislation next week to allow Western Australia to proceed with the construction of a diversion dam on the Ord River.

Mr. Holt introduced the legislation; but it had nothing to do with the dam on the Ord River; that was not mentioned; it was simply duplicating the legislation which was introduced by Sir Arthur Fadden some 12 months before, in May of last year; and duplicating it because Premier Hawke had written to say that

the first £2,500,000 was insufficient to carry out the three projects that had been approved; and he asked for more money to go on with the Ord River project.

So we see a lot being made of the Ord River and the activity there. I say, "Good luck to the Government and the Minister in charge of that work," because it is most important work; and I back them up to the hilt in their efforts there. But I do not agree with them when they dodge some other important work; because two important works are the jetties to serve Derby and Broome.

Does the Government realise what will happen to Broome unless it puts a deep-water jetty there? If it does not build a jetty there, Broome will deteriorate into a very uneconomical town. The meatworks must eventually close. Only a deep-water port, or a beef subsidy, will keep the works operating at Broome. Who wants to close a town in the North? Surely we have few enough towns there now, because they average 300 miles apart from Fremantle to Wyndham. Surely none of us wants to see the towns deteriorate and close. We want to see these towns continue to offer some type of industry and employment.

Outside of the meatworks at Broome, there is only the pearling industry; and that industry has now become, although not mechanised, improved to such an extent that 30 boats today will lift as much shell as 150 or 200 boats lifted 20, 30 or 40 years ago.

The economy of Broome depends solely upon the pearling industry and the meatworks. The meatworks offer quite a lot of local employment indirectly. I am hoping that this year they will be able to offer more direct employment for the number of coloured people—castes and others—who are well educated, and who live in the town itself. I am hoping that some of these people will, this year, be permitted to work in some of the freezers at the meatworks.

For the information of members, all labour at the meatworks at Broome comes through what I term the butchers' union, although that is not its name; it has a long title. All the labour passes through that one union, which is different from the position at Wyndham where there are several unions. I am hoping that the union at Broome will see its way clear to permit some of the locals to be employed during the coming season, and future seasons, at the meatworks, because at present there is no employment for them. There are no back-country stations at Broome—or very few; nothing like there are at Derby—so there is no opportunity for them to get into the pastoral industry.

The Government will be treading on dangerous ground so far as Broome is concerned if it does not go ahead and build a deep water jetty there. The jetty would pay for itself in the first 15 years of its

life. The existing jetty is very hungry for expenditure on the timbers that are in it. The renewal of timbers here and there is a constant job. If a new jetty were built, there would be no expenditure for 20 years; unless an accident occurred—if there was a fire, or a ship bumped into it. But there would be an indirect saving to the State Shipping Service. With a deep water jetty, because of Broome not being a tidal port and Derby not being a tidal port, I do not know how much money would be saved by the State Shipping Service. But it certainly would run into upwards of £100,000 a year. Because of the ships being tied to tides under existing conditions, it costs an enormous amount of money to operate the service to fit in with the tides.

I hope that we will hear from the Government something better than we have heard in relation to the North, because it certainly has done nothing, outside of what it has done with the Commonwealth grant; and it seems to be digging its toes in in relation even to the grant. It is necessary that serious consideration be given to these aspects of the North.

The Government has the money and the approval of the Commonwealth Government, yet it seems to be dodging the issue. I am wondering why it would take five months for an expert firm like G. Maunsell & Partners to check the work that has already been done—the soundings, the site and the proposed structure—and advise the Government whether the site is suitable. The site is the main thing. Why it should take another five months for these experts to determine this matter is beyond me; unless there is an underlying reason in the forthcoming North Province Council elections.

I sincerely hope that the Minister will convey my thoughts to the Premier, and the rest of his colleagues, so that we may, perhaps, see some of the action which they advertised so widely and promised to carry out.

THE HON. C. R. ABBEY (Central) [9.43]: During the day I had the pleasure of visiting, together with the Minister for Agriculture, the Wokalup Research Station, and I was most interested to see some of the experiments being conducted with the breeding of beef cattle from culled dairy cows. I do not live in a dairy district, but the results did seem to me to be worthwhile mentioning. The research station has, on a number of occasions, topped the market with its cross-bred steers, bred from culled dairy cows; quite a notable achievement. The results from Aberdeen Angus and Hereford cross bulls on to culled dairy cows, have realised from 3d. to 3½d. per lb. above comparable A.I.S. steers.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Are there any scrub bulls there?

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: The result is quite useful as an indication to the people of the district that the experiments are of some value. The A.I.S. is available at Wokalup, and is used to a large extent.

What interested me most were the pasture experiments at Wokalup. In Western Australia there are 14 research stations, and it seems to me that many of these experiments could be carried out at other research stations; and in particular I mention Avondale, which interests me, of course, because it is in my province.

I know that in the Beverley-Brookton district, on the west side where the rainfall is about 18 inches or more, lucerne, on suitable country, grows very well and gives good results. Should there be storms during the summer months, full advantage could be taken of the growth and the grass could be cut and baled. It seems to me that at experimental stations such as Avondale, and others in the 17 to 18 inch rainfall area, experiments with perennials could be carried out which would be of considerable advantage to the agriculturists in those areas.

At Wokalup, development has been carried out with currie cocksfoot, and neptune cocksfoot, and some *Phalaris tuberosa*, and the authorities have been able to prove that certain types will be very suitable for the South-West. That has led to something like 1,500 acres of currie cocksfoot being established in the area immediately adjacent to Harvey, to the great benefit of the dairying industry.

It seems to me that there are other plants which would be suitable for the lighter rainfall areas and which could be grown as perennials and used as green bite during the summer, particularly for stud stock, large stock such as cattle, etc. I should like the Minister in this House to convey to the Minister for Agriculture a request that experiments be carried out to discover whether it is possible to establish perennials in the lighter rainfall areas; particularly a perennial which would give sufficient bulk to make it worth while for the ordinary agriculturist to set aside up to 200 acres of his property and to treat it, as it would need to be treated, for up to two years so that a proper pasture could be established.

But let us not look at this in the light of only the dry farming areas with a 17 or 18 in. rainfall. I believe there are many other areas—

The Hon. A. R. Jones: It would be more like 9 in. in the lighter rainfall areas. You said 17 or 18 in.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: That is getting a bit too low. I believe there are many areas on each farm in the Avon Valley which would be suitable for the establishment of some type of perennial. Lucerne is probably suitable; and the new development of pelleting the seed with lime

and the necessary bacteria has led to a far better establishment of this type of grass than was the case in the past. I believe that that could be of great benefit to agriculturists in those areas in the future.

I am of the opinion that these experiments could be carried out effectively at Avondale because there is a lot of good land on that property; and should perennial grasses be successfully established it would point the way to the fact that in many other areas immediately adjoining the experimental station, similar grasses could be grown successfully. Recently the new type of clover, Geraldton, was made available to farmers in bulk lots, and I believe it is a clover which will be of great help to those farmers in the medium rainfall areas. Also there is Woodgenillup clover which has been developed and found useful in the South-West.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: And Carnamah.

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: That is another good one. Some of these clovers could take the place of Dwalganup because it seems to me that in the last year or two Dwalganup has reached the stage where it is not as good as it used to be; and the three clovers I have mentioned could, perhaps, be used instead and would be a great help in the establishment of pasture in those areas.

I am rather concerned at the deterioration of clover pastures in the Avon valley; they are definitely not as good as they have been in the past, and the same applies in the South-West, I believe. Perhaps we will find that, with the use of certain trace elements, we will be able to bring these areas back into full production.

There is one other matter I would like to bring forward at this stage, and that is the fact that the travelling public are not able to obtain petrol as and where they need it. We know that the restrictions on the sales of petrol were to apply only to the metropolitan area; but those restrictions are extending further out into areas where previously one could be sure of getting supplies when one wanted them.

Because of these restrictions the travelling public are being considerably inconvenienced; and on Sundays, or at a late hour, one cannot be served with petrol or any essential item such as a fan belt. These restrictions are also working to the disadvantage of those garage proprietors who are prepared to give a service but are not allowed to do so under the present set up. Something will have to be done about the position because these restrictions are unnecessary.

I agree with Mr. Diver's contention that there should be some control of the building of petrol stations; we can have too many of them, but where a station has been established, and the proprietor is willing to provide a service to the public,

he should be given an opportunity to render that service when the travelling public find it necessary to stop for petrol or necessary spare parts. One does not go to a garage to pick up a tyre or a tube, or even a fan belt, because one has forgotten it; one goes there because one really needs it.

Some of the garage proprietors have been fined because they have helped out by rendering a service to some traveller. The position is serious, and I think we will have to do something about it—and as quickly as possible. That is all I have to say at this stage. I support the Bill.

On motion by the Hon. L. A. Logan, debate adjourned.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (the Hon. E. M. Davies) in the Chair; the Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Child Welfare) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2—Section 5 amended:

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I move an amendment—

Page 2, line 22—Add after the word "tuberculosis" the following words:—"applicants for adoption who have had tuberculosis or undergoing post hospital treatment for tuberculosis shall not be debarred provided a favourable report is issued by the Public Health Department."

I do not intend to defeat the Bill, because I think it has a good deal of merit. Last Thursday I gave the Minister a copy of my amendment so that he could have it investigated, and I understand that he has a reply from Dr. King in regard to it. It is to the effect that the people whom I desire to cover by my amendment may already be included; but then again they may not. We have to make our Acts as clear as possible because all sorts of different interpretations can be placed upon the provisions we place in them.

If the amendment is agreed to it will dispel some of the fears which other members have in regard to this legislation. All it will mean is that there will be a double check; and, if the Minister considers that the clause already covers the people I have in mind, my amendment will merely still further clarify the position.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I said before, and I repeat, the amendment is unnecessary. Those debarred from adopting children will be people suffering from infectious tuberculosis. If they have not infectious tuberculosis, they can adopt children. They must undergo an X-ray test

by an approved medical officer. The definition of "communicable tuberculosis" is, in effect, all forms of pulmonary tuberculosis in which the tuberculosis bacillus has been found in the sputum as a result of tests made in an approved laboratory. If the judge thinks a person is fit, he will permit him to adopt a child. There has been no let-down by the department in these adoptions. The reason why the adoptions through the department are less is because of the loose arrangements outside the department. The conditions laid down by the department say, in effect, that a full investigation must be made before applicants shall be considered suitable. A report is prepared and submitted to the court with each application. A medical certificate as to the health and suitability of both parties is also necessary. The advice of the department is given where required; and if subsequent help is needed, further attention is given in individual cases.

I should imagine that after all those precautions, there would not be too many failures. The position is adequately safeguarded by extending some of these requirements to the field of private operators. It is true that an X-ray examination might show a dark spot, which need not necessarily mean infectious tuberculosis. But a laboratory test is also necessary. I was asked why I would debar a rich couple from adopting a child even though the man had only six months to live. My view is that money is not everything. Most of these children have come from broken families; some have had no family at all, and they need all the protection we can give them. I oppose the amendment.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I must insist on my amendment. People could have a radiological test and be cleared; there is no need for them to go to the Chest Clinic, because a medical practitioner could carry out this test. It is possible that an ordinary medical practitioner would not know very much about the disease and would give a clean bill of health. Dr. Hislop has said that a clinical test—that is a mantoux test—is the only true test. In 10 days the report of the test is known. People could go to a medical practitioner and come out cleared, even though the complete test had not been carried out. But the person who has had the disease and is undergoing post-hospital treatment is not likely to be re-infected, because he would be under the supervision of the Public Health Department, and it would be for the department to say "Yea" or "Nay" as to his suitability. I want the Act to be perfect. I do not want the position to arise where, in 20 years' time a young clerk can say to some person, "You have just come out of a chest hospital; you cannot adopt the child."

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I notice the Bill refers to infectious tuberculosis, whereas the Act defines communicable tuberculosis. It seems to be a contradiction of terms.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I admit the word "infectious" is not in the Health Act itself. But if we ask a medical officer the difference between infectious tuberculosis and communicable tuberculosis he will say there is none. Mr. Thompson's reference to a young clerk is not applicable to the amendment in the Bill, because the person concerned must undergo a radiological examination as well as an X-ray examination by a medical officer. Even Dr. King admits that the clinical examination in section 8A is a radiological examination. It is going too far to imply that an officer of the Medical Department is more competent than a medical practitioner. In the case of the compulsory tuberculosis examination carried out in the country and metropolitan areas, more often than not it is the ordinary medical practitioner who conducts it. This will have to go before a judge of the Supreme Court, and it will be for him to decide. I oppose the amendment.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: If "infectious" means the same as "communicable," I do not see why the draftsman did not use "communicable." According to the definition of "communicable tuberculosis," it would seem that, irrespective of the amendment, a sputum test would be necessary.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: "Communicable" and "infectious" are the same.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: No, they are not; and a loophole might be left. This may overcome the problem of Mr. Thompson in that an X-ray test alone will not be enough under the Health Act.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I would regard "infectious" and "communicable" as the same, but I do not know whether a lawyer would. Lawyers are unpredictable when it comes to the definition of words. An astute lawyer could argue that because in one section of the Act there is mention of "communicable disease" it must be regarded as infectious.

I point out that there is a difference between this Act and what Mr. Thompson wants. This Act is to protect children against the possibility of being adopted by a person who might have active tuberculosis. Mr. Thompson's desire is that anyone who has had treatment for tuberculosis and is now regarded as healed, should be prevented from adopting children. So there are two completely different viewpoints. This is an adoption of children Act, but not one to confer rights upon adults. Therefore, I think we may have to adhere to the Bill. I doubt whether the question of the protection of adults' rights comes into this Bill.

If people are undergoing post-hospital treatment, the authorities believe that these people require treatment; and they would not be prepared, in those circumstances, to regard them as having healed tuberculosis. Therefore, I think this amendment might make it more difficult for the people Mr. Thompson wants to assist.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That is what I think, too.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If we can get over the question whether tuberculosis is infectious or communicable, this Bill will suit most of us and will meet Mr. Thompson's objections.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I have the answer.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: We will listen to the Minister on the matter.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I said earlier that the words "infectious" and "communicable" had exactly the same meaning. If one looks at the definition of "infectious" under the Health Act one will find it includes all forms of tuberculosis. The word "infectious" covers the word "communicable," and I think that overcomes the problem.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I thank Dr. Hislop for his answer, because it served two purposes. This Bill is not putting the burden on the Child Welfare Department; it is putting it on the persons themselves to go forward and obtain a clean bill of health from the Medical Department. When they do that they will be in a position to present it to the Child Welfare Department. No member of this Committee can tell me that a general practitioner knows as much about tuberculosis as the Public Health Department. I will argue with anyone on that score, because the people in the department are authoritative on tuberculosis in Western Australia.

Dr. Hislop explained another point with which I do not agree. He mentioned the case of a person being discharged from hospital and having post-hospital treatment. I regard post-hospital treatment as the taking of tablets. Under these conditions they are able to be discharged from hospital for the reason that they are not infectious.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If someone is requested to continue the taking of tablets for tuberculosis, it is because the authorities consider that that person has not reached the stage when the tablets can be left off. That is all.

Amendment put and a division called for.

Remarks during Division

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I only heard one "No" voice.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (The Hon. E. M. Davies): I heard more than one.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Your hearing is very good—congratulations!

Division Resumed

The division resulted as follows:—

Division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—9.

Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. R. Thompson
Hon. J. J. Garrigan	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. F. J. S. Wise
Hon. F. R. H. Lavery	Hon. J. D. Teahan
Hon. H. C. Strickland	(Teller.)

Noes—11.

Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. H. L. Roche
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. A. R. Jones	Hon. J. M. Thomson
Hon. L. A. Logan	Hon. F. D. Willmott
Hon. A. L. Loton	Hon. C. R. Abbey
Hon. G. C. MacKinnon	(Teller.)

Majority against—2.

Amendment thus negatived.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I move an amendment—

Page 2, line 23—Insert before the word "responsible" the word "senior".

There are a number of young officers in the Child Welfare Department who have not been sufficiently trained to give decisions on these matters; and I consider that the report should be made by a senior officer.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If this amendment were successful, the two senior officers of my department, Mr. Hitchins and Mr. Young, would be running around the country interviewing all the persons who seek the adoption of children. The department would then be in a sorry mess.

Senior officers should not be sent from Perth to make an investigation in the country, where the local officer would have a greater knowledge of the people concerned. I hope the amendment will not be agreed to.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I think that if the wording were altered to "a responsible senior officer," it would be more grammatical than "a senior responsible officer." However, I agree with my colleague in regard to the amendment.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: Must not a senior officer be a responsible officer?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: In view of what the Minister has said, I ask leave to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I can assure the honourable member that when a report is received from the local officer, it is submitted to head office, where the formal report is prepared; and it goes from the department to the Judge of the Supreme Court.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 3 to 5, and Title put and passed.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILLS (3)—FIRST READING**1. Argentine Ant Bill.**

Received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), read a first time.

2. Entertainments Tax Act Amendment Bill.**3. Entertainments Tax Assessment Act Amendment Bill.**

Received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), read a first time.

STATE HOTELS (DISPOSAL) BILL*Assembly's Message*

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had disagreed to the amendment made by the Council.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL

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

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.40 p.m.

CONTENTS—continued

Page

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—continued

Cannington police station, establishment	2313
Nedlands foreshore, reclamation and dredging	2313
Fruit fly, eradication campaign	2313
Land settlement, ex-war service farms, terms of repayment	2313
Plain country, cost per acre	2313
Mount and Malcolm Streets—Resumptions for road Tunnelling	2314

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE :

Guayule rubber plants, planting centres	2314
Metropolitan transport congestion, alteration of school luncheon hour	2314
Fitzroy Crossing school, water supply	2314
Mount and Malcolm Streets, date of completion of by-pass road	2314

ORDERS OF THE DAY :

Postponement of Nos. 5 to 14	2315
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BILLS :

Metropolitan Region Town Planning scheme Bill, 1r.	2315
Town Planning and Development Act Amendment Bill, (No. 3) 1r.	2315
Argentine Ant Bill, 3r.	2315
Entertainments Tax Assessment Act Amendment Bill, 3r.	2315
Entertainments Tax Act Amendment Bill, 3r.	2315
Western Australian Industries Authority Bill, report	2315
Katanning Electric Lighting and Power Repeal Bill, returned	2315
Companies Act Amendment Bill, returned	2315
Oil Refinery Industry (Anglo-Iranian Oil Company Limited) Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	2316
Com., report	2316
State Housing Act Amendment Bill—	
2r.	2316
Com., report	2317
State Hotels (Disposal) Bill, Council's amendments	2317

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1959-60, Com. of Supply, votes and items discussed	2317
----------------------------------------------------------------------	------

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 21st October, 1959

CONTENTS

Page

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE :

Department of Pharmacology—	
Grant from Wellcome Foundation	2310
Investigations of <i>scaevola spinescens</i> and other W.A. plants	2311
Interim development order, effect on land-owners	2311
Carnarvon Housing—	
Additional allocations	2311
Prawning company's requirements	2311
Unroadworthy vehicles, use by and sale to natives	2312
Destruction of flora, application of policy to P.M.G. Department	2312
Boddington town dam, commencement	2312
Water piping, supply position	2312
Foxes, control by Agriculture Protection Board	2312
Emus, methods of control	2313

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

Grant from Wellcome Foundation

2. Mr. MANN asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Is it a fact that the Wellcome Foundation made a grant of money towards the establishment of a Department of Pharmacology at the University?