

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Third Session of the Twenty-fourth Parliament

Parliament was prorogued on the 10th June, 1964, to the 30th July, 1964, when it met for the despatch of business.

Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.)

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 30th July, 1964

CONTENTS

	Page
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : FIRST DAY—	
Speaker on Motion—	
The Hon. J. G. Hislop	5
BILL—	
Justices Act Amendment Bill—	
Leave to Introduce	5
Introduction ; 1r.	5
GOVERNOR'S SPEECH—	
Delivery	1
Distribution of Copies	5
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL	1
PROCLAMATION	1
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—	
Aged People's Homes : Erection in Country Areas	5
Equal Pay for the Sexes : Government Policy	5

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at 3 p.m.

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. J. B. Roberts) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (The Hon. Sir John Patrick Dwyer, K.C.M.G.) summoning the third session of the Twenty-fourth Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Delivery

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) entered the Council Chamber at 3.6 p.m.; and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber, obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

It is with pleasure that I open the Third Session of the Twenty-fourth Parliament of Western Australia.

The people of this State received with joy and affection the tidings that a third son had been born to Her Majesty The Queen.

I wish to record our deep regret that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was prevented by illness from visiting the State this year. We rejoice in her excellent recovery and trust that a further opportunity to visit us will soon arise.

On the occasion of my first official speech to Parliament as Governor of this State, I wish to express the gratitude of myself and my wife for the warmth of the welcome extended to us by the people of Western Australia. We have travelled already to many parts of the State, including the North West, and we have been most impressed by the enterprise and enthusiasm devoted to the task of developing the vast resources of this great country. We intend to take the earliest opportunity to visit other districts.

The past year has established for Western Australia another highly satisfactory record of expansion, which reflects the greatest credit on the whole community. There is a healthy and confident tone throughout the economy which is progressing at an ever increasing pace. Building activity is remarkably high, the general level of employment continues to rise and shortages of labour are becoming more widespread. The State's population and employment have been advancing at a faster rate than for the Commonwealth and the prospects are excellent for further rapid growth.

In keeping with this upsurge in development, the encouragement of immigration will be strengthened by State group nominations covering a variety of trades.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Revenue for the financial year 1963-64 was £83,944,000 and expenditure £85,340,000, leaving a deficit of £1,396,000. This result was achieved notwithstanding the additional cost this year of marginal and basic wage increases granted to all Government employees, amounting to approximately £1,300,000.

Expenditure on capital works from the General Loan Fund amounted to £24,136,000.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Widespread and increasing interest is being shown in land selection and approximately 1,000,000 acres of agricultural land is being released each year. The demand for pastoral land continues.

At the Ord River Scheme seven new farms have been allocated and twenty farms will be producing crops during the coming summer growing season. The first cotton crops have produced payable yields of premium quality cotton. Some damage from pests was experienced and detailed investigations are being undertaken. Results to date indicate that efficient control of pests can be achieved. The possibility of growing and milling cane sugar is being fully investigated.

Although excessive rains in the growing period, followed by outbreaks of disease, resulted in reduced cereals yields last season, good pasture growth was experienced in the southern part of the State and a substantial increase in wool production is expected. Wool values, which continued to rise during 1963, have remained at a satisfactory level. A considerable rise in sheep numbers is anticipated following favourable lambing conditions. It is estimated that 4.8 million acres of wheat and about 2 million acres of oats and barley will be sown this season.

The pasture seed industry is expanding tremendously, the value of all small seeds harvested in 1963-64 being estimated at over £1,300,000. The production of certified subterranean clover seed, much of which is exported, rose by more than 1,000 tons to the record figure of 3,645 tons.

During the last year the Dairy Farm Improvement Scheme was extended to cover all the butterfat producing districts and 220 farmers have participated.

An improved staff position has permitted increased veterinary services both in the field and the Animal Health Laboratory. Veterinary officers are now located in seven country centres.

A major forestry research station is to be built this year at Collier Pine Plantation. Tree breeding work with a view to the introduction to Western Australia of improved strains of the softwood, *pinus pinaster*, is being undertaken by a Forests Department officer stationed in Portugal and is proceeding satisfactorily.

The value of fish caught last year rose to the record figure of £5,377,000. Earnings from the export of crayfish exceeded 11,000,000 dollars. Research programmes in crayfish and prawns have been intensified to assist in the assessment of stocks.

A new fisheries patrol vessel will be constructed this year.

The policy of creating a favourable economic climate for private investment is bringing good results. Many new factories, including two tyre factories, have been completed during the past year and are producing a variety of goods which have added to the diversification of Western Australian industry.

Two important Companies, Laporte Titanium Company at Bunbury, and Western Aluminium, N.L., at Kwinana, have commenced operation and are employing large work forces. The production of both Companies is largely for export.

Good progress is being maintained in the establishing of the integrated iron and steel industry at Kwinana and the associated work of rail standardisation. The building of the new township at Koolyanobing has started.

Exports promotion has been actively pursued and the State has participated in Trade Missions to East Africa and the Middle East and to South East Asia with satisfactory results. The Minister for Industrial Development visited Great Britain, the Continent, and the U.S.A. to follow up industrial and investment prospects as part of a continuing programme of promotion.

Means of encouraging decentralisation of industry and population are being closely studied and seminars designed to provoke interest and action have been held in many parts of the State.

The State's mineral resources continue to attract wide interest and the exploration conducted by large mining companies has confirmed the existence of vast quantities of high grade iron ore. One company has successfully negotiated a contract for the supply of 5,100,000 tons of iron ore to overseas interests. Technical missions from Japan recently visited the State to assess the quantity and quality of other deposits and negotiations for further contracts are proceeding.

Greatly increased work on oil exploration is taking place throughout Western Australia and additional highly skilled companies are joining in the search.

The discovery of oil and gas at both Yardarino and Barrow Island is most encouraging and the full assessment of their value is eagerly awaited.

Gold production was over 800,000 fine ounces, the value of all minerals produced during the year being £21,076,000.

Close co-operation is being maintained with the Commonwealth on matters of northern development and this will be further strengthened with the establishing of a Northern Division within the Commonwealth Department of National Development. The State's case for assistance with the Main Ord River Dam project has been placed before the Commonwealth Government.

The East Kimberley and Halls Creek areas are experiencing severe drought. Cattle losses, though still expected to be severe, have been lessened by the use of cattle trains on roads improved under the Beef Roads development scheme. The Wyndham Meat Works expect to slaughter more than 30,000 cattle this season. In the West Kimberleys construction of a deep water port at Broome is in progress and the jetty at Derby is nearing completion.

A Committee appointed by the State Government to investigate the increasing transport needs in the North West will collaborate closely with the special Commonwealth Committee dealing with Northern Australian transport.

To meet increased shipping space needed for the prompt movement of materials for the many construction projects now in hand and planned for the near future in northern areas, the State Shipping Service has secured a 1,400 ton motor vessel on a charter basis.

The changing freight pattern in the North has made it necessary for the State Shipping Service to investigate other avenues of freight for its homeward bound vessels. With the knowledge that goods destined for Eastern States markets are available at Northern ports, a series of sailings via Darwin to main Australian ports is being undertaken and this will assist in evaluating westbound traffic

potential from the Eastern States. A direct shipping service to Western Australian ports is offered.

The construction of the Muja Power Station near Collie is on schedule and the first 60,000 kilowatt unit will be commissioned in September, 1965. Installation of transmission lines from Muja to Perth is now proceeding. Seven hundred and twenty rural consumers were added to the State Electricity Commission system during the past year.

As a result of the plentiful winter rains, major metropolitan and country water storages are filled to capacity.

Good progress has been maintained in the South of the River Sewerage Scheme. Main drainage work in low lying areas has continued.

Maximum attention is being given to the expansion and improvement of water supplies in country towns and areas. Extensions of the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme are being financed from State funds and the programme provides for water to be available to Wickiepin, Broomehill and Gnowangerup by the end of this year. The Government is strongly pressing for Commonwealth financial assistance for further extensions of the Scheme and is hopeful that a favourable decision will be reached in the near future.

The construction of new shipping berths at Esperance and Geraldton is in progress.

At Fremantle the first stage of improved port bulk grain storage and shipping facilities is expected to be finished and fully commissioned in September next.

Legislation will be introduced for the re-enactment of the Main Roads (Fund Appropriation) Act. The State will receive £11,700,000 this year from the Commonwealth Aid Road Fund and it is proposed to spend approximately one-fifth of this amount on works north of the 26th parallel.

Further improvements are being made throughout the road system and planning of the Mitchell Freeway for the relief of traffic congestion in the metropolitan area is now well advanced.

Railway earnings in the past financial year exceeded operating expenses by approximately £1,500,000, some £400,000 better than in the previous year. The quantity of superphosphate transported was a record. The permanent way, rolling stock and equipment are in sound condition and efforts are being concentrated on the improvement of operating methods to meet present day transport requirements.

Government primary and secondary school enrolments now amount to 138,000, an increase of 4,000 since the beginning of 1963. To cater for this increase 201 additional classrooms and nine new schools have been constructed in the past financial year.

A commencement has been made with the building of an Institute of Technology. During the past year new hostels for high school pupils were opened at three country centres.

A bill to raise the school leaving age will be placed before you.

Following consideration of the report of the Committee appointed to investigate Youth Services, the Government proposes to introduce legislation to establish a Youth Council.

The Report of the Fact Finding Committee on the Apprenticeship System has been received and attention is being directed to means of increasing the number of apprentices.

Major hospital buildings in course of erection include regional hospitals at Bunbury and Geraldton, a Mental Deficiency Centre at Guildford, and a Day Hospital at Shenton Park.

Bills will be introduced to control the discharge of impurities into the air by industry, to provide for the registration of chiropractors, and for a new and uniform approach to the control of poisons.

During 1963-64 capital expenditure under the State Housing Act, the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement Act, the War Services Homes Act and for State Government Departments amounted to £11,000,000. Loans made to Building Societies assisted 370 families to purchase their own homes and under the State Government's second mortgage scheme a further 240 families were enabled to become home owners. At Cottesloe a block of flats to house elderly pensioners has been completed by the State Housing Commission and a further block is being planned.

The important Native Welfare legislation enacted during the last session is being implemented and confidence is felt in its ultimate benefit to natives as part of the general community.

A comprehensive programme of housing for natives is being pursued and to date 466 transitional homes and six conventional State Housing type homes have been completed or are under construction. A pilot scheme for adult native education has commenced.

In preparation for bringing the Offenders Probation and Parole Act into early operation, a Parole Board has been appointed.

A new Children's Court building has been erected and opened in Perth, and a new Child Welfare Remand Home will be completed shortly.

In the metropolitan area 69 new bus shelters have been erected with Government assistance.

Ministers are gravely concerned at the rising toll of road accidents and are giving close attention to means of improving

road safety. The Police Force is being increased by an additional 20 men to provide primarily for extra traffic control, and radar speed checking units are operating on highways to control speeding.

With the assistance of the State Library Board, 76 public libraries have now been established by local authorities and it is expected a further 11 will be opened in the current year. A Children's Centre developed by the Museum Board has met with outstanding success, and during the last school holidays was attended by some 11,000 children each week.

Tourist travel in Western Australia continues its rapid increase. During the past year financial assistance extended through the Tourist Development Authority has resulted in the provision of beach amenities, caravan parks and other tourist facilities and attractions at many additional centres throughout the State. New premises purchased last year have been modernised and occupied by our Tourist Bureau's Branch in Adelaide.

The development of the State Civil Defence and Emergency Services is proceeding and one hundred local emergency services have now been formed under the authority of Shire or Town Councils. Further training schools are to be conducted in both the metropolitan and country areas.

Legislation to be placed before you, other than that already mentioned, will include—

Bills to amend the—

- Electoral Act;
- Legal Practitioners Act;
- Administration Act;
- Superannuation and Family Benefits Act;
- Local Government Act;
- Justices Act;
- Criminal Code;
- Companies Act;

A Bill to provide payment of compensation to civilians injured whilst assisting the Police in the execution of their duty;

A Bill to regulate and control debt collectors;

A Bill to regulate and control door-to-door sales;

A Bill to establish a Suitors Fund;

A Bill to make provision in respect of liability for damage caused by aircraft;

A Bill to consolidate the law relating to pharmacies and the registration of pharmaceutical chemists.

I now declare this Session of Parliament open and trust that Providence may bless your labours.

His Excellency and members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President resumed the Chair.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

EQUAL PAY FOR THE SEXES

Government Policy

1. The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON asked the Minister for Mines:

Does the reply given by the Minister for Works to the recent deputation when he rejected a request for the introduction of equal pay for equal work by the sexes represent Government policy in this matter?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The policy of the Government in matters of this nature is to accept the decision of the appropriate tribunal, in this case the Industrial Commission.

AGED PEOPLE'S HOMES

Erection in Country Areas

2. The Hon. G. BENNETTS asked the Minister for Housing:

Arising out of the Governor's Speech in regard to homes for the aged that are being built in the metropolitan area and suburban areas, would the Minister give consideration to the building of some of these homes in country areas?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

If the honourable member is referring to cottage homes for aged people, these are being erected throughout the whole of the State wherever the demand warrants. If he is referring to homes that are constructed by various church organisations, this is a matter for those organisations; but the Housing Commission assists with architectural plans and designs, and also in overseeing the work carried out by such organisations.

JUSTICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Leave to Introduce

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Justice) [3.40 p.m.]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Justices Act 1902-1962.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [3.41 p.m.]: For the sake of accuracy, I have obtained from His Excellency the Governor copies of the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament. These will be distributed amongst members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [3.42 p.m.]: I move—

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

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

We who are living today are witnessing a new era being ushered into the life of every Australian. Viewing Australia as a whole, the post-war progress has been phenomenal. Major undertakings that could not have been contemplated in the thirties, have come to be accepted as normal and necessary projects. From being a relatively poor country, but one with assets to be realised in a dim and distant future, Australia has become a rich land, virtually flowing with milk and honey.

Today we speak in millions. Yesterday we spoke in hundreds. Who, 20 years ago, would have dreamed that in his or her lifetime such a colossal task as the Snowy Mountains scheme, totalling in the neighbourhood of £400,000,000, would be reaching completion, or the standardisation of Australian railways in progress, no matter how much any necessary projects had been discussed? Could we have dreamed that the annual Budget of the Federal Government would reach, at this date, £2,000,000,000, or the population exceed 10,000,000 persons, or that our State Government would spend almost £100,000,000 in the coming year?

One has only to look at the funds accumulated overseas as a result of excess of exports over imports to realise the great advances in both primary and secondary industries. This post-war period of expansion has produced similar results in all States.

Much of the progress must be attributed to the successful migration policy. Those who have made this land their new home

have brought wealth, initiative, new ideas and new interests, not only in material avenues, but in cultural spheres as well. What followed is an example of how success breeds success. Observing our progress and being assured of stable government, large amounts of capital have been poured into our coffers by individuals, investors, and companies from many foreign countries.

In recent years, the progress within Western Australia has been stupendous and must be evident to every citizen. It is only natural that the Government in office must gain the credit for much of the advancement that has taken place. Most will agree that the Government has succeeded through seeing and seizing the opportunities made clear by the advancing prosperity of the State, through the vistas that have become apparent, and through the possibilities that have been conceived or become evident.

But this is not the time in this new era to lavish praise on some and berate others. It is general knowledge that some schemes for which a Government in office gains credit could, or may, have been on the drawing boards of a previous Government. This will always happen. It is instead a time when all concerned with government should pledge themselves to ensure by their thoughts, their words, and their actions that this State does not, even in the smallest degree, fail to take advantage of any opportunity to join in the general march of progress.

Today is the day of opportunity. Tomorrow may be too late; opportunity so often knocks but once. There are dramatic days ahead. The progress of our western State—progress which can be seen on every hand—reflects once more the world history of the uncovering of the wealth and power of the western coasts. The fascinating stories of the hardships, the privations, and the ultimate rewards of the treks to the west coast of America made interesting reading in the days of our youth. Today that western coast bids to become the golden store of the United States. History is being repeated on our western coast. The discoveries of the fabulous deposits of metals are well known to every citizen, but the deposits are probably even better known to interested companies in Japan, America, and elsewhere.

A recent survey by an overseas team of experts has painted a picture of hidden wealth that few of us could contemplate. These are some of the future gains, for time must pass and much be spent before markets are firm and the metals mined. The recent findings of gas and oil at Yardarino and Barrow Island could well picture a different future for our mineral field. The aid of these two elements could permit of the refining being carried out within the State.

The vast works contemplated, some of which are in the course of construction in our far north, are capable of comparison with those in countries with 10 and 20 times the population of that of Australia; and certainly, though they be subsidised by the Federal Government, the contribution by a mere handful of people—three-quarters of a million spread over one-third of Australia—is to be commended.

The promise of the expansion of the north with already evidence of the growth of cotton, and the possibility of sugar cane, and of new varieties of crops, is exciting. The beef roads will be welcomed by the cattlemen as a tremendous fillip to their industry. In addition, the road cut through the limestone ridges of the King Leopold Range will open up vistas of magical beauty in colours seldom seen elsewhere—a major tourist attraction for travellers from all parts of the world.

As my mind wanders around Australia, I hear the prayer of that grand American poet, Samuel Walter Foss, calling for "men to match my mountains, men to match my plains," offered in a period of time similar to that of Australia today, being answered daily in the far corners of this great continent.

In gigantic tasks from Yallourn to Cooma, to Moonie fields, to Mt. Isa, to Kununurra, to Yampi, to the North West Cape, to the tracking station, to Yardarino, to Kwinana, to the great southern land division of our State, men of ability, nerve, and know-how of every nationality, join together in harmony to harness the great powers of nature in the interests of this land.

Trade with the countries north of us, such as Japan in wool, and China in wheat, have opened new markets for our primary industries. But with them have come added responsibilities, which are being met by our farmers and graziers. The great advances in stocking—where once one animal fed, four now can—and the alteration of lambing timing must go a long way in permitting protein food to be made available to the south-east Asian populations at a cost which they can afford.

This close association with our neighbours must bring to every Australian, and particularly every Western Australian, a consciousness of the need to know more of these people, and to achieve a closer understanding of their living conditions, their needs, and their beliefs. May I repeat—a closer understanding. Trading alone will not suffice. No longer can Australia—and this applies even more so to us—dissociate itself as an outpost of British culture. We are now a democratic nation situated in the south-east Asian zone.

Reviewing the situation as a whole, Western Australians can hold their heads high for the part they are playing in progress. This is no time for despair, delay,

or hesitant action, but one for courageous planning with unison, with vision, and with wisdom. Every day the roadway to the dreams of our past becoming realities is widening. All that is required now is faith in our tomorrows and a determination to succeed. Let us forget the toil and sweat—only achievement counts. Each day as we proceed to our daily toil, it would do us all good to repeat these words of Arthur Clough—

And not by eastern windows only.

When daylight comes, comes in the light,

In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,

But westward, look, the land is bright.

'Today, we, as a Parliament, have brought to fruition a wish of one of our great forebears, the earliest of our leaders, and one of our greatest parliamentarians—Lord Forrest; and he, then Sir John Forrest, as Premier, speaking in the Legislative Assembly on the 17th October, 1894, on a motion for a commission to report on the expediency or not of erecting new Houses of Parliament, said—

For my part, I believe in making a country's Houses of Parliament as convenient, as beautiful, and even as splendid as possible, so that those who enter them may regard them as something like sacred ground, and be impressed with a certain amount of reverence for their surroundings, and so behave themselves.

The completion of these buildings, commenced by The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke's Ministry, and completed in The Hon. David Brand's term of office as Premier, stands as a monument to those who chose the site and thereon erected the first section of the House. In the original section, the first session of Parliament held there commenced on the 28th July, 1904—sixty years ago.

I do not intend to recite the history of the House. It appeared in a beautiful brochure presented to all present at the opening of the completed building on Monday, the 23rd March, 1964. It can, however, be said with pride that it is the most modern, best equipped, and best sited Parliament House in Australia. Whilst the honours go to the Governments, much of the praise must go to the architects of the Public Works Department who conceived the planning, and must continue down to every worker who contributed to its completion.

This is the first occasion on which the opening of a session has been held in the completed House, though this actual ceremony is carried out in the original Chambers, because the Chambers of the Council and Assembly are part of the original section. Thus, this day must go down in history as one of great moment.

This Parliament House will live, we trust, unharmed for centuries. Those who have the privilege of holding a seat herein will, in the days that lie ahead, pay homage to those who, by their forethought, skill, and devotion to beauty, made this House a living creation. I trust that events will be so ordered that, in the centuries to come, this House will be revered as intensely as are the ancient buildings of our Mother Country. Realising the reverence within the building sought by Lord Forrest, and remembering the reverence in which you, Mr. President, commence our daily sessions in prayer, may I, in the same spirit of reverence, quote some short phrases of Helen Taylor—

Bless this House, O Lord we pray,
Make it safe by night and day.

Bless the people here within.

Let Thy peace lie over all.

May I, through you, Sir, thank the Premier and the members of Cabinet for conferring upon me the privilege of moving the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency on this historic occasion.

THE HON. S. T. J. THOMPSON
(South) [3.58 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. F. J. S. Wise (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 3.59 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 30th July, 1964

CONTENTS

	Page
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : FIRST DAY—	
Speaker on Motion—	
Mr. O'Connor	9
ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE :	
SPECIAL	11
BILL—	
University of Western Australia Act	
Amendment Bill—	
Leave to Introduce	9
Introduction ; 1r.	9
GOVERNOR'S SPEECH—	
Distribution of Copies	9
MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY	8
PROCLAMATION	8