

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 25th August, 1964

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

PASTORAL LEASES

Number Extended to Year 2015

1. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND (for The Hon. F. J. S. Wise) asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) How many pastoral leases have been extended to the year 2015 as provided for in the Land Act Amendment Act, 1963?

Vestey's Interests

- (2) How many leases under various company names, and held by Vestey's, or some company in Vestey's interests, have been renewed to the year 2015?

(3) What is the total area of all Vestey's leases in the Kimberleys?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Nil.

(2) and (3) There is no pastoral lease registered in the Lands Department in "Vestey's" name, and it is not recorded whether any leases under various company names include Vestey's interests.

NOXIOUS WEEDS ERADICATION

Assistance from C.S.I.R.O.

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

Is there any arrangement between the State and Federal Governments for assistance through the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation to find a solution for effective eradication of noxious weeds on a scientific basis?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Research into the control of noxious weeds is undertaken by the States, both independently and in co-operation with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Toilet Facilities in Shops

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

(1) Is the Minister aware that many Totalisator Agency Board's premises are without toilet facilities for use by patrons?

(2) If so, why does this situation exist?

(3) Does the Totalisator Agency Board betting legislation supersede the Health Act?

(4) If so, will the Minister quote the section of the Act?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Because the board is endeavouring to reduce loitering on the premises.

(3) No.

(4) Answered by No. (3) above.

COURTHOUSE AT ESPERANCE

Provision

4. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Justice:

(1) What progress has been made in connection with the building of a new courthouse at Esperance?

(2) Is it likely to be constructed at an early date?

(3) If so, when?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) A combined police station and courthouse has been included in the draft programme of buildings to be financed from loan funds in the current year.
- (2) and (3) The date of commencement is dependent upon the amount of loan funds which will be available for works of this kind.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Attendance of Mr. Elvey: Ministerial Statement

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.38 p.m.]: Before proceeding to motion No. 1 on today's notice paper I would like to seek your permission, Mr. President, to make a short statement to the House.

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver): The Minister has my permission.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It will be remembered that, last week, Mr. Heenan moved for the adjournment of the House in order to discuss a matter of urgency. In the course of that debate I undertook to see what could be done about the attendance of the President of the Chamber of Mines (Mr. Elvey), or some other suitable person, at the meeting of the International Monetary Fund which this year will be held in Tokyo.

In this respect I, first of all, contacted the Federal Treasurer (Mr. Holt) by telephone and explained to him what had happened in this House. I found that Mr. Holt was most co-operative. He told me—and in doing so reiterated what he had previously told me—that he was very conscious of the state of the goldmining industry in Australia, and particularly in Western Australia. He put forward the view that he did not think it would be possible to have Mr. Elvey in attendance at the meeting, for the reason that much of the programme for the meeting had already been arranged. That happened during the latter part of last week.

At that point he concluded the conversation on the telephone by saying he would give the matter consideration, and would give some thought to what else could be done. During the weekend I received a further phone call from Mr. Holt to say that a Mr. Frank Southard, who is a managing director of the International Monetary Fund and representative of America, was in the Eastern States on his way through to the Tokyo meeting. He told me he had asked Mr. Southard whether he would speak to me on the phone with a view to discussing this matter. I tried yesterday to get him and finished up doing so in the early hours of this morning prior to his departure en route to Tokyo through a couple of other countries.

I found that Mr. Southard was also very co-operative. He was very nice to me over the phone in respect of this problem, and I put it to him that if the Chamber of Mines prepared a case in writing and this case was forwarded to him—I also told him a copy of the submission would go to Mr. Holt—would he be good enough to study the submission prior to the meeting due to commence on the 7th September. Mr. Southard very willingly said he would. Naturally he could not go any further than that, beyond saying he would study with interest the submission when it reached him.

In the circumstances I think members will appreciate this is all that can be done at this point of time. The Federal Treasurer, as I said, told me I could advise this House of his concern for, and appreciation of, the difficulties under which the industry is labouring and that he will continue to do all he can to exert his energies in the right places to get our story over. The Chamber of Mines, through the good offices of its president, is now in the course of preparing this case which will be put up in writing. A copy will be sent to the Federal Treasurer and another will be sent to Mr. Southard in Tokyo as soon as it is prepared.

FLASHING LIGHTS COMMITTEE

Government Officer's Ignorance of Existence: Personal Explanation

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (West) [4.43 p.m.]: May I correct a statement I made during my Address-in-Reply speech?

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver): A personal explanation?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Yes.

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver): You may.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Thank you. When I was speaking on the Address-in-Reply I said that a high officer of the Main Roads Department did not know that there was a flashing lights committee. I made a very grave error. I meant to say that he was a high officer of the Town Planning Department. I am sorry for the mistake.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: EIGHTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 20th August, on the following motion by The Hon. J. G. Hislop:—

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.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (West) [4.44 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion moved by Dr. Hislop following the opening of Parliament by Sir Douglas Kendrew. I congratulate Dr. Hislop on his speech. I think it was a speech befitting the opening of Parliament, and is possibly the best I have heard since I have been in this Chamber. It was something different from that to which we have been accustomed. I thought it was well put and, as I have said previously, fitting to the occasion.

There are some things in the Governor's Speech which could possibly call for comment from members who are interested in some of the areas which the Speech covers. The following passage is the main one which concerns me at the moment:—

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.

When these agreements were before the Chamber I gave them my wholehearted support. Concerning Alcoa, I read the agreement which was placed before us; and there was the subsequent ratifying of the agreement. I thought the company would be a benefit not only to the district, but to Western Australia generally. But alas I find Alcoa has been a source of annoyance to local residents. We have to attract industries, but at least they should be positioned where they cause as little concern as possible to local residents.

The Naval Base-South Coogee area has been settled for possibly 100 years or more. People have established homes and market gardens, and others live there because they want that little bit of isolation. Not all people want to live in towns. But what do we find? Since Kwinana has been regazetted many people have been upset because, although they have established themselves in their homes and market gardens, the Government of the day has decided to regazette the area as an industrial zone. This is irrespective of the feelings of those who are there already. This regazettal has caused hardship from time to time. People in the area are suffering hardship through the actions of this company.

There have been three shipments of alumina from these works. Admittedly in connection with the first shipment we must allow something for teething troubles. In any organisation or industry, teething

troubles are always encountered. However, this does not apply to subsequent shipments. I have never been able to get into the works to observe what takes place, but I have been outside the works on numerous occasions just to see the dust nuisance that is caused by the escaping dust.

When the first shipment was made I did not view it when there was a westerly to south-westerly breeze blowing, but next morning I received about 30 phone calls at home about the nuisance this company was creating to local residents. When I visited the area early next morning the breeze had changed and there was a light easterly blowing. I would estimate the dust from the conveyor belts loading the ships was blowing at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ to two miles from the jetty towards Garden Island. That breeze freshened and at a later stage I was told that in the fishing shacks or huts—whatever they may be termed—at Careening Bay in Garden Island, deposits of alumina had landed. I imagine that would be about five or six miles away in a direct line.

The next shipment was not so bad. The company attempted to control the nuisance; and I believe the reason why there was not as much dust was that the alumina was of a coarser type and there were favourable winds.

The third shipment created the same discomfort for the local residents as did the first shipment. The dust blew right over South Coogee, and the Naval Base area. Admittedly people will say that the company is not going to lose alumina at the rate of 20 tons a day, because it is too expensive to allow it to just blow away in the air; but let us have a look at the agreement that was put before this Chamber. Clause 4 (b) provides—

In its construction of the refinery and in equipping and operating the works to be carried on on the works site the Company shall comply with accepted modern practice in relation to refineries for the production of alumina and in so doing will endeavour to avoid as far as is reasonable and practicable the creation of any nuisance.

The agreement further on states—

... for creating noise smoke dust or gas on the works site if such discharge or creation is necessary for the efficient operations of the Company or of any subsidiary or associated company and is not due to negligence on the part of the Company or any subsidiary or associated company as the case may be.

I will say that the company has had teething troubles. In order to inform myself fully on this matter, I asked the Minister to place on the Table of the House the Public Health Department file in relation to the works.

I would not say I made a detailed examination of that file, but I had a rough look through it and read every letter on it. I did not make any notes, because I thought the file would be here for several days, but unfortunately it went back to the department. I found that in spite of the numerous complaints made by local residents, the Public Health Department at no time had taken positive samples of the smoke, or dust, or the chemical content, that is being blasted out of the chimneys; and I think the department should hurry itself along to see exactly what is coming out of the chimneys to ascertain whether it is, or is not, having a detrimental effect on the health of the people.

It is recorded in the file that over three-quarters of a mile away people have suffered eye irritation and certain other effects from the smoke that is coming from these chimneys. Their sufferings are dependent on the direction of the breeze that is blowing. If it is a low breeze, the dust and smoke are carried down into the valleys and affect the health of the people.

I want to make this point clear; and the officers of the Public Health Department will know to whom I am referring: There is one nuisance in the area who has been complaining repeatedly about the refinery, and I do not consider that he has had legitimate grounds for complaint at all. He is just one of those people who have been complaining for a long time.

Getting back to the agreement, according to the correspondence on the department's file the company has not fulfilled its obligations. The smoke stack or chimney is definitely not high enough to carry into the atmosphere the smoke and other chemicals issuing from it. Therefore I think it is the Government's responsibility to see that this company creates as little nuisance as it has to, and that the smoke stack be raised in the foreseeable future so that these discomforts will not again occur.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I think you will find the company is just as anxious to overcome its disabilities as you are to have them overcome.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: That may be so. I have rung the company on numerous occasions and I have always found its officers to be, perhaps, overnice, if the Minister will accept that phrase with the meaning I apply to it. They have been overenthusiastic to please and do the right thing. But I do not think that because Mrs. Brown's washing gets dirty and they send someone out to do the washing, that is remedying the cause of the complaint. The complaint must be remedied at the factory and not by providing services to the people who are being affected outside.

If the Minister would take time out to have a look at the Naval Base Hotel—he can go there on any day he likes, and at any time of the day or night—he will see alumina piled up; and on the occasions

when there is a south-westerly breeze blowing he will see the alumina coming up to the doorstep and all along the building. It is piled up there mainly after being blasted out from the chimney and from some works with a technical name just below the chimney. This dust nuisance is being pushed out into the atmosphere and the wind is carrying it to the hotel. I have seen the dust at the hotel at least 20 times; and I have seen it in every bedroom, and in the lounges and the kitchen. Whenever I have gone into the hotel it has looked as if a willy-willy of red dust had gone through the place—but this is not red dust; it is alumina.

The whole place has been saturated with alumina. Admittedly alumina is not injurious to health, according to the tests, but the licensee of the hotel is suffering. He cannot get any boarders or tourists to stay in the place, because the dust nuisance just drives them out. There is that problem coupled with the matter of excessive steam being blown off in the middle of the night. I realise this is another teething trouble. If the company has a head of steam, it has to let it go. But it costs money to raise steam, and I do not think companies attempt to waste steam.

I think a serious view should be taken of industries that come to Western Australia. We all want industries. I want to see them, particularly in the Cockburn area. But we can pay too great a price for industries when they affect local residents.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Would they get bronchial trouble with the dust?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: They are getting all sorts of trouble, and I do not know the answer to the problem. The Public Health Department has not taken any tests at chimney-top level to see what is going into the atmosphere. I think the department is falling down in respect of its duties. The Cockburn Shire Council wrote to me on the 10th July last saying—

I was instructed by my council to notify you that strong objection is made to the dust nuisance created when ships are being loaded at Alcoa to the detriment of our ratepayers and their property.

In the main, the people who have been affected have been those in the Kwinana Shire, rather than those in the Cockburn Shire. Nevertheless, I have inspected many holiday shacks, caravans, shops, and garages at Naval Base, and the occupants and proprietors of those establishments are sick and tired of cleaning up the dust. They try to keep their places spotlessly clean, but they are covered with dust at all times. So much for the Alcoa Alumina Refinery. I can only hope the Government will carry out an investigation as soon as possible with a view to having the smokestack raised to

a decent height and thus eliminate the dust nuisance that is created by the refinery.

The Governor, in his Speech, mentioned an item relating to the fishing industry. He said that a new fisheries patrol vessel would be constructed this year. I am not going to refer to the evidence that was heard before the Honorary Royal Commission into the crayfishing industry with a view to its preservation, but I would point out to the Government and the Fisheries Department that if they are considering the construction of another patrol vessel along lines similar to that of the *Vlaming*, they would be extremely foolish. The *Vlaming* is not a practical type of vessel for the duties it has to perform. I thought I would make that point because there has not been one person whom I have met who has any time for the *Vlaming*.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Isn't it large enough?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It is too cumbersome. Further, it does not have sufficient work room, and it is not equipped with a winch. It is not a good type of patrol vessel at all. One could say that it would be a suitable boat for half a dozen men to go on a fishing trip, but the *Vlaming* is not very practical as a patrol vessel.

When speaking to the first Supply Bill last session I possibly jumped the gun in referring to accommodation for school teachers in country areas, because since then it has become quite a live issue. A great deal of publicity has been given to the shortage of accommodation for teachers in the country, and I reiterate what I said last year; namely, that if teachers, especially those who have just left training college, are transferred to the country, they should be provided with adequate and decent accommodation. The same, of course, applies to a married man who is transferred to a country centre.

Most members will recall that at the beginning of the 1964 school year, a young female teacher was transferred direct from the training college to Wyndham. After meeting her hotel expenses for board and lodging she had 1s. 6d. or 2s. left over from her salary with which to purchase any other necessities.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: That would not buy a packet of fags!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I was told that eventually she obtained accommodation at the meatworks and is now living in a glorified meat safe. What is to be the outcome of a situation such as this? People residing in the country expect a good educational standard for their children, and their children are entitled to the best education that they can have. Further, school teachers who are transferred

to country centres are entitled to live like human beings. If members will study closely the details surrounding this question which have been published in the *Teachers' Journal* from month to month, and also some editorials that have appeared in *The West Australian*, they will see that the Government has been condemned for its lack of foresight in not providing adequate accommodation for teachers in its endeavour to centralise education for children in country areas.

The teachers, of course, have every reason to complain, in the same way as other Government employees; because irrespective of their calling, all Government employees should be suitably housed. If one lives in the metropolitan area one expects a decent standard of living. It is the birthright of everyone to have a decent housing standard, especially in these enlightened days.

I am surprised that more action has not been taken by members representing country provinces with a view to pressing this Government, or even other Governments in the past, to provide a decent standard of accommodation in country centres so that people can be induced to remain in country towns. Only last week, whilst in Kalgoorlie, I was speaking to a school teacher who had been stationed there for 12 years, and he said to me, "I would like to leave Kalgoorlie, but where can I get a transfer so that my children can obtain a decent standard of education, and I can get a house in which to accommodate them?"

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Where did he want to go?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: He wanted a transfer from Kalgoorlie to a country centre.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Where did he want to go?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I do not know, but I will find out if the Minister so desires.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: If he goes to any town in the country, the State Housing Commission will at all times give favourable consideration to building a home for him.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: When I mentioned decent accommodation for teachers last year the Minister told me the same thing, and that he would send an inspector to these country towns. I am not denying that the Minister did send an inspector, but, nevertheless, he did not interview the school teacher when he did visit the town in question.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Was he a single school teacher?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Well, then, of course he did not interview him, because he would not be an eligible applicant.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Would it make any difference? What would happen if the single school teachers did not agree to accept appointments in the country? Under the present system the Education Department is standing over them, because they are under a bond and they have to go to the country or else forfeit their bond. In fact, some teachers have, from time to time, refused to go to the country; and last year I know of two who left the department and paid the bond. Therefore, the Minister should know there are quite a few school teachers who are not happy over the situation.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Did not that school teacher consult his local member?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He did not live in Esperance.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: The rents for country houses are too high.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Possibly Mr. Logan is under the impression that I have an axe to grind for family reasons, but I have not. My son, who is teaching in the country, was living in a disused shop which was possibly 70 or 80 years old. It did not have a ceiling, and it badly needed renovation. He decided he could not live under such conditions any longer, so he bought a caravan and he is now living in that. I hope, therefore, that that will put the Minister at ease if he was under the impression I was trying to grind an axe for my son. I do not raise this matter on his behalf, but on behalf of other school teachers stationed at country centres.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: He is a very good teacher.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: He has to make his own way in life. I have had as many as 20 or 30 school teachers visiting my house requesting me to assist them in some way, and it is extremely annoying when one realises that one cannot do much to help them obtain houses in the centres where they are teaching.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: If the married teachers were prepared to pay an economic rent they could get a house, but they will not pay it.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: In this morning's paper I read that one delegate to the teachers' conference said that the W.A. Teachers Union should become more militant in its outlook. I agree entirely with that viewpoint, because workers in any industry other than the teaching profession would be more militant if they had to put up with the conditions that apply to school teachers. I blame the union to a certain extent, because it should be more militant.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Do you think teachers should get houses at a rental cheaper than that paid by other workers?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I will come to that. I think that in the past the Teachers' Union has possibly been more respectable than effective in trying to obtain better housing conditions for its members.

I will now deal with the point raised by the Minister. There is a regulation—I think it is regulation 112—which provides that a headmaster shall be granted an allowance of £75 a year towards his rental. I think that is about the average allowance; but, whatever it is, a headmaster is allowed a certain sum every year towards his rental. But other teachers lower down the scale who receive, perhaps, an allowance of £10 a year as a district allowance claim that if a house is being provided for a headmaster who is on an annual allowance of £75, they are entitled to a house on the same figure. I am sure that if we were teachers we would argue along the same lines.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: We wanted to put a headmaster in a higher bracket, but they would not agree to that. All they have to do is to pay an economic rent and a house will be provided for them.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Reverting to the case of the single school teacher. I cannot see any difference between four or five single teachers living in a house and a man, his wife, and two children living in a house.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You cannot see any difference?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Not in country centres.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Then, obviously you cannot see! Read the State housing legislation and you will find that single people are not eligible to be granted a house by the State Housing Commission.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I realise that.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! The Minister will have ample time in which to reply.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: This is a matter of commonsense. The Government is trying to do something for the people who live in the country, and is also trying to provide a better educational standard for country children, to which they are entitled. But how can the Government expect teachers to go on living in a tent, a shack, or any other sort of accommodation that is available? In such circumstances how does the Government expect to keep teachers in the country? There are funds available to build houses for them in country centres, in the same way as there are funds available to build houses for the railway workers. Why should there be any difference between those employed by the Railways Department and those employed by the Education Department? The funds can be made available. The Minister does

not need to keep strictly to the Commonwealth-State legislation in regard to housing.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: What about a hostel for single teachers?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes, that is quite a reasonable thought. In fact, some teachers, in some areas, live in the hostel that has been provided for the students. However, if one were to examine the correct letter of the law, there is no provision for them to live there except by the good graces of the Education Department.

I would now like to say a few words in respect of workers' compensation. I did not notice anything in the Governor's Speech of any note in regard to workers' compensation; and that the Act was going to be amended to provide some of the things to which the workers in this State are entitled. When we look at a conspectus of Workers' Compensation Acts in Australia as at the 1st January, 1964, it is not good reading to find that in every State of Australia, other than Western Australia, workers are covered when travelling to and from work. We are the people out on a limb. The Act in every other State in Australia contains a provision giving workers insurance coverage while they are travelling to and from work.

My mind goes back to September, 1960, when Mr. W. Hegney, in another place, moved a motion setting out certain things that should be done in respect of the Workers' Compensation Act. I do not have to remind any member of this House what those certain things were, because over possibly 20 years the Labor Party has tried to put something progressive and desirable into the Workers' Compensation Act, and nearly every attempt has met its fate in this Chamber. However, I think it is time that we in this House realised that Western Australia is the only State which is out of line in respect of giving workers the coverage to which I have referred.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: In Kalgoorlie the Commonwealth railway employees have it.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: That is right; and so do people such as the seamen who are covered by a Federal award under either a New South Wales or Victorian Act. When they go ashore here they can make a legitimate claim if they are injured, but other people in this State travelling to their place of employment and to their residence cannot. So we have circumstances where one person in this State is covered for insurance purposes by a New South Wales or Victorian Act, but the Western Australian is not.

Over the years we have tried to remedy many things in the Workers' Compensation Act such as lifting the limitation from hospital and doctors' expenses. In some States there is no limit whatsoever.

Even in regard to death benefits, we, in this State, lag sadly behind. I would say that in 1925 when the late Alex McCallum was Minister for Labour, and was in charge of workers' compensation, we had the best Workers' Compensation Act in Australia. Today we have the worst. If we wish to attract industries in order to build up Western Australia, then we have to have migrants come to this country to work in those industries, because our natural population growth is insufficient. However, we are inviting them to something second-class as far as working conditions are concerned.

If the benefits of our Workers' Compensation Act were improved, it would save the State many thousands of pounds annually and it would save the Federal Government millions of pounds over a period of years, because numerous workers are killed going to and from their place of employment.

I have dealt with cases where families have virtually been destitute. If they had been covered by an insurance policy, those families would have been provided for to the tune of whatever our legislation provided. But no; the very next day following the husband's loss of life, these people, instead of becoming the responsibility of the insurance company where the policy would be held, become the responsibility, in the first place, of the Child Welfare Department, which maintains them until such time as the widow receives the widow's pension—and that could possibly be for 15 or 16 years. Therefore, the State is losing the moneys it could be spending in other avenues simply because it has not amended the Workers' Compensation Act to provide coverage for a worker while travelling to and from his employment.

Previously I said that I did not notice in the Governor's Speech that any comprehensive legislation was going to be introduced by the Government during this session of Parliament. In *The West Australian* of the 11th July, 1964 there was an article headed "Promise on Workers' Act." Evidently it was a report from the conference of the Liberal and Country League, and it reads as follows:—

The Government would amend the Workers' Compensation Act during the coming session of the State Parliament, Industrial Development Minister Court said last night.

He told the conference that the legislation would tackle medical and hospital charges, and would include provisions on silicosis and associated diseases.

The conference adopted a motion from the Norseman branch that workers' compensation payments should be reviewed to assess the possibility of easing medical and hospital charges.

Last year, we dealt with a Bill which did lift these payments by a minute sum. That rise, because of the inflation that has occurred since those amounts were last adjusted, would mean that a worker could spend another week in hospital or visit a doctor a couple more times. In speaking to this Bill last year when it was introduced, I remember my opening remarks when I said that it was a damp squib.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Damp?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes, a damp squib. In *The West Australian* of the 13th December, 1963, the following article by Fred Morony headed "W. A. Lags in Workers' Compensation" appeared:—

In a session of Parliament that was remarkable for the number of important reforms made by the Government, Labour Minister Wild's workers' compensation amendments were a damp squib.

Western Australia pioneered workers' compensation in 1912 but it is now well behind the field.

The Workers' Compensation Act as it stands is practically unintelligible.

Many seemingly good provisions are so watered down with subsequent qualification that they are worthless. In most cases the amounts of compensation awarded are well below what would be given by a court if a young worker was killed or injured in a road accident.

However, neither an injured worker nor the widow of a dead worker has any recourse to the courts unless it can be proved that the employer was negligent. The decisions within the Act of the three-man Workers' Compensation Board are final except on points of legal technicality.

I do not intend to read the whole of the article, but Mr. Morony's opening remarks sum up exactly what I have previously expressed in this House. If members take note—particularly those representing areas where large numbers of workers are engaged in industry—they will realise that we have the worst Workers' Compensation Act in Australia. In some States the death benefits payable are unlimited, while in others there is a maximum. One State is on a par with Western Australia, and from memory I think it is Victoria. In New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania, the amount is unlimited, while in South Australia the amount is about £1,000 more than it is in Western Australia. This is something that will have to be seriously looked at, because if we are going to invite skilled migrant tradesmen to this State, they should be entitled to the same workers' compensation benefits as other Australians. They are entitled to a fair crack of the whip in this regard.

I have suggested before in this Chamber that the Workers' Compensation Act should be on uniform lines similar to the Companies Act. Possibly it would have to vary from State to State, because there is no goldmining in South Australia and Tasmania, and so on; but there should be an overall compensation covering every worker in Australia.

I think it is only fitting I should say something about the actions of land and estate agents in Western Australia—those who are selling houses and land and getting people to sign contracts and then failing to carry out the verbal side of the contract, but sticking to the written side. Several months ago I had occasion to inquire into an action by possibly one of the biggest land and estate agents in Australia, and certainly the biggest we know in Western Australia.

This incident concerned a person who was purchasing a State Housing Commission home and who put it into the hands of this agent for sale. He accepted £500 deposit from the unsuspecting person who was desirous of buying the house, with the promise that he would arrange for a second mortgage, which he failed to do. Possibly the person for whom the second mortgage was to be arranged did not turn out to be a good risk, or was thought to be not a good risk, so the agent failed to arrange the second mortgage.

He sought permission from the person who paid the £500 deposit to make an advance to the person who was purchasing the house and land from the State Housing Commission. As a result, £350 was paid to the original purchaser. The company held the £150 and the action fell through. The person who in good faith was going to buy the house and land from this agency is now placed in the position where he cannot recover his money because the contract says that a deposit shall be paid and finance will have to be arranged privately.

Possibly the people concerned were not bright. They did not go into the pros and cons of the contract. They accepted the agent's word. One would think that the word of such a big company could be accepted.

The Housing Commission was most helpful to me when I tried to sort the matter out. We have done everything possible. The person who sold the house through the agency was prepared to renegotiate a deal provided the agency would release the £150 that it held; but the agency refused to do so. The situation is costing both parties many pounds in lawyers' fees which they cannot afford.

Speaking candidly, I do not know what the solution is. We have a land agents supervisory board, to which I reported the matter, but so far I have heard no

more about it. This incident concerns the State Housing Commission, but I have heard of other instances and I have proof of other instances where agents have got people to sign acceptance offers in connection with a purchase. I saw one incident with my own eyes. An agent got a chap to sign an acceptance offer on a Saturday afternoon to purchase a house, and he was going to pay a deposit on the Monday morning. Ten minutes after the first offer was signed, the agent was back at the house with another person who had also signed an offer of acceptance.

I asked the agent, "How many offers of acceptance are you going to get signed?" He replied, "You don't take a risk. The first one who comes in with the deposit money on Monday morning you take." I consider it is fooling around with people, when land agents can do things like this. There is something wrong with our Act if a person can sign an offer of acceptance and an agent can tear up the offer at will. An offer of acceptance should be a legal document. At present it is not.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Not without a proper deposit.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: That is so. An agent might consider that he has a better offer, or better terms and conditions. He can enforce the conditions of an offer of acceptance and stand over a person who has signed an offer. Many people are being stood over because they do not know the legal position.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The law of contracts prevails.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I was present when the agent came back with a second person ten minutes after the first offer had been signed, and he tore up the first offer.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You will be interested to know that I am having a look at the Land Agents Act.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I am very pleased. It would be fair and just if prices of land were stabilised, particularly for young married couples. An area of Housing Commission land should be thrown open for selection for people who could raise their own finance. The Minister could readily say that people could apply to the State Housing Commission for a block of land; they could obtain the title to that land and build on it. Not everyone wants to live in State Housing Commission areas. How young people are able to pay the colossal prices that are asked for blocks, I do not know. It is not uncommon for a block of land to be sold for £2,000. In remote areas blocks are being sold for £1,000, and there is no water or electricity.

It would not be a drain on the Housing Commission's funds if a number of lots were thrown open for selection, particularly land on which State Housing Commission homes were not going to be built. Possibly the commission could sell the land to people of moderate means at a small profit. I am not suggesting that land sharks should move in, purchase blocks, and then resell them. There would have to be stringent conditions laid down whereby people could purchase blocks of land at a reasonable price—possibly something along the lines of Thornlie.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Thornlie is a private subdivision.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: That is right.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We do make available up to 40 per cent. of Housing Commission areas. Do you think that we should make available a whole area?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I think that is well worth investigation. A lot of people who have put in for State Housing Commission homes would prefer to build homes for themselves. The cost of the land is hidden in the price of a house when people buy homes that have already been erected. In most cases, people do not know what they are paying for the land. I mention that for the Minister's serious consideration. I suggest that an area of Housing Commission land should be set aside and sold to people who could arrange their own finance.

I wish now to raise a matter which I overlooked when dealing with the Alcoa refinery and the attraction of industry. I am referring to the proposed whaling station at Robb Jetty. Most members have followed this subject through the Press or have had screeds of literature mailed to them by the company concerned, pointing out what it intends to do. I wish to voice my objections to this company before its establishment becomes a reality; otherwise we might find ourselves in a worse position than we are in with Alcoa.

Whatever objection has been raised, the spokesman for the company has come up with something better in answer to it. When the shark menace was mentioned the company said, "Forget about it; we will bring in landing barges." When the effluent was mentioned, it said, "Forget about it; we will remedy that." The company went to the trouble of taking two health officers and the shire president to Spotswood in Victoria to look at the abattoir there. That is not a whaling station. If any member knows the difference between the smell of beef and sheep and that of whales, he knows that there is no lingering or lasting unpleasant smell with the former as there is with the latter.

The Cockburn Shire Council had no alternative but to issue the company with a permit. The proposed whaling station

is in a special trades area, and although the proposal had got the backs up of local residents and neighbouring shire councils, the Cockburn Shire Council could do nothing else but issue the permit to the company.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you think the shire could have issued it under protest?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It did issue it under protest. The Minister knows that.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It agreed to it.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: In the first instance it did not.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: They did eventually.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: If the Minister will let me finish, I will tell him why it agreed to it. The company flew the persons I have mentioned to Spotswood in Victoria. Two came back with favourable reports, and the third said, "So that there will be no dissension, I will fall into line"; and so there were three favourable reports.

The shire that is likely to be vitally affected by this is the Kwinana Shire. The strip of beach controlled by the Cockburn Shire Council is smaller than those controlled by the Kwinana Shire Council, the Fremantle City Council or the Cottesloe Town Council. The Cockburn Shire Council has the least beach front to worry about. The Kwinana Shire Council has been relentless in its opposition to the company. The Cottesloe council has also been relentless in its opposition. There is no beach front at East Fremantle, and it is of the same opinion. People in the Cockburn Shire are not in favour of a whaling station being established in their area.

At a ratepayers meeting held in March it was decided that a referendum should be held to decide the issue. Referendums are not all that they are cracked up to be. The referendum was held on the same day as the local government elections. No councillor was out there to speak for or against the proposed whaling station. The councillors allowed it to become an issue apart from the elections.

The Norwest Whaling Company moved 14 cars into the area. I counted them. The representatives in the cars asked market gardeners and others whether they had voted. They said, "Have you voted yet; have you voted for the whaling station?" A lot of people who were asked that question did not know much about the matter. The company's representatives said, "You had better come down and vote for it. What are you paying per ton for blood and bone?" The reply was, "£40, £42 and £44." "Well," said the company's representatives, "when the whaling station is built you will be getting it for £20 or £22 per ton."

That is how the company rigged that referendum. As I have said, I think it is a poor state of affairs when a company has answered every question which has come along—no matter what the query was—and has come up with something bigger and better, claiming that it will do this and that. Then to seal the issue it sent people around in cars virtually driving the market gardeners into voting, under the impression that they would get their blood and bone at half the price it is at present.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What were the figures for the referendum?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The figures were 650 and 689, I think. There was less than 100 between them. There was no chance of winning it unless the gardeners were more or less forced into voting. I raise the point so that the Minister will know what took place.

Power should be put into the hands of the local authorities so that they can safeguard and protect the interests of the people who live not only in Cockburn, but in Fremantle, East Fremantle, Melville, and right through to Mt. Pleasant. They are entitled to some protection. At night time, when the digesters at Robb Jetty and the anchorage factory are blown off, the stench can be smelt as far as Canning Bridge if a light south-westerly breeze is blowing. It is not a very pleasant smell, and that smell is coming from just the meat works.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The combination with the smell from the whaling station might help.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: We have all smelt whale oil, and if we get the smell of whale meat through our houses it will be intolerable.

There is too much capital investment tied up in homes and businesses for the owners to be subjected to any nuisance which could occur. We should not wait until it does occur. I think it should be a condition in respect of the company that is becoming established in that area that if it is offensive—right from the word "go"; no teething troubles—it should cease operations. The Public Health Department should step in to see that the residents of the area receive the protection they are entitled to. The people of Cockburn do not get any of the smell because the wind takes it out of their area. It is carried to Fremantle, and as far as Cottesloe.

I think I have said enough for one speech and I hope some notice will be taken of the points at issue: workers' compensation, teacher housing—whether the teachers be single or married—the various industrial agreements we are confronted with from time to time, and the new industries we hope to attract to this State. As I said in my opening remarks, we can sometimes pay too great a price for an industry, and I think the whaling station will be an example of this.

THE HON. R. C. MATTISKE (Metropolitan) [5.49 p.m.]: Each year, since I have been in this Parliament, I have taken the opportunity during the recess period to get around and try to find out what goes on in other parts of Australia and, in fact, other parts of the world. In consequence of this, I have visited every portion of Australia with the exception of Darwin and the centre of Australia. I have done a 3½ month tour of the Orient, and recently I did a 3½ month tour around the world.

Unfortunately, it now appears that my studies are to be terminated, or at least postponed—I hope—for a period. I do feel that there are one or two observations which are worthy of note at this juncture. They are not earth-shattering in magnitude, but at the same time I do feel there may be something in them for the various Government departments to consider.

Ever since I have been a member of this House, I think there has always been quite a contest between the Dog Act and the Traffic Act to see which one attracts most speakers. Each year we hear various solutions advanced to problems connected with traffic, but there is one aspect of it which appeals to me and to which I would like to draw attention. That aspect is the confidence of the drivers.

From my observations over recent years there has been too great an accent on catching people for various offences. I feel that many drivers on the road today are not concentrating on their driving because their attention is divided between driving and looking in corners and other places for traffic constables or radar cars, and other traps which may be set to catch offending motorists. When we have that lack of confidence on the part of a driver, I consider we certainly do not get the best out of him.

I have driven cars through the heart of London during peak periods and I guess I have broken many regulations while doing so. However, from what I had heard about the attitude of the police in England, and of the other motorists, I went ahead full of confidence knowing that as soon as I broke a regulation I would not be fined without option, but that someone would point out my error in the hope of correcting it, and that I would not repeat the offence. I think that is a great thing.

If we can realise that the traffic constables are there to try to help make better drivers of us and not simply to be collectors for the Consolidated Revenue Fund, then I think we will get a better standard of driving in this State and there will be a reduction in the number of accidents. So, I do hope that with all the attention that is being paid to the traffic problem, sight will not be lost of the fact that we must have confidence on the part of the driver to get the best out of him.

While on the matter of traffic I would say that I feel we are tending too much to consider that many accidents are caused through speed, and that the solution to the whole problem is to reduce speed. I venture to say that if the speed limit were increased and if we had complete confidence in our fellow drivers—and those who sped in the wrong place were penalised—we would get the traffic over the roads quicker, with far less congestion, and with far fewer accidents than is the case at the present time.

During the busy period in the metropolitan area we can often see a string of traffic held up by one driver who considers that he is a good driver because he is doing only 20 to 25 miles an hour. That driver causes the traffic to bank up, or pull out to the centre of the road in order to pass. I think there should be a greater emphasis on getting traffic moving, and not causing congestion.

In this connection I would criticise the number of "Stop" signs that we have in the metropolitan area. I think that in many cases they are well warranted and the traffic should come to a dead stop. But, in by far the majority of cases, I think that if the "Stop" signs were replaced with "Give Way" signs the objective of the "Stop" signs would be achieved and the traffic would not be impeded as is the case at the moment.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: I am very pleased to hear you voice that opinion.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: It is obvious that in the middle of the night, when one can know from a considerable distance, the presence of another vehicle from the glare of its headlights, it is ridiculous to expect motorists to stop when they know full well that there could not possibly be an accident.

One little point I did notice—I think it was in Amsterdam—was that on the backs of the street cars, or tramcars—call them what you will—there are mail boxes. I thought that was a jolly good idea, and one which might well be followed here. If mail boxes were placed at the back of the public transport buses, I feel they would provide a great facility for the public generally. When we consider the number of public buses that travel from the country area to the city each day through the many towns, and the number of letters they could bring through to the city, I think the mails could be speeded up considerably.

Similarly, in the metropolitan area, if the public knew that by simply going down to certain bus stops they could post a letter and it would find its way to the post office with the minimum of delay, I think the service would be used extensively. I realise that mail is a Federal Government matter, but I mention this service in the

hope that the Minister for Transport might think it worthy of taking up with the Federal Government.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Who would be responsible for clearing the mail boxes?

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: The postal authorities would be responsible. In Amsterdam, every time a bus or street car arrives at its terminus in the city, the mail box is cleared by a postal official.

There is another matter I think worthy of consideration. At the time of the Commonwealth Games in Perth there was a great demand, or request, made on the public of Western Australia to beautify the city and keep it clean in order that it would be attractive to the many visitors from all over the world.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It could not be made more unattractive than it is right now.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: In some ways, I agree. Now that the games are over we seem to have reverted to our previous conditions. One can go down any of the streets within half a mile of Parliament House and see quite a deal of litter all over the place.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You have only to look at the 30 ft. banks they intend to build down near the river.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: In England, they have a "Keep England Clean" policy and it is extraordinary the effect it is having on the people. I had been there only a short while—I was driving a hired motorcar—and I immediately appreciated the necessity to play my part. When one buys a cake of chocolate, or anything of that nature which has a paper wrapping to be disposed of, one is encouraged not to throw the wrapping out of the window of the car, but to dispose of it in a rubbish bin at the next stop.

It is surprising how quickly one can become accustomed to the habit. I think a penalty of £5 can be imposed on people who do throw litter from moving vehicles, or throw it on the streets as they are walking along. The fine rarely has to be imposed because the public is co-operating very well indeed, with the result that there is a marked contrast between the cleanliness of Britain and that of some of the other countries adjoining. A scheme of this nature would cost nothing, and the public would surely co-operate and help keep Western Australia a much more attractive place than it is at the present time. So I hope some consideration may be given to that.

The final matter to which I wish to refer is the colour problem throughout the world. It is a very vexed problem, and, I think, a most unfortunate one. We cannot choose what colour we will be born. During the course of our lifetime we can change our religion, our nationality, and various other things, but we cannot change

our colour; and who is to say whether a black, a brown, a white, or any other coloured person is the member of a superior race?

The fact remains there are people of different colours throughout the world and while we have great accent on the particular colour in a particular country there will always be trouble. In Africa we have seen and read of the terrific strife that the people there have encountered during recent years, and I fear there will be a considerable amount of bloodshed before the problem is solved, if in fact it is ever solved, in that country.

In England it is surprising, when one travels around London and further north into Nottingham and Birmingham and other industrial areas, to see the large number of coloured people there. In the main they are in employment and I think they are doing a good job as citizens of the United Kingdom. However, there is one thing which does not occur there, nor does it occur in any other countries which are experiencing similar conditions—the coloured people are not being assimilated into the life of the community.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: We cannot point the finger about that.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: The problem is not confined to one or two countries. In Paris the French colonials, who are coloured, are presenting a problem to the French Government. This problem is not solved simply by people trying to get on together or working together; the coloured people must really be assimilated in the full sense of the word.

In America, where there are 18,000,000 negroes out of a population of about 200,000,000, the proportion is not very high, but when one visits cities like New York it is astounding to see the number of coloured people despite the fact that overall the proportion is comparatively low. In Washington, D.C., where the proportion of negroes to whites is six to four, it is absolutely astounding and makes one wonder. Also, they are breeding at a very fast rate, so much so that I think the Americans will have a constant problem on their hands.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You're telling me! I saw it myself.

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I was fortunate enough to be in the Capitol in Washington when the Senate was debating the Civil Rights Bill and I had the opportunity of speaking with one or two Senators. They are most concerned about the problem. However, while there is no assimilation of the negroes in America the people there will always have their problems.

In Fiji there is a rather interesting position. There are the Fijians, who are the natives of the country, the Indians who

came to the country as traders and as persons interested in the commercial and industrial life, and then, of course, there are the whites who are mainly concerned with the administration of the island. The three races get along happily together and there is absolutely no distinction in public places, such as hotels or anywhere else. No notice is taken of the colour of any individual on the island, but the coloured people are still not being assimilated. The Fijians stick together, the whites stick together and the Indians stick together.

The position has now been reached where there is a preponderance of Indians and the Fijians are fearful lest the whites leave Fiji because the island would then be dominated by the Indians. But it instances again that there is no assimilation, and that they are all staying in their separate groups.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: No; big business is at the back of that, don't worry.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: What nonsense!

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: The Indians are imported for cheap labour.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: I think the Government in this State is to be highly commended on the attitude it is taking towards the native population here. We are fortunate in that we have somewhere in the vicinity of 20,000 aborigines in Western Australia and that the Government is attacking the problem very well indeed. It is to the great credit of the Minister that our coloured people are being taken forward step by step.

The first important step is education; and by education I do not mean only scholastic education, but also education so far as hygiene, living standards, and those sorts of things are concerned. The encouragement that is being given will do much towards solving the problem of this State.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is one of the most hypocritical statements I have heard.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. R. C. MATTISKE: One of the big problems that faces us in this State is the fact that we too do not have assimilation. In many cases we have half-castes living in certain areas because they are not acceptable to the full-blooded aboriginal people nor are they acceptable to the whites, with the result that they are left out on a limb. I think if we can proceed with some caution to assimilate them we will overcome the problem. I noticed this morning that the Liberal Party is so keen on assimilating natives

that it is not only giving them the right to vote and the right to drink but it is now also giving them the right to stand for Parliament, and I think that is a commendable move.

Above all I feel the whole crux of the matter lies in the word "assimilation." It will be a long steady process, but I commend the Government on the action it is taking and I hope it will continue to take further action to solve the problem. We have a marvellous country, one of which we should all be proud, and if we can overcome this colour problem so that all the people within Australia will be united I am sure we will have a successful and happy economy. I support the motion.

Sitting suspended from 6.8 to 7.30 p.m.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [7.30 p.m.]: In supporting the Address-in-Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor I have attempted to make a detailed study of a subject which has been before Western Australia for some years; that is, industrial development. When one thinks of industrial development one is inclined to think of development of secondary industries.

Whilst engaged in preparing my speech, which was quite an intriguing matter, one honourable member asked me whether I was writing a book. I was pleased to inform him that I had finished the book this afternoon and would try to deliver the contents to the House this evening.

Before proceeding with the subject matter I would like to refer to the part of the Speech of His Excellency dealing with industrial development. It is as follows:—

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.

There are three more paragraphs dealing with industrial development and the decentralisation of industries, which I shall not quote.

I would like to present some facts relating to industrial development in Western Australia. The Department of Industrial Development has been set up in this State for some years. It emanated from the appointment of a committee some years after the end of World War I. In this

respect I quote from the *Official Year Book of Western Australia*, No. 3 of 1962, page 303, in which the following appears:—

At the end of the first World War the State Government, with the object of fostering secondary industry, established a Council of Industrial Development which has since been succeeded by the Department of Industrial Development.

The functions of this Department are to assist the expansion of existing industry, foster the establishment of new industries, encourage exports, organize exhibitions and publicize Western Australian trade and industry. It also conducts investigations and research into the commercial possibilities of using indigenous raw materials for industrial purposes. In carrying out these functions the Department establishes and maintains liaison with industry and with Government Departments responsible for the provision of necessary services, information and finance.

The following can be added to what I have just read: This department sponsors trade missions overseas, sends representatives overseas, expends State finance, firstly, in payment of interest on behalf of assisted industries; and, secondly, in export promotion, and in meeting losses in assisted industry. The department has been set up without any Act of Parliament being passed; it has no responsibility to Parliament, not even to present an annual report, which would be a very useful document to members of Parliament and the public, as a report on industrialisation in Western Australia.

Although we do not receive a report to indicate what is going on in industrial development, members of both Houses of Parliament are expected from time to time to ratify agreements made by the Government of the day in respect of any industry that might be established. For that reason alone, even though it is not mandatory for the department to furnish a report, it would be a very good idea if a report on the industrialisation of Western Australia was prepared and submitted to Parliament annually.

It is interesting to reflect on the industrialisation which has taken place in Western Australia over the years. Governments have launched out on a programme of activity aimed at attracting new industries and capital to this State. It is commonly believed that the potential of industrial development—I refer to the development of secondary industries—has been assessed, and some publicity along these lines has been given.

The question arises as to who made the assessment of the potential of secondary industry in Western Australia, and on what basis was it made? I cannot find any information that would indicate who

made the assessment, or the basis on which it was made. In my study of the subject I wondered whether the basis of the assessment was made on supplying the local market with goods, on implementing overseas markets, on exporting to overseas markets, on exporting to the Eastern States markets, or on improving the balance of trade with both the Eastern States and overseas. Was it made to create employment in this State; or was it an endeavour to build up the population? A report on the assessment made along these lines, involving an investigation of all the facts concerned, would be useful to members of both Houses of Parliament and to the public.

The Department of Industrial Development has been extended quite considerably over the years, both in respect of expenditure and personnel. It is interesting to note how these have grown. Firstly I refer to the expenditure of the department for the past five years. It was as follows:—

	£
1959-60	132,977
1960-61	168,564
1961-62	221,567
1962-63	207,537
estimated for 1963-64	232,100

That makes a total of almost £1,000,000 for the five years, and the increase in the expenditure in the five years amounted to £99,000.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: How much of the running costs includes assistance to industries?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: A small amount is included as assistance to industries; but quite a large amount, which has increased over the years, is shown as payment of interest on behalf of assisted industries.

In respect of the personnel of the department, in 1959-60 there were 14 persons employed, plus temporary assistance. Four of those 14 permanent officers were employed on research and development. For the year 1960-61 there were 13 persons employed, plus about three times as much temporary assistance. For the year 1961-62 the number rose to 23 officers, plus a further big increase in temporary assistance. The number for 1962-63 was similar to that of the previous year. By 1963-64 there were 41 officers employed in the department, with similar temporary assistance.

The salary and wages bill increased from £24,819 in 1959-60 to an estimated £67,900 in 1963-64. In my opinion, the rise in salaries and wages, compared with the increase in the total expenditure of the department, is rather staggering; because the salaries and wages expenditure rose by £43,000, compared with the total increase in expenditure of £99,000. Most of the difference between the £43,000, represented by increase in salaries and

wages, and the £99,000 increase in total expenditure, was made up by an increase of £42,000, estimated for 1963-64, for payment of interest on behalf of assisted industries under Treasury guarantee. These are astounding figures. The relationship between the increase in salaries and wages and the increase in the departmental expenditure appears to be out of proportion.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What did you say the 1963-64 salaries and wages expenditure amounted to?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The estimated figure is £67,900.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is less than £1,000 a year for each of the officers.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It would be less with 41 permanent officers and 41 temporary officers.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I was not referring to that, but to the increase in the salaries and wages as compared with the increase in the total expenditure of the department.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It does not sound as though those officers are overpaid.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I was not referring to anyone being overpaid. I was referring to the increases, and comparing one increase with the other. Over the years the Department of Industrial Development and the Government have offered inducements in the form of financial assistance; housing settlements; provision of power, water and rail facilities; concessions to work mineral deposits; preference in tendering; and assignment of Government contracts. These incentives received very widespread publicity in New York in 1958. I would like to quote to the House what was offered in New York in 1958 to induce people to establish secondary industries in Western Australia, as follows:—

1. A free-of-interest loan for a period of up to 10 years, or a cash grant to assist any company to meet the cost of establishing an industry in Western Australia.

The maximum amount to be made available by the Government under this heading to be 20 per cent. of the total estimated cost of establishment with a limit in any event of £250,000 (560,000 dollars) as the amount to be made available by the Government in any one instance.

The Government to make available the total amount of any such free-of-interest loan or cash grant at the rate of £50,000 (112,000 dollars) a year.

2. The Government would be prepared to make finance available by way of guaranteed bank overdraft in approved cases. This would be additional to the assistance referred to previously.

3. The provision of free factory sites.

4. The provision of housing on a rental basis for employees of industry.

5. The provision of such services as power, water, sewerage, roads and railways, to the boundary of the site of any new industry.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: No-one accepted it.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Since that time similar inducements have been offered—

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Not similar ones.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: —to bring industry and investment capital to Western Australia. The Minister said that no-one accepted. Perhaps these policies have shown some success, and I would like to state that they have succeeded in obtaining a steel rolling mill, a paper mill, not using local raw material—

The Hon. L. A. Logan: We didn't go to America for those though.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: No. I am illustrating what has been developed in the State in that period. Some of these things offered in America have been offered to some companies which have started here.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: No. They are different conditions entirely.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: There is the alumina plant, processing only partially in Western Australia; an oil refinery; the Laporte titanium industry at Bunbury; and a few other industries of lesser importance, and numerous small factories, some assisted, but many others established without any assistance and not through any Government policy.

Statistics show, despite all we have heard of industrial development in Western Australia, that the rate of development here is no greater than that in the other parts of Australia. We have heard over the years of the great future which looms ahead of us in industrial development; and we can see that there is. From the point of view of mineral deposits, etc., there is a great future: from the point of view of primary industry, there is a great future, after plans are carried out to create this great future.

But somewhere along the industrialisation and secondary industry line there does not seem to be the movement that people have been led to expect. The predicted boom in secondary industry is not reflected in trade balances which should be the indicator of successful secondary industry. If we have a look at the trade balance of the Eastern States over the past five years it reflects that there has not been any great surge forward in the industrialisation of, and secondary industry field in, Western Australia.

The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson: Are Chamberlain's figures included?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Yes; Chamberlain's are included. In 1957-58, imports from the Eastern States amounted to approximately £97,500,000. In 1961-62 the figure was approximately £122,500,000, an increase of approximately £25,000,000 from the Eastern States over that period. But have a look at the other side of the picture—at the exports to the Eastern States. In 1957-58 the exports were £40,284,000 and in 1960-61 the figure had risen to only £42,313,000, an increase of just over £2,000,000.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: What about the exports overseas though?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: We will have a look at those in a moment.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You would have to relate those figures to the population figures and show the percentage.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: To a certain degree, yes; but there is a big discrepancy over that period in imports as compared with exports to the Eastern States. It also shows that we are to a good degree losing the secondary industry and industrialisation race very badly.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Have a look at the overseas exports.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: We must realise that the imports have increased by £25,000,000 and in the same period the exports have increased by only £2,000,000.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That could have created an export overseas of £20,000,000.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I would like you to give us some idea of what happened before. You have told us what has happened in the last five years; now give us the other five years of the same decade.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am not concerned with the other five years. This was not in the life of one Government. The responsibility rests on all Governments and on the people of Western Australia. The Minister seems to think I am having a shot at the Government. I am not. I am trying to put the position before the House with the idea ultimately of suggesting to the House and to the Government what we should do about it.

The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson: Wouldn't the motor trade be responsible for most of that deficiency?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Could be. When we look at the trade balances with the Eastern States it is rather staggering to think that at the end of June, 1962, there was an adverse trade balance with the Eastern States of £80,300,000; and one begins to wonder if we do have any advantages in Western Australia for industrialisation, or whether we can catch up in

the industrialisation race and get somewhere nearer bringing about a balance in trade or reduce the large deficit in the trade balance that exists.

Let us look at some of our advantages, or advantages we are supposed to possess in Western Australia to bring about the industrialisation of secondary industries and the reduction of these adverse trade balances, particularly with the Eastern States. We have, first, we might say the bargaining power given us by virtue of the control over the natural resources and service facilities.

I have already indicated in some of the industries I quoted, successes obtained by bargaining resources and offering concessions. There is a further one which is not so closely related to industrialisation in the secondary industry field, and that is the relaxation by the Commonwealth Government on the export of iron ore, which can play a big part in overseas trade balances, and could to a big degree play a part in our getting a little more off the high figure of the trade balance with the Eastern States. The discoveries of bauxite will, to a certain extent, help along this line as well, and generally the deposits of iron ore within the State.

It has been thought that the proximity of South-East Asia and South Africa to Western Australia would have not only the advantage of time in that these places are close to us and therefore the regularity of deliveries will be assured, but it has also been thought that perhaps the cost of delivery to such places will be reduced.

There is also the matter of the large expanding local markets in Western Australia where the annual imports of £150,000,000 exists. Of course this large expanding local market only depends on a big increase in population, and although we are obtaining a percentage of migrants to the State, our own population is increasing very slowly, so we cannot see within a number of years that there is going to be a large local market within the State to foster these industries.

Another matter considered is the economic productivity of Western Australia. The individual labour factor is higher in some occupations than in the Eastern States. In other words the labour cost as related to production is considered advantageous here as compared with that in the Eastern States. Again, it is said that the vast quantities of agricultural commodities exported in an unimproved condition, which constitute the base manufacturing components of industry, is another factor that could help in the industrialisation.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What is the Western Australian proportion of the Australian export in primary production?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I have not those figures here, but if the Minister likes to check up in the official year book of Australia he would probably pick them up.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I wondered whether you knew.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I did not go into those aspects.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Does the Minister know?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Yes.

The Hon. R. Thompson: What are they?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I will tell you when the time comes.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Then we have the back-loading transport concessions from Western Australia to the Eastern States market, and to the protected-from-overseas Australia-wide common market, by tariffs. Then, on top of that, there are the foreign and Eastern States investments made and promised within the State. The equalisation between the capital cities of Australia of landed costs of raw materials such as sugar, steel, zinc, and plastic. It is considered also that the long and expensive transport hauls from many ports to Western Australia is another factor.

But against those are the offsetting factors which favour the Eastern States much more than those advantages I have outlined. There is the equalisation between Australian capital cities of the landed costs of final factory products produced in the Eastern States and those produced in Western Australia. We have only to think of one item in this regard, and that is refrigerators. Pope Industries tried for quite a time to manufacture refrigerators and other electrical appliances here, but I am afraid it was not a very successful venture. They seem to have closed up most of the manufacturing at the present time, and this shows that we cannot at the moment compete with the Eastern States.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It does not sound as though you have much hope for us.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am outlining what we are up against; not that we have not much hope. There is another matter which is a big factor in comparing this State with the Eastern States, and that is the concessions earned by the manufacturers in the Eastern States for large-scale purchases.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You realise that if it were not for tariffs, these arguments would apply to Australia as a whole in relation to the world.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I realise that. They operate in Western Australia as in the Eastern States, and that has no effect upon the comparison of opportunity to manufacture in this State and the opportunity to manufacture in the Eastern States.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Perhaps a change of Government might be the best answer.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: The competition on the Australian common market, and the associated dumping of products

which cannot be avoided because of section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution, play a big part as well. I think we all know and realise that in the Eastern States there is a bigger population to be supplied with their goods. The surplus they dump in Western Australia; and they can afford to give discount to the purchasers here resulting in price cuts to such levels that our local manufacturers find it impossible to compete. The only answer to that is a bigger population so that we can retaliate; and we are not in a position to retaliate in that respect.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: How are we going to get the population?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I will explain that to the Minister when I come towards the end of my speech. The smallness of the market, as I have explained, is a factor. We have a long and expensive haul back to the Eastern States if we wish to export items there.

There is a similarity, as I said before when extolling what are supposed to be the virtues in this field, in respect of the freight rates between this State and the Eastern States, and in connection with the freight rates to South-East Asia and to Africa. We get no great reduction, if any, on shipping rates compared with what are paid by the Eastern States manufacturers.

We have to face another matter in respect of the export position, and that is, in adjacent countries, or in other countries, there is a plentiful supply of cheap labour; and the pressure commences and continues in industrial production. This pressure is acute in Singapore, Japan, and other countries, and it leaves us in a very invidious position with regard to trade.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: This is a depressing book you have written.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I thought the honourable member was enjoying it by the way he is sitting up and taking notice. There is huge competition in the world market, and our industrial set-up puts us almost completely out of the picture. It is sad to say that, but we have to face facts.

When we look at the trade figures of the Eastern States, and other countries of the world such as Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, and others, we find they all enjoy many more industrial advantages than does Western Australia, and advantages that are not likely to be acquired by us, unfortunately, in the foreseeable future, on account of our high cost factor. We have then to face industrial protection in foreign countries. I instance particularly Australian wheat milled in Hong Kong. Because of that we have been priced out of the Ceylon market. I am explaining these things to show what we are up against in the matter of industrialisation in Western Australia.

There is another factor: The increasing world-wide demand for our primary products trade agreements keeps up the price of our raw materials—our primary products. Fortunately this does maintain the profitability of labour and capital in Western Australia's primary industries. There is a continuous need in Australia to sell a large volume of our raw materials to foreign markets and, in consequence, import manufactures on a trade agreement basis; otherwise we would possibly have a very difficult position in selling a large amount of our primary produce.

I believe the disadvantages I have outlined leave us struggling when we come up against the advantages I have mentioned; and the disadvantages, unfortunately, seem to be permanent features in the State's economic environment.

I consider the industrialisation of Western Australia will only proceed in line with the increase in primary production and the increase at the same time of our population—both the natural increase and the increase from immigration. Right throughout Australia, if we look at the figures in this respect, we will see the same pattern has been followed in the other States over the years. They have increased their primary production just as they have increased their population and their secondary industries.

There seems to be some school of thought which believes that the standard gauge railway will be advantageous to Western Australia in this regard; but one must not lose sight of the fact that the standard gauge railway is going to be just as advantageous to the manufacturer in Sydney as to the manufacturer in Perth. The present position will continue. I do not see at the present time, from the industrialisation point of view, and in regard to secondary industries overseas, that the trade balance is going to improve to any great degree.

The figures at the 30th June, 1962, show that we had a favourable balance of £98.4 million, and our total export figure was £148.5 million. This figure was predominantly created by wool, £42,000,000; wheat, £52,000,000; timber, nearly £3,000,000; flour, £3,000,000; fresh fruit, etc., £1,500,000; hides and skins, £2,289,000; meat, including canned meat, etc., over £6,000,000; fish, approximately £4,000,000; other products, £21,000,000, making an overall total of £115,000,000, approximately. That is the total of those items, and there are a number of small primary production figures as well.

There also seems to be a school of thought that the economy of Western Australia is unbalanced and that we should industrialise to bring about a better balance. One wonders, if this is so, whether it is desired to industrialise and diversify for sectional interests. Is it to reduce the

State's economic dependence on its primary industries; to widen the range of career opportunities within the State; to be more self-contained economically; to speed up the rate of absorption of migrant intake at full employment? If any of these reasons be the aim, or all of them, I cannot see that they will assist in making, or maintaining, a higher standard of living in this State. This will only be contributed to by a well-balanced and well-thought-out trade economy.

We have to try to work out some method by which we can have a well-balanced economy if it is thought that industrialisation is the answer to this problem. We have to face the position by asking ourselves to what extent can we industrialise; firstly, to compete on the overseas markets; secondly, on the Eastern States markets; and, thirdly, to supply the local market and maintain the position we would have with a well-balanced economy.

To look at these matters separately, how far can we go in competition in the overseas markets and still maintain our sales of primary products in the difficult position in which we are placed? I have explained the difficulties that face us in competing on the Eastern States markets.

All this needs a very close study and, I would say, a carefully-planned policy of industrialisation and a lot of sales promotion. I say that, because without a well-planned policy and a high-promotion policy we are not going to get anywhere.

We face the position with regard to our imports from the Eastern States that we are spending more than £13,000,000 a year on apparel and footwear, mostly female. On cigarettes and tobacco we spend £4,000,000 annually; on foodstuffs of all sorts we spend £12,000,000; on iron and steel products, £12,000,000; machines and machinery, agricultural, earthmoving, roadmaking, internal combustion engines, tractors and parts, £7,000,000; medicinal preparations, approximately £3,000,000; metals, non-ferrous, over £1,000,000; pigments, paints, and varnishes, approximately £1,000,000; paper and paper board, approximately £2,000,000; piece goods, approximately £2,000,000; soap and soap substitutes, approximately £1,000,000; toilet preparations, approximately £1,500,000; vehicles and components, approximately £16,000,000; wireless equipment and television sets, approximately £2,000,000; other imports, approximately £35,000,000.

There is one thing which does face us in this State, particularly in regard to apparel and footwear, in trying to overcome competition: How do we overcome the competition that exists between the traders themselves in Western Australia? If our local manufacturers tried to manufacture sufficient to supply the shops in Western Australia with these particular goods, I am afraid they would be in for

a very rude awakening, because the competition would create saturation inasmuch as one trader would endeavour to stock clothing and footwear different from that stocked by another trader; and that would be a difficult position for us to face. To compete with the Eastern States manufacturers in that way would be very difficult.

One wonders, as I remarked earlier, about a full assessment of our industrial situation in regard to secondary industries. There have been more and more seminars held in this State under the auspices of the Minister for Industrial Development. The holding of those seminars has been a good idea, but one wonders how far it is getting us. I was rather struck by the fact that although the department has been functioning for quite a number of years we do not seem to have made a huge amount of progress, and I wondered if the department is really good enough to do the job. I am not casting any aspersions on anybody. Has the department set about the job in the right way; is it good enough to do this job to produce results?

I wish now to quote from the *Albany Advertiser* of the 7th August, 1964, in which, under the heading "Industries Expert to Attend Seminar," we find—

A man who has spent the past 16 months helping new industries for Western Australia in Europe will be among the experts to speak at the W.A. Institute of Sales and Management seminar at Albany this weekend.

He is Mr. John Watts, the hard-driving director of Industries Promotion with the State Government Department of Industrial Development.

On contract to the State Government his tour of duty abroad took him all over Great Britain and most of the Western European countries.

His task was to search out new and appropriate industries for the State and lure overseas investment to W.A.

His achievements abroad include close participation in the negotiations which led to British industrialist Mr. W. Davison announcing recently that he would establish over the next 10 years a new £750,000 industrial estate at Gosnells near Perth.

I have heard a little of this proposed £750,000 industrial estate near Gosnells, but not as much as I would like. From what I have heard I understand it is the intention of this Mr. Davison to establish an industrial estate on the building site only. I have tried to obtain information as to whether Mr. Davison, or the people he represents, intends to start specific industries in this particular area, or merely intends to erect the necessary buildings and equipment for factories. I would like to know a little

more about this industrial set-up other than what I have already heard. This article continues—

Mr. Watts is no stranger to big business and large undertakings. Between 1955 and 1959 he was an executive with the giant American firm, Kellogg International, working for the organisation in the field of building of oil refineries and petro-chemical plants.

That seems to be rather a strange statement. This article, of course, probably does not give the complete history of Mr. Watts. I am not decrying Mr. Watts, but merely querying whether he is such an expert on industries and industrialisation as this paper would lead one to believe. This reference states that Mr. Watts was working for this organisation in the building of oil refineries and petro-chemical plants. I was wondering whether, during those four years, his work gave him a great insight into the building-up of industrial organisations in the secondary field. Despite the fact that his work took him into 48 countries of the world, it leads one to think that the experience he gained in building oil refineries and petro-chemical plants would not give him a great insight into the financing and organising of secondary industry.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Are you accepting the *Albany Advertiser* as an authority on Mr. Watts?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: No, I have merely said that this is what this article has stated; namely, that Mr. Watts is a very capable man in his field.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It may have been better to go and ask Mr. Watts.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: It may have been, if I could have found Mr. Watts. The article continues—

His term with the American company took him to 48 different countries and afforded him the opportunity of studying at firsthand countless types of industry, and methods of decentralisation.

In Western Australia Mr. Watts is well-known in metropolitan and country business and industrial circles as a fund-raising organiser.

He has been associated with the organisation of many fund-raising appeals including the recent National Heart Campaign which have raised a total of approximately £1 million in W.A.

I cannot see how those references to fund raising in the last two paragraphs—irrespective of a man's capability—would have much bearing on the subject of industrialisation in Western Australia. It seems absolutely foreign to industrialisation that a man with those qualifications should go out into the world with a view

to improving industry and attracting new industry and overseas capital to Western Australia. I do not know Mr. Watts, but that is what the *Albany Advertiser* had to say in regard to him.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: So because the *Albany Advertiser* has a point of view, you think you ought to have a say on him too?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am merely stating that it seems rather strange that a man with his qualifications should be trying to improve industries in this State.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are being very unfair.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am not being unfair. I am merely telling the Minister what the *Albany Advertiser* had to say about him. Surely I am entitled to do that! I think I am quite entitled to go as far as I have in this House on that particular matter.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You have every right to say what you have said.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You have poured on Western Australia as big a bucket of cold water as you possibly could have poured on it.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am not trying to pour a bucket of cold water on Western Australia at all.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is not beyond your capabilities, of course.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I can assure the Minister that I have no intention of doing that. As we go further into the industrial field I think I am making quite a reasonable speech.

The Hon. J. M. Thomson: Mr. Watts certainly measures up to what the *Albany Advertiser* had to say about him. He is a very capable man.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! I must call on members to refrain from interjecting.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I have just outlined that Mr. Watts spent some 16 months overseas. Probably he has attempted to do a very good job against great odds. Perhaps that will make the Minister smile. In addition to that the Premier has gone overseas and, in some small degree, he inquired about industrial development with a view to attracting industries to Western Australia, and inducing new capital to be invested in this State.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They have all been overseas, have they not?

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: With the same object in view, the Minister for Industrial Development has been overseas also. In fact, practically all the States of the Commonwealth have been doing the same thing in a race to out-do each other in

their endeavours to attract capital and secondary industries to the respective States. In spite of this, secondary industry has not increased to any marked degree in this State or any other State. Therefore, it appears to me that a fair amount of effort may have been wasted, although admittedly there have been some results.

Perhaps the answer lies in a different direction to that along which we are travelling. We must ask ourselves: What must come first? I say the factor that must come first, before we industrialise to any degree, is a greater expansion of the primary producing industries in this State. That is the key to industrialisation in Western Australia.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How much better do you think we can do other than opening up 1,000,000 acres of new land?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I will tell the Minister in a moment. Over the years, particularly since 1948, Western Australia has shown it can produce, on a percentage basis, much faster than any other State in Australia. Statistics prove that Western Australia can produce not only faster in quantity, but also we can produce the yield of individual products at a faster rate on a percentage basis. The opportunities for expansion in this State are tremendous.

I will illustrate this by stating we have approximately 7,000,000 acres of uncleared alienated land. We have a further 18,000,000 acres of cleared land, unsown to pasture. In addition, we have another 18,000,000 acres of unalienated uncleared land. The stocking potential in Western Australia is increasing to a figure which was never visualised before.

Western Australia, compared with other States, in relation to the production of wool, grain, and meat, has quite a big advantage. We have huge pastoral lands which science and technology have not, as yet, influenced to any great degree. What has been done to increase primary production in this State? For example, how much publicity in other States has been given to the opportunities for land settlement in Western Australia? Although the Minister has said that 1,000,000 acres have been opened up during the year, there is another important factor. We have 25,000,000 acres at least which can be thrown open at present for development.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: We cannot do it all at once.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: At the present rate, it is going to take 25 years to open up 25,000,000 acres.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Once we get rid of the wet blanket which you have thrown over the State we might open up more acres.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I have not thrown a wet blanket over the State in regard to the methods by which we can throw open cleared land for the production of grain and stock. We know that approximately 1,000,000 acres have been thrown open each year. That has been stated in the Governor's Speech for years past. However, I believe that this development should be speeded up. The Minister looks at me rather astounded, apparently because he thinks I should not have the temerity to suggest it should be speeded up.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am not astounded, but amused at some of the things you have said.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am only quoting facts and I cannot understand the Minister's amazement. Let us have a look at the finance of primary production and the cost of the development of primary production in Western Australia. Where has the finance come from?

Firstly, it has come from the private banks which are, in the main, responsible for the finance that was required for the opening up of this State. Secondly, money has come from the stockbrokers; and thirdly, from life insurance companies on a smaller basis; and, latterly, from the Commonwealth Development Bank set up to assist primary producers in this State. Also, there has been some finance forthcoming from State departments, but not to any great extent. I know the annual expenditure of the Department of Agriculture in this State is approximately £1,000,000 a year.

However, when one realises that the approximate production of Western Australia is £120,000,000 or more annually, it can easily be seen that it is well worth spending £1,000,000 a year on services to the industry. This figure has steadily grown year after year, but I believe it can grow at a much faster rate, which would have a tremendous effect on our economy and on the increase in population.

There are approximately 13,000 farms in Western Australia, and the people employed in primary production number 50,000, which includes not only those directly concerned with production on farms, but also those who are responsible for handling and marketing primary products.

The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson: It is getting less every year.

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I would not agree with that. The position would not be affected very much; because, while the labour used directly in production has lessened to a small degree, it is increasing in so far as the handling of primary producers' goods is concerned. So the actual figure does not decrease; it grows bigger when we take into consideration the industrialisation of farms.

We have to get down to sound planning on this matter, and try to increase primary production from £124,000,000 to £200,000,000 annually. We could do this and we could build up a strong economy in Western Australia; an economy which would stand the expansion of secondary industry. We could also do this if we could build up our population to help cater for this expanded secondary industry and the consequent increased demand in Western Australia.

This could quite easily be done, particularly when we consider the fact that in 1962 we had 42,000,000 acres of settled land including some cleared land; and a further 25,000,000 acres of land, alienated and unalienated, uncleared. On top of this of course we have the future potential. I say, "future" because we have a lot of large problems in front of us in connection with pastoral production.

I believe a plan should be evolved to speed up primary production and development, particularly when we see articles such as the one that appeared in the paper the other day concerning the export of lamb, in which a gentleman from the meat board said that commercial people in the United Kingdom would not continue to handle lamb from Australia unless greater quantities were forthcoming. We must take heed of these things and realise that there is room to increase our primary production, and also to export goods which are in demand. If we do not get to work on this we will miss the bus, as we have done before. We must go into this matter very thoroughly.

I suggest that the Government consider the setting up in this State of a primary development committee to investigate all facets of increased primary production in Western Australia. If we can put increased amounts of money and effort into industrialisation and expansion of our secondary industries to increase our goods for sale overseas, and thus build up our trade balance, we should be able to put an equal amount of increased effort and money into primary production until it has reached its ultimate. I think it is very necessary to appoint a committee which could go into ways and means of assisting primary industry by securing sufficient finance for its development.

I know it is a big factor, and the development of the 25,000,000 acres to which I have referred will need a lot more money than we can find from our present resources. But a committee comprised of people with resource and initiative could find ways and means to increase the amount of land that should be thrown open annually, just as it could find ways and means to have that land brought into production.

This should be done even if we have to obtain loans for the purpose, or if we have to enter into Government guarantees to

accomplish it. It would pay us handsomely. I would conclude by saying that we spend money on industrialisation—quite a considerable amount of money for our secondary industries, but what is spent in the Department of Agriculture, and a lot of this is on service to the existing primary industries, is not a great deal of money for the States primary industries.

Some time ago it was arranged through the Treasurer to find an amount of £10,000 annually to assist settlers who had been on their properties for several years, and who had spent what capital they had and found it impossible to carry on economically without some small amount of assistance. It was arranged that with this £10,000 the settlers could apply for amounts of up to £1,000 by way of assistance. Unfortunately that scheme got off on the wrong foot. I do not wish to go into the details, and I only hope that it gets back on to the right foot before long.

This, of course, is only pin money when we consider the great primary industries we have in Western Australia. We want a great deal more than that if we are to develop this State and make it economically sound. We will only do that if we develop our natural resources and the primary production of our State, which will of course help to improve our trade balances; and, in turn, it will help to increase our population and our secondary industries. I support the motion.

THE HON. J. M. THOMSON (South) [8.38 p.m.]: Before I proceed with my remarks on the Address-in-Reply debate I feel I should at this juncture make some explanation to the House as to why I asked leave of the House to withdraw the motion I had on the notice paper dealing with the Health Act. I did so because after I placed my motion on the notice paper the Minister for Health submitted another regulation which covers the problem quite satisfactorily. The regulation I moved to disallow reads as follows:—

A person shall not keep or store an unflayed carcase of veal in any room that is used for the keeping or storage of any dressed meat or other food intended for human consumption.

I was concerned at that time that it would debar the keeping of all unflayed carcasses of veal in the metropolitan markets and in the various butcher shops which have hitherto kept unflayed carcasses in their shops and in their cool rooms.

It was because we could see the effect upon some of the people supplying those carcasses that it was thought desirable to move to disallow the regulation concerned. The regulation that will be submitted in

the course of a few days, and which will replace the one I have read out, reads as follows:—

A person shall not keep or store an unflayed carcase of veal in any room that is used for the keeping or storage of any dressed meat or other food intended for human consumption, unless the carcase is—

(a) kept or stored in a portion of the room that is separated by a partition from any other portion thereof used for the keeping or storage of dressed meat or other food; or

(b) effectively covered and kept so covered so as to prevent that carcase coming into contact with any dressed meat or other food.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What would constitute a satisfactory partition?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Anything at all that would meet the requirements of the Health Act.

The Hon. G. C. McKinnon: What about plastic curtains?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Yes, anything that will keep the carcasses from coming into contact with the meat in cold storage would be sufficient. If the carcase were placed in a bag it would be sufficient. I feel it is necessary for me to make this explanation to the House and to mention why I asked leave to withdraw the motion.

I was interested and somewhat concerned with the correspondence and printed matter that appeared in the Press in the last few weeks in connection with the rise and fall clause as it affects the building industry. Some opinions expressed therein, and the opinion conveyed by the subeditor of *The West Australian* of the 23rd July claims that this matter of a rise and fall clause being attached to a building contract document would be unfair, and could lead to exploitation of the client by the builder.

Without hesitation, and without fear of contradiction, I say that that could not be the case, nor would it be the case. The introduction of a rise and fall clause in any document appertaining to the building industry would be fair and equitable. If it is reasonable for all other industry to receive the increase that follows increases in awards from time to time, then it is equally fair and reasonable that such increases should also apply to the building industry.

Speaking from my own experience—and undoubtedly it is the experience of master builders—of tendering on existing cost conditions, I am conscious of the possibility that a decision could be made to amend any building trades award, which consequently would increase costs. To avoid resultant losses—and they could be

substantial losses over the period of a contract—it is necessary for the builder to add to his price a figure to cover such uncertainties. Therefore, the price should be the ruling rate today, plus what may accrue during the course of a contract.

Who pays that cost? The person who the leading article and the correspondents in the paper are trying to protect, inasmuch as they say that the inclusion of a rise and fall clause will lead to exploitation. Of course, it is nothing of the kind; because if we include a rise and fall clause in the contract, the person tendering would do so on today's prices and costs and would not have to assess what costs might accrue. However, if he has to guess what costs might accrue, and they do not, the person will have paid the higher price. Of course, there are some who are prepared to take a risk, and ultimately they get into serious debt and eventually go before the Bankruptcy Court.

What advantage is that to the individual for whom the house is being built? What advantage is it to the building industry? I say we have to try to avoid that situation; and the inclusion of a rise and fall clause in a tender would be fair and equitable. A fair and equitable price would be submitted under the formula drawn up by the Master Builders' Association, which has been accepted by the Public Works Department. It was this formula that sparked off the controversy in the paper; and for the information of members of the House I propose to read what this document has to say. It is as follows:—

The following clause shall apply—

- (i) when the total contract sum is £30,000 or over,
- (ii) when the contract period is of 26 weeks or more duration.
- (a) The contract price shall be varied to take account of variations in costs in accordance with the following provisions of this clause.

(b) DEFINITIONS: "Average Wage."—For the purpose of this clause "Average Wage" shall mean the average on site loaded Metropolitan Area building wage issued by the Master Builders' Association of Western Australia current at the date of the making of this contract and accepted by the Principal Architect as being in accordance with official industrial determinations.

"Varied Average Wage"—"Varied Average Wage" shall mean the average on site loaded Metropolitan Area building wage (being an amount greater or less than the average wage) current from time to time during the duration of this contract issued by the Masters Builders' Association of Western Australia and accepted by the

Principal Architect as being in accordance with official industrial determinations.

The "average wage" and the "varied average wage" shall be calculated only on the items and rates shown in appendix "A" to this clause and shall not be varied by amendments to the Building Trades Award on items not included in this appendix.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It is three months behind the basic wage all the time.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Continuing—

"Percentage Variation".—"Percentage Variation" shall mean the amount by which the varied average wage differs from the "average wage" expressed as a percentage of the "average wage."

"Contract Price".—The "Contract Price" shall mean the total original contract sum less the following deductions:—

1. The contingency sum.
2. All monetary sums including prime costs amounts and provisional sums.
3. All fees.

The "contract price" as defined shall not be varied by additions or deductions authorised during the progress of the contract.

"Contract Period".—For the purpose of this clause the "contract period" shall mean the time in calendar weeks shown in the contract documents inclusive of all holidays.

The "contract period" as defined shall not be varied by any authorised contract time adjustments.

"The Diagram".—"The Diagram" shall mean a diagram drawn by the Principal Architect and approved by the Master Builders' Association of Western Australia, which is current at the date of signing the contract and attached to the contract documents.

The Ordinates of "the diagram" shall be the "contract period" and the "contract price." The graph shall be drawn as a line passing through points plotted to show proportions of the "contract period" and "contract price" expended.

The graph is detailed and sets out the contract price, the percentages of the contract price, and the percentage contract time during its operation. The "residual value" is defined as follows:—

"Residual Value" shall mean the amount of the "contract price" shown by "the diagram" to be unexpended at the relevant time.

(c) PROVISIONAL SUMS.—The limits of the application of the Rise and Fall Clause shall apply to Provisional Sum sub-contracts.

That is fair enough. Continuing—

For P.S. items the graph—

The Hon. R. Thompson: What are the P.S. items?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: They are the provisional sums to cover the various subcontractors.

The Hon. R. Thompson: What is the P.C.?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: The prime cost; that is the difference. I referred to the P.C. sums earlier. The P.C. sum of certain aspects of the contract price would not be taken into account in a rise of costs during the course of construction, such as the varying of certain materials and fittings that are stipulated. I feel there was justification for the Public Works to come to an agreement with the Master Builders' Association in regard to the rise and fall clause in contracts. However, in my opinion, £30,000 is too high a figure. I consider the rise and fall clause should be subject to a much smaller figure than £30,000. I would be prepared to say it should apply to a contract of £12,000, depending on the duration of the contract.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Would not this rise and fall formula really mean a cost-plus system, or wouldn't it? I am asking for information; I am not being facetious.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: No, I do not think it could come under the category of cost-plus.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It seems to me it could.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is cost, plus 10 per cent. That is what it means.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: No percentage is mentioned at all. There could be a greater increase than 10 per cent.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That was the percentage mentioned in the papers.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I cannot recall the Press mentioning 10 per cent. At the present time we have a claim before the Industrial Commission for a maximum rise of £3 1s. per week that could be payable if it is granted. A contractor could be prepared to take a risk and not worry about an increase of £3 1s. or of any amount. He may be prepared to quote while this matter is before the Industrial Commission. What is happening today is that people are tendering in the light that the amount could be in that vicinity; and if the figure turns out to be much less, would it not be better for the contractors to tender on today's prices and increase the tender price later when the figure is

determined by the court? That is preferable to guesswork. I think that would be the better way to approach tendering than under the present system.

Let me say this: The rise and fall clause would apply for the uncompleted part of any contract. Therefore, I think it is fair and equitable that we should consider the acceptance of this rise and fall clause. People condemned it and said it was something that would lead to exploitation, but I believe they were speaking without giving the matter any thought or consideration. I believe it is much better for the public to have the benefit of the prices that are ruling today when they accept a tender rather than accept one on guesswork—on what prices may be in three to six months' time.

I mentioned previously that I think the rise and fall clause should apply to contracts of less than £30,000. I say that, because contractors tender for jobs valued at £12,000 to £15,000, and they could well be subject to a contract. They either have to load their prices or take a risk and face meeting the cost that is unseen and unknown.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Every wage earner does that, because he is lagging three months behind costs all the time. Why protect one section of the community?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I cannot see that.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Every basic wage increase is based on a three-month-period.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I am not prepared to argue that one because I am basing the position on when the basic wage comes into effect and what happens then. I think it is better to have a state of affairs where figures are not based on assumption, but on what exists at a given time.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Would you agree in your submissions that all basic wage adjustments should be made three months retrospective to allow for this contingency?

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: No, I do not agree with that at all. I say that the formula which has been submitted is one that has been in operation in the Eastern States, including Tasmania, and it applies to all Government contracts over £1,000. That might be too low a figure, but I am of the opinion that the formula in principle as advocated by the Master Builders' Association could well be adopted with ultimate satisfaction to all concerned.

I wish now to refer to the report on child delinquency that was submitted to Parliament on the 25th July last year.

Some very important recommendations are contained in it, and I wish to commend and congratulate the committee which comprised Mr. J. McCall, Dr. T. L. Robertson, Dr. Moynagh, and Mr. J. O'Brien.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The youth report?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: No; the Report on Juvenile Delinquency in Western Australia. The youth report came later. I commend the report to members because there are many references to a problem which is causing the State a great deal of concern, which has caused a great deal of concern in the past, and which is likely to cause concern in the future. I am quite sure that the recommendations contained in the report have been well and truly considered for adoption.

One important aspect is that when those people who appeared before the committee were asked what they considered were the causes of juvenile delinquency within Australia they replied—and this was the most frequent reply—that the responsibility rested upon parents.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Ninety per cent. of them said that.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Much of the responsibility rests upon parents, and this fact should be appreciated by parents who have the responsibility of rearing and guiding their children.

The report made reference to the various offences committed within the juvenile group, and it would appear that sex education could well be an important and beneficial instruction within our schools. The Education Department has maintained that this is the responsibility of parents. We accept that statement, but we ask ourselves whether parents know how to educate their children in this matter. The question raises doubts in our minds and in the minds of those who have to consider this problem.

A reading of the report reveals that of the offences committed by boys, 66 per cent. came within the category of stealing, 14 per cent. concerned motor vehicles, 4 per cent. concerned wilful damage, 4 per cent. concerned liquor and betting offences, 3 per cent. concerned disorderly conduct, 2 per cent. concerned sex offences, and the remaining 7 per cent. covered all other offences. Of the offences committed by girls, 47 per cent. concerned sexual misbehaviour, 36 per cent. concerned stealing, 4 per cent. concerned liquor, 3 per cent. concerned disorderly conduct, and 10 per cent. covered other offences.

This is an alarming state of affairs. Of the offences committed by girls, 47 per cent. concerned sexual offences. Many parents and citizens' associations are concerned about this matter; and with the approval of the Education Department they

have arranged for sex instruction classes to be held after school hours and to be conducted by competent and qualified people, which is most essential. These classes have been very well attended, and they could contribute much towards solving this problem which is referred to in the report.

I am sorry to say that there appears to be a poor approach to this matter on the part of parents; especially when it is so important for children to be informed, particularly during the early stage of their lives, of the dangers that might lie ahead. A question we might well ask ourselves is: What means are available for the education of parents, which they, in turn, can impart to their children?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: A couple of experiments are going on in schools now.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: That is so. I think there has been a very commendable effort on the part of those responsible.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I saw a film on this last night.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I am sure that the Minister appreciates what I have said in this regard. Parents are not sufficiently aware of the need for sex education for children. In preparing its report, the committee was not content to obtain merely the views of adults. It sought, in its wisdom, the views of boys and girls who had been declared delinquents. A portion of the report reads as follows:—

A survey such as this, which pursues its enquiries only with adults and experts, would obviously be incomplete unless it asks the children themselves—"the delinquents"—the same questions. In fact, we might say that they should be our most important informants. It is their beliefs, attitudes and feelings, their morality, or lack of it, which causes delinquency and through which remedy comes or is prevented.

One question that the committee asked the children is as follows:—

1. What do you think is the main reason why you got into trouble?

The answer was that the children wanted to be part of a group.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: They got inquisitive.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Yes. Some said that they found themselves in bad company. Others wanted material gain. They wanted money. Others wanted cars. They wanted excitement, and the kicks they got from excitement. They said that they took no notice of their parents; that homes were broken; that their parents were separated; that there was continual dissension.

Those were some of the things that influenced them in their desire to seek the company of others who had led them into

the difficulties in which they found themselves. Others said that their parents should have helped them, while others said that they should have stayed at home. If home is as we know it to be, then no doubt that is where they would have desired to remain. The recommendations of the committee are as follows:—

Your Committee regards the important general causes of modern delinquency to be:—

1. A general failure on the part of parents to demonstrate to their children the necessary combination of affection and discipline.

2. The general effect of certain aspects of the mass media of commercial communication which builds a precocious sense of personal self-importance in many young persons as "teenagers" and so separates them from their parents while at the same time fostering the "togetherness" of this teenage group as a "crowd" opposed in thought and feeling to their parents and elders.

3. The failure of very many parents to recognise the dangers, and the onset, of their child's submergence in a "crowd" and to reassert their authority once this has happened.

4. The perennial existence of a limited number of multiproblem families within which the children either do not learn proper social habits or actively learn bad ones.

5. The general failure of our community to co-ordinate and revivify the great conservative and constructive forces of the Church and the School so as to meet the challenges posed in the foregoing causes.

I again commend the report to members. From reading this report we shall be able to gain a better appreciation of the problem that confronts us. No-one wishes to assume the role of a do-gooder; no-one wishes to be overbearing with these young people; but the committee, through its activities and deliberations has gone along way towards helping to solve a problem which is of national importance. I support the motion.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [9.15 p.m.]: Mr. Acting President (The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon), I desire to be associated with the remarks made by Dr. Hislop and which were supported by other speakers to the motion which is moved traditionally as an expression of appreciation to His Excellency, the Governor, for coming and officially opening the Parliamentary session.

This year we listened to an inaugural speech in this Chamber by His Excellency, Sir Douglas Kendrew, and I am sure that all who had the opportunity of listening to His Excellency informing the country of the works, which have been executed during the year, and those projected, were very impressed with the developments which are taking place.

It is my task at this time of the year, as you know, Mr. Acting President (The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon), to reply to the debate and, in doing so, to endeavour to deal with the remarks that have been made by individual members, and to have information collated for them by the various departments concerned. I also endeavour to give as many explanations as possible on the points that have been raised.

I do not think we shall ever get complete unanimity from 30 gentlemen assembled to look at anything; and it is not to be expected that the members of a House of Legislature will all look at a subject from the same point of view as the Government does. Nevertheless, the review of the Government's activities, given so ably by His Excellency, covered on a State-wide basis the general sphere of activities and provided members with an opportunity of dealing with questions as they affected their own individual constituencies.

It is accordingly my duty by established custom to rise at this point of time and endeavour to provide as much information as is possible in response to remarks made by individual members during the course of the debate. Once more my embarrassment at the present time is that I have so much to reply to; and though, on past occasions, I have made every endeavour to restrict my remarks to essentials, the traditional contribution to this debate by the Minister in charge of Government business in this Chamber tends of its nature to be very lengthy indeed.

I would like to say, nevertheless, how much I appreciate the patient hearing which has been given me in the past; and I think this may be attributed to the very reasonable appreciation by members of the necessity for my dealing with individual problems as they have been placed before us. I am grateful for the attentive hearing which I have been given on past occasions, and I have no reason to think that members on this occasion will be other than willing to give me a reasonable hearing; for, in point of fact, the information which I now propose to place before the Chamber will be restricted entirely to matters raised during the course of the debate.

I desire first to thank Dr. Hislop, who, in accepting the responsibility of speaking in reply to His Excellency on the public occasion of the official opening of Parliament, indeed impressed all assembled. Dr. Hislop does not rise to address the Chamber unless he has a useful contribution to

make, and this occasion was no exception. The subject was, I think, singularly well chosen for the occasion, and its deliverance left us in no doubt as to the honourable member's interest in and knowledge of the historical background of Western Australia and the trends in recent years.

I am sure members will agree with me that Dr. Hislop's discourse on opening day was a suitable contribution of the high standard maintained in the Legislative Council.

This debate, which traditionally lends itself to open discussion of all manner of State activities, is usually availed of by members generally as an opportunity for prompting the Government—and we have listened to some prompting tonight—into expending larger sums of money on public works which they would like to see undertaken or extended in their constituencies.

The Address-in-Reply debates of recent years have been in traditional character, and indeed in the early years of this Government much lively criticism and some criticism of a constructive nature has been made; and, in the overall, I think it may be said that the individual opinions of members have been respected.

That the debate on this occasion has been in less critical strain up to this time, in so far as it has related to the activities of the Government, may be regarded, I suggest, as an admission that the country is prospering well under the present administration. Dr. Hislop had quite a deal to say about the prosperity of the State when moving the motion; and, in the speech which immediately followed in rotation, Mr. Wise spoke of the ever-increasing amount of funds becoming available to the State Administration. Though Mr. Wise may have some doubts whether all the money is being spent in the best direction, and to the best advantage, I am prompted to remark on the absence of criticism in the honourable member's speech. No substantial departures from trends in expenditure were suggested, though reference was, I think, made to some small works being overlooked, but they were not actually named.

The debate on this occasion has been marked in a singular manner by eulogistic references to the officers of the Civil Service, and of Government instrumentalities. It is pleasing to have this credit given from time to time. It is pleasing to the Government responsible to the people to hear these eulogistic references to the men and women to whom the Government looks for advice, and whose advice is acted upon to the extent that finances will permit.

Mr. Wise spoke obviously from his own personal knowledge of Mr. Punch, the Commissioner of Main Roads. We have at times to listen to attacks upon the Government's so-called glamorised publicity. One of the features which is evident in the

Government's publicity platform, to all those who are interested enough to partake of it, is the abundant opportunity which exists in this country for every capable person to reach the top of his chosen avocation. Mr. Punch, a born and educated Western Australian, completed his cadetship in engineering in the Public Works Department and, long before the Main Roads Department was actively associated with the construction of roads in the north-west, was building roads for the Public Works Department in those areas. In the depression years, he was in charge of a large drainage project in the south-west; later to resign from the Public Works Department to become the municipal engineer for Kalgoorlie—the largest local government district in Australia.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I was there as a councillor at the time.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That was prior to World War II, where he served in the Royal Australian Engineers. Shortly after returning to Kalgoorlie, Mr. Punch joined the staff of the Main Roads Department and was actively associated with the Kimberley beef roads. His wide knowledge of engineering, both in the Government and local government spheres, led him to the position of regional engineer for the Main Roads Department, a position carrying State-wide responsibility which groomed him well for the responsibilities of commissionership.

Two interesting points were raised by Mr. Wise. One related to certain bitumen surfacing in the north, and the other gave scant credit to the Government for its works programme because of the ever-increasing amount of funds available to the Government of this State, as with other States, as a consequence of the amount of money which the Federal Treasurer raises by way of loan, taxation and other means of revenue because of the country's evident prosperity. It would seem reasonable then, in order to emphasise the great expansion of the State's works programme in the north, to quote some comparative proportionate figures. These will demonstrate quite readily the degree to which development of the north has been accentuated over the past few years.

An indication of the increasing importance given to the development of the north-west and Kimberley areas by the Government is provided by the increasing proportion of the Main Roads Department's programme of works which has been allocated to that area.

In the 1958-59 financial year, for instance, the works programme of the Main Roads Department provided for expenditure amounting to 14.7 per cent. of the total State programme on works north of the 26th parallel. Although the total main roads funds available for expenditure in the present financial year are immeasurably more than those available in the year

previously referred to, the allocation this year north of the 26th parallel represents 24.1 per cent. of the road funds received by this State from Commonwealth sources.

The amount provided in 1958-59 for expenditure north of the 26th parallel was £1,059,000 out of a total programme of £7,225,000. The Government, by progressively increasing the allocation to the area north of this parallel, has not only increased this amount to £3,002,300, but this figure represents, as already explained, 24.1 per cent. of the main roads programme compared with 14.7 per cent. expended some several years ago. The £3,000,000-odd being expended this year includes £750,000 for which successful representations were made to the Commonwealth Government as a grant for Kimberley beef roads.

The Main Roads Department policy on expenditure in other parts of the State takes into account the amount of traffic which will use the roads, but in the north, where special consideration is given, this high proportion has been allocated to an area where only 1.7 per cent. of the Western Australian population is at present domiciled.

While the policy of the Government has been to upgrade the road system to provide through-roads of a serviceable standard throughout the large area north of the 26th parallel, attention has also been given to sealing the roads in the larger towns of the north. The total mileage of roads which had been sealed up to the 30th June, 1959, in the north-west was 192.5 miles. Including 92 miles of road to be primed this financial year, the Government will have provided a black top on a further 265.9 miles of road in the north-west since June, 1959, making a total mileage of black topped roads in the north of 458.4 miles.

Therefore, in the six-year period the Government will have provided a far greater mileage of black topped roads in the north than had previously existed. So while main roads funds have increased substantially, and the costs of road works too, the mileage of black topped roads laid in the north during the past few years exceeds by a long way the total mileage of such roads laid by all other Governments in areas north of the 26th parallel.

When Mr. Wise suggested members should go north to view the destruction of the pastoral areas, which he places at the doorstep of "ruthless pastoralists," I suggested rather facetiously that I would not like them to go next week. Quite seriously, though, I suggest that members who are so disposed to visit the area and see for themselves will come away with an impression that it takes several years of protection before a climax vegetation of perennials puts in an appearance as a consequence of the enormous fencing programme, which has been in course since 1959.

Even after this occurs, it will take many more years before recovery is complete and the silt load reduced to a minimum. However, signs of recovery are now in evidence on the areas fenced off in 1960. This is one of the projects upon which great expenditure has been made from the additional finances available to the Government.

The Ord catchment regeneration project has cost no less than £250,000 since its inception. During the intervening years some 1,200 square miles of denuded and eroded country has been enclosed and will be protected from cattle grazing. The fencing programme is now complete and is being followed up with cultivation and re-seeding to hasten regeneration. This work will go on for several years yet. While members will leave the area with a better appreciation of the enormity of this task, I am sure they will return well assured that this project will be completely successful.

While the question of Government publicity being too highly glamorised does not come within the province of my portfolio, it would be more likely, I should think, that, in the matter of publicising the marvelous opportunities available in this State, the Government's concern would arise through its inability to expend money on a wide world basis. A great deal is at present being done to bring the advantages of this country before the notice of people outside our shores but time and time again prominent visitors remind us that our State publicity is entirely inadequate. In the matter of iron ore, with which I am closely associated, the information at all times publicised by the Government has been factual. It has always been apparent and logical that a market must first be obtained for iron ore before railways, towns, treatment plants, and ports can be erected.

The Government in its dealings with prospective producers has, where considered warranted, facilitated approaches to such market as far as possible by negotiating agreements with the producers once they have proved the existence of economic deposits. These agreements have clearly set out the obligations of both the producers and the Government so that both know what is to be done immediately a market is forthcoming which warrants the huge expenditure necessary to ensure fulfilment of orders.

Iron ore is in plentiful supply throughout the world and it is thus a buyer's market. Western Australia, with its national stability, its proximity to potentially great Asian consumers, and the good quality and enormous quantity of its ore, is favoured to obtain a reasonable percentage of such a market. At the same time, with the development of the iron mines, the Government is ensuring that processing will

also take place so that the north-west will be opened up and become a considerable employer of labour.

The several matters relating to public health and the control of burning off in the metropolitan area have been brought under the notice of my colleagues in another place and I am aware that questions relating to the reservation for recreation of the former Maylands aerodrome, as also local government boundaries, come within the province of Mr. Logan's portfolios.

Mr. Dolan, when reviewing predecimal currency preparations in another State, suggested that the Government take cognisance of certain events which were arranged in Victoria in order to induce people to become more decimal minded. After the honourable member had finished speaking, it occurred to me that members generally may be interested in what is taking place in this State.

A planning and co-ordinating committee has been appointed by Cabinet here to take the action necessary for the conversion of State departments and instrumentalities to decimal currency. This committee consists of:—

1. A Treasury officer as chairman.
2. A Crown Law officer for the necessary amendments to State legislation.
3. An officer from the Public Service Commissioner's office for the education of State officers.

Considerable progress has been made by this committee, particularly on the accounting side and arrangements have been completed for change over on D-day in mid-February of 1966. The committee is at present occupied in the task of examining all State legislation with the object of submitting the necessary amendments during the 1965 session of Parliament.

All departments are being kept fully acquainted with all releases by the Decimal Currency Board by the planning and co-ordinating committee through special committees formed in each department, and it is expected that each of these committees will be taking action for education of the public as required by their activity.

The Education Department is particularly active in the examination of its curriculum and is now taking the necessary action for the education of all children attending school to prepare them for the change-over.

As regards the education of the general public, the Decimal Currency Board has set up an organisation in each State. In this State the organisation is under the chairmanship of the Commonwealth Sub-Treasury and is particularly active on a programme of education to all sections of the public.

It is anticipated that this organisation will become increasingly active during 1965 as the time of changeover draws closer and their efforts will be supplemented by the use of television, radio, and the Press, and no doubt such functions as referred to by Mr. Dolan.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: During the Corrigin ram sales the other day decimal currency was used.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: With other members, I listened to the informative outline of the school and University examination systems and the references to accrediting made by Mr. Dolan. As the honourable member pointed out, the question of public examinations has occupied the minds of educationists for 50 years or more and apparently it will continue to do so. I have no doubt that the problem has been with the civilised world from time immemorial, yet the present examination system is apparently the best system which the human mind has been able to devise, taking into account the weaknesses of our human nature.

While the intra-school system of accrediting could no doubt work admirably, it is extremely doubtful that such a system could be applied objectively and fairly under the public examination system subject to influences while outside the control of the teacher or tutor. So it seems this problem is to remain as a challenge to those with whom the responsibilities of education reside and one unlikely to be resolved within the precincts of this Chamber. I thank Mr. Dolan for placing before the House the educationists' point of view, for it is a matter with which the honourable member must have had a deal of experience.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That does not answer Mr. Wise's query.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not know to what extent I could go further. When advocating a more extensive use of the medium of television for educational purposes and emphasising the important impact of this medium upon the result of an American presidential election, Mr. Dolan, in effect, was drawing attention to the enormous responsibility which rests on the shoulders of present day journalism.

The members of the Australian Journalists' Association acknowledge an ethical code which is based upon the highest principles and it would be expected that in the process of time with outstanding members of the profession proceeding to the editorial staff and thus relinquishing active membership, they would take with them a lifetime of training in the ethics of the profession.

The profession of journalism, limited since the development of the printing press to written publication, has now advanced to the stage where radio, photographic, and television mediums place them in an insurmountable position to influence the thinking of every member of

the community. We must heartily agree then with Mr. Dolan that every endeavour should be made in the presentation of script and photographic material, particularly directed towards the younger generation, that only the highest concept of our moral code is good enough to place before them in their impressionable years.

The demands of our modern age for exciting headlines and dramatic pictures, which unfortunately represent other persons' grief, present a mighty challenge to the members of the journalists' profession with their enormous powers of persuasion through mediums that have entry to every home, to give us food for right thinking through the manner of their presentation of the material available to them. Nor should it rest at that.

There is an obligation I suggest, for the members of this powerful profession to seek out the best which that profession is able to devise for the edification and entertainment of the community upon whose patronage they rely for their subsistence. It is within the power of the parliamentarian to assist in this regard, and some assistance is already being given through the substance of the material and the manner of its delivery in this Chamber.

Mr. Willesee touched on the importance of towns in the north-west and made particular reference to port and shipping facilities at Onslow and Carnarvon. Mr. Willesee placed before members some facts relating to present day practices in the electrical appliance retail trading sphere. Comment concerning the cattle industry in the Kimberleys has been referred to the appropriate Minister.

Mr. Jones representing, as he does, a rural community is hopeful that Asian expansion of secondary industry at the expense of its primary pursuits may benefit this country which is basically still a primary producer. Undoubtedly, if we produce meat and cereals at the right price, there will always be an unlimited market in the near north with which we have an advantage of about 2,000 miles as compared with some of the other States. Later on I shall say a little more about that, when I deal with the comments which have been made by Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Jones also spoke on education in road safety and placed before the House interesting examples of experiences in Japan. Members generally by their frequent references to the increasing number of accidents on our roads displayed a keen interest in the problem and a willingness to share with the Government its concern over accidents, especially fatal accidents. I think it has been made abundantly clear through Ministerial statements in the Press and by other means, that the Government is most conscious of the urgent need for devising ways and means of containing within more moderate bounds the upsurge in speed which may

be called upon from powerful modern motor engines and the increase in reckless driving which seems to be becoming more evident.

After listening to the remarks of Mr. Lavery the other evening relating to the dreadful accident which occurred at Kwinana, I arrived home one night in time to see the television news. I saw the husband of the unfortunate woman who was involved in that accident. I was interested to listen to his description of the crossing. He told the television reporter how inadequately it was marked, and how dangerous it was.

The television people then drove their motor vehicle along to the crossing and photographed it. What a different view was presented! The telecast showed the vehicle stopping when it approached the crossing. There was a wide view of on-coming trains, and there was a sign on the left-hand side indicating there was a railway crossing ahead. This goes to show there are two points of view when reports are made of happenings such as that.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You should not take it for granted.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not taking anything for granted. I am merely repeating what I saw on television.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You should not take it for granted.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I repeat, I am not taking anything for granted. I am merely pointing out what was shown.

Undoubtedly, the deplorable rail accidents which have occurred at crossings while this debate has been in progress have placed emphasis on the provision of warning signs or flashlights with boom gates at crossings. This has ever been thus. There are probably between 3,000 and 4,000 railway crossings in the State, and most likely not more than about 100 or so have signal lights. I suppose at a cost of approximately £1,000 each, the Main Roads Department would face a bill approaching £5,000,000 to install lights at every crossing.

A crossing receives new prominence, and it is feared, only when some terrible fatal accident occurs at it, though it may present no graver difficulties in negotiation than hundreds of others throughout the system. I can only say the views expressed by members have been placed before the appropriate authorities; and I would not envy the job of the committee in deciding priorities in railway warning signs or lights in the multitude of crossings yet unguarded. At one time it was the responsibility of the Railways Department to provide these fixtures, but the entire cost of installation these days is met by the Main Roads Department, with the main roads and railways departments sharing the cost of maintenance.

With the debate progressing through a greatly enlarged scope of items, some of which were seriously dwelt upon, but many just touched on in passing, I sensed that it would be highly unlikely that my colleagues would be able to deal with all points raised before it came to my turn to wind up the proceedings. Nevertheless, members may be assured, although I may not allude to this fact repeatedly as I deal with each member's contribution, that all appropriate remarks which I consider should be brought to the notice of my colleagues have been passed on for consideration.

If I might be permitted to say so, Mr. President, I have indeed been impressed on this occasion by the frequent expressions of appreciation of the Government's activities made from nearly all parts of the House.

I have already passed on to members information made available to me regarding regeneration of pastoral areas in the Kimberleys, a problem which has been emphasised by Mr. Wise and I think Mr. Willesee and Mr. Strickland. Mr. Strickland called our attention to destruction of sheep by vermin in the Pilbara, and members will be interested to know that the Pastoralists' Association, being desirous of an extension of vermin control activities in the north, has impressed upon the Government the need to introduce legislation to increase the vermin rate. This will have a twofold benefit in that this rate is substantially subsidised by the Government; so any increase in the rate itself will bring in added revenue from the Government.

The number of references to problems associated with the aboriginal community gives further evidence of the interest which Parliamentary representatives have in these matters. It is therefore understandable that some members become impatient when pastoral settlement schemes mooted by them proceed only slowly. These problems are, of course, outside my own portfolio, but I think members can have no doubt of the truly personal interest which the Minister for Native Welfare is taking in these problems.

We had a case in point to which more than one member made reference, namely, the consumption of liquor by natives on equal terms with the whites. This was a courageous move and I think there will be few of us who did not stop to wonder how it would work out. From what has been said in this Chamber—and no matter what might be our personal feelings in the matter—it seems there is good reason to believe the decision was a good one and well worthy of a trial.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I told you that years ago.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will accept that statement. Mr. Syd Thompson, who represents a province which has

its fair share of native problems I should think, has apparently been surprised at the course of events which has followed the implementation of last year's legislation in the matter.

Mr. Strickland expressed pleasure about our oil prospects and its potential for the development of iron ore. The honourable member seemed to indicate to me when he was speaking that he thought there was a trail of oil from Barrow Island in the north to the Perth basin in the south, a distance stretching some 1,500 miles. All I can say is that I fervently hope the honourable member is right.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: It has been found at each end.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, but whether it is in the middle or not still remains to be ascertained. However, I am sure the companies will press on. There has been an impetus in the search for oil. Numbers of new companies have been encouraged to come to Western Australia; and to the best of my ability, any way, this will be the line I want to take.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Many years ago oil was found at Yellowdine. Do you remember that?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No, I am afraid I do not.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: We are not all 100 years old!

The Hon. G. Bennetts: It was put there!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do know stories of what can be done with a 44-gallon drum if a deep enough hole is dug; but I do not know anything about it.

The subject of gold has presented a lot of scope for comment; and for fear of repetition which could be wearisome, I do not propose at this point of time to further enlarge on this subject, except to say that I gave a brief explanation this afternoon of the action I had taken as a result of the motion moved by Mr. Heenan.

Several members have already thanked and complimented Mr. MacKinnon on his most interesting outline of winter flooding experiences in the south-west and I should like to add my appreciation.

Mr. Dellar deplored scant reference to gold in His Excellency's speech. I can understand members desiring His Excellency to dwell on the very important items which affect the State's economy and large communities dependent on particular industries. I have never heard a complaint that the Governor's Speech on opening day was too short. It really amounts to this—the wide scope of State activities comes under so many headings that it is in a practical manner possible only to make brief references to each item.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: It was a nine page speech, but the second major industry in the State received only two lines.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We can remember, of course, that the quality of a speech is not always measured by its length. From the remarks which the honourable member made regarding methods of road construction, I should think it would be highly unlikely that the views of road engineers would be acceptable to Mr. Dellar. Nevertheless, whatever comment comes to hand as a result of my referring the matter, I shall be pleased to pass on.

I would like to make mention of one or two remarks made by the honourable member in respect of the goldmining industry. The members of the Labor Party had the advantage a short time ago of going to Kalgoorlie and seeing something of the goldmining industry.

Mr. Dellar in a very interesting way told us of the Mt. Charlotte operation and gave us an idea of the low quality ore that was being worked by the Western Mining Corporation. He told us of the advantages of the new type of machine that is working underground. I was very interested in this. The honourable member also went on to say that he thought that if the goldmining industry had had this type of machine years ago, many of the mines which have closed down would not, in fact, have closed down.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: It was not a parliamentary visit. It was a visit by goldfields members the previous week.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That does not detract from the comments I wish to make on this matter. I do not know whether the honourable member takes much interest in the A.W.U. Mining Division.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I think he would.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I think so, too. He would therefore know that the reason the diesel engines have not been used underground before was because of the opposition of the union to the use of them underground. Therefore it is a fallacious argument to say that if these machines had been underground so long ago, the mines would not have closed down.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: I was not condemning anyone for the fact that they had not been used.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Or perhaps it is not fallacious to put forward the suggestion. However, the fact remains that a good deal of negotiation had to be carried out before the unions would consent to these diesel engines working underground. I am very glad to hear Mr. Dellar say they are working very satisfactorily.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: This mine was suitable for diesel locomotives whereas others were not.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Mr. Dellar thought the others would be suitable, too. Subsequent to Mr. Dellar's references to

rail closures, I acquainted myself with the fact that several of the goldfields members are maintaining close contact with the Minister for Education in these matters.

I desire to say to Mrs. Hutchison that I have noted her pleasure arising out of the Morley Park drainage project and my decision to introduce legislation for the control of debt collectors.

As the honourable member has pointed out, it is not uncommon for children to suffer in their rearing from the absence of a working mother; though, of course, circumstances which require a mother to work to provide or augment the family income unfortunately occur for a number of reasons and the decision is often quite unavoidable.

Mrs. Hutchison expressed concern with the decision made by the University Senate to increase fees in 1965 and went on to say that the University was founded as a free University and that it should remain a free University.

In many respects the University is more free today than it ever was, and in this regard I would like to go back to 1913 when the University was first founded. At that time there were very few scholarships indeed and in order to assist scholars attend that institution the senate of the day decided not to charge fees.

However, over the years we have seen a gradual development of the scholarship system until today no less than two-thirds of the full-time students at the University enjoy scholarships and bursaries of one kind or another. These scholarships invariably provide for the payment of fees by the sponsor and, in some cases, a living allowance is also payable to the student.

There is no question that an intelligent and brilliant student would have not the slightest difficulty in obtaining a Commonwealth scholarship and, if he comes from a poorer family, he would also receive a living allowance whilst he is studying at the University.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Scholarship children are not the only ones to whom I was referring.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: This is a very much improved situation compared with what existed in the early days of our University, inasmuch as students in general did not receive living allowances and only had the benefit of not being required to pay tuition fees.

Living allowances are of tremendous assistance to the children of the poorer families; and, indeed, many of these are only able to attend the University because of this assistance.

Even in the days of the so-called free University, there were charges of several kinds which were payable by the student. Firstly, he had to pay fees to the Guild of Undergraduates and, in addition, there were faculty service charges levied which

also had to be paid by the student. Nowadays, all these fees are payable in the case of a Commonwealth scholar, and the State Government also meets these costs in the case of trainee teachers, of whom there are more than 400 at the University today. The total number of Commonwealth scholars is 980.

There are also cadetships awarded by the State Government under which fees and living allowances are paid by the department concerned. These total 150.

Hackett Bursaries are also available to students who fail to obtain a Commonwealth scholarship or other form of assistance; and, here again, there is a living allowance to those who come from families in the lower income groups.

Furthermore, the Vice-Chancellor has the power to waive fees in any case where a deserving student would be unable to attend the University simply because he could not afford the fees.

In view of the many avenues which are available to assist academically deserving students, it is quite wrong to claim that those capable of undertaking a successful University course are unable to attend the institution because of the fees being charged by that institution.

The charging of fees is really not a bar to the admission of deserving students to the University and, on the other hand, there is an advantage to be gained by charging fees so as to increase the resources of the institution in order to permit it to cope with increased enrolments and expanding courses.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I do not agree with you.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Through the agency of its scholarship system, the Commonwealth Government is contributing at the present time an amount in excess of £100,000 to the University. If fees were not charged, this contribution, of course, would cease and, if the University were not to suffer this loss, it would be necessary for the State to make it up.

I think it will be readily appreciated that there would be little sense in relieving the Commonwealth Government of over £100,000 per year and for the State to assume this burden unnecessarily.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: No-one wants to.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In that case we are on equal ground. As far as State Government support of the University is concerned, I can say that the present Government has not shirked its responsibilities in any way, and grants now being made to that institution are of such an order that it is, with fee collections, sufficient to attract the maximum Commonwealth contribution payable in accordance with the recommendations of the Australian Universities Commission.

In this current year, the State will be providing £1,202,000, which is approximately half of the total requirements to meet the day-to-day running costs of the University. The Commonwealth Government is providing £831,000 and fees are expected to return £334,000.

Of the amount collected from fees, the Commonwealth and State Governments, through the agency of scholarships and bursaries, will be subscribing over 55 per cent.

In addition the Commonwealth and State Governments will be providing approximately £2,500,000 in the three-year period 1964-66 for capital works comprising mostly new buildings on the campus at Crawley. I can assure members that the Government is playing its part in the development of the University of Western Australia, and we shall continue to do so. I suggest to members that all they need do is to look at this magnificent institution to appreciate what has been done.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You have just sidetracked my argument.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Not at all; I have stated the facts in plain figures. Mr. Bennetts, in making what is apparently his last Address-in-Reply contribution, spoke of the eastern goldfields in retrospect in a manner typically enthusiastic of the honourable member. His remark that he will be missed is very true, and when he ceases to hold the floor on the cross benches, the proceedings in this Chamber will become a little less colourful than we have been used to.

I suggest that the honourable member, in his enthusiasm to cover as many as possible of the problems associated with his electorate, spoke at times, as he said, "at random." Mr. Bennetts has obviously had a long experience in the goldmining community and is well informed on many of the problems peculiar to the eastern goldfields. His remarks concerning "muddling about with iron ore" though, I think, were—

The Hon. G. Bennetts: We are getting out of it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: —quite out of line. I do not intend again to pursue the matter as I have dealt with it already.

There would seem to be some confusion in the honourable member's mind with respect to the answer given Mr. Stubbs concerning additions to the Southern Cross School. No promise was made to complete the additions for the first term. Mr. Stubbs was informed in reply to a question on the notice paper that it is anticipated additions will be ready for commencement of the second term next year. I desire Mr. Bennetts to know that I have placed before my colleagues several of the points raised by him.

My thanks are due to Mr. Heitman, who, though a comparatively new member in the Legislative Council, has travelled widely throughout the State to become well acquainted with its needs and with the positive action taken by the Government to provide the requisite public works and facilities necessary to maintain our rural communities. Mr. Heitman represents an area likely to benefit greatly through the Government's iron ore policies.

I wish now to deal briefly with some of the comments that were made by other members this evening, but about which I have had no opportunity to make any study. In an endeavour to wind up the debate, I would like to make a few remarks; and if what I say is not sufficient, perhaps members could pursue a little further with me the matters that concern them.

Mr. Ron Thompson mentioned the problems being encountered by Laporte and Alcoa. It must be appreciated that both these industries are in their infancy stages and are undoubtedly having difficulties; but I think it would be safe to say that Laporte is not experiencing difficulties to any extent, although we know that Alcoa is having trouble.

The Hon. R. Thompson: So are the people around there.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The company is doing everything it can to alleviate the difficulties it is having with the plant, and I think that as time goes on some alleviation will come about.

The Kwinana industrial complex has not simply been started in the last few years. It was first laid down in 1952; and in that year we had a special session of Parliament. I was in the Legislative Assembly at the time, and Parliament was called together—from memory I think the session was in 1952—to ratify a Bill which permitted the establishment of the B.H.P. rolling mill at Kwinana.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I think that session was called to deal with rents and tenancies.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No, it was not.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The question of rents and tenancies was before that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am relying entirely upon my memory. Mr. Strickland has returned to his seat and he wants to help me.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: It was held for the refinery.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I thank the honourable member. I thought my memory served me correctly. That was the commencement of the industrial complex at Kwinana; it is not just something that has been thought up overnight. It has been there for a long time.

The Hon. R. Thompson: No-one said that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am giving my point of view; and I would foreshadow that members will not recognise this particular area in the next decade; because, despite what Mr. Baxter might think about the situation, I consider this area will indeed be a very important one for Western Australia.

At this point I would like to make a few comments on the speech made by Mr. Baxter. I want to be careful not to upset him.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: You will upset me if you don't.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will try. We have had Governments of different political characters thinking along the same lines, even if it is only for a limited time. The previous Government and the present Government have been thinking along the same lines, it would appear, because the Hawke Government realised that secondary industry was a fundamental matter so far as Western Australia was concerned; that it was something we must have; because we have, as members know, been a primary producing country for a long time.

As a matter of fact our history started with gold. Then we turned to primary production, and now we are going through another mineral age; but there is a great deal of impatience to see us succeed overnight. Because we have not done that, the attempts of the Government have been referred to as glamorised efforts that have brought no results.

I read the political commentary in *The West Australian* newspaper a few days ago when Mr. Hawke made his contribution. He referred to the fact that I had made three trips to Japan. I wish he had been right; it is an interesting country. He also said we had not sold a pound of iron ore, which again is quite wrong.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Have you sold two pounds?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is a facetious remark. He must have known at the time that the Western Mining Corporation had signed a contract for so many tons of iron ore to be shipped out of the port of Geraldton, because Mr. Delar said not long ago when speaking on the Supply Bill, I think, that the Geraldton Harbour had to be deepened in order to deal with the iron ore.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: The contract was signed a couple of days ago.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No; the company completed the details. That is an ordinary commercial necessity. When the contract is signed, the details must be completed, and that is what was done the other day.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Sometimes you protest here.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If the honourable member were to have a look at the 1959 Hansard he would see that when he was speaking on the Address-in-Reply I reminded him that this common effort that the two Governments had in mind to get industry had not shown much success so far as the previous Government was concerned. I think Mr. Lavery might remember—I well remember him nodding his head in assent—that we had a considerable number of houses vacant at Medina because the expectations in respect of the first industrial agreement in 1952 had not been realised.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: The company ordered 1,000 houses and used 655, because the people would not live there.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am glad we agree on these things. I just wanted someone to help me a little to make sure my memory was correct. I know now that it is. There were quite a number of houses empty, and I can remember saying, "Give us an opportunity, and not only will we fill these houses, but more."

The Hon. R. Thompson: You did; you sent pensioners.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, for some of the houses, because you could not get people to go there.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You ordered a thousand houses.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is no use talking about this, because we know the situation at the present time. Western Australia, for the benefit of Mr. Baxter—

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: You have come back to me again.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Do not think I have forgotten you, because I have not.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Have you finished with me?

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Temporarily. Western Australia comprises one-third of the total area of Australia, and it contains 7 per cent. of the population; yet it is responsible for 14 per cent. of the exports of the whole of Australia. I cannot see the honourable member's purpose in pouring so much cold water upon the future prospects of the State.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: You are looking at it the wrong way.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Perhaps I am; but I have such a feeling of enthusiasm for the development of this State that I am afraid I cannot look at it in any other way; and that is all there is about it. This Government pursued the same line as a previous Government. The only difference is that there has been a better

result in the last five years than in the previous five years; and that is undeniable.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You have had twice as much money.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: What has that to do with it?

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You can do a lot with money.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It has nothing to do with the matter at all, because very little Government money went into the Kwinana area. The agreements which the Government has made in respect of the industrial development of this State have hardly had a chance to come to any point of fruition. Nothing was said about the 500 miles of broad gauge railway; nothing was said about the integrated iron and steel industry that will be built at Kwinana; and nothing was said about the nitrogenous works.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Every time *The Sunday Times* is published it comes out with £2,000,000 more.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not write *The Sunday Times*.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It is the spokesman for the Government.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Do not be silly.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It prints the Minister's photo every week.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not responsible for that. But for Mr. Lavery to say that *The Sunday Times* is the spokesman for the Government—

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: The Government gets a fair bit of print.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It is not the spokesman for the Government. For some extraordinary reason there seems to be a desire on the part of some people—it is obvious why—to throw cold water on Western Australia's development. I repeat we have done nothing different, except in regard to results, from what was attempted previously.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You are getting half the credit for the industries we brought here.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I well remember the trip made overseas by Mr. Tonkin. Many letters came, and they continued to come as the number of industries grew—the number we were to get, but we just did not get them!

The Hon. R. Thompson: Some we did—Laporte.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Laporte had slipped through the previous Government's fingers.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Klinger's.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I give the honourable member Klinger's; and that is all he has to cling to!

The Hon. R. Thompson: We gave Laporte and Alcoa the right to prospect the area. What are you talking about?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I know that Laporte slipped through the previous Government's fingers, because I was interested in the negotiations at the time. Be that as it may, the objective of the Government to develop the State is the same objective as Mr. Tonkin had; namely, to get capital here to help develop Western Australia.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: How did you do it?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not going to tell the honourable member that because she will only try to pinch our business. I do not intend to carry this on much further. I merely wish to say that our objective must be to get capital into Western Australia as quickly as possible so that it can be developed.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It is going out of Western Australia.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Do not talk nonsense! That is a meaningless interjection! We know that capital is coming into this State and we also know that various industries are being established. We are also aware that there is a tendency for critics to say, "You are not getting results quick enough." I would answer those critics by saying that we will get the results very shortly as we did a few months ago when Kwinana was brought to a standstill. I feel certain that the members of this Chamber will not recognise this area in ten years, because it will be a huge industrial complex.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I will be quite happy with full employment instead of the unemployment we have now.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: This State does not have any degree of unemployment anywhere! It has nowhere near the unemployment that the State had when the honourable member's Government was in office. At present we have only 1.8 per cent. of the working population unemployed. There are 27,000 more people in the work force today than there were five years ago. Despite what the honourable member says, or what anybody else says, there is prosperity in this State.

Let any member ask a builder what his opinion is of the economic position of this State! Mr. Thomson is a builder. Let any member ask him what the position is. I appeal to any member to approach any person engaged in the building industry, as I have had the opportunity of doing, to talk to him to see whether he has a bucket of cold water, other than one to pour into his concrete or mortar. So generally speaking, the efforts of the honourable member to blacken the efforts of the Government are quite futile.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I am not trying to blacken its efforts. All I said was that so long as we get full employment we will be happy.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order! I ask the Minister to resume his seat. I have been very tolerant, and I ask members to allow the Minister to finish his speech.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am afraid I am a great deal to blame, Mr. President.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: The Minister makes better progress from his notes.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Thank you, Mr. Strickland. One day the honourable member will be sitting on this side of the House again, although I realise it will be a long time from now. He has held this position and he must appreciate what it is like to collate information for the benefit of members, put it down on paper, and then deliver it in a way similar to that which I have done this evening.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I did not bait the members.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I conclude my remarks by thanking members for their contributions to this Address-in-Reply debate. I am well aware that there are times—to use a rather coarse expression—when I draw the crabs, because of some of the comments I make, but it is always in an endeavour to say what I believe should be said to the House in order to give the information which I think should be given to the members.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: You have painted a very good picture for the Government!

Question put and passed; the Address-in-Reply thus adopted.

Presentation to Governor

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [10.18 p.m.]: I move—

That the Address-in-Reply be presented to His Excellency the Governor by the President and such members as may desire to accompany him.

Question put and passed.

BILLS (6): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Evidence Act Amendment Bill.
2. Damage by Aircraft Bill.
3. Sale of Liquor and Tobacco Act Amendment Bill.
4. Local Courts Act Amendment Bill.
5. Criminal Code Amendment Bill.

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

6. Mining Act Amendment Bill.

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

House adjourned at 10.26 p.m.