

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 8th July, 1959.

CONTENTS

	Page
TRANSPORT BOARD :	
Issue of aircraft license	221
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE :	
Public works, commitments made by previous Government	222
Public buildings, particulars and total value of private contracts	223
Director of works, appointment of assistant	224
Unemployment, discontinuance of supplementary assistance	224, 230
Government Printing Office—	
Handing over to private concerns	224
Tenders for boiler equipment, etc.	227
Crosswalks—	
Prosecution of motorists	224
Flashing lights, Canning Highway	224
Adequate lighting	225
Traffic Lights—	
Douglas Avenue and Canning Highway	225
Mill Point-rd. and Canning Highway	225
South Perth foreshore, dredging	225
Blackstone Range police, tabling of papers	225
Betting inquiry, tabling of terms of reference	225
Motor-vehicle accidents, number in each age group	226
Workers' Homes Board, expenditure, houses built, etc.	226
Road subsidies, where paid, etc.	226
Chest Hospital, Contract price, etc.	227
Kangaroos and goats, possibility of North-West industry	227
Goldmining industry, freight concessions on mining stores	228
Railway Department—	
Retirement of temporary labourer	228
Freight revenue	229
War service land settlement, responsibility for poor development	229
Kindergartens, incorporation in education system	229
Fremantle power station, cost and period of construction	229
Hay-St., removal of tram lines	230
Fire guards, duties and numerical strength, etc.	230
Advertising, cost to Government	231
Egg Board, granting of credit	231
Midland Junction Workshops, value of work performed	232
Albany Regional Hospital, dismissal of tradesmen	232
Mosman Park schoolsite, availability as golf course	232
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE :	
Royal Perth Hospital lockers, vermin infestation	232
Ravensthorpe copper mine, shareholding by Asiatics	232
Hay-St., representations to City Council....	233
C.I.B. officers, presence at Parliament House	233
Northam overhead bridge, tabling of file	233
Plasterboard sheets, tabling of papers on prices	233
Talgarno rocket range, security of residents	233

CONTENTS—continued

	Page
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY, FOURTH DAY	233
Speakers on Address—	
Mr. Tonkin	233
Mr. Craig	242
Mr. Fletcher	244
Mr. O'Connor	249
Mr. Norton	250
Dr. Henn	255

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

TRANSPORT BOARD

Issue of Aircraft License

MR. GRAHAM (East Perth) [4.32]: With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a short statement which, in the interests of brevity, clarity, and accuracy I have committed to writing. From the statement made by the Minister for Transport yesterday, the public would gain the impression that the Hawke Labour Government had done something wrong and even "illegal", to quote the word used by the Minister, in agreeing that an aircraft license should be granted to a certain applicant.

In the first place the Transport Board is subject to the Minister, as pointed out by the Solicitor-General, and as appears in the State Transport Co-ordination Act. It is therefore the responsibility—and indeed the duty—of the Transport Board to give effect to a lawful ministerial decision, more especially when backed by a Cabinet determination.

Refusal by a Government officer or instrumentality to give effect to any such decision would be a serious dereliction of duty; and in this case, in the absence of a further Government decision to the contrary, it was the responsibility of the board to grant an aircraft license.

It is merely playing with words to assert that neither Cabinet nor the Minister had power or authority to grant an aircraft license. Under the Act, the Minister has the power and authority to make a decision; and it is the clear and unquestioned duty of the board, which is subject to him, to grant such license.

Clearly, therefore, there is no question of the previous Government having acted illegally; neither is there any foundation for the statement that the Cabinet of the day overrode the Transport Board, since no decision was made by the board.

The previous Government acted quite lawfully, properly, and with commendable promptness in view of the urgency and importance of the case. It would be only elementary decency for the Minister for Transport unreservedly to withdraw his baseless allegations which received such prominence in the Press.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

PUBLIC WORKS

Commitments made by Previous Government

1. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

- (1) Will he set out the works commitments entered into by the previous Government, as referred to by him in a statement published in this week's *Sunday Times*?
- (2) Will he also set out a list of those works to which he has any objection and the estimated cost of each such proposed undertaking?
- (3) What is the total estimated cost of the works to which his Government has been committed as a result of decisions made by the previous Government?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) As per attached statement which I would lay on the Table of the House.
- (2) The Government has not objected to any particular works. The published statement made it clear that while some carry-over of commitments was inevitable, the extent of these would leave the Government a restricted field for new planning, particularly in its first year.
- (3) £28,042,524.

LIST OF COMMITMENTS

The following is a list of loan commitments inherited by my Government from the previous Government:—

RAILWAYS

Additions and Improvements to Opened Railways:—

- (a) Permanent Way Track Improvements.
- (b) Annual Provisions.
- (c) Machinery and Plant—Workshops;
Motive Power Section.

Rolling Stock:—

- (a) New Diesel.
- (b) New Wagon Stock.

Welshpool Marshalling Yards, etc.

North Fremantle:—

- (a) Leighton Interchange.
- (b) Fremantle-North Fremantle: New River Bridge.

PUBLIC WORKS

Midland Abattoirs.

Albany Harbour Works.

Bunbury Harbour Works.

Country Areas and Town Water Supplies:—

- (a) Comprehensive Scheme.
- (b) G.W.S. General.
- (c) Country Towns Water Supply.

Drainage and Irrigation:—

- (a) Wellington Dam and Main Channel enlargement.
- (b) Sundry Works.

Geraldton Harbour Works.

Improvements to Harbours and Rivers:—

- (a) Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour.
- (b) Mandurah.
- (c) Ocean Foreshore Protection.
- (d) Sundry Works.

Public Buildings:—

- (a) School Works.
- (b) Hospital Works.
- (c) Institutional Works.
- (d) Police Works.
- (e) Miscellaneous.
- (f) Purchase and Resumption.

Sewerage for Country Towns:—

- (a) Albany Sewerage.
- (b) Collie Sewerage.

NORTH-WEST

Additions and Improvements to Jetties, Tramways and Rolling Stock:—

- (a) Port Hedland Jetty and Improvements.
- (b) Sundry Works at various ports.

Water Supplies—North-West:—

- (a) Town Water Supplies—Improvements.
- (b) Stock Routes Water Supplies—Improvements.
- (c) Broome.

Irrigation in North-West:—

- (a) Investigations and Surveys of Kimberley Rivers.
- (b) Liveringa Irrigation.

Public Buildings:—

- (a) School Works.
- (b) Hospital Works.
- (c) Police Works.
- (d) Miscellaneous.

State Shipping Service:—

- (a) New Vessel.
- (b) Other Vessels: repayments on "D" class ships.

**METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY,
SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE***Metropolitan Water Supply:—*

- (a) Serpentine River Project.
- (b) Construction Trunk Main.
- (c) Construction Service Reservoir.

Sewerage:—

- (a) Amplification of Treatment Works.
- (b) Enlargement of Subiaco—Swanbourne Ocean Outfall.

*Drainage.***MINES***Development of Mining:—*

- Loans to mine owners.

AGRICULTURE*Development of Agriculture:—*

- (a) South Perth Laboratories and Offices.
- (b) Blackwood Flax Co-op.
- (c) Kimberley Research Station—Field Laboratory.
- (d) Gascoyne Research Station—Office.
- (e) Badgingarra Research Station—Establishment.
- (f) Muresk College.
- (g) Research Stations—Renovations and Improvements.

FISHERIES*Fisheries Research.***INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT***Purchase of Land for Industrial Purposes:—*

- (a) Jandakot Offensive Trades Area—Resumption.
- (b) Kwinana Industrial Area.
- (c) Welshpool Factory Area.

Assistance to Industry:—

- (a) Purchase of Fruit Canning Machinery.
- (b) Glenford Clothing (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.
- (c) Richard Klinger Ptd. Ltd.

OTHER STATE UNDERTAKINGS*Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry.**Fremantle Harbour Trust:—*

- (a) Dredging.
- (b) Leighton Beach Sidings.
- (c) North Quay Berths.
- (d) Reconstruction of North and South Quays.

Metropolitan Passenger Transport Trust:—

- (a) New Buses.
- (b) Acquiring Private Operators.
- (c) Establishment of Depots.

Perth Dental Hospital:—

- Erection of clinics.

Rural and Industries Bank:—

- Additional capital for new building.

State Building Supplies:—

- (a) Pemberton—Reconstruction.
Pressure Treatment Plant.

University of W.A.:—

- Finance to match Commonwealth contribution to University buildings in accordance with Murray Report.

Wyndham Meat Works:—

- Freezing Chambers.

*Loans and Grants to Local Authorities and other Public Bodies.**R. & I. Bank—Delegated Agencies:—*

- (a) Chamberlains.
- (b) Albany Superphosphate.
- (c) Great Western Mining.
- (d) Blackwood Flax Co-op.
- (e) Dairy Farmers Improvement and Esperance Plains Development.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS*Particulars and Total Value of Private Contracts***2. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:**

- (1) How many contracts for the erection of public buildings have been made by the Government with private builders for the months of April, May, and June respectively?
- (2) In how many instances were the prices submitted by the successful tenderers below the departmental estimate?
- (3) What are the particulars of these?
- (4) What is the total value of the contracts mentioned in No. (1) above?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) April—9
May—17
June—26 Total 52.
- (2) 43.
- (3) See attached list.
- (4) £1,263,070.

PARTICULARS OF TENDERS

Tender No.	Departmental Estimate	Contract Price	Amount below Estimate
	£	£	£
1	1,234	917	317
2	3,000	2,748	252
3	876	742	134
4	17,600	14,711	2,889
5	3,800	3,600	200
6	1,600	1,467	133
7	1,360	1,197	163
8	730	696	34
9	135,000	131,704	3,296
10	12,000	10,537	1,463
11	870	666	104
12	2,500	2,159	341
13	8,500	8,185	315
14	653	557	96
15	2,700	1,996	704
16	15,000	14,463	537
17	2,900	2,650	250
18	57,000	48,466	8,534
19	30,000	28,030	1,970
20	57,000	51,800	5,200
21	8,000	6,700	1,300
22	5,000	4,388	612
23	10,586	9,894	692
24	1,030	901	129
25	8,300	7,234	1,066
26	21,000	19,880	1,120
27	2,500	2,132	368
28	1,300	1,096	204
29	3,400	2,880	520
30	650	507	143
31	1,056	970	86
32	600	598	2
33	1,150	897	253
34	8,500	8,300	200
35	10,586	9,894	692
36	1,140	955	185
37	1,139	1,129	10
38	10,000	9,698	302
39	98,000	92,460	5,540
40	16,000	15,274	726
41	740,884	696,651	44,233
42	2,045	1,821	224
43	1,950	1,624	326

DIRECTOR OF WORKS

Appointment of Assistant

3. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Did the Director of Works or the Under Secretary for Works request the appointment of an engineer in an executive capacity, to assist the Director of Works?
- (2) If such a request was made, when was it submitted?
- (3) Who convinced the Public Service Commissioner that such appointment was necessary?
- (4) On what date was the request for this addition to the staff of the engineering division of the Public Works Department first brought before the Public Service Commissioner?
- (5) When did the Public Service Commissioner make the appointment which involved the transfer of Mr. Temby?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes. The proposals of the Under Secretary for Works for the reclassification of the Public Service at the 1st January, 1959, included a recommendation by the

Director of Works that an additional item of engineer, Grade I, be provided in the executive section of the engineering division.

- (2) December, 1958.
- (3) Answered by No. (1).
- (4) Answered by No. (2).
- (5) The appointment was made by Executive Council on the 11th June, 1959.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Discontinuance of Supplementary Assistance

4. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

Will he lay on the Table of the House all papers containing the evidence on which the decision was based, to discontinue automatic supplementary assistance to unemployed persons?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Yes, for two weeks.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Handing Over to Private Concerns

5. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

Is there any likelihood of the Government handing over to private concerns the work and/or buildings of the Government Printing Office?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No consideration has been given to such action as it affects the buildings and the bulk of the work. In line with the Government's policy, tenders may be called for certain work.

CROSSWALKS

Prosecution of Motorists

6. Mr. ANDREW asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did he read in *The West Australian* newspaper on the 30th June, 1959, where two motorists had been heavily penalised for having failed to give way to a pedestrian on a crosswalk in St. George's Terrace on the 1st April?
- (2) Can a similar prosecution be successfully launched under the new regulation governing crosswalks?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.

Flashing Lights, Canning Highway

7. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister for Transport:

Will he give urgent attention to the question of installing flashing lights on all crosswalks on Canning Highway between the Causeway and Thelma-st., Como?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

Study is being made of methods to provide distinctive coloured lighting at crosswalks. There seems little case for installing flashing lights on all crosswalks. It is proposed to reserve flashing light installations for especially dangerous locations, as recently installed at the Hurlingham Hill, Canning Highway.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Douglas Avenue and Canning Highway

8. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister for Transport:

Will he give urgent attention to the question of installing traffic lights at the junction of Douglas Avenue and Canning Highway, South Perth, for the purpose of slowing up the flow of traffic on the highway between the Causeway and Canning Bridge?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

The question of installing traffic lights at the intersection of Douglas Avenue and Canning Highway will be reconsidered when the new traffic pattern set up by the opening of the Narrows Bridge can be studied. As indicated in my reply to the hon. member regarding traffic lights at Mill Point-rd. and Canning Highway, there is little value in installing lights now, which may be found unsuitable or not justified on the future traffic flows.

Mill Point-rd. and Canning Highway

9. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister for Transport:

What are the latest developments in respect of representations that traffic lights be installed at the junction of Mill Point-rd. and Canning Highway?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

When the Narrows Bridge is opened there will be a marked change in traffic flows at the intersection of Mill Point-rd. and Canning Highway. When the new flows are established, further examination will be made as to the warrant for traffic lights at this intersection and as to the type of light control which would be suitable for the new flows.

CROSSWALKS

Adequate Lighting

10. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What steps have been taken to overcome the apparent lack of liaison and co-operation between the Main Roads Department and the State Electricity Commission in respect of the adequate lighting of crosswalks?

- (2) In view of the fact that lack of adequate lighting is undoubtedly contributing to the high incidence of accidents on crosswalks, how much longer is the present position to be tolerated?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) Legislation is proposed to enable the Main Roads Department to provide for the financing of lighting on highways. At present the responsibility lies with the local authority.
- (2) Statistical examination shows that there is not a high incidence of accidents on crosswalks. Nevertheless the legislation referred to in No. (1) should make for a general improvement of existing conditions.

SOUTH PERTH FORESHORE

Dredging

11. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has a decision been made in respect of the representations, which were made to him recently, regarding the dredging of the South Perth foreshore between the Causeway and Mends-st. jetty?
- (2) Is he in a position to indicate a probable date when work on this project will commence?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No. Careful consideration will be given to the matter when the loan programme is being finalised.
- (2) No.

BLACKSTONE RANGE POLICE

Tabling of Papers

12. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

Will he lay on the Table of the House, all papers relating to the recent Blackstone Range police investigation?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

Yes.

The papers were tabled.

BETTING INQUIRY

Tabling of Terms of Reference

13. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

Will he lay on the Table of the House a copy of the terms of reference which will be used by the Royal Commissioner in his investigations into the horse-racing industry?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Yes.

The papers were tabled.

MOTOR-VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Number in Each Age Group

14. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Transport:

How many motor-vehicle drivers in each age group were involved in motor-vehicle accidents up to the end of the financial year?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

Statistics of ages of uninjured persons are not kept. Statistics of drivers injured in accidents for the financial year are not yet available.

15. *This question was postponed.*

WORKERS' HOMES BOARD

Expenditure, Houses Built, etc.

16. Mr. GUTHRIE asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What amount of money was expended by the Workers' Homes Board in each of the years ended the 30th June, 1937, 1938, and 1939, on the erection of new houses?
- (2) Were such amounts provided each year by the State Government entirely from its own resources?
- (3) If not, from what other sources, and what amounts were provided each year from each other source?
- (4) How many houses were built in each of the years mentioned in No. (1) by the Workers' Homes Board?
- (5) Did the Workers' Homes Board, in any of the years mentioned in No. (1), erect any buildings (other than houses); and if so—
 - (a) what types of other buildings; and
 - (b) how many of each type?
- (6) Did the Workers' Homes Board, in each of the years mentioned in No. (1)—
 - (a) provide financial assistance to others to erect homes;
 - (b) if so, during each year—
 - (i) how much was so expended;
 - (ii) how many houses were so erected;
 - (iii) were all such funds provided from State sources;
 - (iv) if not, from what other sources, and how much from each source?
- (7) Were any houses built, during any of the years mentioned in No. (1) by any other State Government department or instrumentality (excluding houses built by

or for any department or instrumentality for its own employees) and if so—

- (a) by what department or instrumentality;
 - (b) how many houses in each year were so built by each department or instrumentality;
 - (c) what amount was expended each year by each such department or instrumentality?
- (8) How many persons were employed by the Workers' Homes Board during each of the years mentioned in No. (1) on—
- (a) administrative;
 - (b) professional;
 - (c) supervisory;
 - (d) any other duties?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The answers are as follows:—

(1)	Workers Homes Act	War Service Homes Act	Housing Trust Act
	£	£	£
	82,300	3,457	1,000
	59,465	1,818	1,500
	82,576	1,852	—
(2)	No.		
(3)	War Service Homes (Commonwealth Government). Housing Trust (McNess Bequest).		
(4)	Homes completed:		
	Workers Homes Act	War Service Homes Act	Housing Trust Act
	137	3	4
	74	2	6
	129	3	—
(5)	No.		
(6)	No.		
(7)	No.		
(8)	Adminis- trative	Profes- sional	Super- visional
	1	6	4
	1	7	4
	1	9	4
			Clerical & General
			43
			42
			40

Mr. Graham: What is this Workers' Homes Board? It has been out of existence for 13 years.

Mr. Brand: Read the question.

ROAD SUBSIDIES

Where Paid, etc.

17. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In what agricultural areas are road subsidies being paid to primary producers?
- (2) Over what distance in each area are these subsidies being paid?
- (3) What is the rate per ton of each road subsidy?

- (4) On what commodities are the road subsidies paid or to be paid?
- (5) What is the anticipated cost to the Government this financial year?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) (a) In areas from which the undermentioned railway services have been withdrawn; namely—

Geraldton-Yuna
Geraldton-Ajana
Burakin-Bonnie Rock
Mukinbudin-Bullfinch
Lake Grace-Hyden
Brookton-Corrigin
Katanning-Pingrup
Gnowangerup-Ongerup
Elleker-Nornalup
Busselton-Flinders Bay

- (b) In addition, primary producers receive the benefit of subsidies paid for transport services in areas for which railways were promised but not constructed; namely—

Balla-Dartmoor area
The area known as the
"Lakes District," in-
cluding Ravens-
thorpe
Ongerup-Needilup
Cranbrook - Frankland
River area
Boyup Brook-Tone
River
Mt. Barker-Rocky
Gully

- (2) In "rail-closure" areas, over the distance which goods would have been railed had the rail service still operated. In other areas seasonal traffic is subsidised for the distance between farm and nearest rail siding, less ten miles. For regular services in these areas the subsidy applies from the nearest rail siding to the point on the defined route nearest the settler's property.
- (3) The subsidy represents the difference between road haulage costs and the rail freight payable if railways had been operating. According to distances and other factors subsidies vary from a few pence per ton to approximately 30s. per ton.
- (4) In "rail-closure" areas, subsidy applies to goods included in the railways classification as "Miscellaneous." In other areas the seasonal subsidy covers grain and fertiliser only, but the arrangement of freight schedules for regular services has the effect of spreading the subsidy over all commodities.

- (5) £134,000.

CHEST HOSPITAL

Contract Price, etc.

18. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What was the original contract price for the chest hospital?
- (2) What was the total amount claimed by the contractor for the contract?
- (3) What amount has been, or will be, paid to the contractor in full settlement of accounts in respect of this contract?
- (4) What was the departmental estimate for the job?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) £1,345,000.
- (2) See No. (3). Information not available.
- (3) Adjustments are not yet complete, but it is estimated that the total amount to be paid to the contractor will be approximately £1,440,000. This includes payment in respect of the "rise and fall" conditions of the contract.
- (4) £1,280,000 (exclusive of "rise and fall").

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Tenders for Boiler Equipment, etc.

19. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Were tenders called for the supply of boiler equipment for the Government Printing Works?
- (2) Why was the contract given to Tomlinsons?
- (3) Why did not the State Engineering Works submit a tender?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Tomlinsons were the lowest tenderers.
- (3) The State Engineering Works has not previously built oil-fired automatic boilers and it does not have design staff experienced in this type of work.

KANGAROOS AND GOATS

Possibility of North-West Industry

20. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Has the Government noted the reports of an export industry in the Eastern States in respect of kangaroos?

- (2) Has the Government given consideration to the establishment of industries for the recovery of meat and hides from kangaroos, in conjunction with any campaign for vermin control to deal with the excessive number of kangaroos in the North-West and Murchison districts?
- (3) If not, will it examine the possibility?
- (4) Has the Government examined the possibility of an industry based on the recovery of goat hair and hides in view of the excessive number of these animals in the North-West and Murchison districts?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. Consideration has been given to this subject in conjunction with private interests. Discussions and investigations are continuing. I am informed that the destruction of kangaroos for commercial purposes is unlikely to have an appreciable effect upon the kangaroo as vermin, but the possibilities are being closely examined.
- (3) Answered by No. (2).
- (4) Yes. Investigations are being made into this possibility in conjunction with an Eastern States manufacturer.

GOLDMINING INDUSTRY

Freight Concessions on Mining Stores

21. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Has he read the president's report, delivered to the annual meeting of the Chamber of Mines in May last?
- (2) Have any representations as yet been made to him by the gold-mining industry concerning freight concessions on stores used in the industry which are carried on the Perth-Kalgoorlie, Perth-Meekatharra, Kalgoorlie-Leonora, and Esperance-Kalgoorlie lines?
- (3) If not, in view of the important part played by the goldmining industry both in its contribution to the Railway Department and in the State's economy, would he give consideration to the matter of freight concessions on mining stores, particularly mining timber, explosives and diesel fuel carried on the aforementioned lines?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.

- (3) I will be only too pleased to give consideration to any submission the mining industry makes in connection with railway freights directly related to the industry, although this should not be taken as an undertaking that concessions will be granted. Railway freight rates have not been increased since 1953 in spite of many rises in costs. The mining industry receives concession freight rates for a number of items; and, in respect of freight from the metropolitan area, obtains the benefit of a substantial advantage through the telescopic nature of freight rates. However, careful consideration will be given, in conjunction with the Minister for Mines, to any submission made.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

Retirement of Temporary Labourer

22. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What is the policy of the Railway Department in regard to its retrenchment, in the case of an employee, working as a labourer with 10½ years' service in a temporary capacity, now aged 61 years, and who, because of age, is not eligible for admittance to the permanent staff?
- (2) Before retrenchment, is it borne in mind that such a man is not eligible to receive the age pension, and would find it extremely difficult at his advanced age to find other employment?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) No retrenchment is currently contemplated. However, the policy concerning retrenchment, should such become necessary, laid down by the previous Government and accepted by this Government is based on:
 - (a) efficiency; (b) preference to married men; and (c) where efficiency is equal and subject to (b) the "last on—first off" policy to apply.

If retrenchment became necessary in the section in which such a man was employed this policy would be applied.

It is not the practice to retrench an employee of the age and service as mentioned by the hon. member, merely because he is not on the permanent staff. In such a case the principle as stated in (a), (b) and (c) would be applied.

Freight Revenue

23. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Railways:

Would he please supply the figures indicating the revenue received by his department for the year ended the 30th June, 1958, from the haulage of the following goods traffic:—

- (a) Coal—from Collie to Boulder for the Kalgoorlie Power Corporation siding?
- (b) Sawn timber from South-West stations of origin to Boulder, for distribution to these mines' sidings:—Croesus, Golden Gate, Kamballie, Trafalgar, Great Boulder siding, Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie siding?
- (c) Mining timber from Duri to Boulder for the above-named sidings?
- (d) Oil fuels from—
 - (i) Esperance;
 - (ii) North Fremantle to Boulder for above sidings?
- (e) Explosives, chemicals, and general merchandise ex Fremantle and Perth to above sidings adjacent to Boulder?

Mr. COURT replied:

As the information sought by the hon. member will take some time to extract from departmental records, postponement of this question until the next sitting of the House after Thursday, the 9th July, is requested.

WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT*Responsibility for Poor Development*

24. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has he seen the report of the Hon. A. R. Jones, M.L.C., as published in *The Sunday Times*, dated the 28th June, 1959, concerning war service land settlement, particularly relating to the following extracts:—
 - (a) Some land supposedly cleared was either useless or covered with boulders;
 - (b) dams inspected were obviously below the capacity quoted and paid for;
 - (c) paddocks cleared were below the correct acreage;
 - (d) everywhere disgruntled settlers complained about what they considered dictatorial methods by the administration?

- (2) What action does he propose to take against contractors and also those responsible administrative officers who approved of this work, and by which approval private contractors were paid?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A survey is at present being made.

KINDERGARTENS*Incorporation in Education System*

25. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will he incorporate kindergarten training and expenses in the State education system?
- (2) If not, will he see that kindergartens in low income group areas receive extra financial assistance in special grants through the Kindergarten Union?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) The Royal Commission on kindergartens recommended that kindergarten education should not become part of the State education system. The present Government, like its predecessor, agrees with this recommendation.
- (2) One of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on kindergartens was for an annual grant of £1,000 to assist kindergartens in needy areas. This grant is paid by the Treasury direct to those kindergartens which, on account of a lower district income level, are having difficulty in meeting expenditure.

FREMANTLE POWER STATION*Cost and Period of Construction*

26. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What was the cost of installation of the Fremantle power station?
- (2) How much was this amount in excess of the estimated cost?
- (3) What was the estimated period of time to complete the station?
- (4) What was the actual time taken?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) and (2) The estimate of cost was not made in respect of the station as finally completed. The estimate for "A" station was made in 1942 and for "B" station in 1946. In neither case did these estimates cover items such as capitalised interest, cost of canteen and other extras, provision

of diesel locomotive, and other essentials. Without these, the estimated cost in 1942 of "A" station was £1,300,000; and in 1946, of "B" station, £2,300,000.

The completed cost of the works actually comprised in those estimates was £7,930,000, a difference of £4,330,000. But in the period involved between estimate and completion, the costs had approximately trebled, e.g. the basic wage had risen from £4 14s. 11d. to £12 6s. 6d.

- (3) It was not possible to get guaranteed estimates from contractors due to difficult conditions in the immediate post-war period.

- (4) For the "A" station—approximately six years from date of contract.

For the "B" station—approximately five years from date of contract.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Discontinuance of Supplementary Assistance

27. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare:

Following on the discontinuance of supplementary financial assistance to single and other unemployed persons—

- (1) What number of single unemployed persons in Perth and Fremantle were receiving the subsidy until the payment was stopped?
- (2) How many are now receiving the payment?
- (3) Is he aware of the increased hardship now being suffered by those unemployed who, as deserted wives or husbands with children, were considered as single persons for the purpose of granting extra allowance?
- (4) Does he remember my letter to him on this subject, and if not, herewith copy attached seeking his reply?
- (5) Will he, as requested, delegate authority to his officers to give immediate assistance to the proven needy recommended to him or his department by child welfare officers?
- (6) Will he clearly define Government policy in relation to widows and widowers who have children in their care, and are

in receipt of Commonwealth unemployment benefit, so that his departmental officers may be able to immediately assess a man's or woman's entitlement when they apply for State assistance?

- (7) Was it, or was it not, the intention of the present Government to penalise the genuine cases outlined, by discontinuing the extra assistance granted by the previous Government?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) 1,122 persons.
- (2) None, although single payments are being made to single unemployed persons who have just been released from gaol and are penniless, and a payment made to one man who required special diet.
- (3) Consideration is being given continually to cases brought under notice under this category.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Ministerial approval was given to the department to make interim payments to needy cases on the 27th May, 1959.
- (6) Government policy has not been altered in these categories.
- (7) No.

HAY STREET

Removal of Tram Lines

28. Mr. HEAL asked the Minister for Transport:

Would he give consideration to the removal of the tram lines in Hay-st., between George and Thomas-sts., which are causing concern to motorists?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

When Beaufort-st. is completed the rails in Rokeby-rd. and Hay-st. will be removed.

FIRE GUARDS

Duties and Numerical Strength, etc.

29. Mr. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Will fire guards doing theatre and concert hall duties be called on to act as door attendants?
- (2) Will door attendants at theatres and concert halls be called on to act as fire guards?
- (3) Is it the intention of the Fire Brigades Board to have fire guards appointed to undergo monthly fire drills?

- (4) What is the numerical strength of volunteer firemen, and reserves, registered with the W.A. Fire Brigades Board, discounting bush fire brigades?
- (5) Has there been a fall-off in attendances at drills and parades since the regulation was introduced, dispensing with volunteer firemen as fire guards?
- (6) Has there been a fall-off in the numerical strength of volunteer brigades since the introduction of the regulation dispensing with volunteer firemen as fire guards?
- (7) How many volunteer brigades are in the State of Western Australia?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Fire guards may be employed during their spare time on any duty which does not interfere with their duties as fire guards. They are specifically prohibited from being employed as operators or lift drivers.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) The duties of fire guards and the obligation of the management to train all members of the staff in fire drill are laid down in regulations made under the Health Act.
- (4) 1,292.
- (5) No.
- (6) No.
- (7) 42.

ADVERTISING

Cost to Government

30. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

What is the cost to the Government per column/inch for advertising in—

- (a) *The West Australian*;
- (b) *Daily News*;
- (c) *The Sunday Times*?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (a) As from the 1st July, 1959—
(1) Classified advertising:

£2 4s. 4d.—Elections, municipal notices, personal, public notices, railway, tramway notices, situations vacant, tenders.

£2 2s.—Auctions, country properties, for sale, houses and land for sale.

Note.—Discount to Classified advertisers—

2½% on expenditure,
£1,500-£2,499 per annum.

3½% on expenditure,
£2,500-£4,999 per annum.

5% on expenditure,
£5,000 and above per annum.

- (2) Display advertising classified:

£2 5s. 6d. with 10% loading on any page after first seven. Varied increased loading on pages 1-7.

- (b) As from the 1st July, 1959:

(1) Classified advertising, £1 9s. 3d.

(2) Classified display, £1 12s. 6d. with 10% loading for special pages.

- (c) As from the 1st July, 1959—

£1 11s. 6d. for all types of advertising.

EGG BOARD

Granting of Credit.

31. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the G. P. Wild listed on page 4 of the Auditor-General's report to the Chairman of the West Australian Egg Marketing Board, contained in the Twelfth Annual Report of the Egg Marketing Board, laid on the Table of this House by him on Wednesday, the 1st July, 1959, as owing an amount for an egg-grading machine, the Hon. G. P. Wild, now Minister for Works?

- (2) If so, has this amount been paid?

- (3) If paid, what is the date on the receipt issued for such payment?

- (4) Is it the normal policy of the W.A. Egg Marketing Board to grant credit to persons in receipt of full-time employment and salary, so that they may supplement that salary?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Yes.

- (3) The 19th June, 1959.

- (4) The board follows usual business practice by allowing some of its personnel to purchase on official orders so that certain discounts can be obtained. The procedure adopted now is that the amount of the purchase is paid to the board by the purchaser on presentation of the invoice.

MIDLAND JUNCTION WORKSHOPS

Value of Work Performed

32. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

What was the value of work performed in the Government Railway Workshops under the following headings during the years 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, and 1959—

(a) new constructions of rolling stock;

(b) repairs to rolling stock?

Mr. COURT replied:

For the year ended
the 30th June—

	(a) £	(b) £
1954	98,448	1,922,253
1955	316,559	1,985,093
1956	167,626	2,303,291
1957	195,104	2,562,316
1958	365,501	2,391,715
1959	419,453	*2,192,599

* This figure may be subject to adjustment when final 30th June, 1959, figures are released.

ALBANY REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Dismissal of Tradesmen.

33. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Have four tradesmen, who are permanent residents of Albany, been dismissed from any day-labour job on the Albany Regional Hospital?
- (2) If so, can he state why tradesmen from metropolitan area were kept on in preference to such Albany tradesmen who are permanent residents with families in Albany?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Not since November, 1958.
- (2) See No. (1).

MOSMAN PARK SCHOOL SITE

Availability as Golf Course

34. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has a request been received by the Government to make available for use as a golf course the whole or portion of an area which is reserved in Mosman Park for a school site?
- (2) Would additional construction costs result if another site had to be used for a school?
- (3) If the abovementioned request has been made, what is the Government's decision thereon?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) Yes, for part of the site.
- (2) As the site is not likely to be required for use for some time, no detailed estimates of cost were prepared. However, with the addition of the land offered in exchange, to the remaining portion of the existing site, the need for earthworks is now less than had the original site been retained.
- (3) To accede to the request.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL LOCKERS

Vermin Infestation

1. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he in receipt of any complaints that the bedside lockers in Royal Perth Hospital are infested with cockroaches and also that the wards and kitchens are overrun with rats?
- (2) If so, what steps has he taken to remedy the position?
- (3) If the answer to No. (1) is in the negative, will he have this matter investigated and the vermin, if any, eradicated?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) I have had no personal experience of any complaint being made in regard to the vermin mentioned by the hon. member.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) Yes; I will have inquiries made, and if investigation proves that there are vermin present, I will have steps taken to see that they are eradicated.

RAVENSTHORPE COPPER MINE

Shareholding by Asiatics

2. Mr. MOIR asked the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that it was reported in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of the 30th June that a group of Japanese mining companies were giving consideration to investing in and becoming shareholders in a copper mine situated at Ravens-thorpe?
- (2) Is he also aware that the Mining Act does not permit Asiatics to engage in mining in this State?
- (3) In view of the fact that the State has given substantial financial assistance to the company operating this mine, will he have inquiries made as to the correctness of this report?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1), (2) and (3) Yes.

HAY STREET*Representations to City Council*

3. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Works:

Pursuant to question No. 28 asked by the member for West Perth this afternoon, part of which had relation to the condition of a portion of Hay-st., I have in mind that portion just down from Parliament House where the corrugations on the northern side are reaching what I consider to be a dangerous stage. Will the Minister arrange for one of the officers of the Main Roads Department to have a look at this section of the road; and if, after receiving a report, he considers it necessary, will he have some representations made to the Perth City Council?

Mr. WILD replied:

Yes.

C.I.B. OFFICERS*Presence at Parliament House*

4. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Speaker:
- (1) On whose authority or request were C.I.B. men present on duty in this House last evening?
 - (2) Is this the first sign of a Fascist Liberal police State?
 - (3) Can this House—

The SPEAKER: I will not allow that question. Members are not supposed to ask questions of the Chair.

Mr. JAMIESON: Might I then refer the question to the Minister for Police?

- (1) On whose authority or request were C.I.B. men present on duty in this House last evening?
- (2) Is this the first sign of a Fascist Liberal police State?—

The SPEAKER: Order! I regard the question as objectionable in that form, and unless the wording is changed will not allow it in that form.

Mr. JAMIESON: Then, disregarding that question—

- (3) Can this House have an assurance that on future occasions supplementary police aid to keep order will be by uniformed personnel only?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

I ask notice of that question.

NORTHAM OVERHEAD BRIDGE*Tabling of File*

Mr. COURT: I understand that the Leader of the Opposition would like me to table the Civil Engineering Branch file in respect of the Northam overhead bridge. I have it here.

The file was tabled.

PLASTERBOARD SHEETS*Tabling of Papers on Prices*

5. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Works:

Has he yet laid on the Table of the House the papers from which he quoted yesterday relating to prices for plasterboard sheets? If not, will he lay the papers on the Table either today or tomorrow?

Mr. WILD replied:

If the paper in question was not included in the papers which I tabled last night, I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that I will lay it upon the Table tomorrow.

TALGARNO ROCKET RANGE*Security of Residents*

6. Mr. BRAND: As a result of a question asked by the member for Pilbara I undertook to obtain further information in relation to the security of the people living in the vicinity of the Talgaro rocket range. If the hon. member cares to call at the Premier's office, he can have a private look at the file.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY*Fourth Day*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. TONKIN (Melville) [5.5]: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you upon your appointment to your high office in this House. Having watched you closely whilst you have been in the Chair I have no doubt that you will discharge your duties with considerable efficiency. I congratulate also the Premier and his Ministers upon their election to ministerial rank. I do so purely on a personal basis, because I do not think their election to office is a matter for congratulation by the people of the State. That is my own point of view; others may differ. Nevertheless, I sincerely congratulate every one of them upon being appointed to their important offices.

These remarks apply also to the Chairman of Committees who, I feel, will certainly give considerable application to his job and discharge the duties of his office with satisfaction to this House.

Much has been said already on whether the Government has a mandate to implement the policy enunciated by it during the general election campaign. This question, of course, could be argued at great length, depending upon the point of view. However, I will take a great deal of convincing that a Government which

is in the minority on the floor of the House and dependent upon the votes of two Independents to carry any question, has actually obtained a mandate from the electors to put its policy into effect; because, unless the Government gets the support of at least one Independent on every matter placed before the Chair, and the support of both Independents on some matters, it will not be in a position to carry out its policy.

It is significant that the Government depends on the support of the member for South Perth and the member for Mt. Lawley, and yet these are the two men whom the Premier tried his utmost to defeat. In effect, he asked the electors of South Perth and of Mt. Lawley to reject these two candidates and elect the candidates put forward by his own party. The electors in those two districts did not heed the Premier—

Mr. Brand: What was wrong with that?

Mr. TONKIN: There was nothing wrong with it. But it merely emphasises the fact that the Government is dependent on the votes of the two Independents to put its policy into operation, and these are the two members whom the Premier did his utmost to defeat.

In my possession I have a letter which is signed by David Brand, Parliamentary Leader of the Liberal Party, which was sent to the electors in South Perth. This letter was addressed to them personally and this is how it reads—

I am writing to you as Leader of the Liberal Party on a matter of vital importance.

Western Australia's lack of progress, the Hawke Government's inability to attract industry to our State and increasing unemployment is the result of a programme of interference, restriction and control by a Government steeped in a policy of State ownership of enterprise and industry.

In order to restore confidence in Western Australia, it is necessary to change the Government and elect the party whose policy is based on free enterprise and belief in the sanctity of the individual.

Mr. Hawke: We will fire no-one!

Mr. TONKIN: Continuing—

I am very concerned that the Liberal voters of South Perth may be confused regarding the candidates standing for election. There is only one endorsed Liberal candidate for South Perth and he is Mr. George Strickland. The South Perth electorate could very well be the key to the return of the Liberal Party to Government. The formation of that Government will be more difficult if I have to rely on the support of Independent

members, whatever their platforms, nor could my party, if elected by a narrow margin—

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that it could not be much narrower. Continuing with the letter—

—necessarily depend upon the support of an Independent to continue in Government or to bring down vital legislation which we will have to introduce.

Mr. George Strickland is the endorsed Liberal candidate for South Perth and I make this personal approach to you to give him your support and assist my party in the formation of a Government.

George Strickland is a man of integrity—

There is an inference there, of course, which would not be very flattering to the member for South Perth.

Mr. Brand: It was not intended by me.

Mr. TONKIN: We will see what was intended by the Premier in a minute or two.

Mr. Brand: Read on!

Mr. TONKIN: Continuing—

—and would make a real contribution to your district as your member.

By supporting him you will be supporting your Party and me as the Parliamentary Leader of the Liberal Party.

Taking that last sentence first, if it means anything, it is a fair assumption that if the electors decided not to support Mr. George Strickland they would not be supporting the Liberal Party. Let us have another look at this sentence. It reads—

By supporting George Strickland you will be supporting your Party and me as the Parliamentary Leader of the Liberal Party.

The inference is that if an elector supported Bill Grayden he would not be supporting the Liberal Party or David Brand as the Parliamentary Leader. As the electors of South Perth supported the present member for that electorate they did not support the Liberal Party and, therefore, have not given a mandate to the Liberal Party to implement its policy. We cannot read the inference any other way.

I want to draw the Premier's special attention to this passage of the letter—

The formation of that Government will be more difficult if I have to rely on the support of Independent members, whatever their platforms.

Nor could my Party, if elected by a narrow margin, necessarily depend upon the support of an Independent to continue in Government, or to bring down vital legislation which we will have to introduce.

The Premier cannot have it both ways. During the debates that have taken place earlier this session it has been pointed out—it was pointed out by myself in connection with the proclamation that was revoked—that this Government is not solidly entrenched, because it depends on the votes of Independents; and it could never be certain from time to time how it stands.

Mr. Brand: Did you not say the same about the McLarty-Watts Government?

Mr. TONKIN: That argument was assailed by the members of the Government on the ground that they were solidly entrenched. I submit that, if the Premier is now correct in his assertion, then he misled these people. He did not tell them the truth. In an endeavour to get Strickland elected, he deliberately misled these electors—if he now says that he is in a solidly entrenched position—because he cannot possibly have a narrower margin than he has on the floor of the House. He has a margin of one over the Labour Party on the floor of the House. So it cannot be narrower, and he is depending on two Independents. In his letter the Premier said—

If I have to rely on the support of Independent members, whatever their platform . . .

and that is precisely the position in which he finds himself—

nor could my Party, if elected by a narrow margin, necessarily depend upon the support of an Independent to continue in Government.

In view of the Premier's own declaration of the fact, I suggest he now finds himself in a situation precisely similar to that which he anticipated, and he cannot now claim that he has a mandate for anything. Nor can he claim to be so solidly entrenched that the people in the electorate have endorsed his policy.

If a mandate is claimed, I would like to know for what policy it is claimed? Is it claimed for the Liberal Party policy or the Country Party policy; because I can show where, in some parts of these policies, there is distinct conflict? Which is the part of the policy for which the Government claims a mandate? Is it for the Liberal Party policy, or the Country Party policy, or for both where they are in conflict? That is one point I cannot work out, and I would appreciate it if any member on the Government side could elucidate the problem for me.

I would think that one of the first acts of this Government should be for the Premier to send a letter to the editor of *The West Australian* thanking him for the services already rendered, and in anticipation of services yet to come. There is a precedent for this. History has recorded that Sir Robert Peel, when he was finally defeated and laid down the seals of office, wrote

to the editor of *The Times*, and thanked him most profusely for the valuable services that that paper had rendered to his Government.

I cannot imagine in my wildest dreams that *The Times* rendered more assistance to Sir Robert Peel's Government than *The West Australian* has already rendered to the party sitting opposite me. If ever a newspaper made up its mind to defeat a Government, and to use all means fair or foul to do it, *The West Australian* was that newspaper.

Mr. Graham: Hear, hear!

Mr. TONKIN: Its plan of campaign was put into operation many months before the election was actually held. Those members who have the time to analyse this paper will find, provided they have a sense of humour, ample to reward them for the time taken; because *The West Australian* newspaper puts forward a point of view which suits itself at the time, irrespective of whether it is a complete contradiction of the point of view which it expressed a short time before. I wish to give some examples of this.

I quote from the leading article of *The West Australian* dated the 28th January, 1956. This is on the question of water restrictions and water supply, a subject which the newspaper played up to the very considerable disadvantage of the Labour Government and, of course, to the corresponding advantage of members of this Government. I quote—

Mundaring could and should have been enlarged beyond its new capacity of 15,000,000,000 gallons. Such a step would have made the need for the new Serpentine Dam less urgent. Crest gates which would add 2,000,000,000 gallons to the storage should certainly be attached to the Weir this year.

The point made in that excerpt is that if Mundaring Weir were enlarged by adding crest gates, the need for the Serpentine Dam would be less urgent; or it would not be necessary to spend money on the Serpentine Dam. That article was followed by another on the 15th May, 1956, which reads as follows:—

There is an even stronger case for adding crest gates to Mundaring Weir to enable an additional 2,000,000,000 gallons to be impounded in the flush season. They could provide a useful reserve during the next few summers and, in conjunction with the Serpentine pipe head dam, they could, perhaps, postpone the need for further heavy capital expenditure on Serpentine.

The newspaper was again harping on the theme that if these crest gates were put in the need for expenditure on Serpentine would be obviated. That was in 1956. When the election was approaching we got a leading article under date the

6th February, 1959, headed, "Water Cuts Put a Drain on Public's Tolerance." This is the part I desire to bring before the notice of members—

If restrictions were to be avoided this summer it is obvious that the 1,400,000,000 gallons diversion dam which has just been started should have been ready to receive last winter's flow. After six years in power the Government seems to have partly forgotten that water supplies in this State are more important than big public buildings.

It seems to have forgotten too that the public will put up with a lot of inconvenience in a good cause so long as the people know they are not being hoodwinked.

Here is the situation: In 1956 the paper writes two leading articles suggesting that if crest gates are fitted to Mundaring Weir the expenditure on Serpentine can be delayed. The Government fitted crest gates to Mundaring Weir, and then it was taken to task by *The West Australian* for not expediting the expenditure on Serpentine and having the diversion dam ready.

How could we possibly win? In the first place we were told to build crest gates, and there would be no need to proceed with expenditure on Serpentine. We erected the crest gates and proceeded with the expenditure on Serpentine; but, because we did not do it fast enough to complete the diversion dam as well as the pipehead dam, we were criticised by the paper.

I say that instance proves conclusively that *The West Australian* writes its articles to suit its purpose at the time it requires it. Therefore, it changed its front because the election was on.

Here is a further example of how people can be misled if they read *The West Australian*. I do not complain about this one, because the paper presents two points of view. What I do complain about is the way the paper dresses it up in order to deliberately confuse the public and create a wrong impression. You can take your pick with these, Mr. Speaker, in regard to what you believe. This quotation comes from *The West Australian* of the 11th March, 1959. A big black heading reads, "State's Population Rate is Dropping". That was done deliberately to create the impression that, because the Government was falling down on its job, the State was losing people. Therefore, we get a heading like that.

That was before the election. After the election was over, the following appeared in *The West Australian* dated the 9th April, "Two States Beat W.A. Increase". The article started off as follows:—

The population is increasing faster in Western Australia than in the other States, with the exception of Victoria and South Australia.

If anyone can submit that that is a fair presentation of news, I will change my opinion. Before the election the State's population rate has dropped. After the election, the population is increasing faster in Western Australia than in the other States, with the exception of Victoria and South Australia.

A further example of how *The West Australian* will deliberately dress up its news to suit its purpose can be quoted from that paper of the 26th June, 1959. There is a big black heading, "No More Sackings at State Works." In order to test out my theory on this matter, I asked a number of men in important positions in this State whether they had read this in *The West Australian*. They said, "Yes." I said, "Did you read what was underneath the heading?" They said, "No." They did not have time, so they only read the heading, "No More Sackings at State Works." That is what *The West Australian* intended to convey. I will read another six lines of this article. It is as follows:—

No more dismissal notices have been issued at the State Engineering Works at North Fremantle since Tuesday's retrenchment of 39 workers.

This was Friday.

Mr. Graham: It would be Thursday when the statement would go to the Press.

Mr. TONKIN: Can any hon. member honestly say that that is fair reporting?

Mr. Graham: It was a good record for this Government to sack nobody for two days.

Mr. TONKIN: Nine people out of ten would conclude from that heading that the Government had changed its policy for the time being at least. To say that there were to be no more sackings at the State works was completely misleading, because it meant since the previous Tuesday. Of course there have been sackings since that date, which gives the lie to it.

A further example about the presentation of news, and how one can please oneself how he believes it, can be shown in two quotations which I have taken from *The West Australian* of the 9th April. It is remarkable that these two statements appear in the same paper. No. 1 has the heading, "No Room for Wages Rise—Employers". The article states:—

Counsel for the employers told the Arbitration and Conciliation Commission today that Australia's economy at present favoured a lower basic wage rather than an increase. Opening the case for the employers, Mr. A. P. Aird claimed that the capacity of the Australian economy was weaker now than at any time since 1952-53 and was in fact weaker than at that time.

In the same paper we read this under the heading "Economy Shows More Strength"—

As the financial year advances, it is evident that the strength of the Australian economy is considerably greater than was expected earlier. This opinion is expressed by the A.N.Z. Bank in its latest quarterly survey.

The Bank says that this strength has been revealed in two sectors which are particularly important for a rapidly developing country.

Finally, it states—

Official figures for capital investment during the six months ended 31st December reveal, however, that the rate of inflow at £A105,000,000 was far greater than in the comparable months of any previous year in the postwar period.

I ask: What is the ordinary man in the street to believe? On one page of that paper it states that the Australian economy was never weaker, and a few pages away it states that the economy is in a healthy and strong position.

One can easily remember what a tremendous influence the paper wields in the community, and therefore there is a greater need for it to be fair and honest in the presentation of its news. The Premier and his Ministers claim that they have a mandate for their policy. I take it that applies to all of the policy and not just to bits of it.

I am going to deal with one aspect of the policy and what has happened to the mandate. In accordance with its decision to help the Liberal-Country Party to get into office, *The West Australian* came out with a leading article on the 7th March under the heading "S.E.C.'s Coal-Price Burden". The article reads as follows:—

State Electricity Commission charges have not been raised since 1953.

I think that was a compliment to the previous Government. To continue—

Yet the commission is maintaining its excellent record as a self-supporting public utility.

Then it goes on to deal with the amount of profit, the interest charges, and so on. It states—

Financial relief for the commission has become urgent if higher rates to consumers are to be avoided.

This is the point I want to emphasise—

The most substantial and most practicable method is a reduction in the price of coal—one of the issues in the election campaign.

In the opinion of *The West Australian*, which opinion the Government follows, an issue in the election campaign was the price of coal. Let us see what Mr. David Brand, as Leader of the Liberal Party, had

to say about this election issue. On the 9th March he said, according to a report in *The West Australian*—

More coal and increased power production are essential if we are to expand existing industries and get new ones. This cannot be achieved under the present Labour Government.

Mr. Brand: That was right.

Mr. TONKIN: The report of what Mr. Brand had to say continues—

We pay 18s. a ton extra for coal because the Hawke Administration bows to union dictation and will not allow more open-cut coalmining.

Is that right?

Mr. Brand: How right we were, too, about bowing to the dictation!

Mr. TONKIN: The report continues—

This increases costs all down the line and results in high transport costs and dear electricity charges.

Later it states—

A Liberal and Country Party Government will obtain more open-cut coal with the eventual aim of using all open-cut coal.

Is that right, too?

Mr. Brand: A very desirable objective.

Mr. TONKIN: That is very desirable. All right! That is very good. We will see whether this is desirable. I have here a cutting from *The West Australian* of the 30th May; and under the heading, "New Mine Schemes Bring More Confidence," we find this article written by Ken Hay—

Co-operation between the Miners' Union and Amalgamated Collieries Ltd., W.A.'s. biggest coal company, on plans for developing new mines—

Not open-cuts—

Mr. Brand: He might have meant open-cuts.

Mr. TONKIN: He might have. We will see if he did.

Mr. Brand: Go on.

Mr. TONKIN: The article continues—

—has given a more optimistic outlook and a feeling of greater stability on the Collie coalfield. Amalgamated Collieries has agreed to concentrate on developing deep mines—

Does the Premier think he meant open-cuts?

Mr. Brand: Evidently not.

Mr. TONKIN: The article goes on—

—and to further restrict open-cut operations,

Mr. Brand: I know as much about that as you do; and we both read it in the Press.

Mr. TONKIN: The article goes on—

This is in line with the policy of the Miners' Union which has opposed open-cut mining.

Amalgamated Collieries announced at a recent conference with the union leaders its plans to start two new deep mines on the field. One will be opened up in the Cardiff area, about eight miles from Collie, and the other near the Ewington open-cut.

So members can see that the Government is fast implementing its policy which it announced to the people in connection with more and more open-cut coal, until we have nothing else.

Mr. Brand: They are not our decisions.

Mr. TONKIN: The Government is going very fast in that direction, I don't think! A little further down we find this—

The Griffin Coal Mining Co. Ltd., is also concentrating on producing more coal from its Hebe deep mine at Muja, about 18 miles east of Collie. Men from the Wyvern mine, closed by the company some weeks ago, are now being placed in the Hebe to increase output.

Since the closure of the Wyvern mine the Griffin Company has been producing most of its coal from the Muja open-cut. As output from the Hebe deep mine increases the amount of coal taken from the Muja open-cut will be reduced.

So much for the policy of the present Liberal-Country Party Government. Instead of there being more and more open-cut coal and less and less deep-mine coal, it is the other way around. So this promised reduction in the price of electricity has as much chance of coming about as I have of going to the moon. But there is not a word from *The West Australian*—which reckoned this was an election issue—on the new development.

I would like to know what is to be the Government's policy on high schools for the metropolitan area. The Deputy Premier, who is also the Attorney-General and Leader of the Country Party, announced in this House—when he became Minister for Education for the first time—that he would not build high schools in the city until all the requirements in the country were met. The remarkable thing is that, although I challenged him on the point and said it would be a dangerous policy, he got away with it.

It is an indisputable fact that, during the six years of the McLarty-Watts Government, not a single secondary school was erected in the metropolitan area. As a matter of fact, neither was one erected in the country. A start was made at Narrogin—a very small start—and it was left to the Hawke Labour Government to complete the job. The Hawke Government also commenced 13 large metropolitan high schools to make up for the lag which resulted because the previous Government neglected to do its duty.

Mr. Brand: We had spent all our money on primary schools, catching up the lag of the previous Labour Government.

Mr. TONKIN: The Premier—he was the Minister for Works at the time—has to share the shame, with his Government, because the school children in the metropolitan area who were requiring secondary school accommodation had to go without; his Government did not build one high school.

Mr. Brand: The primary scholars got a schoolroom for the first time.

Mr. TONKIN: We will see about that.

Mr. Brand: That was the greatest advance in education up till then; the greatest advance ever!

Mr. TONKIN: I tell the Premier that during the regime of the Hawke Labour Government, more schoolrooms were built in one year than were built in any one year by the McLarty-Watts Government.

Mr. Brand: The Hawke Government should have done so; it had more money.

Mr. TONKIN: The Premier has changed his tune, has he?

Mr. Bovell: There was only 19 per cent. of the building programme carried out in the country areas.

Mr. TONKIN: What has that to do with it?

Mr. Bovell: A lot.

Mr. TONKIN: Does the Minister for Lands think that high schools should be built in the metropolitan area, or not?

Mr. Bovell: I think there should have been a better distribution.

Mr. TONKIN: Does the Minister think there should?

Mr. Bovell: Of course there should!

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Melville will address the Chair.

Mr. TONKIN: The McLarty-Watts Government, during the six years it was in office, never built one high school to provide accommodation for secondary school children. This meant that some children completed their whole secondary school life in crowded accommodation; they passed through the secondary schools completely before the Labour Government came into office.

As a result, we were left a legacy, which we should never have been left, to build high schools. Had the previous Government built only some high schools, the Hawke Labour Government would have been relieved of the tremendous burden involved in finding some millions of pounds for the construction of them.

The present Government goes into office and complains about legacies and lack of schoolrooms, when there are 13 high schools in the course of construction, and some practically completed. In addition, the construction of classrooms for primary

schools exceeds by far the total number constructed during the time of the previous Government.

I would like to know what the policy is to be in the future. Are the metropolitan members, supporting this Government, going to see a repetition of that policy, or are they going to insist that the children in the metropolitan area shall receive adequate provision?

Mr. Brand: The Government will provide—

Mr. TONKIN: As it did before.

Mr. Brand: —equitably.

Mr. Roberts: Did not your Government spend—

Mr. TONKIN: No.

Mr. Roberts: Have a look at *Hansard*.

Mr. TONKIN: Have a look at *Hansard*! I suppose the hon. member said it.

Mr. Roberts: The Minister for Works said it.

Mr. TONKIN: I now desire to make reference to some figures which the Minister for Works used with regard to buildings in this State in his endeavour to show that some great saving was going to result because the tender price was less than the estimated price. I am sorry the Minister is not in his place, because I am going to charge him with misleading the House. I do not know whether he did it deliberately, but he certainly misled the House.

Mr. Hawke: It would not be the first time he had done it.

Mr. Brand: It would not be the first time it has been done, either.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister for Works had a long list of figures to show a comparison between the prices tendered for various jobs, and the departmental estimates for those jobs. He then made an addition of both columns, and he made a subtraction; and he then said, "That is the saving to this State." The Minister was asked to table that list, and it was made available today.

I had a look at the tender for the Rural and Industries Bank. This figure of £696,651 was included in the list of tender prices, and it was a figure which was in the total price which the Minister subsequently subtracted from the total of estimated prices.

I wish now to deal with the estimated price—and I have to assume that the estimates of the department are for the completed job; otherwise they do not make sense. The Minister, when he quoted the tender price, did not give the cost of the completed job. If we have a look at the quotation for the Rural and Industries Bank, we find that the estimate is £740,884. To that sum should be added the amount of £60,000 expended by the department on the foundation. As the amount is taken

away from both columns, we can disregard it for the time being and so make our comparison between the two figures; namely, the estimate of £740,884 and the tendered price of £696,651.

To that tendered price must be added some tens of thousands of pounds for the sub-contracts which will have to be carried out to complete the building, and for which the contractor will not be liable. As a result, he has not included them in his tender price.

Nothing is provided here for the electrical equipment for the bank. I understand this item will cost a minimum of £35,000, and could cost more. So there is an amount of £35,000 which must be added to the tender figure. In addition, no provision is made in this figure for air-conditioning; so a separate sub-contract will have to be let for that.

Therefore, it is misleading to quote a figure which is not the final cost and to subtract that figure from the estimate, and then say the amount which results is a saving. The Minister knows quite well that it is not being honest with the House to present figures in that way. To give two columns of figures, make a subtraction, and say there is a saving of £76,200, which is 5.7 per cent, when he knows quite well that further expenditure is involved in the matter, is misleading the House.

Mr. Wild: How do you know there is further expenditure?

Mr. TONKIN: I know.

Mr. Wild: Do you?

Mr. TONKIN: I do. Has the Minister let a contract for the lifts?

Mr. Wild: Yes.

Mr. TONKIN: What lifts will be installed?

Mr. Wild: You find out.

Mr. TONKIN: That is a nice way to treat the House!

Mr. Wild: You have an appropriate way of finding out.

Mr. TONKIN: Why cannot the Minister say so? It would be only one of two. If the contract has been let, why cannot the Minister say what type of lift will be installed? Does he want me to put the question on the notice paper?

Mr. Wild: If you want to.

Mr. TONKIN: That is only wasting time. Why not volunteer the information now?

Mr. Hawke: The Minister does not know.

Mr. TONKIN: I will tell the Minister that this tender price of Doust's does not include the cost of the electrical installations. Is the Minister prepared to deny that?

Mr. Graham: Dumb.

Mr. TONKIN: I will leave it to members to decide whether Doust's figure does include the electrical installations. Of course it does not! Nor does it include the cost of air-conditioning; but those are sums which have to be paid. The Rural & Industries Bank will have to find the money for the electrical equipment. Whether it is paid to Doust or anyone else does not matter—it is part of the cost of construction.

Mr. Wild: Would they be in the estimate put up to the department?

Mr. TONKIN: Yes.

Mr. Wild: Who said so?

Mr. TONKIN: Because the statement in the paper—made, I think, by the Minister, is that the estimate of £800,000 was for the complete job.

Mr. Wild: That would not be far out, would it?

Mr. TONKIN: That is begging the question completely. The Minister makes a subtraction of figures which do not tell the true story, and he tries to get out of it by saying that it would not be far out. If he can convince himself that he is making a profit, when in actual fact he is making a loss, and he gets out of it by saying that it would not be far out, he is making a misleading statement.

Mr. Wild: It is easy enough for an accountant to get up and juggle figures.

Mr. TONKIN: This is not juggling figures.

Mr. Wild: Not much!

Mr. TONKIN: As a matter of fact, we might test the Minister out on all the figures by asking him on notice, categorically, what these tender prices provide for; and in what instances do sub-contracts have to be added. Then we would find out whether or not I am juggling figures. This is no way to treat the Parliament—to bring figures forward to prove that the Government is making a profit when, in actual fact, it is making a loss.

Mr. Wild: You don't know. That is only an assertion.

Mr. TONKIN: I know.

Mr. Wild: You don't.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister can soon settle the question. I ask him: Does this tender price of Doust's include the cost of the electrical equipment?

Mr. Wild: It includes—

Mr. TONKIN: Does it?

Mr. Hawke: The Minister would not know.

Mr. Graham: Tenders for the electrical work were called for after the contract was given to Doust.

Mr. TONKIN: I am trying to show whether the House is being told the true position, or whether it is being deliberately misled.

Mr. Wild: Whether the tender includes the electrical equipment or not, I still say that the difference in the price will be as outlined—£60,000 or £70,000, or whatever it was.

Mr. TONKIN: What a lot of nonsense!

Mr. Wild: Like all the nonsense you talked when you came back from that overseas trip of yours with the talk of all these floods of people.

Mr. TONKIN: What would the Minister like to say about that? I invite him to make a comment on it now.

Mr. Wild: It will be said at the right time.

Mr. TONKIN: This is the right time for the Minister to say something. I have here a page of the Financial Times in *The West Australian*. It states—

Government's Programme to Encourage Industry. By the Hon. David Brand.

Mr. Court: If you like to open the front page of that you will find it is the Hon. A. R. G. Hawke.

Mr. TONKIN: That is a fine admission.

Mr. Court: It is nothing to do with this. You sent the stuff over during your term of office.

Mr. Brand: A change has taken place.

Mr. TONKIN: Did the Premier take any steps to disclaim this? Or is he prepared to allow people to assume that this is what he thinks about it?

Mr. Brand: I would be responsible for anything over my name.

Mr. TONKIN: If you are responsible for it, then do not crawl out of it now. This is what it says—

There have been encouraging responses to the mission and it is intended to follow up the initial contact made by the mission in bringing to the notice of industrialists the potential of Western Australia.

Mr. Brand: What is wrong with that?

Mr. TONKIN: There is nothing wrong with it; but it is not in accord with what the Minister for Works is trying to say.

Mr. Brand: It is a fair enough statement.

Mr. TONKIN: I agree; but it gives the lie to what the Minister for Works is trying to convey.

Mr. Brand: It does not.

Mr. TONKIN: I tell the Minister for Works that instead of the mission being a failure, as he said it was—and of course he speaks with two voices, because I have heard him get up in the House and talk

about the mission, which he said was just touring about the country too fast to do anything—

Mr. Wild: Wasn't it?

Mr. TONKIN: A few days after making that statement he went out to Lake Jandakot and in my presence praised the mission to the skies.

Mr. Hawke: It is a pity they didn't put him in the lake.

Mr. TONKIN: I could not believe my ears. But he was there among electors and people who were friendly disposed towards me, and apparently he thought that that was the political line to follow.

Mr. Hawke: That's him!

Mr. Graham: Two-faced Jerry.

Mr. TONKIN: I can show how much the Minister knows about the mission. It is a fact that Richard Klinger & Company, who are to produce gaskets in Western Australia have almost completed their factory in Western Australia; and they expect to be in production this year, as a lot of the machinery has already arrived. One of the directors stated publicly that had it not been for the Western Australian Trade Mission, this industry would have gone to New South Wales.

Mr. Roberts: Did you contact them when you were on the overseas mission?

Mr. TONKIN: Directly, no. But as a result of the activities of the mission, and what was being done by it, this industry came to Western Australia; and one of the directors stated publicly, in the presence of the Leader of the Opposition and myself, and other persons as well, that the company was satisfied to establish itself in Western Australia; but had it not been for the Western Australian Trade Mission the industry would have gone to New South Wales.

Mr. Roberts: In what year did they first become interested in Western Australia?

Mr. TONKIN: What has that to do with it? There is an indisputable fact that this industry resulted from the trade mission. Recently Mr. Hugh Anderson was in this State looking into the possibility of the establishment of guayule production. If there was nothing to this prospect, why did the Minister for Industrial Development spend considerable time with Mr. Anderson and allow departmental officers to take him to various parts of the State? It would appear that this is a very definite prospect.

However, had it not been for the Western Australian Trade Mission, Hugh Anderson would not have come to Western Australia. I contacted him personally and presented to him various inducements which the Government was prepared to offer; and, as a result, he worked up enthusiasm among his friends who were interested in this line of production. I told him that, in my view, if he were

to make any progress with this prospect it would be essential for him to visit Western Australia and see the land for himself. So he came here.

There are other encouraging prospects which the Government itself could make if it had the decency to do so, because the information is undoubtedly on the files to indicate who the people are and what they propose to do.

In the short time still at my disposal I want to make a quick reference to one or two matters. When the Minister for Works attended a Liberal Party conference he made the remarkable statement that the expenditure of the Main Roads Department was like a dog's breakfast.

Mr. Hawke: That was wonderful!

Mr. Watts: Doesn't that imply "All over the place?"

Mr. TONKIN: I think we should ask the Minister to explain it.

Mr. Watts: I thought it meant all over the place; and it was not said in any derogatory sense—at least, not as far as I could gather.

Mr. TONKIN: The Deputy Premier must have become very obtuse in his late years, because a year or two ago he would have been far brighter than to have fallen for that. I suggest that, apart altogether from the language—and the Minister can please himself what language he uses because it is his business—it was a slur on the department. As a matter of fact, the programme of the Main Roads Department is drawn up after the most careful consideration of the requirements of the various parts of the State.

Mr. Bickerton: Hear, hear!

Mr. TONKIN: This is the first time that I have heard any criticism from any source about the fact that the department's activities are widespread. I did not know that there was anybody who wanted to suggest that they should be more concentrated, and that the outlying parts should be neglected.

Mr. Wild: Wasn't that statement made to show that it was widespread?

Mr. TONKIN: No.

Mr. Wild: Yes it was!

Mr. TONKIN: One does not say things like that when one is trying to praise people.

Mr. Wild: It is a vast State and the department's expenditure is like a dog's dinner—all over the place.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister went on to explain that he proposed to alter that position, and one does not alter something when one approves of it. He was going to channel the expenditure through the local authorities.

Mr. Hawke: It is of no use the Minister trying to crawlfish out of it.

Mr. Wild: Is there anything wrong with it? It is being done now to some degree, isn't it?

Mr. TONKIN: Finally, I desire to say that I consider it most unusual for the Premier's Department to give a letter of introduction to a private citizen going overseas. The only conclusion I can draw is that it was a pay-off to John Alver for assistance he had rendered the party during the election campaign.

Mr. Brand: Is it unusual for the Premier's Department to give a letter to a private citizen?

Mr. TONKIN: Yes.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Do you really believe what you just said?

Mr. TONKIN: Of course I do! If Bill Smith or Tom Jones applied to the Premier's Department tomorrow for a letter of introduction to the Agent-General, or somebody else in England, do members think he would get it?

Mr. Court: If a person can demonstrate that he is of good character the Prime Minister's Department will do it.

Mr. TONKIN: The recommendation for this letter of introduction came from the Chief Secretary's Department, which is closely allied to the Department of Public Health; and the question of our sea beaches was decidedly a health matter. Mr. John Alver went out of his way to draw attention to an effluent pipe, which *The West Australian* thought ought to be fixed up and which this Government has decided to do nothing about.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Why should you assume there is any link between that incident and my recommendation that a letter should be given to Mr. Alver?

Mr. TONKIN: Why did you recommend that Mr. Alver should get a letter of recommendation, and not Bill Smith?

The SPEAKER: The hon. member has another five minutes to go.

Mr. Bovell: I have given a letter of introduction to the Agent-General. That is what he is there for.

Mr. Brand: I propose to continue recommending the giving of letters of introduction to prominent citizens.

Mr. TONKIN: The remarkable thing is that this break in the effluent pipe, which gave rise to a special article in the *Week-end Mail* headed "The Tragedy of our Sewerage Surf", was there during every day, week, and month of the McLarty-Watts Government term of office, because the break has been there since the pipe was put into the water. It is irreparable, and *The West Australian* knew it was irreparable, but it blamed our Government for not repairing it.

I asked a question the other day whether this Government is going to repair the break, or whether it intends to make any alterations to the plans of the previous Government for the sewage treatment plant. The answer was "No". So the situation about which *The West Australian* complains so much, and over which it made so much political capital, is to remain precisely as it was. There is to be no repair of the effluent pipe, and no change in the lay-out of the sewage treatment plant.

How can we expect the people of Western Australia during election time to have the issues fairly presented to them? It is a wonder that the Labour Party ever gets into office, considering what it has to put up with from the powerful Press and members opposite.

This is an indication of what we can expect: The Minister for Health recommended that a site, which was selected years ago for a school in Mosman Park, should be used partially for a private golf course, and the Government agreed to it.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There was a change of site.

Mr. TONKIN: Here was a special site, selected by the site committee to be used in that way. My opinion is—although the Attorney-General gave us different information today, and I am not disputing that he can be right—that the cost will be greater when building on the other block. A builder told me so.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The site is equally good, or even better.

Mr. TONKIN: The proposal is to take a portion of the site, specially selected for a school,—

Mr. Hawke: And not to be used for public purposes.

Mr. TONKIN: —and allow some people in the district to use it for a private golf course. It would not be so bad if it was to be a public golf course.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It would be open to the public.

Mr. TONKIN: If that is the sort of treatment we can expect from the Government, the sky appears to be the limit.

MR. CRAIG (Toodyay) [6.5]: May I first of all offer you, Mr. Speaker, my sincere congratulations on your election as Speaker. I felt honoured in being elected to represent the Toodyay electorate. I trust that my actions in future will justify the confidence that has been placed in me, and that I shall fulfil the requirements of the electorate and the electors. I realise full well the responsibility involved. I have in mind the example set by my predecessor, Mr. Lindsay Thorn, who served this electorate for a long term of years. I trust that I can live up to the standards set by him.

I want to express my appreciation to all members of this Assembly and to the staff of Parliament for welcoming me into their ranks. I shall reciprocate that kindness in future.

The electorate I represent, being a rural one, is engaged mainly in primary production. Various forms of primary production are undertaken in the electorate—such as wool, wheat, general farming, market gardening, orcharding, and even fishing. Practically the whole of the commercial vineyards of this State are situated in the Swan Valley, which forms an important part of my electorate.

I think the first settlement in this State took place in part of my electorate. I know that settlement in Toodyay took place within two years of this State being established as a colony. I venture to say that the living conditions experienced by some of the people in some parts of my electorate are just as primitive as they were a century ago. There has been considerable development south of the metropolitan area in the provision of water conservation schemes, irrigation, large electricity undertakings, modern transport, hospitals, and so on—in fact, everything that is conducive towards bringing a standard of living to those country districts, comparable with that enjoyed in the metropolitan area.

I regret that the same state of development, or the same rate of progress in the provision of those facilities northwards of the metropolitan area—which falls in the Toodyay electorate—is not taking place. Some members will be surprised to learn that an important district like the Swan Valley, which supports some 600 to 700 families, and which is only five miles from the metropolitan area, has no water scheme. That condition should not be permitted to continue any longer.

It was only a few years ago when negotiations were in train between the State Government and the Commonwealth Government for extending the water main through Swan Valley to Pearce, to serve the Air Force station. For some reason or other those negotiations fell through. The result was that the Commonwealth Government decided to seek its own water supply per medium of sub-artesian bores. One bore was sunk with unsuccessful result; the second bore met a similar fate; and I am led to believe that the third one will receive the same fate as its predecessors.

I am informed that the cost involved in the sinking of these bores approximates the estimated cost for laying the pipeline to Pearce in the first place. If that pipeline had been laid, the people of Swan Valley would have been provided with a water supply, and there would be a possibility for extending the scheme further through the Chittering Valley. I hope it is still not too late to do something along

those lines, and so help the residents in that area to overcome the difficulty they are now experiencing through lack of a water supply for domestic purposes.

The lack of amenities in that area extends also to electricity. The electricity supply has only been extended virtually to the fringe of the electorate. Only in the last two months has power been made available to the Bullsbrook district. This again was done to meet the requirements of the Air Force station at Pearce. The private consumers are still waiting patiently for the completion of the survey undertaken by the Commission as to which properties are acceptable for connection to the electricity supply. Why this survey was not made 12 months ago I do not know. It seems to be the policy of the Commission, in the matter of extension of electricity supply to any particular area close to existing transmission lines, not to make any extension unless the consumption warrants the costs of those extensions.

That may be a sound policy on the part of the Commission to justify costs, but I think such a policy hampers development in this State. I would appeal to the Minister to give serious consideration to meeting the many requests that have come forward. I have received dozens of them; and many of the residents have even offered to subscribe voluntarily to meet the cost of extensions, or to help manually. For some unknown reason those people do not seem to be able to get the facilities they require.

I would like to touch briefly on educational matters. The condition and the standard of the schools in my electorate are reasonably good, except for a shortage of classrooms in some instances, and septic tanks in others. I am given to understand from what I have read that improvements in this connection will be undertaken as soon as finance becomes available.

While dealing with finance, I take the opportunity of expressing my opinion on the necessity to assist non-governmental schools. I know that my action on this matter is one for consideration by the Commonwealth Government. I hope that the Premier and the Government will give consideration to putting up a case to the Commonwealth, if they think on the same lines as I do. I often wonder what the burden would be on our State finances if the non-governmental schools were not in existence. There are a number of such schools in my electorate, and they provide a high standard of education which meets the wants of the district.

Whilst on the subject of finance I must express appreciation for the work being done by the parents and citizens' associations in education. They do a sterling job. I hope every consideration and assistance will be given in the furtherance of their work.

I now refer to transport and the set-up of the Transport Board. I believe the board was formed principally, not for the co-ordination of road transport, but for the protection of the railway system. Areas in my electorate which are not served by railways concern me. In the Toodyay electorate there are two transport systems. One is the railway on the extreme east; and the other, the privately-owned Midland railway, from Gingin northwards. People living in the area which is not served by any railway system are being unnecessarily burdened with Transport Board fees and regulations. If I thought there was any possibility that such fees would be credited to railway revenue I might have a different conception; but they are not.

At present an area within 20 miles of the G.P.O. Perth is free of road transport restrictions. That area can be extended by another 15 miles, to a total of 35 miles, at the discretion of the Transport Board. This virtually means there is a free limit of 35 miles. Outside of that area the farmer is required to meet the costs imposed by the Transport Board. I consider some extension of that limit should be made. I go so far as to advocate the complete exemption from those regulations of areas not served by the railway system.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. CRAIG: There are only two more matters to which I wish to refer, the first being roads. I consider the roads are very good and this reflects great credit on our Main Roads Department. I was very pleased, as were also the residents of Toodyay, when the Minister announced that he had made sufficient funds available for the completion of the Toodyay-Red Hill-rd. This decision will be appreciated by the many users of that highway.

I would also like to draw attention to the work being done by the Main Roads Department on what I consider experimental roads to Lancelin Island. That type of construction is unique in this State, and I believe it is unique in Australia. If it proves successful at the conclusion of our coming winter season, prospects will be opened up for a cheap form of road construction in our outer areas that will be appreciated by the people from those districts.

I want to make a brief reference to the Swan valley because I feel it is a very important part of my electorate, and in no small way is a contributor to our State's economy. It is only an area of some 5,000 to 6,000 acres, and yet from that confined portion has come over £1,000,000 worth of produce annually. Most of this originates from the vines; and in addition to that there are the three largest wineries operating in the State.

We have built up substantial export markets, mainly with the United States and Canada, and also with our exports of grapes to Singapore and Colombo. Unfortunately, this last season, on account of bad setting of the crop, the value of production from that area has been halved. Representations have already been made to the Government for some form of assistance to these vigneron. There are over 600 registered, and I think that some form of help is absolutely necessary if they are to survive and continue to play their part in assisting in the State's economy.

I do appreciate the forbearance of members in listening so patiently to me, and I will not prevail any longer upon their generosity. I will conclude by expressing my best wishes to the Premier and his Government for a very successful term of office; and I cannot help but add that I feel quite confident that it will be for many years yet.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [7.34]: May I, Sir, as a brand new member—not as a new Brand member—offer you my congratulations on your appointment to your new high office. May I also ask your indulgence for any small transgression of which, as a new member, I may be guilty. I do not ask for the indulgence of my political opponents for I will have difficulty, quite frankly, in not being controversial.

First I would like to pay a tribute to the man I succeed in this House—The Hon. J. B. Sleeman. I hope that with the passing of time, I shall merit the respect that this good man earned in this House and in his electorate. He has always been a man devoid of affectation; he was also a man of the people, and one who fought for the people and for the man in the street. He did not fight for any narrow section of the public. He was not here to amass a fortune or retain one on behalf of anyone else; but he retired having gained something far more precious—and that was a good name. May he live long to enjoy it!

In my electorate, I gained more than twice the total number of votes of my two political opponents in a very stormy campaign. Despite all that was said against me, and the fact that I was alleged to have doubtful affiliations with all sorts of parties; and despite the fact that I was opposed by a member of the D.L.P. and a member of the Communist Party, I polled more than twice the aggregate number of votes of my two opponents. Because I have an industrial background, I feel that anything I have to say here is likely to be controversial. I make no apologies in regard to anything I might say in criticism of members opposite.

As the D.L.P. was very active in the campaign in opposition to me I want to mention how strangely quiet it has been since achieving its object of having the L.C.L. elected to the Government.

I am very proud of the fact that I am a member of the Labour Party, and I hope to make it proud of me. Irrespective of whether a person in my electorate voted for me or not, I represent each one of them with equal impartiality. I do not ask a person's politics or religion. That was my stand as a trades union representative, and I come here straight from that capacity.

My attitude as a trades union representative will be reflected here as a parliamentary representative. As I have said, Fremantle is a predominantly trade union town, and the behaviour of the members is frequently misrepresented. We have seen a recent example of this where the trade unionists on the waterfront said they would hold a 24-hour stop-work meeting, despite the fact that work was so scarce that I saw on that morning, out of 1,700 men who reported for work, approximately 700 go home after having received only the attendance money of 24s., which they had fought so hard to obtain. This stop-work meeting was held on a matter of principle but was subsequently misrepresented.

The fact was that they were hauling steel out of the hold of a ship and it was customary for the winchman to be seated and to have a man opposite on top to guide the steel out of the hold. The winchman in this instance was instructed to carry on without a top man. He refused and was suspended. His fellow workers, despite the fact that work was scarce, deliberately stuck to that man who was suspended. Another man was subsequently put there and they stuck to him when he was suspended. Where would anyone find such solidarity as that? I give that example to illustrate the atmosphere of the working class in the electorate which I represent.

Since the Government took office, as many as half the working force in Fremantle have gone home from the waterfront with only attendance money. That is not an exaggeration. The situation is now further aggravated by the displaced persons from the State Engineering Works and other Government jobs. Many of those men are wandering the streets of Fremantle looking for jobs.

I met a member of the Chamber of Commerce at a recent function—I will not say where, because it might cause embarrassment to a certain businessman—who expressed concern quite forcibly, not only to me but to other people, about what was happening as the result of the unemployment in that area. He expressed the opinion of, I believe, the business community of the Fremantle area; and rightly so, because it is a fact that as the men are out of work they have no money to buy the articles they need.

Prior to the election, the present Government stated that it did not intend to fire these people, and yet that is exactly the situation that has arisen. There is growing unemployment in the Fremantle area; and, on behalf of the people of Fremantle, I ask the Government to commence work forthwith on some public projects in my electorate. In this way a lot of the unemployed would be absorbed. There are urgent projects needed, such as the groyne at South Beach, which is a very vital work that our Government intended undertaking. I would like also to see the extension made to the mole at the fishermen's jetty. The anchorage behind this mole is already overcrowded. That extension would be appreciated by the fishing fleet. If these works were commenced, employment would be created.

All the boats cannot now anchor under the lee of the mole, because the area is overcrowded, although the Labour Government could not be blamed for that. The position is due simply to the fact that there is now insufficient space in the anchorage. It is urgently necessary that the present Government should extend the mole; and it should also get on with the work on the bridge at Fremantle, as that would employ many more men in the area.

I congratulate my predecessor on his success in having the proposed site of the bridge changed to its present and correct position alongside the existing structure; because it will not now cut North Fremantle in half, as was originally intended. The residents of North Fremantle, also, are to be congratulated on the determined way in which they opposed the siting of the upstream bridge.

I invite representatives of the Government to come to Fremantle, which is the gateway of the City of Perth, of the State, and of Australia as a whole. Fremantle has one of the most hospitable mayors that I know of; and both he and his councillors would be pleased to welcome any representatives of the Government to that area and show them around. Irrespective of whether they agree with my politics, I represent that area, and the mayor and councillors of Fremantle will do all they can to benefit their district. It is still not too late to redeem the name which the Government is at present in the process of losing in the Fremantle area. Such a visit might also enhance the Government's shares in that area to such an extent—I offer this as a bribe—that it could stand a Liberal opponent against me at the next election.

The Labour Government intended to do the work to which I have referred, and gave an undertaking to that effect; and the present Government has now been long enough in office to have made a start on some of that work which should be carried out in the Fremantle area.

I regret the critical nature of my speech; but I am not trying to take advantage of members opposite or hide behind the immunity from criticism which is usually accorded to a new member. I think we can be too bound by protocol, and I feel that there is an emergency existing today owing to unemployment. It is so grave a position that something must be done about it in a hurry.

A while ago I mentioned the alarm felt in the Fremantle area as a result of the falling off in the spending ability of the wage earners in the district. That effect is snowballing. I understand that Mills & Wares have given dismissal notices to 60 of their employees. That is the information I received from one of the fellows who was given notice; and, though it is possible that the report is exaggerated, I repeat it as an illustration of how depressions begin.

The shelves of Mills & Wares biscuit factory are lined with produce which is stored there, because people in the area are losing their spending power. It is no wonder that the Chamber of Commerce, business people, and the workers are all feeling concerned at the present state of affairs; and many workers are now in tragic circumstances. It has been alleged that members on this side of the House have indulged in crocodile tears; but I know of many men who have come to me at the Trades Hall—I expect some of them have gone to members opposite—to see what can be done to help them. I refer, for instance, to men living at Kwinana—and it will be conceded that there is only one avenue of employment there.

A man living at Kwinana is in a hopeless position if he becomes unemployed, as he cannot find other work there. He must either seek social service payments—particularly if he has children—and remain unemployed, endeavouring to keep a roof over his head and find food for his children, or else pay 5s. per day to go from Kwinana to Fremantle or elsewhere in a search for work that does not exist. I say that the Government is responsible for that situation and is aggravating the position that exists in the Kwinana area.

One man that I can mention as a typical case is a welder—a tradesman who should be able to get employment. He has five children—some members will say that is his own responsibility, but there are many others who have children and who, unfortunately, are receiving social service payments and look like being in that position indefinitely—and the fact that the labour market has been swamped by employees put off from the State Engineering Works and other Government instrumentalities, has created a position in which this man is looking for work that does not exist. If work were started on the projects I have mentioned in the Fremantle area, the position would be relieved.

A dock in the Fremantle area is an absolute must, from the point of view of the strategic security of this State. I can think of no more logical place for such a dock than the Naval Base area in the Fremantle locality. The coastline there lends itself splendidly to excavation and the sea faces cliffs, so that there would be the natural land on either side of the dock. It has been alleged that the cost of a dock would be out of all proportion to the revenue that it would bring in, but my party has approached our Federal member, who in turn has approached the Federal Government on the matter, and I ask the Government of this State to join with us in the objective of obtaining a dock for the Fremantle area.

A dock at Fremantle would be useful not only for naval purposes, as there have been many breakdowns of vessels recently in the Indian Ocean and the Southern Ocean, in the vicinity of Western Australia. All that repair work could have been done at Fremantle had the necessary facilities been available. I am not necessarily advocating the cause of employers at Fremantle, but there are many shipping repair firms there which employ tradesmen who could be given work on such repair jobs, with benefit to the State and the safety of Australia.

The question of a dock has been taken up at various levels within my party and with the Fremantle City Council. The Lord Mayor of Fremantle is interested in the matter and I ask the Government to assist us in the worthy project of obtaining a dock in the Fremantle area.

I will deal now with other points raised by previous speakers in relation to the amendment. I would have liked to speak to the amendment, but perhaps I would not then have been shown the tolerance that is now being accorded to me. I repeat that I am here to criticise the Government and to pick holes in anything that I think worthy of criticism. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition mentioned plasterboard, and that reminded me of a matter that was reported to our union and subsequently to the Fremantle District Council of the A.L.P. This man, a close friend of mine, got several tenders for plasterboard for his house, and one of them was at variance with the others, being much cheaper.

Naturally this man accepted the cheapest tender; but within two hours the fellow who had given the cheapest quote got in touch with him and said "I am sorry, but it is the original figure". The five or six other tenderers had all quoted an identical figure. Hon. members may say they have only my word to depend on in this regard, but the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was present one night when

this case was submitted, and can substantiate what I say. When the man concerned asked the representative of the firm how it was that he had previously given a cheaper quote, the representative finally admitted—a scandalous state of affairs—that he had quoted under the others; and he said quite frankly, “You have a union, and so have we. Had that work been done at the price quoted we would be out of gypsum in a month or six weeks.”

The implication of the foregoing, of course, was that the firm supplying the gypsum had the position so tied up that the suppliers of the plasterboard would lose their supplies of gypsum for under-quoting the ring which exists. Under the penal clauses of the legislation that exists, members of the trade union movement, if they indulged in such collusive tactics, would be liable to all sorts of penalties and would be fined under section so and so of the law. Why is it that retailers can get away with such malpractices, when a trade unionist is denied the right to join with his fellows and agree on a minimum price at which to sell his labour?

Where is the justice or equity of the position if a businessman can agree with his colleagues on a price at which an article may be sold, while if the trade union movement decides to increase its wages commensurately with the prices charged for the necessities of life, that is considered to be in the nature of a strike?

I can remember when I first met the member for Murray, Sir Ross McLarty. When I was introduced to him here, I said “Yes, I met you before or, rather, I had a bird’s eye view of you from the gallery.” I said then that I would tell him about it from the floor of the House, and this is my opportunity. It was when he and his Government were introducing the very legislation to which I have referred, and which still exists to the detriment of the trade union movement.

I am not saying this merely because there is an audience in the gallery tonight. I have said the same at work and elsewhere. It is unfair that this legislation is in existence, clamping down, as it does, on the trade unionist who is endeavouring to improve his working conditions. When such an endeavour is made the Government tells him, “You can appeal to the Arbitration Court.”

There could be a concerted movement among the workers who can see ahead their objective for better conditions; but once such a movement is put in train, the Government immediately introduces legislation such as I have mentioned. The workers, after entering into negotiation with representatives of the employers, return to work without any improvement in their conditions.

Another indignity is that whilst that filthy legislation remains on the statute book the Government is desirous of repealing the unfair trading legislation. That Act was objected to by members of the business community; and, in fact, in our election speeches it was mentioned that it was not the large businessman who supported that legislation but the man who conducted the small store. Despite the fact that legislation is in existence to restrict the trade unionists, the Government wants to repeal legislation to throw the door wide open for unscrupulous businessmen to help themselves from the pockets of the workers by charging prices that are beyond the ability of consumers to pay.

The Government would not be justified in taking this step, because its members represent the minority of the population in this State. The same position exists in the Commonwealth sphere. The interests of the few are represented by members opposite to the detriment of the majority of the people. I would like to know what has happened since the Government has been elected. It has made many excuses as to its intentions and its objects. Despite those excuses, I consider the Government is in the process of wrecking the State.

The record of the previous Government showed that many State enterprises were placed on a sound footing, and they are operating well today. I cite the State Engineering Works in particular. There were—and still are—many skilled men working there. However, work was taken away from that State concern and given to private undertakings. The men employed at the works were standing at their workbenches for three weeks with little work and they knew full well that the axe was going to fall. In effect, they were told that if they did not have the decency to find other jobs their services would be dispensed with in any case.

Although members opposite contend that they believe in private enterprise, they are liberal in name only, because their attitude is Tory and Conservative. The only liberality that they show is for the benefit of the big businessmen they represent. The skilled tradesmen who are being dismissed from various Government concerns are the backbone not only of this State but also of the Commonwealth. Despite this, they are being ruthlessly thrown on the scrap-heap.

When the member for Melville raised the position of apprentices employed by the Government, the Minister for Works denied that their employment was in jeopardy. However, what will happen to them after they have served their indentures, should they go to work for private enterprise voluntarily or otherwise? Their future will certainly not be secure. The concern

felt by most members surrounds those young apprentices who have just entered upon their apprenticeships; and who, in fact, are still on probation. The parents of those lads thought that their futures were assured, and they have made great sacrifices by putting these lads into various trades.

I ask members on both sides of the House: What incentive is there for parents to put a lad to a trade when such insecurity of employment has been created by the Government? I would point out to the House that if it were not for many of those tradesmen we would not be enjoying the illumination in this Chamber. Furthermore, we would not have the electric power to run the various large business enterprises that are conducted either by members opposite or those they represent.

I consider I am qualified to speak on the question of relationship of tradesmen to industry. I have worked alongside them; and, in fact, I have not yet removed the grease and dirt from my hands. But I am proud of that. I am aware of the manner in which working men think. I worked in the power house, and not in the glamorous sections that are shown to visitors by the Minister when he makes a visit. I worked on top of a boiler until only recently, where the tools were too hot for a tradesman to handle and they had to be kept in a bucket of water to cool them down. I am sure that members opposite do not understand what I am talking about. Some of them may have been brought up the hard way, and I sincerely hope that they have not forgotten their background.

In any industry where the workmen are subjected to extreme changes of temperature, their health is seriously affected. Despite this, the men are allowed only five days a year sick pay, and they are entitled to only ten days' annual leave in which to recuperate from their exhausting labours.

I take this opportunity to point out that the same business interests that exploit the workers also exploit the farmers by way of advancing loans at high rates of interest; selling items of equipment on hire-purchase at exorbitant prices; and by the imposition of excessive shipping freights. Although I notice that the member for Nedlands is busily occupied when I mention the subject of hire-purchase, I am sure that he knows what I am alluding to. There is no doubt that the same element which is fleecing the general public is also fleecing the small farmers. The larger farmer will probably not be affected because no doubt he would be part and parcel of the racket.

I cannot understand how the Country Party representatives of the small farmers can reconcile their association with the representatives of big business. Theirs is

an unnatural affiliation; and it is dominated, as I have said before, by big business interests.

In my opinion the two Independents should be loyal to the electors who voted for them and be opposed to the forces that tried to drag them down. Even the Press went to the extent of publishing a photograph of a Mr. Barrass because it was hoped that he would defeat the present member for Mt. Lawley. Because the votes of those two members have been given in support of the parties opposite, I would not like to be in their shoes. If they do not support us in opposing the sacking of the men from the Public Works Department, or any subsequent sackings, they are likely to suffer the consequences at any future election.

In opposition to the contention put forward by members opposite that private enterprise works satisfactorily, I would point out that the South Fremantle power station was built and machinery installed in it on a cost-plus basis. Tonight I asked the Minister concerned what the installation costs were. I have been given many figures, but they are extremely inconclusive. In support of my contention, I would point out that the contractors who built the power house, and those who installed the machinery did not care how long the work took because they were on a 10 per cent. margin on what it cost.

As a result, I do not blame the employees who were engaged on that work for slacking. I have seen many of them inside boiler drums playing cards because of the lack of supervision; but the contractors who, as I have said, were on a cost-plus basis, did not care. On the same terms I am sure that private enterprise would want to engage in other projects that previously were performed by State enterprise, including the State Engineering Works.

The South Fremantle power station was built during the regime of the McLarty-Watts Government, and contracts were let to persons who did not care how the costs mounted. The power house cost the taxpayers plenty, and probably millions more than it should have.

Where did that money go to? It went into the pockets of big business interests that installed the machinery. I also know of one case of a contractor who had dealings with cement. I paid 28s. a bag for cement at that time; and one firm which was using a lot of cement during that period—cement that was paid for by the taxpayer—did not put all that cement into the power house. The truck would come in through the gate, and would go out towards another building in the process of construction by the same contractor who was building the power house. That cement would be used for building for private enterprise. The cement was off-loaded from the truck on to the utility associated with the particular firm.

It might be said that I should not mention this matter, or that I should nominate the firm concerned. I do not wish to do that. But if the existing Government is to condone such practices by private enterprise, then it must be condemned for such a policy. It is often alleged that trade unionists and Government employees do not do their fair cut of work; that their record is unfavourable by comparison with what is done by employees in private enterprise. Although this is addressed to me, I would like to quote a letter I received, as an example of the type of work done by people employed in Government enterprise.

Back in 1955, during our term of office, a gantry that led from the coal hopper handling plant to the South Fremantle power station was burnt down. As a result, coal could not be obtained, and we had to resort to oil. The next day was Labour Day; and in my capacity as shop steward, and, because an emergency existed—inasmuch as power could have been cut off not only from the business firms, but also from domestic lighting and so on—it was decided that the men should work on Labour Day. And this they did. I received the following letter from the State Electricity Commission management:—

This Commission very much appreciates your loyal support when called upon to work at very short notice on Labour Day (Monday, 7th March, 1955) whereby it was possible for this Commission to maintain its services to the community irrespective of a very serious fire on the coal handling plant at South Fremantle Power Station.

The object of this note is merely to place on record the appreciation of the Commission for your efforts, which are indicative of the keen sense of responsibility experienced by the employees for the well being of the community.

That is over the signature of Mr. Edmondson, the late lamented manager of the State Electricity Commission. I mention that as indicative of the attitude of the people employed in Government service, and as a direct contradiction of the allegations made that those Government employees are not conscious of their responsibilities.

Finally, I wish to mention the subject of the 17s. 6d. The Minister concerned in this House replied to me tonight in relation to that matter. In the letter I addressed to the Minister I mentioned several points, and requested that he give urgent consideration to seeing that the people in the Fremantle area in particular—because I know of them—be given immediate assistance.

The Minister never replied to my correspondence, despite the fact that Mr. Young, who is 2 I.C. of the Child Welfare Department, intimated to me that he would reply in connection with the withdrawal of the 17s. 6d. I wrote back on the 23rd May and mentioned three cases. I admit that they were married men—deserted husbands—who were in receipt of 17s. 6d., given by our Government for the purpose of helping these fathers who were trying to keep their families together. I mentioned these three cases specifically to Mr. Young, who wrote back and said they would be considered on their merits. That was on the 23rd May.

None of those three cases has received the sympathetic consideration which it was alleged they would be given. In my correspondence I also asked the Minister for immediate assistance to the above families; and I repeat that to the Minister and ask him to give consideration to these requests. I ask him to hasten immediate assistance to those families; and, further, that his officers in Fremantle be given authority to pay the supplementary 17s. 6d. to the cases outlined, and to use their discretion in future to assist any unfortunates similarly circumstanced.

I also mentioned that the Minister's officers at Fremantle are conscientious and capable, and that I felt sure they would not abuse any such authority delegated to them. I still have not had any reply to that request; and those unfortunates have not received any assistance, as was promised by Mr. Young on behalf of the department. Would the Minister responsible inform the officers at Fremantle that they have authority to recommend cases such as I have outlined to him and others which are similarly urgent?

MR. O'CONNOR (North Perth) [8.22]: In this, my maiden speech, I would firstly like to thank members on both sides of the House, and also the officials and staff of Parliament, for the advice, assistance, and information they have given me since my election to the Legislative Assembly. It is very pleasing for a new member to see that, apart from any contention that might exist here, there is no animosity whatever between members on either side of the House. In fact, they mix outside this House in a manner that most people would find difficult to appreciate.

I have also noted with great interest the ability in debate that members on each side of the House possess. I appreciate the high standard set by some of these members, and I sincerely hope that in due course I will be able to attain the high standard set by them.

I do not want to touch on any contentious points tonight, because I do not wish to take advantage of the Opposition in this respect. My congratulations go to the

Premier and his Ministers on their election to the high offices they hold—positions which I know they will fill most capably. Most of all I would like to offer a special word of appreciation to the electors of North Perth for the confidence they have shown in electing me to represent them in this House.

I am fully aware of the responsibility placed on my shoulders, and I take this opportunity of assuring them that I will do all in my power to ensure that my contribution is worth-while. Unlike the electorate of Murchison, which the member representing it tells us is 300,000 square miles in extent, the electorate of North Perth is possibly the smallest in size in Western Australia; although that is not the case so far as population is concerned. It is a fairly old area, almost completely built up. We do not have a great number of sewerage, drainage, or road problems which are so prevalent in outer electorates. There are, however, several portions of the North Perth electorate which have been neglected, and it is about a couple of these that I would like to speak.

One of them is a vacant allotment on the corner of Eton-st. and Seldon-st. This allotment is in one of the nicest portions of the electorate. It is situated where homes are particularly well looked after, and where gardens and lawns are kept neat and tidy.

For a great number of years this allotment has been in a very bad condition. At one stage the residents got together and cleared the scrub from the allotment. They also got rid of the rubbish. But from time to time, trucks come along and drop loads of rubbish there. I sincerely hope that in the near future we will be able to have this cleared properly.

Another area to which I would like to refer is that known as Smith's Lake, which lies between Loftus-st and Charles-st. It is a swampy area, and is fairly well known to most of us here. There is quite a considerable amount of traffic using Loftus-st. and Charles-st. There are people going to and from Scarborough; and some going to other beaches and to Osborne Park, etc. This particular section is a complete eyesore in the electorate. Smith's Lake comprises approximately 60 acres, and is almost completely covered with rushes. When these dry off in the summer they invariably catch fire, almost smoking the residents out of their homes. I have been in touch with the City Council, the Town Planning Department, and the Minister, and it appears that in the near future something will be done about converting this area into a playing field.

Another point on which I would like to touch is the matter of housing in Western Australia. A number of people consider that the housing lag has been overtaken. We know that that is not the case. At the moment there are several thousand applications for State housing and war

service homes. The waiting list is approximately three years, and this creates a great deal of hardship to a number of people who are living in cramped and sub-standard conditions.

It has come to my notice that during the last three years a number of terminating building societies have come into operation in Western Australia. The first loan from one of these societies was made in January, 1957. That society has since built 220 homes in the metropolitan area, approximately 120 of which have been built from Government finance; the balance from moneys obtained from outside sources. I believe that particular society has recently been granted from outside Western Australia, a sum of £250,000, to further develop housing in the next 12 months.

I also believe, following that, that further sums will become available. Last week I noticed in *The Sunday Times* where another of these terminating societies has been granted approximately £80,000 from the State Housing Commission, and about £320,000 from the Bank of Adelaide, and sources in England. I understand there are about 49 of these societies in operation in this State; and if others can be encouraged to endeavour to obtain money from outside sources for building purposes, it will not only help us to overcome our housing lag but it will also assist considerably with any unemployment we might have.

Yesterday, Sir, one of the members in referring to yourself, mentioned that you were opposed by a Country Party member in your district. I am pleased to see you are still with us. He did mention that should you have not won the seat, you would possibly have been applying for social services the next day. I wish to say that I have much more confidence in you than that. I feel your qualifications and ability are such that if you had not won the seat, there would have been a number of people seeking your services immediately, and it would not be necessary for you to collect those social service payments.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on the high position you have achieved, and to wish you every success for the future.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [8.31]: First of all I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your appointment as Speaker of the House. I know you will do your best to uphold the tradition set by those who have gone before you and give fair and impartial decisions in the position in which you are placed.

I now wish to refer to one of the subjects mentioned by the Premier during the election campaign at Carnarvon. It was very pleasing for me to hear him state, when he was at Carnarvon supporting his candidate,

that he would treat the fruit-fly menace as a Government responsibility. I take it that he meant the fruit-fly menace would be treated on a State-wide basis.

The fruit-fly is one of the biggest economic pests which this State has to face at present. We are lucky so far that we only have the Mediterranean fruit-fly. I believe this fly can be eradicated; and my belief in this direction is substantiated by an article in the New South Wales Journal of Agriculture which states at the beginning in regard to the control of fruit-fly—

The Mediterranean fruit-fly, which at one time was numerous, has not been recorded in this State since 1941.

If the Government of New South Wales can do it by treating it as a State responsibility; by tightening up its Acts and getting all districts to co-operate to deal with the fruit-fly, there is no reason why this State should not do the same. I trust that legislation will be brought down to amend our Act in order to tighten it up and deal with this problem in the manner suggested by the Premier during the election campaign.

If we are to get rid of the Mediterranean fruit-fly, we must watch to see that our fruit is not reinfested from the other States by other types of Mediterranean fruit-fly or any of the 24 species which exist in Australia. Of these species, the Queensland fruit-fly is the worst of them all. It uses as its host practically every known fruit, with the exception of pineapples, melon fruits, and strawberries. It is even known to attack almonds and walnuts very severely. It has a great liking for stone and pome fruits and has caused great havoc in New South Wales, as will be seen from an article written in the same journal.

This article points out that extensive damage has been caused to apple crops in New South Wales. I made a mistake; I should have said Queensland, because it is a Queensland journal of August, 1958. It states as follows:—

When immature apples are stung, depressions form in the vicinity of each sting as the fruit ripens. During periods of major fruit fly activity, numerous stings may be made in individual fruit which later become grossly misshapen and pitted. When cut, such fruit exhibits numerous thin brown streaks in the tissues. These correspond with the random tunnelling of the newly hatched larvae and are sometimes mistaken for symptoms of brown deficiency. As a rule, only a few of these larvae develop to maturity.

Unfortunately, if only a few larvae mature from each apple they still leave a few of the flies to mature from each crop and the full economic value of the crop is lost to the State. Therefore, we should take drastic measures in controlling

imports of fruit, similar to those taken in South Australia. Even in South Australia where there is a very rigid control, they have recently had an outbreak of Queensland fruit-fly.

I took the opportunity recently of going to the railway yards at West Perth to watch the inspection of bananas coming from the Eastern States. The comments which I am going to make cast no reflection whatsoever on the department or the inspectors concerned, because the job of the inspectors under the present set-up is impossible.

This State has an agreement with South Australia whereby a proportion of the bananas passing through South Australia will be inspected. That means that one case board is removed for a certain percentage of cases, but the exact percentage I do not know. In watching the inspector at West Perth, it did not appear to me that 5 per cent. of the cases had been inspected, because every case which had been inspected showed where the paper wrapping on the inside of the case had been removed.

When I observed the inspection, 737 cases were being received and six trucks were receiving fruit. I did not record the number of men barrowing from the rail trucks to the other trucks, but there was one inspector. Admittedly, every case had one board removed from it, but not every case had the paper broken. The one inspector had very little hope of observing every case that went on every truck. Therefore, one can see that a large number of cases went uninspected.

This was not the worst time of the year so far as fruit-fly is concerned. I made the inspection during the cooler weather when the fruit-fly would not be so prevalent in bananas. When the cases are coming here with the fruit in an over-ripe condition, every banana needs to be inspected. It may be said that this is going to cost the department quite an amount of money; but that can easily be overcome. There is no reason why a charge should not be levied on the importers who would, in turn, pass it back to the grower. If Eastern States growers wish to exploit this market and derive benefits therefrom, they should be prepared to pay for the inspection to ensure that they will get the market which has proved very valuable to them.

To give members some idea of the seriousness with which the fruit-fly is regarded in New South Wales—and when they refer to fruit-fly, they refer to the Queensland fruit-fly and not the Mediterranean fruit-fly, which has not been seen since 1941—in the *Banana Bulletin* of New South Wales, which is the official organ of the Banana Growers' Federation in that State, a warning was issued by Mr. R. G. Kibbey, special adviser to the growers of bananas and exporters of bananas in that State.

I believe the first warning was issued in December, 1958 and was repeated again in the February issue of 1959. The warning Mr. Kibbey gave was this:

Should fruit-fly be found in bananas arriving on any of our interstate markets I can assure growers that drastic action can be anticipated from the authorities concerned.

It takes little imagination to appreciate the effect of such action on the banana industry of this State.

It is very clear that the Queensland fruit-fly is to be found in quite a number of cases of bananas coming from Coff's Harbour and northern parts of New South Wales. I do not know what your electors would think, Mr. Speaker, if they experienced an infestation of the Queensland fruit-fly in the districts you represent. From what I understand, it would be far worse than the codlin moth outbreak in this State. The fruit-fly would take far more eradicating, because of its hosts. As I have said, there are only three fruits which it does not use as a host.

Another matter which the Premier brought up when speaking at Carnarvon was water conservation on the Gascoyne River. He said that he would get the best possible advice and, if necessary, an expert from outside the State. I would like to know what has been done in regard to this matter. I wrote to the Minister for Works on the 15th April and received a formal reply from him stating that he would advise me in a short time. I have heard nothing further since that date.

Mr. Graham: Typical.

Mr. NORTON: We have an industry at Carnarvon which has become more or less stabilised except for water conservation. We have an industry which is worth approximately £500,000 to the State. At the present time, bean exports alone are worth in the vicinity of £180,000 per year. The banana industry counteracts the imports of bananas amounting to about £250,000 per year. The Commonwealth Government has made a grant towards water conservation on the Ord River.

There has been much publicity concerning the announcement that from £2,500,000 to £5,000,000 will be spent on a conservation dam. This dam will affect only a small area; and, according to *The West Australian* approximately 10,000 acres will be available for irrigation purposes. At Carnarvon there are 4,000 acres which have proved to be good fertile land—land which has a greater production per acre than that in any other part of the Commonwealth in regard to the particular vegetables and fruits that have been grown.

In an article in *The West Australian*, it is stated that the diversion dam would supply water to test out the possibilities

of the area around the Ord River which centres on the site of a conversion dam, if suitable for irrigation.

So, before a dam is even put down, insufficient work has been done to find out whether the land is suitable for irrigation. I have no quibbles at all with the money being spent there. My argument is this: We have a community at Carnarvon who have established themselves; who have proved the capabilities of the district; and who have proved the district's worth as far as its economy goes. So is it not reasonable that even half the amount that has to be spent on the Ord River conversion dam should be spent on the conservation of water on the Gascoyne?

Last year, when speaking on the Estimates, I put up a suggestion to provide a logical method of water conservation on that river. The scheme I proposed would not be an expensive one so far as the cost of dams, weirs, and so on, goes. If members compare the cost of the proposition I put forward with the cost that was involved in carrying out a similar project in South Australia, they would find that not a great amount of money would be involved considering the economic value of the district.

There are over 200 families permanently resident on the river, and there are many people who go there for seasonal work. The money that comes into the State from the export of beans alone is worth while. It behoves this Government to carry on the investigations that were being made prior to its coming into office, and to get on with the job of providing some conservation in this area.

Soon after I read in the paper that cartage subsidies were being reinstated for many of the rural areas in Western Australia, I wrote to the Premier. A sequence of events in respect to subsidies took place after the present Government came into office. One can almost call the granting, by the Hawke Government, of 17s. 6d. a week sustenance to the unemployed, a subsidy. It was something which that Government saw fit to give to these people in order to give them sufficient money to provide themselves with the barest of a bare living; and to carry them over a period of hardship.

From the present Government's own figures, this assistance cost the Government £49,000 a year. As far as I can remember, one of the first acts of this Government was to cancel the giving of this money. It was not long afterwards that we read in the paper that the pyrites industry at Norseman was to receive a 25 per cent. concession on rail freights. To my way of thinking, that is a subsidy. The Norseman mine, like the unemployed, was battling for survival; and the Government

did the right thing by stepping in and assisting it. But why assist one section and take assistance away from another? That is what happened.

The subsidy on pyrites was mentioned in *The West Australian* on the 20th May. On the 30th May another heading appeared in *The West Australian*—"Road Subsidy Lifts Hopes." On this occasion the Government again considered that a certain section of the community was struggling and was being penalised because of certain things—not because people were out of work or anything like that, but because a short transport service had been discontinued.

The Government was sympathetic and it gave a subsidy to the people concerned; but at the same time it discontinued the assistance that had previously been given to people who had not even got a living.

I have been told that one of the main arguments put up for the restoration of the closed lines is that many farmers in the districts concerned pay from £4,000 to £5,000 a year in income tax, and they expect to get something back for the money they pay into revenue, whether State or Commonwealth.

Mr. Nalder: Where did you get that information?

Mr. NORTON: It is confidential information.

Mr. Nalder: Hearsay.

Mr. NORTON: It is not hearsay.

Mr. Nalder: You want to go out yourself and see the position first hand.

Mr. NORTON: I have been further out-back than the Lakes district. I represent a district which is further away than that and it has greater transport difficulties than the Lakes district has. In addition, these agricultural districts have an assured rainfall each year which my district has not. Also, my area depends wholly and solely on water for its productivity.

The Minister for Agriculture seems to think that his district is the only one in the world which has not a good transport system. But the distances with which he is concerned cannot be very great, because the largest subsidy that is paid, according to the Minister for Transport, is 30s. a ton. The others range from a few pence upwards. This subsidy amounts—so the Minister for Transport told me in answer to a question today—to a matter of £134,000 a year, which is considerably more than it was costing the State for the small amount which was paid to the single unemployed workers.

Whilst referring to these subsidies, I asked the Minister the other day if he would grant a subsidy on the cartage of beans between Perth and Merredin, to make up for the extra cost involved by having to road-freight beans due to the cancellation of a rail service.

The Minister claimed that a service had not been cancelled. The Premier, in reply to my application for a subsidy, concluded his remarks in this way—

In conclusion I would point out that subsidies on road transport have only been paid to limited areas which have either been established on the faith of promises of railways or alternatively in cases where railway services have ceased to function and the producer has found that increased transport costs face him as a result.

As far as Carnarvon is concerned, the Kalgoorlie express on Thursday was the lifeline for the transport of beans between Perth and Kalgoorlie. It was not practicable to put beans, other than a limited quantity, on the Westland, on account of transshipment time. So I claim that, as far as Carnarvon is concerned, we have the cancellation of a railway service; and a cancellation which has involved an extra cost of £4 10s. 1d. a ton to the growers.

It is not asking much to ask the Government to subsidise at least the bean transport in respect to the extra cost involved between Perth and Merredin, because of the road service. I might mention, too, that the road service is provided by the railways.

I believe that had we asked our transporters at Carnarvon—it would not have been a fair thing to do that, because of the terrific job they do—to cart the beans to Merredin, the cartage would have been carried out more cheaply than it is by the railways. The actual cost of transporting the beans by road—not taking into consideration the offsetting of the rail freight—is £5 13s. 5d. a ton. The growers would need to be subsidised for the difference between £5 13s. 5d. and £1 3s. 4d., the normal rail freight. Over a season, the subsidy would not be anything like what is being paid by way of subsidies to many farmers in what are called remote areas.

Mr. Nalder: How much income tax are these people paying?

Mr. NORTON: Some are paying very little—nothing like the amount that would be paid in the Lakes district, in such places as Ravensthorpe, Hyden, and so on. A lot of these growers have only one crop a year and they rely on other work in between times. Many of them work part-time on the wharf to assist in making a livelihood. The cost of getting water, and so on, is expensive, and it has to be offset against their production. The Premier, in his letter, said—

However, I have had exhaustive inquiries made through the Transport Board.

All I can say is that from one of the figures which the Premier quoted in his letter—the freight rate for bananas from Carnarvon to Perth—extensive inquiries

could not have been carried out, because the figure mentioned is not correct; it is less than that which actually applies.

Mr. Brand: By how much? What is the difference?

Mr. NORTON: The Premier, in his letter, quoted the figure of £15 13s. 6d. a ton, whereas the correct figure is £16 4s.

Mr. Brand: That was the information given to me by the Transport Board. I shall have the matter looked into.

Mr. NORTON: That is what the letter says.

Mr. Brand: You had better talk to the Minister for Transport.

Mr. NORTON: Carnarvon, unlike Queensland, does not have its case supply situated in and around the plantations. The cases have to be carted some 612 miles from Perth, and prior to that they have to be carted from the mills to Perth. The cartage of shocks to Carnarvon is one expense which the Queensland grower does not have to bear; he has only the small cost of the case. Whereas a case costs the Carnarvon grower in the vicinity of 8s. or 9s., the grower in New South Wales pays about 3s. 4d. or 3s. 6d.

Mr. Perkins: This position has existed for a long time, of course.

Mr. Tonkin: The Public Works has existed for a long time, too!

Mr. NORTON: The position has not been economical for a long time. During the last summer, and continuing right up to the present time, banana prices have been at one of the lowest levels that they have reached since the end of the war; but the production and transport costs have been ever increasing so that the economic situation is entirely different from what it was some time ago. It was not until the economic position changed that any approach was made to a Government for assistance by way of a subsidy.

Mr. Perkins: Unfortunately, this applies to many other classes of fruit.

Mr. NORTON: That could be true. But what are the costs of transporting these other fruits to the market? We have, as the Minister for Transport well knows, the miscellaneous freight rate on the railways—and this is one of the cheapest freights that the railways provide—which covers perishable fruit. That is something which the Carnarvon growers cannot get, and are never likely to have.

We cannot in any way compare fruits grown in southern districts with those grown at Carnarvon. How many districts, supplying fruit to the Perth market, are situated more than 150 miles from Perth? Very few of them, other than Albany and Mt. Barker, would be anywhere near that distance; therefore, the Minister for Transport cannot mention that aspect, because it is not relevant.

Mr. Perkins: Of course we are sympathetic to the industry there; and, for a great many reasons, we are very anxious to see that it carries on in a prosperous manner.

Mr. NORTON: That is pleasing to hear, and I hope that the Minister will feel sympathetically disposed towards these people and grant a transport subsidy for bananas and other perishable commodities. If he cannot do that, at least I hope he will grant a subsidy for the difference between the road and rail freight for beans being transported from Perth to Merredin during the season.

There is another problem, and one about which the Minister for Education is well aware—I refer to the education problem at Carnarvon. That town is quickly outgrowing its school; in fact it has outgrown it. This is not a district where children can be transferred from one school to another; they have no option, and they have to go to the one school. When it becomes overcrowded the children and teachers have to put up with it; and at the present time it is very overcrowded.

The increase in population at the Carnarvon school is regularly between 40 and 50 each year. It is now an "A" class high school and is catering for children up to the junior standard. An excellent job is being done with manual and domestic science training, and the results obtained at the junior examination are very gratifying. At the junior examinations last year, if my memory serves me rightly, 11 out of the 14 children who sat were successful, some passing in as many as eight subjects.

At present, however, the school is in urgent need of a new domestic science centre. Classes are now being held in the general science room, which is particularly overcrowded. This room is used as the projector room, and library, and for any other large assemblies which may be required from time to time. Commercial classes are held in the casualty room and there is insufficient accommodation for those who wish to take typing lessons. There is one class which wanders from room to room as one becomes vacant; it has no permanent classroom and it cannot settle down in any particular place. In other words, the headmaster is one classroom short.

Mr. Heal: It is a floating class.

Mr. NORTON: That is so; it floats all day into the best place for the teacher to conduct his lessons. At the end of last year the Minister for Education brought out some recommendations for the North-West. They applied particularly to Carnarvon; and during the debate on the Estimates last year I mentioned these various matters. In order not to weary members I will not go through them again, but I ask the present Minister to study that

report closely; and, if he acts on it, it will be in the best interests not only of Carnarvon, but also of the other North-West towns and the North-West generally—although some North-West members may not entirely agree with me.

If a person wants to send his child away from Carnarvon to go to school the cost is beyond the reach of the average pocket; and there is no reason why a district which is as isolated as Carnarvon is, should be handicapped in this way. The same applies to other North-West towns, and, if people are prepared to go there to help settle and establish the area, it is up to the Government to do everything possible to help them. So far only a few people have shown any inclination to settle there and we must give them amenities which will keep them there. It is up to all Governments, irrespective of their political colour, to do whatever they can to keep the people in the North-West.

DR. HENN (Leederville) [9.5]: I would firstly like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to the very high office which you hold in this Parliament. From what I have read, and from what I have heard, I understand that you hold a position of great authority in this House. I can assure you that you will not have to use any of that authority against me during my stay in this Chamber.

I also wish to take this opportunity of thanking the staff of Parliament House for the very kind consideration they have shown me since I have been a member. It has certainly been a pleasure to enter this House, and I hope that my stay will be a long one. For the kindness that has been shown me by the staff so far I can only say, "Thank you."

As far as my electorate is concerned, it is, of course, a metropolitan one; and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking my electors for placing their confidence in me. I can assure them that I will give them the very best service of which I am capable. I think it was Edmund Burke, the great British statesman, who said that a member of Parliament's first duty was to his electors, his second to his party, and his third to himself. I admit that the political scene has changed somewhat over the last two centuries, but I will do my best to live up to that maxim.

Like the member for Toodyay, I am not unaware of the fact that in my electorate I have a large number of excellent schools. I am also not unmindful of the fact that this Government is sympathetic to any question that is referred to it, particularly regarding the question of financial assistance to independent schools. However, I shall not say any more about that at this stage.

The first matter to which I would like to refer is one that at first sight may seem quite trivial. But I hope to show that

it is of very great importance to many of my electors; and also it concerns a great number of dwellings which surround Lake Monger which, of course, is right in the centre of my electorate. I am referring to the midge pest, or plague, which, as members know, is no small matter.

Many people have no idea of the enormity or the seriousness of this nuisance. One talks quite gaily and quickly about the midge as if it were some little mosquito that just gets out of one's way; but I should like to refer to it by its other name which is *Polypedium Nubifer*. As members can see, it is a formidable name; and I can assure them that the midge is equally as formidable. These midges cause a rapid deterioration of houses, not only those surrounding the lake itself, but also those within a half mile radius of it. No less than 1,000 houses are affected by these pests during the summer months; newly built and expensive houses depreciate enormously in value almost as soon as they are built.

No mention has been made of the personal nuisance which this pest causes by preventing people from sitting on their verandahs on warm summer nights. Every morning housewives are to be seen sweeping down midges by the bucketfuls from under the eaves; also tradesmen are prevented from carrying out proper trading facilities in their shops when this pest is about. One would think that flywire doors would be quite sufficient to counteract the nuisance, but I can assure members that they just fold up their undercarriages, fold their wings, and go straight through the flywire! It is absolutely true to say that flywire is no guard against them.

In the last four years the Perth City Council has concerned itself with this important subject—I say it is important because of the threat to the health of the people—and, in conjunction with the Department of Zoology in the University of Western Australia, they have been looking for ways and means of eradicating this pest. We are very fortunate in Western Australia because we have in this State a world authority on these particular midges in the person of Dr. Hodgkin and his assistant, Mr. Don Edward. I understand there is no greater authority, and these men have been working for four years on this matter. I mention that because what I am going to suggest should be done has certainly the backing of that eminent authority.

As a result of this research it has been conclusively proved that the best method of eradication of the midge—and the midge is not common only to Leederville, but it is in plague form there—is to remove 12ft. of the bottom deposits of Lake Monger by dredging. This operation will not only achieve the desired result, but it will also assist in the functions of Lake

Monger as a compensating basin, which part it plays in draining the Jolimont lake.

Many insecticides have been tried in an effort to eradicate the pest, but only D.D.T. has proved of temporary use, and the expense of repeated treatment of the lake at frequent intervals is considered to be impracticable and too costly. In this connection it must also be borne in mind that Lake Monger itself is drained through to the Swan River so that one has to be careful with the spreading of D.D.T. on Lake Monger. If it can be conceded that the only method of eradication is dredging; and as biological control and insecticides have proved ineffectual, it must be considered a matter of urgency to eradicate the plague by this method. This will have the additional advantages of—

- (1) Improving the function of Lake Monger as a compensating basin.
- (2) The bottom deposits dredged from the lake can be used for the filling in of the rubbish tip areas, which are adjacent to the lake, and these can then be grassed and used for sporting fields.
- (3) Lake Monger can then be used for aquatic sports as I believe it used to be in the past.
- (4) Lastly, and the most important of all, is the eradication of the midges themselves.

Apart from the reasons already given for the desirability of exterminating the midge plague from Lake Monger, and so relieving the burden on the surrounding population, there is another important aspect to which I would like to refer; namely, the Empire Games.

Most people know the cycling velodrome is situated adjacent to Lake Monger; and when the Australian cycling championships were held there in March this year many of the participants with foreign bodies in their eyes, reported to the St. John's Ambulance men. These foreign bodies proved to be midges. As this velodrome will be used during the Empire Games, it would seem imperative for the safety of the cyclists that this menace should be removed before the games in 1962.

No doubt in future years Lake Monger will be a tourist attraction with aquatic sports facilities, an adjacent velodrome, and surrounding sports fields; but its attractions will be nullified unless the midge plague is eradicated. I would urge the Government to look into the question of some financial assistance to the Perth City Council so that that body can complete the task, already begun, before the Empire Games commence in 1962.

Now there is another subject that I wish to bring to the notice of the House. This concerns the plight of the mentally incurable children who are born in this State.

These children are not to be confused with the slow learners or spastic children whose intelligence quotient is higher than that of those I am discussing. The slow learners can often be trained eventually to earn a living. But the mentally incurable child has no hope whatever of ever earning his own living or, indeed, of ever feeding himself or caring for himself. He does not come from mentally deficient stock, but he usually has a family of mentally alert and normal brothers, sisters, father and mother.

The first difficulty regarding these children is, I think, to make an early diagnosis of the mentally incurable; but this should be done as early as possible so that the child may be cared for in a home. If the child is looked after in its own home, difficulties arise with the other children who naturally are not paid the same attention by the parents, and the normal children subconsciously resent this. This produces an early psychological abnormality in a normal child. The longer the incurable child remains in its own home, the more reluctant are the parents to part with it. Therefore, it would seem that education of people along these lines is indicated. But in order that parents will not be reluctant to part with them, a suitable reception home must be available.

Where can they go now? One place is the Claremont Mental Hospital. While I cannot and do not wish to say anything derogatory about this excellent institution, there is in the minds of people a certain reluctance to send relatives to it. I think this is only a prejudice built up over the years. Were the institution to change its name to "Golden West" or some name other than Claremont, perhaps it would be a different matter!

Indeed, it is hard to get the relatives of an adult who has become quite insane, and has been committed to that home, to become reconciled to the idea. How much more difficult is it then to persuade parents to commit their infants to Claremont?

We find that there is an excellent home for these mentally incurable children—the Nulsen Haven. I do hope that even the most enthusiastic correspondent to the Press would not want to change that name, because it conjures up a home of peace, contentment and efficiency. If anybody has visited it, as I have, he would have found there a model for any hospital to follow. Most of the children are unable to look after themselves. On my visit I found it to be a model of cleanliness, tidiness, and satisfaction.

As the name indicates, the Nulsen Haven was purchased by the previous Government either in 1955 or 1956, and a most excellent job is being done there by a sympathetic staff. In 1958 the then Government gave a grant of £1,000. However, the total expenditure amounted to over

£9,000 per annum. The Lotteries Commission was generous to the same extent as the Government, but the remaining income had to be raised by public donations.

I would suggest a form of per capita subsidy—there are at most 25 inmates there at the moment—so that those responsible for the conduct of this institution can carry on with the work untroubled by financial worries.

I know it is the policy of this Government to help those who cannot help themselves, and this type of child certainly comes into this category. I therefore commend my suggestion to the Government.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of this House for the great consideration they have shown me on this my maiden speech.

On motion by Mr. O'Neil, debate adjourned.

Decorum of the House

THE SPEAKER: There has been too much movement in this Chamber as soon as the Sergeant-at-Arms picks up the mace. The decorum of the House requires that members remain in their seats while the Speaker is in the Chair.

House adjourned at 9.21 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 9th July, 1959.

CONTENTS

	Page
CROSSWALKS :	
Disallowance of Regulation 231	258
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE :	
Cement—	
Establishment of industry at Coogee	267
Selling price per ton	267
Public Works Department, day labour in the North	267
Fremantle Gaol, number and maintenance of prisoners	268
"C" Class hospitals, number in metropolitan area, etc.	268
Public relations officer, tabling of agreement and papers re appointment	268
Western Australian goods, trade display ship	268
Native welfare, Commonwealth special grant	268
Coode-st. jetty, repairs	269

CONTENTS—continued.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—continued.

	Page
Coal committee, investigation of W.A. resources	269
Wittenoom water supply, details of investigations	269
Albany gaol, increased accommodation	269
War Service Homes Act, extension of benefits	269
Locomotive staff, increase at Armadale and Southern Cross	270
Albany police station, modernisation	270
North-West homes, rentals charged by Commission	270
Wyndham water supply, plans for provision	270
Brown's Lake, drainage	271
Osborne Park hospital, commencement, cost, etc.	271
State Trading Concerns, principles for sale Metric system, use in hospitals	271
Black Rocks deep-water port, report by consultant	272
Ants in "CHARON," identification and destruction	272
Public offices, cleaning by private concerns Election advertising, use of State funds by Labour Party	272
Level crossings, opening at East Perth	272
C.I.B. officers, presence at Parliament House	273

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE :

Proprietary mine spur line, tabling of file	273
State trading concerns—sale, and protection of employees	273
Laverton to Alice Springs, construction of national highway	273
Rural and Industries Bank—	
Cost of building	273
Tabling of contract	274
Betting inquiry, source of finance	274
Mills and Wares Ltd., dismissal of employees	274, 276
C.I.B. Officers—	
Presence at Parliament House	274
Authority to enter Chamber	274
Fibrous plasterers, tabling of information	275
High schools, comparative attendances, etc.	275
Election advertising, tabling of papers	275
Railway employees, retrenchments at Leighton	275
Walcott-st. trolley-bus service, date of commencement	275
Governmental undertakings, transfer to private concerns	275
North-West homes, concession to occupants	276

RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK :

Contract for electrical installations	276
--	-----

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY, FIFTH DAY

Speakers on Address—	
Mr. O'Neil	277
Mr. Brady	279
Mr. Hall	285

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.