

at gymkhanas and demonstrations, to their own honour and the glory of their districts.

But now, with an income of only £200 being guaranteed to the brigades, I am sure there will be a falling off in interest, and the day that happens will be a very sorry one for Western Australia.

With those remarks, I have much pleasure in supporting this Address-in-reply to the Speech so graciously delivered by His Excellency the Governor.

On motion by Mr. Guthrie, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 11.21 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 22nd July, 1959

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

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT

*Sale of Nelson Location 12053*

1. The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) What are the reasons for the notice to offer for sale by auction Nelson Location 12053, situated at Balingup and standing in the name of N. H. Jones

- (2) Did the Minister in charge of war service land settlement inspect this property during his recent inspection of dairy farms in the South-West?
- (3) On what date was it decided that this property was surplus to war service land settlement requirements?
- (4) Will the Minister in charge of war service land settlement table the complete file dealing with Nelson Location 12053, so that interested persons can see for themselves the complete story of this holding?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) The farm was declared surplus to requirements.
- (2) In the absence of the Minister and the Chairman of the Land Settlement Board, this information is not available.
- (3) Property was declared surplus by the Land Settlement Board on the 25th March, 1959, approved by the Minister for Agriculture on the 3rd June, 1959.
- (4) As the file contains the approved reserve price for the property, which is to be auctioned on the 6th August, 1959, the hon. member may peruse the file at the office of the Acting Minister for Agriculture.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

#### *Cost of Taxpayers*

2. The Hon. G. E. JEFFERY (for the Hon. R. F. Hutchison) asked the Minister for Mines:

What is the cost to the taxpayers of Western Australia of the Legislative Council for 1958-59, including printing and incidentals?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The cost of the Legislative Council for 1958-59 was £86,921. This figure excludes reporting of parliamentary debates and other printing for Parliament which cannot readily be allocated but does include payment of £2,385 to the hon. member, representing parliamentary salary, reimbursement of expenses and postage stamps.

### STATE HEALTH COUNCIL

*Constitution, Appointment of Members etc.*

3. The Hon. G. C. MACKINNON (for the Hon. J. G. Hislop) asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Who are the members of the State Health Council?
- (2) How are they appointed?
- (3) What is the tenure of office?

- (4) Does the Council or a sub-committee of the Council visit districts or hospitals before making decisions or offering advice concerning them?
- (5) What is the status of the Council?
- (6) Can the Public Health Commissioner override the advice or decisions of the Council?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) One senior representative of the Royal College of Physicians—Dr. Ernest R. Beech. One senior representative of the Royal College of Surgeons—Mr. Norman Robinson. One senior representative of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists—Dr. Roland Natt-rass. Four medical practitioners, nominated by the British Medical Association (at least one to represent country districts) Dr. Dixie M. Clement, Dr. H. Leigh Cook, Dr. Ian O. Thorburn, and Dr. Martin F. Williams. Three representatives of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of W.A.—Professor Gordon King, Professor C. W. D. Lewis and Professor Eric G. Saint. One representative of the Department of Child Health of the University of W.A.—Professor W. B. Macdonald. Inspector-General of Mental Health Services or his Deputy—Dr. D. W. Moynagh. The Commissioner of Public Health—Dr. Linley Henzell. The Deputy Commissioner of Public Health—Dr. W. S. Davidson. The Under Secretary, Medical Department—Mr. J. J. Devereux.
- (2) By Executive Council on the recommendation of the Minister for Health.
- (3) Two-yearly periods. Current appointment expires on the 30th June, 1960.
- (4) A number of members of the Council and its Hospital Requirements Committee are closely associated with hospitals in the metropolitan area and in the country. Senior departmental officers regularly visit and inspect the hospitals concerned and their advice is available to the Council.
- (5) Advisory to the Minister for Health.
- (6) No.

#### FREMANTLE RAILWAY BRIDGE

##### *Cost of Property Resumptions*

4. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

Relating to the Government's decision to re-locate the new railway bridge on a site near the Fremantle road traffic bridge, the following information is requested—

- (1) The number of privately-owned properties to have been resumed had the bridge been constructed alongside the existing railway bridge.
- (2) The total number of privately-owned properties the Government will resume as a result of its decision to re-locate the bridge:

- (a) for railway purposes,
- (b) for the harbour works which make re-location necessary.

- (3) The values of each of the properties involved in (a) and (b) above.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Not determined, but it was expected that 10 or 12 properties would have been involved for harbour requirements such as pick-up and amenity centre.
- (2) (a) 27.  
(b) The residue of four properties affected by (a) and eight additional properties.
- (3) Particular valuations of individual properties have not yet been made.

#### ROYAL COMMISSIONERS' POWERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

##### *Standing Orders Suspension*

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.48]: I move:

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended so as to enable the Royal Commissioners' Powers Act Amendment Bill, 1959, to be taken on receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly and to have precedence each day before the Address-in-reply, and to be passed through all stages at any one sitting.

The purpose of seeking the suspension of Standing Orders is to give the House an opportunity to deal quickly with a Bill which it is expected will arrive from the Legislative Assembly. The terms of reference in the Commission to Sir George Ligertwood to inquire into and make recommendations in regard to betting control and matters associated therewith have already been published.

Members are aware, therefore, that the Commission will open up a wide field of inquiry, and possibly, of allegations by witnesses. The chief Crown Prosecutor (Mr. R. D. Wilson), who has been appointed as counsel to assist the Royal Commissioner, has reported that Sir George regards as very deficient the protection afforded by our law to Royal Commissioners, barristers and witnesses.

The Royal Commissioners' Powers Act, 1902, does not provide any protection to a Commissioner, and the legal opinion is that

such provisions as do appear in the Criminal Code do not provide sufficient protection. It has been recommended, therefore, that further provision be made by statute to afford the Commissioner, in the exercise of his duty, the same protection and immunity as is enjoyed by a judge of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Crown Prosecutor also advised that it appears to be desirable to afford to barristers and other persons authorised by the Commission to appear before it, and to witnesses, the same protection as is enjoyed by barristers and witnesses in regard to proceedings in the Supreme Court. In New South Wales and in the Commonwealth legislation this provision has been made for some time.

The Solicitor-General has confirmed the opinion expressed by the Chief Crown Prosecutor, after his discussion with Sir George Ligertwood, and, in consequence, Cabinet has decided to submit to Parliament amendments to the Royal Commissioners' Powers Act to cover the matter.

In considering the urgency of this legislation, it must be borne in mind that the Commissioner started his inquiries this week, and it is most undesirable that any obstacle or difficulty should be placed in his way, in order that his inquiry may not be unduly extended. That is the necessity for the Bill to be dealt with by Parliament before the Address-in-reply is concluded.

I will, of course, be able to provide a further explanation of the protections and immunities which the legislation will provide when it comes before this House. I realise it is not competent for me to discuss them now. The legislation is in the process of being dealt with in another place.

I am sure the House will appreciate the necessity to give protection under this Act, and I ask members for their co-operation in permitting the suspension of Standing Orders so that when the Bill reaches us we will be able to deal with it as quickly and expeditiously as possible.

**THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND** (North) [4.43]: I do not think the Minister has set out a case which would make this an urgent matter, particularly when we read in the daily Press that the Royal Commission is likely to adjourn for some time. It was in this morning's paper; and we also read that a lot of witnesses are unavailable on account of illness, and so on. Therefore, it would seem to me that there is no urgent need to rush the legislation through at one sitting; and until we get a copy of the proposed legislation and have it explained in more detail we are not competent to judge just what our action should be.

I want to draw the attention of members to the fact that in the Press it is intimated that the Royal Commission is to adjourn. That being the case I see no real urgency in the matter. I would like the Minister to advise the House if it is his intention, when

the legislation does come before us, to rush it through at the one sitting or whether he will consider an adjournment so that after hearing his explanation of the legislation members will have an opportunity to consider properly and reasonably the impact it may have.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Perhaps the Government is going to carry out the request made by Mr. Murray.

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines—in reply) [4.45]: I must say that I am surprised that Mr. Strickland would haggle in regard to this matter.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I am not haggling, I am asking.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I know that the hon. member is entitled to ask questions, but I have sat, not for very long, in the seat he is now in, and have listened to the Minister in charge of the House—on so many occasions that I could not relate them—ask for the suspension of Standing Orders for a particular purpose; and I know that this action is not taken lightly. The Minister in charge of the House does not do it because he feels like it; he does it because the Government thinks there is an urgency for doing it.

The motion says that it be considered in all stages at any one sitting; not at one sitting. That is totally different from rushing a Bill through. I would not like to suggest for one solitary moment that an adjournment of the second reading would not be granted if the hon. member would like it.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: That is all we ask.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The Government is anxious to see this piece of legislation placed on the statute book as soon as possible to give the protection which it seeks to afford. In respect to the adjournment of the Royal Commission, I read the report in the paper this morning, and I think it indicated that, because of the indisposition of one particular man, it may be adjourned for a few days. If it is, it could easily be a few days before we receive the Bill because, in actual fact, it was adjourned last night in another place until Thursday. Therefore, we cannot get it until tomorrow afternoon. I am hopeful that if we receive it tomorrow afternoon I will be able to introduce the second reading, and then if the hon. member wants an adjournment to the following week, I shall certainly not oppose it.

Question put and passed.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

##### *Seventh Day*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

**THE HON. F. J. S. WISE** (North) [4.48]: I first wish to congratulate Mr. Thompson on his election for the West Province. As a

new member, I would say to him that I hope he is to enjoy as long a term of service as his predecessor, and to leave a record as valuable and as important to this State's well-being as his predecessor did.

I next desire to do something, which is customary, and I think it is due, and that is to congratulate the leader of this House, the Minister for Mines, and his colleague, on their elevation to the ministry, and on their being in charge of the business of this House for the Government of the day.

All Ministers, at some stage of their careers, are new. All Ministers, in their newness, find that there is very much to review; much even of their own past thinking and opinions. They find that there is much pressure on them to reverse decisions which were made by their predecessors. They find an arduous task in becoming acquainted with the many important problems which it is their lot to handle. I know, too, that they may find *Hansard* quite inconvenient; and there is nothing new in that, either, Mr. President!

I could be unkind on this occasion and refer to *Hansard* of 1956, in which one of the Ministers made, as I said then, unnecessary—I used stronger words than that—remarks in regard to the Grants Commission, its functions, its work, and its decisions. I think that Mr. Logan will be big enough to concede that it is necessary for him to review some of his thoughts in that connection; because I reaffirm my own view that, if it were not for the operations of the Grants Commission, under section 96 of the Constitution, and its tolerance and generosity to the State of Western Australia, we would indeed be in a parlous condition. I think the Minister will admit that.

I believe it is most important that we should not at any time deprecate the functions of people who, appointed under the Constitution, have shown earnest attention to our well-being. I would like to refer next to the recent respite of one week that this House has—I will use the word “enjoyed.” I think the Ministers must have found that week very important to them. I would think that, as time goes on and the pressure increases, it would not be a bad thing, say every five or six weeks—without any prejudice at all to the work of Parliament—for a week to be taken off to enable Ministers to catch up. I know the pressure Mr. Strickland was under for more than one session; and the Hon. Mr. Fraser, too—

The Hon. L. A. Logan: We can appreciate that now.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: More, particularly in this House, I think that, in the interests of the functioning of departments and of the State—I repeat; without any prejudice at all to the work to be done in this Parliament—such a postponement of the duties of this Chamber might well be made.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: If we could do that, without being criticised for wasting time, I would be delighted to adopt the suggestion.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Wasting time does not come into it, on the grounds that the Ministers will find the need for it; and members, busy on behalf of their constituents, very often need more time—especially members representing remote districts—in which to attend to requests made from those parts of the State.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I agree with that, too.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I intend, perhaps at some length, to build my speech around one paragraph almost tucked away in His Excellency's Speech. The reference is, in my view, one of the most important national matters contained in the Speech, and it is to be found on page 6. It has reference to the expenditure of £5,000,000, as a special Commonwealth grant to be spent over a 5-year period north of the 20th parallel. It refers to the projects of the Wyndham Jetty, the deep-water port for the West Kimberleys, the diversion dam portion of the Ord River scheme, and investigation into the Napier Broome Bay proposals. I will pinpoint one short part of the paragraph: the diversion dam portion of the Ord River scheme.

That part of the Ord River scheme is a matter which, in my view, is of national importance and deserving of much more mention than it got. It is certainly deserving of much more action than it is receiving; and I will refer at some length to the Ord River proposals a little later on. I would say that in this, the driest continent in the world, the conservation of water and the development of water resources are of vital national importance and should be considered an important item in national planning at all times.

I would point out that Australia's 10,000,000 population is concentrated in a very small portion of the continent—in a narrow fringe around part of it. There is less than one person to the square mile in 2,300,000 square miles of Australia; while at least 500,000 square miles of the continent is as empty today as it was when Captain Cook first landed here. Some of that area is desert; but even deserts may be made to blossom like the rose, if there is proper interest in their use and a keen desire to see them used.

As a relevant comparison I would point to the Sahara Desert, an area of 2,600,000 square miles, which sustains millions of cattle and well over 1,000,000 people. There is also South-West Africa—formerly German South-West Africa—a smaller area, half as big as our North-West, but sustaining a population of half a million. This area in German South-West Africa has a climate almost identical with that of our areas from the 20th to the 26th parallel, and it is approximately from the 23rd to the 18th parallel.

Its flora is almost identical with that of Central Australia. It has a rainfall of from 2 inches to 16 inches, and that country is the home of the Persian lamb industry. The karakul sheep thrive on country poorer than much of our North-West and at least as poor as the worst of the Pilbara—an industry worth millions to that country. Just as an observation, I would point out that the karakul sheep has little chance of increasing rapidly; because for the best of the Persian lamb skins to be obtained, the lamb must be slaughtered before it is 24 hours old.

I would draw attention to the need for consideration of what other countries are doing under circumstances similar to ours. The lighter rainfall regions of Africa—say, from the Limpopo River to the Kalahari Desert—are comparable with much of Australia, even to the baobab trees being present as they are in the Kimberleys.

There are regions in the southern States of America, from the Gulf of Mexico across southern California to Arizona, to places like Tucson, and down to the Mexican border, almost identical with Central Australia, where the cattle industry flourishes, but where more intensive activity has been shown in the type of beast to be grown under their conditions. In portions of that region they benefit from the great Colorado River, but in many parts the pursuits are only pastoral.

My point in mentioning these other lands, which it has been my privilege to visit, is to draw attention to the fact that where other lands have a development of a kind which might be suited to our circumstances, the greatest amount of research that is possible should be made, in an endeavour to introduce those things which might be beneficial to us in the building of our country and particularly that part of it which at present is only partly productive.

That development includes water use, cultivation of plants and crops suited to other parts of the world and types of stock adaptable to our use. I have mentioned the karakul sheep, but there have been evolved also strains of cattle—particularly in the African country—from the Brahmin-Hereford cross, which have revolutionised beef production in that part of the British Commonwealth.

The Brahmin-Hereford cross—now a fixed breed—has mothers, at three years, weighing from 1,500 to 1,800 lb., and their calves, from six to seven months, weighing 300 to 400 lb. Therefore, this is a breed of which we should sit up and take notice.

I admit that, because of the blue tongue disease; because of the foot and mouth disease; and because of the endemic diseases of the native fauna of South Africa, there are quarantine difficulties which would force us to be extremely careful about what we introduce and how we

do it. But our difficulties could be overcome by, for example, artificial insemination; and the overcoming of our difficulties would place us on a level with countries a great deal more backward in some respects than ours, but more forward in others and, in those other respects, we should profit by the experience of those other countries.

I am trying to convey the thought that in many parts of the world, much has been done in giving attention to the scientific side of plants and the promotion of the production of them, as they are particularly suited to the local climate. Therefore, although our country is difficult of terrain and short of water, I think that we could follow the example that has been set in those parts of the world. In recent years the C.S.I.R.O. has made great strides and done remarkable work in the exchange of seeds of plants from those countries, which seeds and plants are now being propagated and cultivated in Australia.

Some years ago I brought to this State, from the experimental station in Tucson, some seeds of grasses which are now flourishing in this country. They are grasses which will stand an 18-month dry period and, with irrigation, may be cut at bi-monthly periods. I relate these facts as being of great moment to the drier, the arid and semi-arid parts of this continent.

If we go further afield and follow what has been done in the State of Texas in the fixing of the Santa-Gertruda breed of cattle, we will have something which should be highlighted; and although there is already a stud of this breed of cattle in Australia, in my view the Government should interest itself by starting a settlement of Santa-Gertruda cattle, because around the North Kimberleys, in general, we have almost identical conditions to those which they are used to in their natural state. The conditions in that part of our State are very similar to those pertaining in much of the State of Texas. Members may recall that I asked some questions in the House last year as to whether the Government would be interested in taking such a step.

I believe that much of our drier lands could be benefited if a complete review, on a national basis, were made of the water potential. It is significant that most of the irrigated land of Australia is in the temperate parts. That is where crops are easier to grow all the year through, compared to the growing conditions in the drier and hotter regions.

We have made a start in our humble but important parts of the South-West; in our irrigated areas made possible by beneficent Government advances; in areas which have had incremental values given to owners beyond all expectations; but I think we should realise how important it is to look further afield. We should realise how important it is to take a proper view

of the situation and not to say that, because the Harvey and adjacent districts have benefited, we should not try something tougher. I suggest that something much more is needed; namely, a review of areas which are not so pleasant to live in and which are much harder to develop.

Throughout Australia, every State has its own irrigation scheme. If members will look at Chapter 9 of the latest Commonwealth Year Book I think they will find in that part dealing with the review of the water resources of Australia, that Victoria is the most irrigated State, although the smallest. All of that State's important areas are under the control of State authorities or local authorities.

The Murray River Authority, with its associated activities, goes back, of course, to the early part of this century, when its development commenced in a small way. In Queensland, from the Atherton Tablelands down, we have the Barron River which now furnishes the water for the tobacco industry at Mareeba through the Burdekin right down to the Dawson River. In those areas they grow cotton under irrigation. I suggest that we in this State could do something similar to Queensland if we received the Commonwealth help which we deserve and need to cultivate our tropical areas.

Now that the gigantic Snowy River Scheme is almost half-completed—and it will have a tremendous impact on production as well as on living conditions because of the generation of electric power from it—there appear to be only two large schemes left in Australia which have been investigated to some extent and each will be of benefit to us. I refer to the Bradfield scheme and to the Ord River scheme.

The Bradfield scheme was propounded by the late Dr. J. J. C. Bradfield, a remarkable engineer and a famous Australian. He was the man who built the Sydney Harbour Bridge and, throughout his life, he was firm in the belief that all of the upland country of Northern Queensland should be used to turn the raging torrents of rivers—which obtained there for six months of the year—inland instead of that water flowing east a few miles to tip itself into the sea. His scheme was to turn the water from the Burdekin and the Herbert rivers into the Thompson and the Diamantina, and ultimately for it to flow into Lake Eyre.

Bradfield's scheme was criticised greatly, but it is true to say that if his ideas had much substance—I have no doubt that they had substance—it would mean that all of that area of 1,500 miles in western Queensland, northern New South Wales and the northern areas of South Australia would benefit to a tremendous extent in the pastoral sense.

In addition, however, I recall that the estimate that was made at the time showed that 4,000 square miles of irrigable land could be brought into intensive cultivation.

This area is greater than that used for the whole of the greater Murray scheme. Dr. Bradfield, not long before he died, estimated the cost at £40,000,000. However, what if it were to cost £140,000,000? If the scheme were put into operation tens of thousands of millions of gallons of water which daily flow into the Pacific Ocean from those three large rivers I have mentioned—which have their sources not far inland from Cairns—would be harnessed and put to excellent use.

If those rivers could possibly be turned westward, what a difference it would make, for example, to that rich pastoral country which now suffers from drought and climatic extremes to a great extent. I refer to the Channel country. What a difference it would make, not only in our production, but also in the living conditions of the people who reside in that 1,500 miles of Australian territory!

In addition to the rivers that would be affected by Dr. Bradfield's proposals, there are many rivers in Australia of a permanent character which flow northward, either into the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Arafura Sea, or the Timor Sea; which flow unimpeded and, in some years; vigorously for six or seven months of the year. There is not one bit of settlement on their banks excepting the territory which is used by the pastoral industry.

The potential of rivers which flow westward, such as the Leonard and the Fitzroy, has never yet been measured. In this State we have important bases for an extremely earnest probe to be made by qualified engineers and scientists. Further down our coast we have those rivers which flow only periodically, but which, nevertheless, are important. I refer to the Ashburton and the Gascoyne. The Gascoyne River flows through an area which enjoys a rainfall of from eight to nine inches. Some of its water-shed is much less than that, but, because of the determination of some people, it has been used to develop the land to such a point that a couple of hundred families live in a place where 50 sheep used to graze.

Our rivers of periodic flow are a difficult proposition because, overnight, they may become raging torrents, but they do not present an opportunity for anyone to impede their flow. The Gascoyne River has had a measured flow of 1,000,000,000 gallons per hour when in full flood, but there is not a gorge or a range which would give to an engineer any prospect of impeding the flow of that river. There is no prospect offered to any engineer to impound these thousands of millions of gallons of water which flow into the sea and, therefore, the difficulty of water storage does present itself, whether it be done by clay bars—as have been developed in recent years—or by a series of clay dams which would hold the water back to percolate through all the country around the river and give to those people who are

making their living from agriculture an opportunity to live much easier than they are now and with much less worry than they have at the moment.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Is there a dam site about 26 miles up the river?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Yes, at Rocky Pool. It is one that has attracted attention for a long time.

The engineers advise us that the level is not sufficient to hold back the water. It would go around the edges. An abutment would need to be miles long to be of any consequence in holding back the water.

I have referred to those rivers flowing northwards into the Arafura Sea. It can be safely said that from Cape York to Cape Leveque there are sufficient rivers which, if utilised as rivers in other countries are utilised, could sustain a population much bigger than the millions of people Australia already contains. I am not saying that this suggestion could be put into effect under Australian conditions. I am saying that if some other nations had this land they would use it and the rivers. They would be able to find richness from the land, and a better way of life than that to which they are used.

That brings me back to the question of the national importance of this development, because these rivers affect more than one State, just as the Murray River affects three States. The proposal for the Ord River affects Western Australia, and even to a greater degree the Northern Territory. After all, the Ord River proposals do not affect only land on Argyle Station or at Ivanhoe. They affect the vast plains of the Baines River which runs into the Victoria River, the land at Auvergne Station and the land at Newry across the border, adjoining Argyle Station. Much of this land had been taken up and developed by the Durack family from 1880 onwards.

Those proposals for the Ord River also affect the land which was the subject of Dr. Steinberg's recommendations in 1939, and the land for which a Jewish settlement was proposed and for which guarantees of millions of pounds were forthcoming, had it been possible for the Government to implement Dr. Steinberg's report. I was then Minister for Lands and I know of all those negotiations. I feel sure there is much in the recommendations that is practicable.

Regarding the proposals put forward by Dr. Steinberg—although there is not the necessity for a Jewish settlement—all the components for the settlement of the kind he envisaged are to be found in that region. You might recall, Mr. President, that as Minister for Lands you travelled through that country in company with an officer of the Department of Agriculture, and you saw some experiments being carried out in the growing of sorghum and cotton. That was in 1931 or 1932. At that time, and

prior to it, some bales of cotton and some tons of peanuts came out of the North to Perth. At that time, and before, most extensive experiments were carried out over a large area. An officer of the Department of Agriculture, who was on his own, had a large district to cover, from Wyndham to Broome, and later on extending further south. A wide range of crops was then grown.

Crops have been grown since at the Ord River Research Station much more intensively. Continuously since that time, many plants have been introduced from the countries of the world I referred to earlier, some with marked success and some with failure. Even African Wonder grass was introduced into that country in 1924 and planted at Auvergne. It is still there, growing luxuriously. I know, and I am in a position to know.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You planted it.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I was the officer concerned. I do not wish to intrude any kind of ego into these remarks, but I wish to illustrate that the potential of our North and the necessity for the development of its rivers and the land—even though emphasised 30 years ago by enthusiastic people—are just as much evident today; I think there is a much greater need today.

The Rural Reconstruction Commission, in its eighth report, reviewed the Snowy River scheme, the Bradfield scheme and the Ord River scheme. The members of that Commission presented to the Commonwealth Government certain points of view—strongly held by them—some of which have been mentioned in the Commonwealth Year Book.

As regards the Ord River scheme, the final summary of the Commission is in the following terms:—

Provided that:—

- (a) Defence Authorities do not oppose the development of Northern Australia;
- (b) satisfactory results are obtained in tests now being made by engineers as to the suitability of the dam site;
- (c) investigations show that the proposed dam would not be subject to rapid siltation; and
- (d) the recent soil and topographic surveys show that a considerable area of suitable soil can be commanded by irrigation water without great difficulty;

the Commission is of the opinion that the scheme should be proceeded with and that the Commonwealth should offer to discuss with the Government of Western Australia, bases on which the whole scheme can be developed and on which the research station can be staffed and financed.

That was written in 1944. The Commission went further and made the following recommendation:—

It would be wise to send one or two Australian agronomists to those irrigation areas in North Africa which have a comparable climate, to obtain information about methods and conditions, in the expectation that such studies would be useful in any irrigation scheme in the Kimberleys or in other portions of Northern Australia.

Although that passage has been referred to in Commonwealth circles in successive years, nothing has been done by the Commonwealth of its own volition; something has been done by it under pressure.

From a motion moved in this House in 1954 by the Hon. A. R. Jones, which started off an all-party committee for the purpose of going to Canberra and making representations in connection with the development of the North, a watertight case was presented in 1955. But nothing happened for more than two years. In spite of pressure by the previous Government of this State, in spite of repeated requests as to the intentions of the Commonwealth in regard to the proposals for the Kimberleys, and in spite of the taxation disabilities suffered by the residents of the North-West, nothing was heard about the result of the approach by the committee until December, 1957. Then the first funds amounting to £2,500,000 were made available.

That assistance was granted after much disinterestedness and dilatoriness on the part of those responsible in Commonwealth circles. I submit that the implementation of the plan is urgently needed. Not only the experimentation at the Ord River, but also the work in rice growing on the Fitzroy, stand out as signals to a national Government as to what must be its responsibility in promoting development, wherever development is possible in that underpopulated region.

To such young men as K. M. Durack, the first officer in charge of the research station at the Ord who did much in that sphere until he turned his attention to the Fitzroy; to many others who were interested in the North, such as Geoffrey Drake-Brockman, the first Commissioner of the North-West; the late Tom Brennan; Eric Stoddart; and to the other engineers concerned, a debt is owed. If their words of advice, and the advice of the officers in the other Government departments had been heeded—I am speaking of the late 1920's—the Ord River proposals would not now be proposals, but accomplished facts.

Those proposals would have taken their place in a national sphere in front of the Snowy River proposals. A better utilisation should be made of that land so that we can show to the world at large—in particular to the International Food

Organisation and the underfed peoples—that this land can be made to produce not only for our own needs, but, if required, it can also be used to produce food for them.

On the Ord River Research Station, sugar has been a dominant crop. Various types of cane, including Badilla and other well known types grown in Queensland, have given yields in excess of the yields from cane grown in Queensland—with or without irrigation—and also in excess of the yields from the Burdekin area.

I remember discussing the subject of sugar cane growing with Sir Arthur Fadden, whom I have known for a long time. He represents a sugar district. He was of the opinion that it would be calamitous for any sugar to be grown outside Queensland. Had Western Australia asked for a quota for sugar growing, tremendous consequences would have been raised.

Even if this State were not permitted to sell the sugar it produced, the crop could be converted into power alcohol which could be used if oil cannot be found in this country. The fact remains that the Ord River district has a potential not only in irrigable crops which can be harvested, but in crops with natural forage. As in the Argentine, the latter crops could feed cattle within 10 miles of the works in which they are to be slaughtered. That would enable the cattle to be walked for hundreds of miles, but yet to put on hundreds of pounds in weight before being killed.

Terrific delays have occurred in implementing the proposals for the Ord River scheme. It is a long time since interested people, who anticipated some way of impounding that tremendous volume of water, first went into that area. The gorge itself is an engineer's dream. There is no problem at all to impound the water, because of the sheer precipitous cliffs to be found. There are abutments which would stand any foundation or pressure.

Even if there are doubts on the economic side, in some aspects of this development, they are far outweighed by the need to do something, even uneconomically as a start, in that region.

I recall being responsible, in the Government in 1945, for sending an engineer to report on that dam site. What I have said to the House this evening would indicate that my interest has not been spasmodic or of a short-term nature; it goes back a long way.

I hope that every stimulus this Government can give to that work, and to the others that are mentioned in the Speech—one was the subject of a question by the Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber this afternoon—will be given; and that these matters will not in any way be the playthings of politics, or be delayed because some other opinion or point of view is wanted, or because the Government wishes to change something that another



Government sought to do. I want these matters viewed in a broad national sense, shorn of politics altogether. Let us get on and do something; and not allow these things, in any way, to stay put.

Just as a brief summary of what I have tried to say, I point out that in this, the driest of all the continents, it is a national matter to conserve, where practicable, water for use in its many ways, because the basis of the limits of the population which this continent can sustain rests, in the ultimate, on the availability of water. This obtains not only where rains are plentiful, but, more particularly, in that part of the State where rains are not regular; where the climate is not so pleasant as it is in the southern districts. I hope there will be a getting on with the job; that the various opinions which are held in connection with the ways and means of development can be merged and not used as counter-arguments, one against the other. Above all, I trust that there will be some progress with the works I have mentioned.

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (South-West) [5.33]: May I echo those wishes which have been mentioned by previous speakers on the election of Mr. Ron. Thompson to the Legislative Council of this State. I also extend my good wishes to Mr. Griffith and Mr. Logan on their being appointed Ministers of the Crown. I wish them well; and likewise I extend my congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Strickland).

Probably if one were to examine the debates on the Address-in-reply since *Hansard* has been reporting these debates in various Parliaments, one would find no better way of gauging the terrific changes that have taken place by way of interference by Government in the various activities of ordinary life. This applies particularly, I feel, since the turn of the century—in the last 50 years—since when Governments have been given to enlarging their scope of activity almost annually, until today it is just about impossible to select any activity without finding some form of governmental interference. This interference might be by way of assistance, but it is practically always present in the form of taxation.

Side by side with the changes that have taken place in the scope and activity of Government, there has also been a definite change within Parliament itself. Up until the turn of the century, and perhaps a little later, the power and strength of a particular party within Parliament—both in Australia and overseas—was nothing as apparent as it is today. Parliaments tended to be an association of Independent members loosely grouped together within their parties, whereas today we find the Independent—as he was known in those days—is practically unknown. I, personally, do not think that is a bad thing.

Our form of Parliament tends to bring about a change as conditions require it. But I do feel there are certain forms of protection which were inbuilt into the Parliaments of 50 or 60 years ago, but which are lost today. In particular, I consider the basic protection of the individual has tended to be neglected. I think we should, perhaps, look at the strength of the older forms of Parliament in previous times, and some of the weaknesses of today, and see whether some improvements can be effected.

Over recent decades, it has become apparent that both Governments and Oppositions throughout the world have tended to think in terms of ease of administration rather than in terms of the protection of individuals. We, as a British people, have rested content since the time of the Stuarts in the belief that our people are protected under the rule of law. We have gradually evolved a system of Parliament which has three distinct and separate powers. We have the executive power; the legislative power; and the judicial power. Although they are linked in some ways, they are quite separate in others.

We have, in particular, a set of courts which have grown up, completely divorced from both the executive and the legislature, and on which—under what is commonly referred to as the rule of law—we rely for the protection of our people. We have been proud—and justifiably so—of the way in which our courts have worked, free from political interference; free from corruption; and dispensing a justice which is admitted by all and is obvious to all. Until recent times we rested—quite rightly—content in that system. We were quite correct in our belief that it gave the individual the protection he required.

As far as it went, that was excellent. But over the last 50 years we have seen the repeated growth of an entirely new form of law. Against this form of law, the courts have not given protection or extended the rule of law which had always previously obtained. The courts gave protection against what I shall call, for want of a better term, the legislative and common law. But we have seen the repeated growth, over the last 50 years, of administrative law, against which our complete system of judicial justice has not been suited to give the protection that our ordinary law courts give under the legislative and common law.

I am inclined to believe that, under the mixed and rather hotchpotch system that we have developed to deal with appeals from the decisions of the administrative law, in the main justice has been dispensed. But I am positive that the public is not convinced that justice has been done. One of the reasons for this, of course, goes back to the old adage that justice must not only be done, but must also appear to be done.

Despite the fact that I think that, in the main, under the decisions given by way of administrative law, justice has probably been done to the ordinary person, I am absolutely positive the public does not believe it. I would go so far as to say that it is generally believed that many courts dealing with administrative matters are inclined to be tainted with corruption. That, of course, in any form of legal or semi-legal proceedings, is a bad thing and a bad attitude.

I feel that with the complexity of modern Government, administrative law is here to stay. It is not a solution to say, "Let us cut it out and dispense with all forms of licenses, regulations, and all the rest of it." That is no solution; and it will be increasingly less of a solution as time goes on.

I would, however, like to make a suggestion which I feel could lead in the direction of a solution. I suggest that we should establish an administrative law court. This is not a revolutionary idea; for at the present time we have, indeed, many forms of administrative law courts. We have also several forms of courts that have been set up to deal with specific aspects of law. We do not rely on the ordinary courts to handle all types of law. The classic example is the Arbitration Court which has been set up to deal with industrial laws and agreements; and which, in the main has worked very well.

There are, of course, a number of other courts—I call them courts advisedly—which have been set up to deal with administrative matters and appeals. Some appeals from the administrative decisions can, of course, be taken to the local courts. The court I envisage should consist of a person qualified to be a Supreme Court judge; and he would be paid and given the status of a Supreme Court judge.

It might be argued that this would put an additional cost on to the people and that the expense would be too high. I hope that at a later date I shall prove there are methods of cutting down these costs; and, indeed, that a court such as I suggest can be the means of putting us a little bit in front, financially; because once we establish an administrative law court, we will have no need for boards as they are at present constituted. In other words, the court would not be additional to a lot of the boards and tribunals at present existing, but would take the place of many of them.

I feel that such a court should take over the licensing functions of all of the present tribunals, and deal with the granting of such licences as those required for hotels, bookmakers, land agents, auctioneers, etc. The present control boards would, as I say, need to be reconstituted. As an example, I suggest that the Betting Control Board should be established on a part-time basis,

and should consist of representatives of, say, the Commissioner of Stamps, the Commissioner of Police, the Turf Club, and the Bookmakers' Association. That board would decide whether or not any particular application should be opposed.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Would the punters come into it?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I do not think so. The board would decide on the issue of licenses and, if an offence was committed against the Act, the board could take action before the administrative law court, either to suspend the renewal of a license or to inflict some other appropriate penalty.

Similarly, I would say that the Licensing Court would disappear and, in its place, we would have a licensing board which could consist of a representative of the Commissioner of Police, an architect, a health inspector, an accountant and a representative of the hotels association. I suggest those men because the board would want an architect to study plans, an accountant to look at the business side, and a health inspector for obvious reasons. They would have much the same powers as I have already explained in relation to the Betting Control Board.

We have a perfect example of this already operating in the State in the form of the Land and Estate Agents Control Board; it operates in much the same way as I am suggesting these other boards should operate. I should now like to mention the financial aspect of establishing a court of this type: The full-time Betting Control Board cost this State in 1957-58 the sum of £19,238.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Nearly as much as the Legislative Council.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Almost, but it does less good. The Licensing Court cost the State £8,275. Transferring those boards on to a part-time basis, such as I have suggested, and with the obvious economies that could be effected, the State would be more than able to pay for the services of a qualified lawyer, if his pay was the same as that of a Supreme Court judge and if he were given the services of an associate. At present I think a Supreme Court judge receives £3,600; and his associate is not very highly paid. So it can be seen that economies could be effected by the elimination of any one of these boards and the setting up of an administrative law court such as I have suggested.

All licenses would be issued out of the administrative law court and any opposition to such issues would be heard before the court; and being a court, of course, the judge would give reasons for his findings. At present courts such as the Licensing Court sit, hear the evidence and give their decisions. It has always been thought deplorable that any court should give a judgment on something and not give a

reason for it. To hear evidence and say, "No," and not say why the answer was "No," is a most undesirable state of affairs. I am firmly convinced that the set-up I have suggested would change the public view on the issue of any license. Too often we hear the view expressed that corruption has the main say over justice. I do not say that that expression of opinion is correct, but it is heard too often for the common good. We have all heard it, and we hear it in the streets every time one of these courts sits and gives a decision one way or the other.

Many bodies such as the local governing authorities, town planning authorities, Ministers of the Crown and so on have considerable discretionary power over the issue of permits, and in the making of certain decisions. I believe that in the main those powers should remain, where they are already governed by the various Acts, but a right of appeal from those decisions should lie not to the Minister, as is the position at present, but to the administrative law court. I have been here for only three years but I have forgotten on how many occasions I have heard it said that "The appeal is from Caesar unto Caesar." The proposal I am putting forward this evening would cut out all of that.

It may be that certain Ministers might feel that if my suggestion were adopted there would be a loss of flexibility; but I believe it is a flexibility they could afford to lose in the interests of the protection of the ordinary man and woman. It would relieve them from much political pressure if the appeal were taken to an administrative law court.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How would you get on where an Act of Parliament says, "The board, subject to the Minister shall . . ."?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: As I mentioned before, the board in question would have to be reconstituted and we would have to deal with all Acts which contained such a proposal. Where an Act says, "The board, subject to the Minister shall," it virtually means an appeal to the Minister; and I am suggesting that an appeal should no longer be to the Minister. There are other types of appeals, such as those from land tax assessments, local authority rating and the like; they could also lie with the court.

The point I have been trying to make is that we want to extend the rule of law so that it will cover not only legislative and common law, through the ordinary law courts, but will also cover administrative law. In doing this there is one other big difficulty. In the main, most of the appeals against decisions under administrative law will be against powerful organisations, such as local authorities, State Government instrumentalities, and perhaps the State Government itself. In such cases the obvious advantage rests

with the large organisations and I believe that in setting up this court we should take another fairly drastic step; we should place on the Government instrumentality the onus of proving that its decision was the right one.

That is a fairly sweeping step to take, but we have to remember that this court will not deal with discussions or arguments between individuals, but with problems as they lie between a powerful organisation and an individual. In all such cases the individual would inevitably be at some disadvantage. As I said, I am of the opinion that the onus of proving that the original decision was the right one should rest with the taxation authorities, the local governing bodies, the State boards and the like. To support my belief that appeals from decisions under administrative law should lie with a court, I would like to read a quotation from a paper called *News Letter of the International Congress of Jurists*, No. 6, March-April, 1959. The extract reads—

In modern conditions and in particular in societies which have undertaken the positive task of providing welfare services for the community it is recognised that legislatures may find it necessary to delegate power to the executive or other agencies to make rules having a legislative character.

The grant of such powers should be within the narrowest possible limits and should carefully define the extent and purpose of delegated legislation and should provide for the procedure by which it can be brought into effect.

Public emergency threatening the life of a nation may require extensive delegation of powers. Even in such cases, however, the rule of law requires that every attempt be made by the Legislature to define as carefully as possible the extent and the purpose of the grant of such delegated powers, and the procedure by which such delegated legislation is to be brought into effect.

In no event shall fundamental human rights be abrogated by means of delegated legislation.

To ensure that the extent, purpose and procedure appropriate to delegated legislation are observed, it is essential that it should be subject to ultimate review by a judicial body independent of the executive.

In general, the acts of the executive which directly and injuriously affect the person or property or rights of the individual should be subject to review by the courts.

The judicial review of acts of the executive may be adequately secured either by a specialised system of administrative courts or by the ordinary courts. Where specialised courts do

not exist it is essential that the decisions of *ad hoc* administrative tribunals and agencies, if created (which includes all administrative agencies making determinations of a judicial character), should be subject to ultimate review by ordinary courts.

Since this supervision cannot always amount to a full re-examination of the facts, it is essential that the procedure of such *ad hoc* tribunals and agencies should ensure the fundamentals of fair hearing including the right to be heard, if possible in public, to have advance knowledge of the rules governing the hearing, to adequate representation, to know the opposing case, and to receive a reasoned judgement.

Save for sufficient reason to the contrary, adequate representation should include the right to legal counsel.

It will have been noted, of course, that this paper suggests a specialised system of administrative courts, or hearings by the ordinary courts. I believe it is preferable to have an administrative law court as such, because the courts, as they exist today, are set up to deal with legislative or common law; and in dealing with that their methods tend to become cumbersome. In dealing with a new body of law I think it would be better to set up a specialised system of courts.

One other advantage of the court I have suggested is that it would automatically be able to have its own legal opinions to refer to after it had been in existence for a short time. Today a lawyer can look back at cases over many years—cases which have been heard in the ordinary courts—and advise his clients one way or the other. But the lawyer has not the advantage of being able to refer to records of how the evidence was heard, because under the present system there is no basis for it. After a short period of time the administrative law court would have its own legal opinions and case history to which it could refer. The administrative law court would be able to do what the Taxation Board of Review is doing at present. This board issues its findings on each case and they are proving to be most valuable to accountants and lawyers.

I also suggest that this court should sit in country towns such as Geraldton, Northam, Kalgoorlie, Albany, Narrogin, Bunbury and Collie. By doing this the country areas would be getting some form of administrative justice, and also it would be assisting decentralisation. I am fully aware that what I have suggested is an ideal, and that there are many aspects of it which would need study and clarification.

It may well be that there are insurmountable difficulties in the way of solving the problem by this method—difficulties that I have not been able to see. But I

feel this plan does present a solution to a problem which is becoming progressively worse. Whether or not this solution is the ideal one, I would suggest that it does constitute a solution, and I would ask members to give the matter some thought in the hope that we might give the individual, under a complete rule of law, the freedom and independence which is surely his most precious heritage.

**THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON** (Suburban) [6.2]: In speaking to the debate on the Address-in-reply, I would like to offer my congratulations to Mr. Thompson on his election to this House, as the new Labour member for the West Province. I also extend my felicitations to you, Sir, and to the members of the Cabinet.

On reading His Excellency the Governor's Speech it occurred to me that it was a good comment on the achievements of the Labour Government. There are many things that were carried out by the Hawke Government which stand to the credit of Western Australia. Some of those undertakings have been of special interest, and I hope the present Government will continue many of those referred to in His Excellency's Speech; I hope they will expand others, and bring to fruition those that have been commenced. I will comment further on these special matters when I arrive at that part of my speech.

The first tribute I would like to pay to the previous Government is in the matter of housing. I must mention this, because it was on the question of housing that the Hawke Government was returned in 1953. At that time there was consternation at Belmont when it was discovered by the British workers and tradesmen, who had been brought out from England, that the Government of the day—the McLarty-Watts Government—did not intend to honour the undertaking given to those workers to the effect that they would be found homes within six months of their arrival. The flats they were put into were very primitive at the time, although they have been improved since, but they were told that they were to remain there permanently.

I was canvassing around that district at the time, and when I received a complaint from these people I immediately led a deputation to the Housing Commission and had the matter investigated. On taking office the Minister for Housing (Mr. Graham) immediately put into effect the promise made by the McLarty-Watts Government that these men, who had a Government stamp on their papers when they came out, would be guaranteed a home within six months of their coming to Western Australia. Although it was misunderstood in some cases at the time, those men were provided with houses through the Housing Commission at the earliest possible moment; they were given preference.

In three years the Hawke Government overcame the drastic housing shortage that obtained in Western Australia at the time. This Government has inherited one of the greatest achievements in Australasia; and that would apply to New Zealand as well. When I was in New Zealand last Christmas, and I told the people there that we had overcome, in a practical way, our housing problem, they would not believe me. If one went to Victoria or South Australia and told the people the same thing, they would also be dubious. When I said we had surmounted the tremendous obstacle which private enterprise was not prepared to take on, they found it most difficult to believe. Recently, we have heard much about private enterprise, but private enterprise was not prepared to take on the ordinary cottage building for the State. It was left to the Government of the day — a Labour Government — to overcome that difficulty.

We find now that we have entered a phase where we can turn our minds to thinking in terms of single-unit flats. As we all know, the previous Government put a stop to the cruel evictions which had been caused by the rents and tenancies legislation. The first task that the Labour Government had placed on its shoulders, was to prevent people from being thrown into the streets. The Minister acted swiftly, and directed that anyone who received an eviction order was to be given the preference of a house. It is only because that policy was carried out that it helped to cushion the dreadful effects of that most drastic legislation; namely, the Rents and Tenancies Emergency Provisions Act, which was passed in this Chamber.

The effect of that legislation was to send rents skyrocketing, and it created a situation in Western Australia which was about comparable to that which exists today, because of the unemployment that is occurring. A woman who had been looking forward to retiring in comfort after many years of nursing, brought to my notice today that she was most disappointed to find that the flats which were to be built at South Perth by the Hawke Government were now not to be proceeded with.

It was a great blow to me to hear that complaint. I have had numerous other complaints while I have been in Parliament. Hundreds of applications have been made to me, asking whether I could help these people who needed single-unit accommodation. When we consider the hard and stringent years through which we passed after the cessation of hostilities—years when we were faced with great shortages—it is difficult to appreciate the decision not to proceed with the proposed erection of the flats at South Perth; particularly is that so when we know it is

generally admitted that the housing position in Western Australia is the best in the Commonwealth, in Australia and New Zealand.

We have now reached the stage when these people can be, and deserve to be, catered for. Many of them have worked long years, and are now looking forward to retirement in the comparative comfort of their own homes, where they wish to enjoy the evening of their lives. We find, however, that the present Government has decided not to proceed with the building of these single-unit flats, and I am wondering whether anything can be done to persuade the present Minister to treat this, not as a political matter, but as an urgent need of the community, that could be supplied with no trouble or inconvenience to anybody.

In St. George's Terrace, blocks of single-unit flats are being erected by private enterprise—about which we have heard so much. But I am sure we will find that they are far beyond the purse of the people about whom I am speaking. They are being built in a select area near the town and will be beyond the means of the ordinary person.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How many single-unit flats were there in the South Perth project?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I understand the project was contemplated in order to fill that want.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How many were there?

The PRESIDENT: Order! I must ask the Minister to keep order.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: It's all right, Mr. President. I can cope with the Minister when the time comes. I would like to say a word in passing—as I did in my previous speech—on the preservation of the wildflowers and other flora in this State. We have heard a lot from the Minister about tourism, and I must say straightaway that I am not against it. I agree with him entirely on that subject. I have mentioned this before, but I would again point out to the Minister that we have a wealth of native flora around Perth; and on the road to Northam, especially that which goes through the hills. Some of that land on either side of the road could be preserved and some further north towards Geraldton—which is in the territory of the Minister for Local Government—as a sanctuary for our wildflowers. This would help bring millions of pounds to the State.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Have you seen the wildflowers in Esperance?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Yes. I am speaking now of a simple approach that would cost the State practically nothing. When I was going to Northam last Sunday I noticed how the area was

being built up almost to the roadside. The country around Three Springs is really beautiful, and if a few acres of wildflowers were grown and preserved now, they would, in a few years' time, return untold wealth to this State as a tourist attraction.

It is well known that our wildflowers are unique and prehistoric, and it is well worth preserving them for tourist purposes. Together with the beautiful weather that we have in the springtime, I could not think of a greater money-spinner for this State. If development is allowed to continue at its present rate, these wildflowers of ours will soon be extinct. I hope the Minister will give this matter some thought, and that he will take that aspect into consideration when he establishes his tourist resorts.

I now want to refer to the question of education. The Hawke Labour Government did a magnificent job for education in this State. After that Government took over from the McLarty-Watts Government it built 13 high schools. The province that I represent has a fair share of those schools.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: You have more than your cut.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Not more than our cut; I would say a fair share, George!

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member is not in order in calling members by their Christian names!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: She is far too familiar, I think.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I do not think there is any doubt that in the matter of education the State owes much to the Hawke Labour Government for what it has done. I would now like to read an article from the Parents & Citizens' Federation magazine which I think points to the necessity for the Commonwealth Government to make a special grant for education in this State, or, alternatively, to take it over as a Federal function. In my opinion it should be a Federal matter, because apparently we have not the money to do full justice to the children of the State.

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

Prior to the tea suspension I was about to read an extract from the West Australian Parents & Citizens' Federation journal in relation to Commonwealth grants for education. The publication is dated June, 1959, and the extract reads as follows:—

Continuing the serial commenced in our May issue we again let the experts speak. When in March of this year Mr. Hawke, then Premier of W.A., at the Premiers' Conference, asked the Prime Minister to have appointed a Committee, similar to the Murray Committee which investigated Australian Universities, to inquire into

primary, secondary and technical education in Australia he was told that the proposal was not an attractive one. The Prime Minister admitted the existence of the problem; he said he could see it very clearly and that he had great sympathy with it, but he resisted the idea that the Commonwealth should enter such "a very wide field which could easily have the most tremendous results on its own finances," and he reiterated the view that the Commonwealth is making large sums of money available to the States, some of which is being spent on education. Does this reply mean that the Commonwealth cannot make direct payments for State education? If it does then here's what Sir Douglas Copland, one of Australia's leading economists, wrote in *The West Australian* of 30/10/58—and remember—Sir Douglas is an expert!

What is required is a conference between authorities of the States and the Commonwealth to agree upon the magnitude of the problem and the resources required to meet it. The problem cannot be solved without additional grants from the Commonwealth to the States for the special purpose of providing facilities for the rapidly expanding population at the teenage level, and for the increase in demand for scientists in a technological age. The problem is a national one and therefore should be tackled at a national level.

I think that the standard of education in Australia is lagging. We are living in an atomic age and we must attend to education for the good of our nation. We should call for a much larger grant for education than is now the case in Australia. I should say that all States would require more money for universities; and more money is required to prepare children to attend universities. The time will come when the Commonwealth will, of necessity, have to take education out of the hands of the States so far as finance is concerned. Like many other things, I think education should be handled as an Australia-wide matter, and not be the hotch-potch that it is today with each State differing in its educational standards.

I would like to speak on some of the works that have been carried out in my province. All members know that we have experienced many water supply problems and they know the task which confronted Mr. Tonkin when he took office. Members also know of the marvellous work he performed in bringing our water supplies up to their present standard. In order to improve the water supply position in the northern suburbs, large feeder mains have been constructed in the Scarborough, North Beach and Morley Park areas. Some of those suburbs are in the area which I represent

The building of the pipehead dam on the Serpentine River made a valuable contribution to the supply of water to the metropolitan area; and when the diversion dam is finished in time for use this summer, it should be possible to have no restrictions on the use of water. That is great news for this State and for the metropolitan area in particular. As Mr. Wise mentioned in his speech a short while ago, water in this State is a basic problem. We have the largest and the driest State in Australia and the way the Labour Government faced the task which confronted it when it came into office stands to its credit; and I hope that the Government now in office will carry on in the same manner as the previous Government and surmount these problems which are causing great hardships to housewives when water restrictions are imposed.

I think the Labour Government which has just gone out of office has the distinction of being the first Government for many years to introduce a comprehensive drainage scheme. This has alleviated great hardship, especially in areas in my province where a number of suburbs have been affected by severe flooding. There was severe flooding a couple of years ago on the border of Morley Park and Bedford Park, and in the Canning districts. A drain is now being put through near Coode-st.—the hill is now being tunnelled through to Browns Lake—and that will benefit the surrounding district.

The engineers are not sure at the present moment whether they will be able to fully relieve the Morley Park district, but I hope it will be effective there. I hope this Government will carry on the work which was commenced by the Hawke Labour Government. The Hawke Government gave much attention to the problem of drainage and commenced a comprehensive drainage scheme to relieve flooded areas. In three years, an amount of £560,000 was expended, and main drainage has been provided in the Bayswater, Bentley, Victoria Park, Carlisle, Canning, South Belmont, Maylands and Inglewood areas. Jolimont is included although it is not in my province. I commend to the Minister that he carry on with this scheme which is so necessary for the people in those districts.

The drainage scheme will add value to the properties concerned and will be a great source of mental relief to the people when we have another wet winter. It is a good thing that we are having a dry season this year. I say that from a parochial point of view as we are not suffering from flooding.

I would like to comment on the lighting in Beaufort-st. It is quite an advantage and it is lovely now to drive one's car under those conditions. It would be a good

thing if all the streets were well lit, as that seems to be the answer to preventing traffic accidents which occur so often in the dimly lit streets in the metropolitan area.

In passing I would like to refer to the consternation this Government is causing by the curtailment or threatened curtailment of railway services in the suburban area. This affects me as a member. I have here a circular put out by the W.A. Loco Engine Drivers', Firemen's and Cleaners' Union drawing attention to the fact that a threat has been made that an investigation will be carried out in regard to the suburban passenger service. This will result in passengers being compelled to travel in already overcrowded buses at greatly increased cost and considerable inconvenience. The Hawke Labour Government provided the finance and gave the people an efficient rail transport service.

Following the introduction of diesel railcars the number of passengers carried increased from 9,353,667 in 1955 to 13,352,866 for the year ended June, 1958. To further improve this service, 10 additional railcars are in the course of construction, additional stopping places are being provided and improved methods of signalling have been installed. Free parking areas have been built at suburban stations and they have been of great assistance in relieving congestion and the rate of accidents in the city area. I hope there is to be no curtailment of this service which the people of Western Australia need very badly; and no doubt they deserve it.

I wish to deal now with the question of mental health; and in this regard I am happy to see the improvements that have been made at the Claremont Mental Hospital. A lady I know returned from overseas and brought back a report on the methods used in other countries in the training and educating of mentally afflicted children. That report shows that we were very backward in that respect until the Hawke Government took over and effected a number of improvements. I hope that trend will be sustained, because further improvement in that direction is badly needed.

The Nulsen Haven mentally incurable children's home was founded with considerable help from the Hawke Government; and that institution proved that a committee of private people, including many mothers, is capable of keeping such a place going. When I was in Victoria I looked over the Talbot epileptic colony, and there I was told that Nulsen Haven is an outstanding example of what such a place should be; because it is a short-stay home where children are kept in the family and in the community and are not put away, as was the case in the past, to be forgotten by mothers so overburdened that they could no longer bear the strain.

This is a new trend—to keep mentally ill people in the community—and if it is continued and money is spent in that way there will soon be far fewer patients and the expense that has had to be borne in the past in maintaining mental asylums, which were places of detention, will be reduced. I hope the Government will consider this aspect of the matter and will do nothing to prevent the present forward movement in the matter of mental health. Dr. Moynagh of the Claremont Mental Hospital is a fine man, and, if he is given sufficient funds and assistance, I am sure his work will be of great benefit to society as a whole and will result in a saving to the Government in the long run.

I ask the Minister to carry out the intention of Mr. Hawke, who was Minister for Child Welfare in the previous Government, and see that the children's portion of the new mental home to be built at Guildford will be completed first; because that is the greatest need. Proper care of these children is of the greatest benefit to society; influences the happiness of many homes; and affects all of us either directly or indirectly. At present we are in some measure catering for every category of the mentally affected, from children upwards.

When I first entered Parliament, many mothers with mentally afflicted children had nowhere to turn; but now we have Nulsen Haven and when, at Christmas time, I saw the happy mothers there with their children, I thought how well worth while the effort to establish that place had been. There is a move at present to form a society for the care of epileptics. I went into that question in New Zealand, at the end of last year, and in Victoria also. Epileptics are a section of the people receiving very little help from the community in general. There is much that could be done to cater for their well-being; and I think the necessity for work of this kind should be brought before the public, because there is no real difference between mental and physical illness.

I congratulate the Hawke Government on having given so much help towards the establishment of Ngai-a, which will be one of the finest institutions of its kind in Australia, when completed. It was made possible by the sympathy and help of the former Minister for Child Welfare.

I turn now to a different question, and one in connection with which I intended to introduce a Bill last session. I now appeal to the Minister to see that something is done to help deserted wives. I was told, not long ago, that there are also deserted husbands. Any deserted parent has my sympathy, but it is deserted wives, who have to struggle to look after their children, with whom I am most concerned.

When a wife with young children is deserted, she is left in a most vulnerable and helpless position. If she obtains a

court order against her husband, it is left to her to collect the maintenance from him, and her only recourse, if he fails to pay, is to commit him to gaol. The Child Welfare Department cannot do anything to help her until she has done all she can do for herself under the law as it stands.

I think that it should be the responsibility of the Child Welfare Department to pay the maintenance to a deserted wife after she has obtained a court order, and then to recover it from the husband. It would be an entirely different matter if a man found he had to stand up to the department or the police, instead of just his wife.

If a husband fails to pay maintenance under a court order, all the wife can do is to take out a warrant of commitment. I have a great aversion to seeing any man being gaoled by his wife. I feel that it is wrong and does nothing to help society. A great many women suffer misery rather than send the father of their children to prison. At present some women are forced to take that course, in sheer desperation, as the Child Welfare Department may not help them until they have taken all possible steps to obtain the payments for themselves. I believe that the law should be amended to allow the husband's wages to be garnisheed to recover maintenance payments. That course is followed in regard to money owing to the Taxation Department, and I think deserted children have an even greater call on the father's wages.

At present I believe that spite on the part of either partner to the marriage has some effect, but I do not like to see a deserting husband committed to prison, because such a course makes any reconciliation almost impossible. In putting forward these suggestions I am not advocating that anything should be done to help young women who get married and think they can live easily without facing their obligations.

I will now read a statement which was made by the Federal Minister for Social Services, the Hon. Hugh Robertson. It shows how the position of deserted wives is reaching a climax, and I hope the Minister in this State will take notice of it. It reads as follows:—

Evidence of a significant increase in the number of deserted wives and mothers in Australia has been revealed by a research project conducted by the Department of Social Services. The Department is interested in deserted wives because it pays widows' pensions to many—nearly 10,000—of them.

Information was gathered from all States for the survey, with most of the investigations carried out in Victoria, which has, proportionately, more deserted wives receiving pensions than other States. In all, 330 separate cases of deserted wives with children,



the great bulk of those granted widows' pensions in Victoria in 1956-57 were examined. Information obtained does not necessarily apply equally to all other States, nor even to all deserted wives in Victoria. The survey is, nonetheless, the most comprehensive of its kind undertaken in Australia, and will provide a basis for future investigations of this problem.

The difficulties of the 10,000 deserted wives receiving pensions do not rest with them alone. An even greater number of children is involved too, and some of these children, growing up, will carry their background of instability into adult life. Thus the circle of instability may spread further through the community.

These 10,000 unfortunate women have, in the majority, made unsuccessful attempts to obtain maintenance from their husbands.

Their support is therefore laid at the nation's doorstep. Already costing over £2,250,000 annually in pensions, the amount will increase greatly, if present trends continue.

The departmental investigations of the 330 Victorian women showed their average age at desertion was 31.1 years. They are likely to remain a charge on the community for many years, perhaps for the rest of their lives. The financial implications could be significant. Many problems are also posed by the children of deserted wives. In the research investigations it was shown that most women had two or three children to support. Some had six or seven, and three women had eight children, all under 16. The average age of all children was only six and a half. The 330 women had 842 children in their care. At least another 50 children were not with their mothers. Some of the mothers gave up the struggle to support their children, and placed them in institutions. Some of the children will probably leave school early for dead-end jobs.

Here are some other facts revealed by the survey: The average age at marriage of the deserted women was 22.3 years. They were deserted on the average just after eight years of marriage.

About half of them were granted pensions within 12 months of desertion.

The most common reasons claimed by wives for desertion were the husband's infidelity, his drunkenness, financial and employment difficulties, or her pregnancy.

Over one-third of the women had been under 20 at marriage and nearly one-half were under 30 at desertion.

Of the husbands 10 per cent. were under 20 at marriage, and 54 per cent. between 20 and 24. More than 60 per cent. were under 35 at desertion.

More than one-third of all the women appeared to have had extra marital conceptions, and 8.2 per cent. had illegitimate children. A high proportion of pre-marital conceptions was evident amongst those who had married at 20 or less. In marriages lasting less than five years, 55.5 per cent. of the women appeared to have had extra marital conceptions. For various reasons, these estimates are probably conservative.

Three-quarters of the women were under 25, and three-quarters of the husbands under 30 at marriage.

Nearly one-quarter of the women married men younger than themselves.

The increasing number of deserted wives receiving pensions first became apparent in the immediate post-war period, particularly during the year ended the 30th June, 1947. The rise was most marked in the case of women with children. Sharp rises in this group occurred in every State ranging from 56.8 per cent. in Queensland to 21.8 per cent. in Tasmania. Increases in other States were—Western Australia, 44.3 per cent.; New South Wales, 43.3 per cent.; South Australia, 32.1 per cent.; and Victoria, 29 per cent.

I read that document to show that this is a real social problem and to ask the Minister for Child Welfare to do all he can to investigate it for the sake of the women and the children who are suffering great hardship. They are women who hide their troubles and who are reluctant to take action against their husbands. Such a woman will not sign an order of commitment against her husband, because she takes the view that he is the father of her children and she does not want them later in life to feel the stigma of his imprisonment.

Therefore, I hope the Minister will look into that matter which I brought before Mr. Hawke last session. I know that the Child Welfare Department has some interest in the problem.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: You can blame all that on booze.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: In speaking of this problem, I cannot help but think what a blessing the Marriage Guidance Council could be. I attended a meeting of that organisation the other evening and if any organisation should be assisted in order to solve this problem, it should be the Marriage Guidance Council. It appears to be doing an excellent job, and if it were given greater financial assistance, I am sure it would be well worth while because it has a very good record.

I hope the Minister will take the work of that council into consideration when he is reviewing the problems of child welfare.

At the commencement of the session I asked the Minister several questions. The first was—

As the Liberal-Country Party Government is now in control of both the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly will the Minister introduce a Bill this session to grant adult franchise for the Legislative Council?

The answer I received was a very curt "No."

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The answer was not curt, but quite polite.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I then asked this question—

In view of the Minister's refusal to consider adult franchise for the Legislative Council, will he, at least, consider granting the democratic right of a vote in the Legislative Council to the housewives of Western Australia?

And the Minister's reply was—

The Government does not contemplate changing the system which continues to operate satisfactorily in the interests of Western Australia.

I am going to challenge that statement in a moment or two. I want to read to the House the other questions and the answers given to them before I deal with it. I put this question to the Minister—

What is the cost per year to the people of Western Australia of the Legislative Council, including printing and other incidentals?

The answer I received was—

The cost varies somewhat from year to year. The last time the hon. member asked a similar question was on the 9th July, 1957, and I refer her to the answer given on that date which is recorded in Votes and Proceedings, Vol. 1, No. 31 of 1957.

I asked that question because I wanted an up-to-date answer. I then asked the Minister the following question:—

What is the cost to the taxpayers of Western Australia of the Legislative Council for 1958-59, including printing and other incidentals?

This is the up-to-date answer I got from the Minister—

The cost of the Legislative Council for 1958-59 was £86,921. This figure excludes reporting of *Parliamentary Debates* and other printing for Parliament which cannot readily be allocated.

I wonder why? Continuing—

—but does include payment of £2,385 to the hon. member, representing Parliamentary salary, reimbursement expenses, and postage stamps.

I accuse the Minister of giving me an insulting reply. I now ask him: Does the cost of the Legislative Council include the payment of his £5,000 salary or thereabouts?

#### *Point of Order*

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: On a point of order, Mr. President, I ask for a withdrawal of the remarks made by the hon. member. She said that the reply I gave was insulting. However, I would point out that the reply I gave to her was the truth and I regret that the hon. member has not accepted it in that light. Further, I would point out that I do not receive £5,000 salary a year or anything like it, unfortunately.

The PRESIDENT: Will the hon. member withdraw her statement?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I could not hear what the Minister said.

The PRESIDENT: The Minister has asked that the statement the hon. member made be withdrawn.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am not prepared to withdraw it because I consider that his answer was absolutely insulting. My question was put in the proper way and I think the Minister meant to be insulting in his reply.

The PRESIDENT: I hope the hon. member will withdraw her statement. I hope she will give some consideration to complying with the Minister's request.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am not going to withdraw my statement.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The remark I wish withdrawn is the accusation by the hon. member made against me that my reply to her was insulting. I do not desire to pursue this matter, however.

The PRESIDENT: Could the Minister give the hon. member some idea of what he wants withdrawn?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The hon. member's accusation that my answer to her question was insulting, and the fact that she challenged me to something or other. However, Mr. President, I do not propose to pursue the matter. We are getting so used to similar remarks made by the hon. member that I am prepared to let the matter drop.

#### *Debate Resumed*

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I asked those questions because, to me, the franchise of this House is a burning question. I challenged the franchise of the Legislative Council when I started my campaign for the Suburban Province in 1951. When I won that seat in 1954, I entered this Chamber with the set object of trying to get sufficient Labour members in this House to move for the abolition of the Legislative Council.

I would not quibble about forgoing my salary as a member of this House if the Minister would urge his party to introduce a Bill to abolish this Chamber. I would walk out of it with the greatest of pleasure. It has never paid me anything that I am not capable of earning elsewhere. All along the line I have said that the franchise of this House is undemocratic. It is an insult to the people of Western Australia. I asked the Minister to introduce a Bill to give the franchise to the housewives to vote at Legislative Council elections, because I am of the opinion that at the moment they are penalised by being denied the right to vote for a member of this House. When a man rents a house his wife is denied a vote; and if he is purchasing a house in his own name only, she is still denied a vote.

We boast of our democratic way of life and our democratic Government, but until the franchise for this House is liberalised and everyone has the right to vote in the same way as for the Legislative Assembly, we cannot live up to that boast. People can be fined £2 if they do not vote at a Legislative Assembly election, yet thousands of those same people are denied a vote for the Legislative Council in which House every piece of legislation introduced in another place has to be approved. I ask you, Sir, whether that is fair. When the Minister, in answering my question, stated that the system in force continued to operate satisfactorily, I want to know now what he meant by that.

Thousands of people rebel against it. Enrolment cards are going into the Electoral Office every day, signed by Labour Party members who are waking up to this matter. When I first started canvassing the electors as a candidate for membership in this House, the number on the roll was 15,000, if that many. Today the number has increased to 40,000. That shows the people are beginning to see that something is wrong and to realise there is a need to alter the franchise of this House.

Western Australia has the narrowest franchise of all the nations in the British Commonwealth. Even the Liberal Government of South Australia has extended the franchise to servicemen. In Victoria the Liberal Government extended the franchise to all adults. We find that in New Zealand the Nationalist Party itself abolished the Upper House; and in New South Wales the members of the Upper House are elected by the Government itself.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member is getting away from the subject matter of the debate. She should refrain from passing adverse comments about other Parliaments.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Surely I am permitted to draw comparisons with the other States, especially when I know there is adult franchise in Victoria, and

there is a wider franchise in South Australia than there is in this State! Queensland abolished the Upper House years ago, yet Western Australia has retained this House. Forgive me, Mr. President, if I get hot under the collar when I speak about this matter. It is the Labour Party which is being penalised all the time. I belong to the Labour Party, because it is the greatest party for social reform which the world has ever known. It has its feet on the ground. It represents the common people. It is the greatest reform force that the world has ever seen. In its short life of 60 to 70 years it has permeated every avenue of society; it has changed laws; it has ameliorated the conditions of the people; and it has brought about reforms in many countries.

As an individual and as a member of Parliament I believe in the policy of the Labour Party. That was my reason for offering myself as a candidate for election to this House. I would walk out tomorrow if by doing so I could close for all time the doors of this Chamber. This Chamber is like a cross on the shoulders of the people of the State.

The PRESIDENT: Will the hon. member resume her seat? I draw her attention to Standing Order 394 which states that no member shall use offensive words against either House of Parliament. I would ask the hon. member to keep within the terms of that Standing Order.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I do not know what offensive words I have used. I thought I had the right to stand up and advocate the principle in which I believed.

The PRESIDENT: Within reason.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I have a right to disagree with the existing franchise of this House, just as much as members of the Government have a right to uphold it. I think they have been more unfair than I.

I would like to point out the following example. A man may be living in a house with his wife and eight adult children. They all have a vote in respect of the Legislative Assembly elections; yet in respect of the Legislative Council the mother and the eight adult children might be deprived of a vote. I realise that the Press gives very little attention to what transpires in this House. The restriction of the franchise of this House is prolonged because, purposely, little or no mention is made about it in the Press. Any publicity on this matter is given by persons walking wearily through the streets in an effort to enrol, and inform, prospective electors.

Would you, Mr. President, say that I have nothing to complain about? Probably you would, because you are not a member of the party to which I belong. The existing position might suit you, but it does not suit me. In the interests of the workers whom I represent, I protest.

I would like to draw attention to the subject of the franchise for women. The Salic law from 500 to 750 A.D. forbade women to vote or take any part in the Government of the country; and that outlook is still reflected in this House. How the Liberal and Country parties hang on to outmoded ways! In the year 1959, in an atomic age, we retain a law which restricts the rights of women.

That law was in vogue a long time ago, in another country, but the very same restriction still exists in Western Australia with the passing of all those centuries. Women are not allowed to have a franchise for this House in many cases. The time has come when the Government must give consideration to this matter. It will have to do so when the Labour Party has a majority in this House. I hope that consideration will be given to my contention that the wife of a person renting a house should be given a vote. I do not make any apology for fighting for the franchise for women. I shall fight for it as long as I am here.

It is one of the reasons why we do not progress. When the Labour Party is in office in this State most people seem to think that it is the Government. In actual fact, no legislation is allowed to pass through this House unless it is approved by the Liberal and Country Party. I object to such a state of affairs. I say that any State, under those conditions, would be better off with one House, with a Government elected by the people, so that when such a Government made a decision it would be able to implement it.

The last point to which I wish to refer is the attitude of the present Government towards the day-labour system of construction. Statements which were recently made about the employment position being better than it was last year are not true; such statements have caused consternation throughout the State. The action of the Government has deprived many deserving people of their security and peace of mind. To my mind the way in which the last election was fought left much to be desired.

I wish to quote a statement made by the Premier (Mr. Brand) when the Liberal Party was campaigning. He said—

We will fire nobody, nor close any concerns down. What we intend is to make them first payable, based on sound business principles, instead of departmental principles, and when this is done we will put them on their own as public companies with shares on the stock market to continue their operations as free enterprise concerns. Their 6,300 personnel will remain in their jobs as far as the Government is concerned.

Less than a month after Parliament opened, the whole of that statement turned out to be false, because the first

thing which the new Premier did was to sack people from the Public Works Department. He is sacking them week by week.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: That is not a trading concern.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I want to know where the Government will place these displaced men. It is true they are walking around the streets looking for employment. It is true that private enterprise in some cases is taking men on for a few days and then putting them off. It is true that all kinds of subversive things are going on. This Government stands indicted. It stands disgraced for going back on its promises to the people of this State. If it had to go before the people now everyone knows what would happen. It is a fact that it has not kept its word. It has descended to great depths in its effort to win office.

I wish to refer once more to the subject of the franchise, by quoting from the book by Dr. Crowley. On page 18 he referred to the East Perth and the West Perth electorates, and the attempt to strike electors off the roll. One would have thought that with such a narrow franchise in this State the Government would have carefully refrained from interfering with the functions of the Electoral Office and from making complaints about people being on the roll. This is what Dr. Crowley had to say on page 18—

A highlight of the election campaign was the attempt by the Liberal Party to debar several hundred persons on the rolls of the vital East and West Perth electoral districts. Three weeks before polling day notices were issued to 727 voters to appear in the Perth Police Court to show cause why their names should not be struck off the roll. The action had not been instigated by the Electoral Department but by two objectors on the same rolls, who had lodged 2s. 6d. for each objection (£90 17s. 6d.). The ground of objection was that the people concerned no longer lived at the addresses shown on the rolls. Both the East Perth and West Perth lists had been closely checked by the Liberal Party, and, in accordance with the provisions of the State Electoral Act, the cases had to be heard before the finalisation of the roll 14 days before the General Elections. (Separate rolls were kept for State and Federal elections by different authorities, as the electoral boundaries were not co-terminous and there were different residence qualifications; under State electoral law three months' residence was required of an applicant, in contrast to the Federal electoral law which required only one month.)

The application to disenrol the 396 East Perth electors was heard before magistrate Draper on the 4th March.

who dismissed all the actions, ordered the forfeiture of the 2s. 6d. deposits and directed the payment of costs to eight of the electors who appeared in person (15s. each). The objections were made by Niels Waldemar Thomsen, and the evidence had been collected by a paid canvasser of the Liberal Party, John Frederick Singleton, who had used the roll completed up to the 31st May, 1958. However, the chief Electoral Officer, G. Mathea, produced the most recently amended roll, and in a test case one of the electors—with the assistance of Labour Cabinet Minister and East Perth member H. E. Graham—proved that he had never left the address given on the roll. The magistrate refused to accept hearsay evidence obtained from several persons that he was not at that address, and in the course of the hearing the Crown Prosecutor said that there was nothing in the Electoral Act to say a person should be struck off the roll because of a change of address within the electorate, though such a person might, in some circumstances, be prosecuted for failing to notify the Electoral Office of his change of address—"No change of circumstances, short of proving that the person objected to has not only changed his address but left the district for six months, is ground for disenrolment." When the first objection was dismissed no further evidence was offered to disenrol the other electors.

The application to disenrol 331 West Perth electors came before magistrate Ansell on the 5th March. However, the hearing ended abruptly when counsel for R. I. Viner, a paid canvasser of the Liberal Party, asked permission to withdraw the applications, and the magistrate ordered the forfeiture of the deposits and the payment of witnesses' fees. Two of the electors were represented by West Perth Labour M.L.A., Stanley Heal, who pointed out that they had lived continuously at the addresses given on the roll for the previous three years, and the magistrate agreed that there were insufficient grounds for objection.

I was in the Electoral Office when these objections were brought in, and I saw them made. I went with Mr. Graham to visit these electors in East Perth. I saw 13 people, and only three of them had ever changed their address. I draw the attention of members listening to me, to that act of, I would say, political vandalism that was perpetrated by the Liberal and Country Parties that now hold office.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I ask that the words "Country Party" be withdrawn from that statement.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I withdraw those words, because it was a Liberal Party canvasser who was concerned. I apologise to the Minister.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Thank you.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The time has come when we must take a second look at this question, and think about what I am saying with respect to the Legislative Council franchise. This kind of thing can go on, and be carried out by a party, a Minister of which tells me that it is not the Government's intention to alter a franchise that proves satisfactory to the people of Western Australia. I want to tell the Minister that it is far from satisfactory. As a matter of fact, in my opinion the franchise is a downright disgrace, and is undemocratic; and I am ashamed to be associated with any place that has a franchise such as this.

**THE HON. J. G. HISLOP** (Metropolitan) [8.35]: After every storm there comes a calm. I desire to offer my congratulations—as so many other members have done—to those fortunate enough to occupy the responsible posts of Ministers in this House. I also offer my congratulations to Mr. Ron Thompson, our new member, and wish him well; as was wished me when I first entered the Chamber.

I suppose every person has, humanly, a sense of vanity and, at times, likes to take a little credit for something that has happened. Prior to coming to the House, I received some good advice from an older member who had preceded me. He said, "Never be disturbed in regard to any suggestion you make, because it will always be negative; and then, five years later, someone else will put it up and receive credit for it."

I have always adopted that attitude here and have never been disappointed. I remember years ago, when I came back from the States, I made it my business to approach those who, I thought, were in a position to assist, and I suggested to them that there was in the United States a wide open meat market for meat from Australia; and that there could be established in the United States, areas through which we could sell our mutton, even though the American is said to dislike mutton. I knew quite well that the protein supply of the Americans was much lower than ours, and that the time would come when they would welcome imports of meat from this State. I am afraid I was laughed at, and was told that I did not know anything about the business. However, I am delighted to see that within recent times our meat exports to America—and other parts including South-East Asia—have increased considerably.

I always wondered why one could see large shipments of mutton and beef going from Port Alma in Queensland to Manila, when shipments from this part of the world could reach Manila much more quickly. I still feel that we on this side of Australia have an opportunity which

we should not miss with respect to exporting to those countries, including Manila, which lie close to us.

I was also interested to hear, at a conference, the suggestion made by our Premier that he had come to the conclusion that there was no way, really, of getting done, in the North-west, what is required there, other than by appointing an administrator and providing him with people to assist him, these people to be made available by election or by appointment. That method would have a lot to commend it. I have been of that opinion ever since I made my first visit to the North-West. Particularly after the Whim Creek meeting, I realised how impossible it was to govern that country from this distance. With the multiplicity of departments that we have in Perth, that have to be called together to achieve anything for the North-West, I felt that the quickest and most satisfactory method of achieving anything for that country would be by the appointment of an administrator, who should be supplied, possibly, with a small council consisting of some appointed and some elected members.

I am interested to know that after this length of time, someone else has got the same idea; and that someone else is in a much better position to do something about the matter than I am.

This afternoon we listened to an address on the North-West, and without any hesitation I would say it could have been given only by a statesman of quality, experience, and sincerity of purpose; and I would like to offer those words in congratulating Mr. Wise. Unfortunately for me, I have not visited the Kimberleys, but Mr. Wise has had wide experience of the areas and conditions about which he told us this afternoon. What he said should be read by every Western Australian, and should be sent to Canberra for digestion by the authorities there; even though one realises from Mr. Wise's speech that his words have previously been uttered in Canberra without great result.

There were one or two matters in Mr. Wise's speech that made me wonder. The first statement he made that caused me to think was that the rivers running west could be used by people of other countries to provide subsistence for large populations. I think he added the words that they would probably not provide the standard of living required by Australians. This made me wonder whether we, as a people, were justified in keeping other people from living there. If a man of Mr. Wise's experience tells us that this portion of our continent cannot produce a standard of living to which the Australians have become accustomed, then it gives us cause for thought. We should consider our policy in regard to quotas and the introduction into the country of people from other races.

Furthermore, the hon. member, throughout his speech, impressed me with the hopelessness of governing that country from here. It made me wonder whether the suggestion of an administrator for the North-West could not be duplicated by appointing a local administrator in the Kimberleys.

It is a misfortune that Mr. Wise is not 20 years younger than he is, because then the Government could have offered him the job of being administrator of that area, and something might have been done.

It is also interesting that, in view of the fact, apparently, that the Commonwealth Government has at last seen wisdom and is contributing up to £5,000,000 towards work in that area, it has now been decided that a number of members of the Federal Parliament should visit the northern part of this State. I suggest that a large proportion of members in the two Houses of the State Parliament, who will have to make decisions regarding the North-West and the Kimberleys, have never seen either region, and I think it would be fitting if they were taken to view those parts of the State.

I have said before that it appears to me a most unwise proceeding for us to sit here and try, in complete ignorance of local conditions, to suggest what should be done to a distant part of our land. I put to the Commonwealth Government the suggestion that, if it is going to send to the Kimberleys a plane with some of its members on board, it might as well provide a larger plane and take some of the members of the Western Australian Parliament, and let them see at first hand this country over which they have jurisdiction.

Before I leave the subject of the Commonwealth, I would like to say that something should be done to investigate the possibility of a superannuation or national insurance scheme to cover the whole of the population of this great land.

It seems to me to be completely ridiculous that the whole of our financial and social system should encourage an individual to spend his savings before a pension can be granted—in other words to penalise thrift. I think it has been forgotten that probably there will still be a number of people who will be in receipt of a pension but who will still have to pay income tax if a national insurance scheme is instituted; in such cases possibly a considerable proportion of that pension, payable to people over 60 years of age, would be returned in taxation to the Federal Government.

Instead of saying "No, it is impossible," an attitude of mind should be developed that it is possible, and what are the means we can use to bring it into being. We could then let the people of Australia know that there was a chance of meeting their wishes. I understand that according to a

Gallup poll conducted recently 71 per cent. of the people questioned were in favour of a national insurance scheme. Surely, when such a percentage of people are so minded, it is up to the Government of the Commonwealth to make perfectly certain that its statement that the scheme is impractical is looked at from every angle before it is finally discarded! I would say that the people of Australia are so minded that it must eventually become part of our social structure, and the means test, in relation to pensions, abolished.

Getting down to more local matters, I would like to have some information from the Minister in charge as to whether agreement is being reached regarding the sale of milk in cartons rather than in bottles. It seems extraordinary to me that the Milk Board can simply tell the depot people that they cannot sell milk in cartons at the price they ask for it, when it is certainly not going to be compulsory for people to buy their milk in cartons. They will have the choice as to whether they buy their milk in cartons or in bottles. Consequently I cannot see any reason why the Milk Board should refuse to allow these milk vendors to say to the public, "You can have your milk in cartons or we will carry out the directions of the Milk Board and supply in bottles if you wish. If you wish to have the milk supplied in cartons you will have to pay the extra cost."

The Hon. G. Bennetts: What is the difference in cost?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I think it is 1½d. a pint. One has to look at this matter from a sane point of view rather than ask a question as to the difference in the cost of supplying milk in cartons and in bottles, because there is a certain amount of work entailed in using bottles. The householder is expected to return the milk bottles clean; they must be cleaned out with warm or hot water. In addition there is always the risk, either in the home or in the street, of injury to persons through broken bottles. I think every one of us has seen the sight of one or more milk bottles broken during the time of delivery and lying on the sidewalks or streets. They constitute a considerable danger to children running with bare feet, or even with shoes on.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Could it be supplied in cans like beer?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I suppose it could be supplied in cans; beer is supplied in tins and tinned beer is now being used in many countries. One of the arguments used against the use of cartons must be looked at very carefully. If I remember rightly, the Chairman of the Milk Board said that the use of cartons would deprive the housewife of seeing the cream line on the milk—she judges the standard of the milk by the cream line.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Half of them would not know anything about it.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I think we should order the homogenisation of all milk, and that would do away with the cream line; it would distribute the cream evenly throughout the milk. It is done by a very simple addition to the pasteurisation plant, and I think we must be one of the last countries to permit the homogenisation of milk. What happens now, of course, in more than one house, is that the cream is taken off by one person and the rest of the family gets milk without any cream.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It is not bad on porridge.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If it were equally distributed by the homogenisation process it would be the answer to the problem. The second reason why I think we must look at this process is this: No longer should we be buying milk because of its cream content.

People buy milk with a high fat content in countries where they do not have other supplies of fat. In this country we have no need to rely on milk for the provision of fat; we rely upon our milk for the provision of solids not fat; we rely on it as a means of providing calcium. Therefore we need no longer rely upon the fat content in the milk.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That would sound almost like heresy to the Milk Board.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I have been a heretic all my days! I would like to see the Milk Board start to buy milk on a butterfat price basis. By that means we would get a better standard of milk; and some dairies, particularly those in the south, which are now experiencing difficulties, and which could achieve a higher fat content—I understand now they are producing 3.7 and 3.8 and are receiving no extra price for it if they sell on a wholemilk basis, but they would if they sold their milk on a butterfat basis—would receive a better return.

We are growing to be a coffee drinking people and one of the most cultured methods of supplying coffee is to serve it black with a small jug of 12 per cent. cream mixture. Many of us have seen this in other countries; in America they seldom supply black coffee without a small jug of this 12 per cent. mixture.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: You are not talking about cafe royal, are you?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: No, but I would accept it if the hon. member offered it to me. If our herds could produce milk with a higher butterfat content we could perhaps encourage people to use this 12 per. cent. fat mixture as coffee cream and, by that means, we could produce a further income for those dairy farmers who are not operating as profitably as they might be.

Whilst I understand that the milk is deprived of some of its fat content to make ordinary cheddar cheese, it is possible, if there is a higher butterfat content in milk, to use the excess fat for the making of creamed cheese. We should be able to make this creamed cheese and make it well because of the type of country we have and the climate we enjoy. This creamed cheese could be made if we permitted the dairies to remove the extra butterfat content, but not below a certain point which could be fixed by law. The extra fat so removed could be used for the making of creamed cheese and for distribution as coffee cream, etc.

In my opinion some investigation should be made into the whole problem of the milk industry, and perhaps the suggestions I have put forward would increase the income of many of our dairy farmers whom many members in this House have said are operating unprofitably at present. I offer these suggestions to those Country Party members who are interested in the problem and I would like to hear their criticism, because I believe that what I have suggested is in keeping with the customs of other countries and, if adopted, would be to our general benefit.

Speaking again on a local subject, I would like to applaud the attitude of the Premier in endeavouring to establish tourism in Western Australia. I agree with him that it will be costly to advertise ourselves, even to the rest of Australia, and it will mean highly priced offices in the various capital cities, and possibly some of the other towns. When one looks at the offices of the other States, scattered throughout Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide, one realises that those offices are concentrated in those portions of the city past which the greatest number of people travel. But before we invite tourists here we must look at our own beauty spots to see whether they are in order.

It is my belief that in years past we have allowed many of our beauty spots to become less beautiful; and I would refer to the control of the rivers in this State. Let us take for example the rivers of the South-West—the Frankland, and the Deep River in the Nornalup Estuary, and the Blackwood at Augusta—and see what has happened to them in past years. Thirty years ago it was possible to go by launch through the Walpole Estuary and up the Frankland River past the township of Nornalup, and from there along one of the most beautiful portions of the river for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to what was then known as the monastery. Today it is impossible for anyone, except those who live in the district and know every inch of the river, to take a launch beyond Nornalup township.

The whole of the river is blocked by tree trunks which have fallen across the river or into it, and it is dangerous to take one's launch up the river because a branch

of a tree could tear the bottom out of the boat. The same applies to the Deep River, which is possibly one of the best bream fishing rivers in that area. It is not possible to go more than 200 or 300 yards beyond the jetty of what was known as Thompson's at Tinglewood, because the river is blocked by logs. These trees have fallen down over the years and have been left there; yet those two rivers are sheer delights from a tourist point of view.

I do not know whether any member has had the experience in the month of May—it is called the windless month—of travelling in a launch along the portion of the Frankland River which I have mentioned, or even along the Deep River, when the surface has been covered by Eucalyptus gum which is lying motionless on the top of the water. One has the most extraordinary experience of seeming to travel between two heavens.

It is a black mirror which mirrors for a mile or so on each side, this narrow river, the Deep. One has an uncanny feeling of travelling between two worlds which can only be experienced, I understand, in those two rivers, and in one portion of America. It is not known elsewhere. That statement might seem exaggerated, but it is made frequently.

There should be the possibility of clearing out the Blackwood River in some way. One can get as far as Molloy Island, but one cannot get much further. Indeed I am told that one cannot even get that far. We have good rivers for fishing; rivers that could be filled with fish, and we are sadly neglecting them year by year. It seems to me that until we review all our tourist resorts, it is not much use saying to the tourists abroad, "We have a lot you can see." I would applaud some real move to make accommodation more attractive at Rottnest, because I do not think the tourist from abroad would be very pleased with the accommodation which we have put up with at Rottnest over the years. They would want something better than that.

Let us have a look at some of our estuaries. I am going back 30 years when I say that the Walpole and Nornalup Estuaries were delightful places for the line fisherman. But the net fishermen were allowed to net in these estuaries, with the result that at times it is impossible to get a bite. Not far this side of Walpole and Nornalup inlets is Brooks Inlet. It is only the very courageous who can get to Brooks Inlet. Yet it is a large inlet, and a delightful place for fishing, if one is prepared to take a certain amount of risk and able to handle one's boat. The fish to be obtained in Brooks Inlet are really fish. But if we let the net fishermen into Brooks Inlet as we did at Nornalup and Walpole we will be in the same position and we will destroy our tourist attraction.



We have our own house to put in order. When the question of a Swan River conservation committee was mooted I suggested that we might have a rivers commission charged with looking after all works. It was at one time possible to take a canoe from Kojonup down to Augusta. It has been done, but I do not think it could be done now.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: My nephew tried from Bridgetown but he could not get there.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: There we have the story, but what are we doing about it? Every member agrees with me that this is what is happening, and yet we are asking people to come here without finding some remedy for this position. We have in the South-West quite a lot to attract people. Walpole is growing, and will continue to grow, into a delightful town and, situated as it is on the Walpole Inlet, it is a very wonderful spot.

It could be one of the finest yachting and launch resorts in the State. I suggest to the Premier that he might get on with this in a hurry, because there are places to which we can attract visitors, and there are places which are in such condition that they need immediate attention.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: They can relax up North.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: We have finished with the North at the moment.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Go down to Esperance for a bit of a blow.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I am going to ask for an assurance from the Minister for Mines and Housing that the fears of the people in Floreat Park will be set at rest in regard to the types of houses that are to be built for the Empire Games.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I have tried my best to allay their fears.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: The Minister has not allayed my fears, nor those of a lot of other people.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What do you suggest I do?

The Hon. E. M. Davies: Give him a King's Park pool.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I understand the housing for the Empire Games is referred to as a village. A village formation can have serious drawbacks. I am told, on quite reasonable authority, that there is trouble in the Heidelberg village because of the fact that no fences were built between the houses; and houses were dotted in a rather village fashion so that the people now have to cut across the properties of others to get to the streets.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: That is a friendly system.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It creates a good deal of ill-feeling. If there is to be a suburb built in Floreat Park, it should conform with the present City Council's

plans. So long as it maintains that, well and good. I understand the type of houses going up will be valued at £4,500. They will be minor types of houses, because in Floreat Park most of the houses cost more than that. So long as they are not a mixture of all sorts of buildings, and as long as the format of Floreat Park is maintained, I think the fears of the public will be set at rest.

The sooner the Minister is able to place a plan before us, so that we, and the public generally, can see what is intended, the better it will be for him and his department. Only today a suggestion came into my mind. It might be worthless, but on the other hand it might be worth looking at. I don't know how far the Hale School building will have progressed by 1962, but that school will need dormitories for its boarders. I wonder whether it would not be possible, with the loan which the Minister anticipates, to assist Hale School—again only as a loan—in building its dormitories possibly more rapidly than it may otherwise be able to do, and to house some of the athletes in the dormitories.

Any scheme that can be evolved whereby the use of money can be made towards buildings that will fill a permanent purpose, and retain the general format of Floreat Park, would be greatly appreciated by members of the public. I have not discussed what I have said about Hale School with anybody. I am only looking for a means of suggesting to the Minister how he might get some use out of the buildings erected in the district.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I understand we have 1,500 athletes to accommodate.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I would not say they should all be put in the Hale School dormitories; but we could accommodate 100 or 200 there, because there would be a large number of boarders attending Hale School, and it might ease the Minister's building problems.

I would like to congratulate the Perth Road Board, because I believe it is the intention of that body to use the hollow land which is north of Scarborough, and between there and Triggs Island, as a music bowl. If there is anything that should deserve public support, it is the use of that almost heaven-sent gift of land which would ideally fill the purpose of a bowl. It has the advantage of having, at the back of where the bowl would be, the ocean acting as a sounding board, which by far produces the best form of sounding board for such a bowl. As we know it was used on the Potomac River in Washington and again on the Charles River in Boston, two of the world's best bowls. It has all the facilities without the necessary excavations having to be carried out to provide the necessary seating accommodation for thousands of people. I hope the Perth Road Board makes that land its

own, if it is not already its own; and I hope it gets on with the project at the earliest possible date.

I now come to my first complaint. I refer to the condition of the city streets. I do not know what has happened, but it is like a switchback to take a drive along Hay-st. towards West Perth, particularly over the area where the tramlines have been removed. Is there still a battle between the Perth City Council and the Metropolitan Transport Trust as to who is responsible for the area that was previously looked after by the Tramways Department? Is argument still going on between them; because these portions of the streets are deteriorating all the time, and it certainly makes motoring in the city streets uncomfortable? By comparison when one gets outside the city one finds better streets than in the city confines. There must be something wrong when a tramline can be pulled up and temporary fillings put in. I gather there was disagreement as to who was to be responsible for the area of streets over which the trams had previously run. I trust the Minister is able to tell me what is happening.

I now come into Mr. Bennett's realms of life. I want to have a word to say about the Perth-Kalgoorlie train.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: You are stealing his speech.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I have often had mine stolen. I understand it was contemplated to build a new train, and I had hoped that we would therefore be able to see a replica of the Brisbane-Cairns train which goes by the name of the "Sunderlander." It is a beautiful air-conditioned train. The first shock I received was when I learned from the previous Minister for Railways that it was decided not to air-condition the train. I understand now that there is some doubt about the train being built at all.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: You mean this Government is not going to build it.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I do not know; I am only asking questions. One thing I would like to impress on the Minister for Railways, is that even if no new train is built, or conceived, he should see that the lounge car is reasonably comfortable! I do not think anyone has complained about the sleeping accommodation on the trains.

The lounge, the kitchen and diningroom are shocking. In view of the fact that we are going to attract tourists, I think that what I suggest is only reasonable. Despite the fact that our good friend would like the Kalgoorlie station improved, I do not think that would help in the slightest, compared to what the provision of a railway lounge and dining-car would do.

I have one very definite complaint to make in regard to a bucket of milk. As one goes around the passage-way of the train past the kitchen into the dining

saloon one will find on the right-hand side a large can of milk. I have seen an arm in a sweater go down into that milk can and come up again. It must go up and down many times during the three sittings for meals! I cannot understand why—in view of the fact that we can send small bottles of milk to country towns—we cannot supply small individual bottles of milk to that train.

I have complained about it before, but that can still stays there. It is crude to say the least of it; and it will shock anybody who travels on that train. The kitchen must be one of the worst places in which to work that one could ever conceive. While on trips on the train I had a look to see whether conditions had improved, and I thought they were, if anything, worse. Now we have diesel trains surely a power line could be taken to supply electricity to the kitchen so that at least it would be less hot than it is.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: They cook on a wood stove.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Yes, and the Minister should see the type of wood they are supplied with.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: If the service is speeded up they will not want a kitchen.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: Perhaps meals could be supplied similar to those on aeroplanes.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If the service were speeded up it would work.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: The new diesel engines will do it.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I am not worried about the standard of the meals that are supplied, but I am about the conditions under which people are expected to work. How the girls do the job in the kitchen and how the cooks ever manage to cook in it beggars me. I do not know how it is done.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: The train is stationary when the meals are cooked.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I think it is impossible no matter which way it is done. I would ask the Minister for Railways if it is not possible for some of the individuals who are looking for jobs to become red caps.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They are wanted badly.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I cannot concede the inconvenience of travellers in this State. One has to lug his luggage everywhere he desires to go. Surely there must be room for the employment of red caps on the station. I admit we have not a vast amount of traffic as compared with many other central stations; but we see women and children and aged men carting luggage, and we could quite well look at

the matter of appointing some of these out-of-work men to the job of red caps on the Perth station.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: There are vacancies there.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: There are three or four there.

The Hon. J. D. Teahan: Nobody wants them.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Remuneration from travellers is too small.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: Another point the Minister should note is that on our railways we allow those travelling to take everything but the kitchen sink into the cabin, and there is not much room for the second traveller. It is of interest that on both the American and the Japanese railways this position is not tolerated. I saw that the porter on the station in Japan would not allow anyone to take such luggage with him; it must be registered in the van. As one goes through the gate one is told that luggage must be placed in the van, and people are able to travel in greater comfort than on our railways.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I saw an old girl the other night with a budgie.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I can assure the hon. member that a budgie would not take up very much room; certainly not as much room as some of the luggage I have had to put up with. I have spoken for quite a long time, Sir, but I have a lot to deal with. I now wish to refer to hospitals and the medical administration of the State to see if I can offer some constructive criticism. Recently, the administrator of the Royal Perth Hospital announced that plans were in mind to build a hostel on the vacant land on the diminished 4½ acres on the opposite side of Wellington-st. This was to be designed so that people coming from the country should reside in the hostel rather than take up vacant beds within the hospital. When we realise that a bed in the Royal Perth Hospital costs somewhere in the vicinity of £4 10s. a day, it is not reasonable that the people who are waiting for vacancies should occupy those beds when they could quite well be out-patients.

This principle is adopted in many other parts of the world. In 1947-48 I returned from America where I had seen this in action in the Mayo Clinic, and I suggested when the new hospital was being built that something like that procedure should be adopted here. I suggest that the hospital authorities do not go to the expense of building a hostel to accommodate all the people who come down from the country for admission, but rather that there is room for private enterprise in this regard.

The Mayo Clinic in America does not admit any person to hospital until his condition has been diagnosed, unless that person is urgently ill. Chronic cases are

not admitted until such time as they have been under observation, and X-rayed, and clinical and pathological tests have been completed. These people live in the vicinity of the Mayo Clinic. If one had a million dollars one could live in the Kahler hotel in those days for 14 dollars a night; and if one had not that much money one could go down as low as 1½ dollars for a bed-sitting room with a bath and toilet. Many of the houses in that city offer accommodation of this sort, and it is constantly let to people who are awaiting admission to the clinical hospitals.

Around Perth and suburbs there are many people who would be quite willing to establish this small type of accommodation at a reasonable cost. They would have to be authorised by the Royal Perth Hospital as having suitable places and being suitable people. Once that was done the people concerned would have no responsibility for those who occupied the rooms. By this means the Government would be saved the large expenditure of putting up a hostel to house quite a large number of people. I am quite sure that if consideration were given to this scheme we would find that many people would be willing to provide such accommodation and it would be a means of profit to them and to the Perth Hospital, and a blessing to the Government in the saving of expenditure.

It is in this way, I think, that we have to face hospital questions. We have to realise that the cost of hospitals is growing out of all proportion; and if we are to use our hospitals properly we must use them according to the work that can be performed in them. There is no reason, in my opinion, why after a few days in a public hospital, if an individual only needs nursing care and not specialist treatment from the point of view of equipment, he should not be transported to a district hostel located around the city.

I say this for the reason that the most recent medical school hospital erected in Australia is the Queen Elizabeth in Adelaide, and it cost £20,000 for each bed. Therefore, these beds must be used for their proper purpose.

One of the great mistakes made here is that C class hospitals are not graded. C class hospitals should be taken out of the hands of the local authority and put into the hands of the department looking after hospitals; and some of them should be graded A minus hospitals so that an individual could be transferred from a major central hospital to an A minus or A2 hospital, whatever one likes to term it. At the moment, they are C class hospitals because they do not contain a surgical theatre.

One or two of these hospitals have been erected and they are first class structures. They are maintained by a fully-trained nursing staff and could fulfil the needs of

these people very well. If a person is admitted to an A class hospital and then transferred to what is now known as a convalescent home, that person receives nothing from the Hospital Benefit Fund, although he receives the Commonwealth grant. However, if he is in an A class hospital for the whole term of his illness he receives insurance from the Hospital Benefits Fund plus the Commonwealth grant. But, the moment a person is transferred to a convalescent home he loses the Hospital Benefits Fund payment.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: What if a person is in a C class hospital?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: That person would get the full amount from the Hospital Benefit Fund plus the Commonwealth grant if primarily admitted to the C class hospital. The keeping of people in the central hospital, when they could be admitted to these other places, is only adding to our problem. The time is coming when beds will have to be provided by private hospitals; and that will be a costly business. We could lessen the need at the moment by building up the C class hospitals to a standard where they could be used for the purpose I have mentioned.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Are they all fully occupied today?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: No. What is more, this would create a demand which would be met by private people, again saving Government funds. I think the time has come when medicine and hospital problems have grown to such an extent in this State that something more than the present administration is required. To explain what I mean, I might mention that recently in the Press I learnt that it had been decided to build a 60-bed hospital at Osborne Park. I have asked for the names of the people on the State Health Council, because apparently they are some of the people who make the decisions in regard to such hospitals.

Of those who are members of the State Health Council, only one has administered a hospital, and I refer to Dr. Thorburn, who was Medical Superintendent of Royal Perth. It is only people with actual administrative experience who can give sound advice on such matters. This 60-bed hospital cannot be an economic proposition. The Mount Hospital, with 90-odd beds, is not an economic proposition; yet the 60-bed hospital will have to have a matron of the same calibre and all the same overhead costs; because it must have a matron and housekeeper and deputy, as well as sisters in charge of the wards, and staff to do three shifts per day. That 60-bed hospital can only be an item of expense to the community.

If it were to be a 150-bed hospital, it could fulfil all the needs of modern medicine and surgery; and so there arises the

question of where such places should be built. My maiden speech in this Chamber was on the question of a charities commission. One of the rights of the Charities Commission in Victoria is to direct any body of people, even if they have the money, in regard to where a hospital shall be built. For instance, I would never have contemplated a hospital on the site of St. John of God at Belmont; because I think a hospital should be sited in accordance with traffic routes and there are few traffic routes over the river. The bridges over the river are a considerable distance from that hospital, so that everyone attending it must come from within an arc.

I feel that a similar mistake was made at South Perth; because although the new hospital there is on the corner of Coode-st. and South Terrace, it is still very close to the river. There is a crying need for a hospital on the south side of the river somewhere near the pine plantation and, if built there, it could service the area from Victoria Park out to Kenwick and Manning, as well as South Perth. The ultimate fate of the South Perth hospital might be to be reserved as a mid-wifery hospital; while a 150-bed hospital might have to be built at the pine plantation; because there is a population of at least 40,000 people to be served—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The South Perth institution is not a public hospital.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: No, but a charities commission with the powers to which I have referred could have told those people where the hospital must be built, and I think that is a question that must be examined. Even at the risk of making myself thoroughly disliked at this moment, I still wonder whether Albany was the right site for a hospital rather than Mt. Barker. Unless Albany grows into a large city the position will be that there will be a hospital there to which everyone must go, although it is not the central place to meet the needs of that population. It is thus that the question of siting hospitals arises.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is why the Lake Grace hospital was sited where it is.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I am pointing to the need for careful consideration of this question. I repeat that there is not a hospital administrator on the State Health Council. There is a growing problem which I think must be debated briefly at this stage: and I refer to the progress in medicine in this State on the investigational side, biochemical, pathological and so on. When I was a member of the board of the Royal Perth Hospital the need for these investigations could not be impressed on the department; but with the coming of the Medical School the absolute necessity for them has become obvious.

We realise that the country areas for years have been starved in regard to the ability to have such investigations carried out; and the department must be applauded for having set up pathological departments in country districts. However, there arises the question of how they are set up and what their future is to be; because at present they are being controlled as Government departments, responsible to the Public Health Department. The officers in those departments are, frankly, State servants, and admittedly, full-time officers. I think we should have some guarantee that such a system will not be built up in competition with the practising profession; because if an expanding avenue of medicine is to be State-controlled, we will not be holding out a great inducement to our medical students to take up that particular line of service.

While we realise that the provision of investigational services in country centres is an absolute necessity, and applaud what is being done, I think we would all be very much happier if we knew they could be built up and controlled on the principle that when the centre concerned grew sufficiently to make it possible for private practitioners to come in and do the work, that would be done, thus making the spread of medical services equal and attractive in all branches to students and others going through the medical schools.

That is possibly what the department intends; but I think the intention should be made clearer. I am stressing that so much progress is being made in medicine and medical services that surely something more than purely departmental decisions in such matters is necessary. It is so easy to build up these services at the expense of the public. We have built up a large pathological investigational area in the Royal Perth Hospital; and now the department is establishing another pathological branch in its laboratories at the Royal Chest Hospital.

There is every reason why the Public Health Department should have a laboratory; but I do not think there is any reason why it should build up another pathological department, which is really in competition with that at the Royal Perth Hospital, where for many years to come the work could be carried out successfully, thus saving a great deal of expense to the Government and the taxpayer. It is this competitive building up which seems to me not to be wise; and so I think the time has arrived when, even if one does not like a commission, there should be a statutory body looking after hospitals and medical services and co-ordinating such things. In view of the introduction of full-time University faculties into a scheme of medicine which has previously been run on an honorary system, and the fact that we find the Public Health Department duplicating services it becomes clear that some over-all guidance is necessary.

It might be suggested that, rather than have this advisory State Health Council, a body should be appointed with statutory powers so that it could act as advisor to the Government in regard to the expenditure of huge sums of money on hospitals. The State Health Council consists entirely of members of the medical profession, with the exception of the Under Secretary, but I think that on it there should also be some businessmen who would look at the expenditure proposed to be incurred. We should have a more equal representation of the country than we have now, as at present there is only one person representing the country areas; yet decisions are made in regard to the country by this council.

I believe a complete revision of the council is necessary, together with the granting to it of statutory powers and the appointment to it of lay people who are prepared to take almost a life interest in the work; as that would give a feeling of security, to both the profession and the general public. All would then feel that medicine, which is progressing so rapidly, would be under the guidance and control of people pledged to give their services to the Government on behalf of the hospitals and the public.

Finally, I wish to make something in the nature of a personal explanation. I asked yesterday if the Minister would permit me to read the verbatim notes of the evidence of Matron Anstey, given before the Industrial Court. I did that in view of the newspaper report of her evidence; which was very heavily criticised by a number of the medical profession and by nurses, as it seemed a most extraordinary statement to emanate from a highly-trained person such as Matron Anstey.

However, in fairness to her, I would point out that her evidence covered pages and pages, whereas the Press report covered only a few inches and bore little semblance of her evidence. Therefore nurse Anstey's evidence does not deserve the criticism that was levelled against the newspaper report.

Again, I would point out briefly that this highlights the struggle that is going on all the time to raise nurses' salaries and to improve their conditions while, at the same time, maintaining the status quo in regard to training methods. Until we get some real alteration in the basic conditions under which nurses work, this trend is going to continue. How lay people on the court are going to make a decision on the evidence I have read, I do not know. I assure the members of this House that until somebody gets right down to work and alters the basis of nurses' conditions and salaries, we will not get anywhere.

Nurses will always be in short supply until such time as they come under a scheme similar to that under which

teachers are trained. This would provide some basis for promotion and would provide for the nurse to spend some portion of her training in country hospitals. It would also provide that her lectures be given to her outside her hours of duty. If all these things are taken into consideration and a nurse is given intellectual training six months earlier, to be completed with the periodic lecture times of her training, an improvement will be effected. Also, her hospital training could be spread over a shorter period than it is now. Such hospital training should also be done in the Royal Perth Hospital, the Chest Hospital, a mental hospital and in a country hospital, and by that means we will be able to circulate the nurses around to staff the various hospitals in the State. We will never staff the hospitals under the present system or under the present regime of the Nurses' Board which unfortunately, is wedded to the existing system.

The time has arrived when something revolutionary has to be done with the nursing profession. Today the whole system is organised to train a nurse to the highest peak, no matter what her educational qualifications may be. She must be a highly qualified nurse. Only a small percentage of the nurses who complete their training use the knowledge they have acquired to the full, and rise in the profession to fill specialised jobs. Until we give a nurse basic training and then allow her to specialise from that point, the present chaotic situation will continue.

I try to tell this story time after time, but possibly the number of years required for such a story to be accepted has not yet elapsed. I have now grown accustomed to wait before I can expect any notice to be taken of suggestions.

**THE HON. R. THOMPSON (West)** [9.50]: Firstly, I express my appreciation of the speech made by His Excellency the Governor at the opening of Parliament. I consider it to be a monument to the work done by the previous Labour Government. I also wish to thank you, Sir, for the help and advice you have rendered to me since I have been elected a member of this House. I extend my best wishes and thanks to the staff of Parliament House for the attention which they have so eagerly given to me. That applies to all of them; I could not single out any one for special thanks.

I also wish to thank the officers of the various Commonwealth and State departments I have visited, because without their help and assistance in the first few months of my being elected to this House, I would have found my job extremely frustrating. Undoubtedly, they made my duties a great deal easier. To the members of the trade union movement and to the hundreds of people who assisted me to gain the office I now hold, I say "Thank you." My appreciation is also extended

to all members of this House who have extended to me their fraternal greetings with great sincerity.

At this point I regret having to mention the name of the man whose place I have filled; namely, the late Hon. Gilbert Fraser. I knew Mr. Fraser for many years and I feel sure that every member of this Chamber will join with me when I say that not only was his passing a loss to this House, but also it was a deep loss to Western Australia in general. I only hope that I will be able to continue with the work he commenced and which he left behind him as a monument.

While I represent the West Province it will be my earnest endeavour to ensure that those facilities which I consider important will be provided as early as possible. The ones that are urgently required in the various areas I have visited include, firstly, the continuation of the dredging of the river on the south-east side of Canning Bridge and the reclamation of the foreshore to provide a suitable beach to be used by the people residing in Manning and the surrounding districts. Those people living on the northern side of Canning Bridge are able to enjoy decent swimming facilities, and I consider that the people in my province should be in a similar position.

Money would be well spent in putting that small beach into a suitable state for bathing in the near future. Another amenity of vital importance is the provision of a jetty at Coogee beach. Such a jetty would be used mainly by school children. At present, scores of classes of school children from the surrounding Fremantle district go to Coogee beach not only to swim, but also to receive swimming instruction, but, at the moment, there are no swimming facilities at that beach although they are most necessary for the conduct of swimming classes. This beach is the safest in the Fremantle district and it is one that could be developed to a greater extent. The South Fremantle beach has been sadly neglected—

**The Hon. L. A. Logan:** It does not exist now, does it?

**The Hon. R. THOMPSON:** The beach is still there, anyway. However, I would like to see greater development put in train at Coogee beach. I also wish to point out that the Applecross State school is anxious to have a hall built on the school grounds for the benefit of the school children and members of the parents and citizens' association. Some correspondence has already been written not only to this Government, but also to the previous Government asking for financial assistance for the erection of such a hall, and I hope that help will be forthcoming. The members of the Applecross Parents and Citizens' Association are quite prepared to take their coats off and help to erect this hall.

which will prove to be of great assistance in the near future to the Education Department itself, because no matter what school one may enter these days, one will find that there is an overflow of school children being accommodated in a nearby hall which is used as a classroom.

If a hall were provided in the Applecross school grounds it would prove to be a stop-gap for the department in providing a classroom for the children. A subject that has interested me lately is the provision of swimming pools in various suburbs. In my opinion subsidies should be advanced to local authorities so that swimming pools may be installed in their districts. Many of these local governing bodies are not in a financial position to make provision for swimming pools at their own expense. If assistance could be given to them, the members of the community could, perhaps, contribute to the cost on a £1 for £1 basis.

I am most anxious to see swimming pools installed in the Hilton-Willagee area and in the Manning-Applecross district.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: The Government assists local authorities now in the provision of swimming pools.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Only in country centres. Whilst on the question of swimming and beaches, I point out that standing in the progress of Bicton beach is a tract of land, owned by the Commonwealth Government, and held as an animal quarantine station, but it is seldom used. The Melville Road Board has the money to develop that beach which is used practically full time by school children from the surrounding districts. During the summer months, if one visits Bicton beach it will be found that the children of one school are lined up waiting for the children of another school to vacate the beach.

I think an approach to the Commonwealth authorities is warranted by the Government to see whether this land could be released and vested in the Melville Road Board so that it could further develop the beach at Bicton which provides some of the best swimming facilities on the southern side of the Swan River. Another tract of land which is coveted and eagerly sought by the Melville Road Board for development is that area occupied by the Overseas Telecommunication Station at Applecross. The board is desirous of acquiring that land for the purpose of building a town hall and for the establishment of a community centre.

Reverting to Fremantle, to South Beach and the fishermen's jetty, I would point out that it is going to prove costly to whatever Government is in office in the future, to repair the foreshore at those points unless groynes are erected. I have swum and fished around that area almost all my life and I know it pretty well. Since the dredging of the Parmelia and the Success banks there is no natural buffer against the seas that roll in at South Beach and at

the fishermen's jetty. Although Western Australia has benefited by the establishment of the oil industry at Kwinana, the dredging of the banks in Cockburn Sound has placed a great burden on the Fremantle City Council inasmuch as it is trying to keep the beach in a decent state.

All the money that has been expended has been wasted. In future the railway line will also be washed out to sea, unless something is done quickly to build groynes so as to retain about 200 yards of coastline.

The Fremantle fish markets are hopelessly overcrowded. Only this morning some officers of the Commonwealth Government were making an examination and taking photographs of the area around them. Over the last five or six years, as a result of overcrowding in the water, it has not been uncommon to see two or three valuable craft washed up on the rocks. That has happened very year. Many of the fishermen who work hard cannot afford to insure their boats, and they suffer a great loss. In view of the dollars which these fishermen bring into the country, this State could endeavour to obtain a loan from the Commonwealth for the purpose of building a mole and a safe anchorage for the fishing fleet.

I am concerned with the lack of amenities in the Riverton and Cockburn Sound districts. Any development which takes place close to Perth and Fremantle will have to extend in the direction of those two districts. People who want to establish themselves there are hampered by lack of water and electricity supplies. In some parts of the districts it is not possible to obtain these facilities.

The Cockburn Sound Road Board is very progressive, and continually it is looking to attract industry. Many applications have been received by it, but unless water and electricity can be provided those districts will lose any temporary advantage, which they may have gained.

Of late I have had something to do with kindergartens. I suggest that kindergartens should be incorporated in the Education Department. They are too costly to run privately. Based on a 41-week year of attendance, for each child attending the kindergarten the authorities are obliged to contribute 6s. 8d. This contribution is out of proportion to the real costs of running a kindergarten. The average parent cannot afford to pay between 10s. and 12s. for each child attending kindergarten. I hope early consideration will be given to incorporating kindergartens in the Education Department.

There are several kindergartens where the children are not required to pay any fees. I know the Government makes some grant to the kindergartens, but it is not enough. The committees controlling the kindergartens are forever looking for ways and means for raising additional

finance to cover the costs. On many occasions there were doubts as to whether some kindergartens could continue to carry on.

It might be easy for sporting organisations to raise funds, but not for kindergartens. The young children attending cannot go around seeking donations. Furthermore, the parents, generally those with young families, cannot give much to the kindergartens to enable them to carry on.

There are parts of my electorate which lack kindergartens, or which have small ones. In others there are kindergartens with waiting lists; and those are the Hilton Park and Applecross kindergartens. It is impossible for children on the waiting list to gain admittance, therefore some financial assistance should be given to those kindergartens, or for the purpose of establishing more kindergartens.

There is no kindergarten in Hamilton Hill, nor have I observed one in Brentwood. Brentwood is now a township and it will be a great help to many of the parents there if a kindergarten can be established. Hamilton Hill will become a township in due course. A kindergarten is a necessity in view of all the activities taking place at Hamilton Hill—the building of a new school, the taking over of a large tract of land by the State Housing Commission, the holding of a large area by the University which will be split into building lots, and the building on the Baker's Estate. Unfortunately the local authority has not the ready finance to build the roads and other amenities.

There are very few areas which are not served by a health centre. It is true there is a mobile health clinic, but its services are limited. A mother who goes to town, or who is otherwise engaged in home duties, will miss out on these services. In view of the large number of people living in Coogee, Spearwood and similar expanding districts in my electorate, I consider that the establishment of a health centre in the area is vital.

Another matter with which I am concerned is the education of spastic children. I have examined the number of such children who are in need of transport to take them to the Sir James Mitchell spastic centre at Mt. Lawley. There is a bus serving these children which leaves Applecross at 8.13 a.m.; there is another which leaves Mosman Park at approximately 8 a.m. I know of eight children in my electorate—one living at Naval Base, one at Hamilton Hill, and the rest in Hilton Park and Willagee—attending that centre. The parents of those children have to take them to either Applecross or Mosman Park. Most of them have young children and it becomes a burden on them to have to leave at 7 a.m. to take their spastic children to the bus for Mt. Lawley. Again in the afternoon, in order to pick up the

children, they have to catch two buses. The expense involved is prohibitive. Some investigation should be made to ensure that every physically handicapped child is provided with transport to his place of education.

When the Metropolitan Transport Trust starts in earnest it will have to expand its services. Several districts in my electorate would like a regular bus service. My observations lead me to believe that some buses from Perth to Fremantle should be routed through districts like Brentwood, Mt. Pleasant and Willagee, to provide a service. At present the Willagee, the Brentwood and the Mt. Pleasant bus services are inadequate. To the best of my knowledge most other centres in my area are pretty well catered for.

I now come to the main point I wish to make, that is, benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act. The best service we can give to the people is to overhaul completely that Act. I shall illustrate several of my experiences in regard to this matter. I have had some experience of workers' compensation. Some members perhaps do not realise the conditions which now exist. I have made notes of some of the cases I am about to refer to. I trust they are substantially correct. If I make any mistake it is an honest one.

Firstly, why should this State be out of step with the Eastern States in respect of coverage of workers to and from their place of employment? I know this matter has been brought up in this House previously. It is a reflection on this State, because it is the only major State which has no coverage for workers going to and from their place of work. It is a bitter pill for the workers to have to swallow. I do not know why this provision has been consistently rejected.

Secondly, consideration should be given by the Minister to withdrawing the permits of insurance companies that have no office in Australia, but only act through the good graces of the Minister. These companies mainly operate from the United Kingdom. They cause a certain amount of delay in the settlement of claims. This delay amounts to months and sometimes years.

I believe that some of the mining companies work through these insurance companies, and I do know that some of the shipping companies work through them, and as a result a great deal of delay and hardship is caused. Before the final settlement is effected, much anguish is caused to the workers and their dependants who cannot afford costly delays. I recommend that the only ones who should have the privilege to cover Australian workers, and particularly Western Australian workers, should be the companies with offices dealing solely in insurance. I ask the Minister in charge of this matter to examine the



question and give due notice to the companies that their permits will be withdrawn. As I said previously, they only function through the good graces of the Minister.

Thirdly—and this is another bitter pill that has to be swallowed, not so much by the workers but by the union secretaries and compensation clerks who deal with these matters—most people consider that more time should be given to medical practitioners for the diagnosis of certain injuries. One in particular is hernia, for which the Act allows 72 hours for diagnosis, and for the doctor to issue a certificate.

One case that I was unfortunate enough to be connected with, concerned a blacksmith. He was a heavily muscled and well developed man—perhaps a little muscle-bound. He was taken to hospital and was then discharged because the general practitioner could not diagnose his complaint. He then went back to the doctor for another 10 days and received treatment, so that it took the doctor 10 days to diagnose that his trouble was hernia. He was then forced to re-enter hospital. By that time he was in a state of high nervous tension because he did not know whether the claim would be recognised by the insurance company. His family were worrying because he, being a worker with a family, had no money saved. Because of the weeks of incapacity, following the hernia, we can understand his frame of mind. He was wondering whether his family would be looked after. I consider that the present provision in the Act is not conducive to the quick recovery of a person such as I have mentioned, or to the security of his dependants. The finalising of this claim took months; it was not completed until after the chap returned to work. He is one of many who have had to suffer this fate.

Some shipping companies that operate at Fremantle have big resources overseas, and they virtually carry their own insurance. Some of the stevedoring firms that service the ships at Fremantle, insure through Australian insurance companies and the State Government Insurance Office—from this office I must say we usually get efficient service—but others insure with different companies, and it is not unusual for these other companies to push a worker into court to justify his claim. Time out of number we see where a person who has been injured, through no fault of his own, has suffered this experience.

I know of some Goldfields workers who have had to come to Fremantle and ask the organisation, of which I was a member, to assist them to push their claims, because the overseas companies—and some of the local companies—would rather wear the worker down by way of long delays or by pushing the case into court. Usually the workers cannot afford long and costly delays.

In other industries that I have had dealings with, I have found that the employer tends to safeguard the insurance company rather than his employees. An employee, as the result of an accident, usually has to suffer some discomfort and hospitalisation. When the final claim arrives, we find that the insurance company and the employer put every obstacle in the way of the employee to try to "diddle" him of his just rights and payments. Those employers are usually of the smaller type, and they must think that they are paying the compensation from their own bank accounts rather than that the money is being paid as a result of a policy which they are forced by law to take out for the coverage of their employees.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Don't you think they are entitled to watch their own interests?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I have worked in industry for, perhaps, a little longer than the hon. member, and I have never yet seen an employee wilfully injure himself; I have not known of an employee wilfully going on to reduced wages just to "take it out of" the employer. I say that when a man goes to work, he does so to do his job. No one wants to suffer an injury—which could be of a permanent nature—just to get one back on the boss; although, in all walks of life, perhaps, we can find a few people who will do a little bit of damage that mitigates against the majority.

Other employers and insurance companies are openly forward in referring their cases to law firms in flagrant attempts to defraud workers who are casualties of industry. Often it is found that these employers are financially interested in the insurance companies, and attempt to flout the compensation Act. We know this, because through research we have found where certain employing companies have tie-ups with insurance companies; and in many cases the insurance companies are subsidiaries of the employing firms.

Another bad feature, and one that must react against the workers is the case where a doctor issues a certificate regarding a worker's injury and then the insurance company has its own specialist, anything up to 10 days after the accident occurred, examine the worker. In many cases of this kind we have found that the specialist has declared the injured person fit for work. The specialist simply blows into the hospital, has a look at the man and declares him fit. When that happens the insurance company rejects any claim made upon it; and the worker, because the specialist's certificate overrides that of a general practitioner, is forced, at his own expense, to get two other specialists to declare him unfit for work and to verify that his claim is a genuine one.

Then he has to try to make the insurance company accept its responsibilities. If it will not do that he has to follow up the matter by an action through the court.

These cases are not rare. The union of which I am a member has had to spend many thousands of pounds over the last 10 years in legal and court fees in an endeavour to gain for injured workers the money which is rightfully theirs. But if a worker is not a member of a union, or an organisation which will protect him, members can imagine what happens. Many cases are not proceeded with, because the insurance companies tell the workers concerned that they are not entitled to be covered. If the workers are not members of unions they do not pursue the matter because they have no one to fight for them, and also because they do not have the necessary money. From these facts members can visualise how the insurance companies can erect huge buildings on the Terrace, and pay such colossal dividends. These things are done mainly at the workers' expense—the chaps who have no one to fight their cases for them.

There are many other aspects of workers' compensation which would take hours to relate. As the Act stands at present it gives a Roman holiday to lawyers and doctors; they are the people who are reaping most of the benefits from Workers' Compensation Act. I have known of many claims where the unions have had to go to the court, even though the amount involved was only £20 or £30. Court fees cost anything up to £100 and even the larger unions and organisations will frequently not pursue some matters because the risks, for the sum involved, are too great and there is a possibility that they will be called upon to meet these high charges. In such cases the injured worker loses out and he remains injured in more ways than one. He is defrauded of his money because the risk of fighting the case in the court—and the possibility of being called upon to pay high fees—is too great.

At this stage I must acknowledge the work done by the Workers' Compensation Board of Western Australia. It is attempting to do a good job and at present has started something new—or at least it is new to me—and it is calling for medical certificates in most cases. However, that will never be more than 60 per cent. effective—at least that has been the experience of compensation clerks and officers who have dealt with this matter. I, and most people in industry, consider that it should be mandatory for all employers to report every accident to the Workers' Compensation Board. That would be in the interests not only of the worker himself, but also it would form a basis for national safety. By that means the board would have a list of all accidents, where they occurred the cause, and so on, and it would be a short cut to something which is now being put into operation in the Eastern States.

I read in a shipping company paper this morning that one of the shipping companies in the Eastern States had just appointed a master mariner to tour all Australian ports to find out the best working methods in the interests of safety. Surely if it is good enough for the shipping companies to do that it should be good enough for the Government to introduce a similar scheme through the Workers' Compensation Board. If all accidents, irrespective of where they occurred or how simple they were, were reported to the board it would have a basis for a national safety campaign.

We now come to one aspect of workers' compensation—and this is one which pricks the conscience of most people—where a patient is suffering a 50 per cent. disability—it may be a leg, an arm or something like that—and it is declared as such by an insurance company specialist. The company, in such cases, then offers to make a lump sum payment to the injured worker, and, if he agrees to accept it, any other liability the company may have is discharged. The moment the offer is made his compensation payments cease, and if he claims that his disability is greater than 50 per cent. he is required to get an independent opinion; and in most cases the independent opinion ranges from a 60 to 80 per cent. disability.

It is then the duty of the organisation to which the worker belongs to follow the matter through; and it may involve litigation, the payment of doctors' bills and a good deal of frustration. Usually the organisation wins its case but not until after it has been through the court. As most of us know the Workers' Compensation Act has two schedules, one covering all parts of the body, and the other the limbs and so on. One case which has been going on for over two years concerns a worker who was injured.

We know, from experience, how much money this worker should have received. However, after writing letters to lawyers, doctors and insurance companies over a period of two years, the grand total of £375 was offered to this worker. This was flatly refused by him. The matter was then placed in the hands of a lawyer so that it could be aired in court. More time passed before the case was listed for hearing and the worker, already heavily in debt, was being further committed.

As the parties were walking through the door of the courtroom, the lawyer representing the insurance company approached the worker and said to him, "We will increase the £375 by £50. That will make a grand settlement to you of £425."

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: A grand settlement!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes, they called it a grand settlement of £425. In view of the length of time that this worker had been off work, and in view of the fact that his children were badly in need of

clothes and other necessities, he could not grab that money quick enough because he was financially, physically, and mentally exhausted. However, he is still suffering from a disability which he will carry to his grave. The gain to the insurance company in that case was £275.

Another interesting point in Schedule I relates to a worker who is 50 per cent. permanently incapacitated. Provided he can earn the same wages he earned before his accident, he is not entitled to a lump sum settlement. He could suffer this disability for the rest of his life without receiving any further compensation payments. Cases of this kind have been found on the waterfront in particular. It is known that such men have become a burden on various charitable institutions or on their families. It is also noticed that as a result of their accidents these men have aged prematurely. The care of these men should be the responsibility of the insurance company instead of the burden being carried by some other person.

It is also very difficult to establish the claim of a worker who suffers an accident whilst leaving his place of employment after he has knocked off although he may still be within the boundaries of his employer's premises. For some reason or another a worker could have knocked off at 4.55 p.m. If he were working on the waterfront he may, because of rain, have had to hatch-up a ship earlier than usual and meet with an accident whilst walking down a gangway in his employer's time, or he could be crossing a railway line on the wharf and be killed by a train. Yet, a lawyer representing the insurance company will fight any claim for compensation by his dependants. The same applies, of course, to a worker who suffers an injury in private enterprise.

I can instance an organisation such as General Motors or the Ford motor works. A worker at the Ford Motor Company could fall down the steps that lead up to the building on the northern side and although he is still within the boundary of the company's premises, the insurance company could rightfully say that he is not entitled to any compensation. In view of the advertisements that were published by the L.C.L. during the course of the last State election with reference to workers' compensation, I now consider that it is the duty of the Government, in the interests of the workers of this State, to include in the Workers' Compensation Act a provision to cover a worker whilst he is travelling to and from work.

Such a provision would cover not only waterside workers but all workers. That would be a democratic attitude for the Government to adopt and an amendment to the Act should be introduced by it at the earliest opportunity. In my first speech made in this House I told my friends of the Country Party that I would acquaint them

of something that goes on in the shipping industry in respect of some of their cargoes.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I do not think any of them will listen to you.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: After I have read this cutting I will leave it around the House for them to peruse it at their leisure. This newspaper article was written by a vigilance officer of the Brisbane Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation. It was published in the *Maritime Worker* under date of the 19th May, 1959. The article reads as follows:—

#### Rat-Eaten Meat Proves Hypocrisy

For some time now workers have been urged to handle our exports more quickly and more carefully.

This was supposed to be the answer to the fierce world competition for these products, both in price and quality.

The hypocrisy of this was again illustrated to waterside workers and meat workers on Wednesday night, May 6th.

Frozen beef being loaded into the *Wairangi* at Borthwick's Abattoir was noticed by meat workers to have been eaten by rats.

This was acknowledged by the management of Borthwick's by the fact that meat workers were paid a penalty rate of 2½d. for each hind of beef and 2d. for each forequarter handled which was rat-eaten.

Further down the article continues—

Brisbane Branch Secretary, Phil Healy, when examining Borthwick's freezing rooms, saw hinds and forequarters of beef with two or three pounds of meat eaten off them, and a rat's nest among the beef.

No finality was reached on the Wednesday night, but on Thursday morning wharries decided that they would not handle this meat until an assurance was given by the Health Department that no danger of disease existed.

An industrial dispute occurred on that occasion, but after a 50-minute stoppage an assurance was given by the Health Department that the meat was quite all right and that there were no rats' nests in it. The article continues—

Rather sceptically, wharries had to accept this assurance.

They had stowed meat into the ship's hold that was obviously eaten by rats, and how that could be free of disease was a bit hard to believe.

The article then goes on and on. So it will be seen—and I have witnessed this time without number on the waterfront at Fremantle—that no concern at all is shown by the stevedoring companies, or their representatives, for the handling or

the safe carriage of the farmers' produce in Western Australia. Perhaps in this State we would have one of the best records in the world in respect to the stowage of apples and pears. At times I have seen near stoppages when waterside workers have refused to stow this fruit in the manner the employer has requested of them.

When they cannot get into the chiller hatches and freezer hatches to gain another 14s. for every case they can cram in, the company will have the fruit stowed on the edge. We all know what that fruit would be like when it got to England or Sweden. The whole case would be bruised right through. The waterside workers and their officials have been commended on many occasions by the Apple and Pear Board, and they are vigilant in examining every cargo of fruit to ensure that it is stowed in the correct manner.

One case comes clearly back to my mind. It happened about four years ago, and was in relation to the ship *Mandama* which berthed at Fremantle. We found that this ship had loaded flour at Adelaide. It had a rather rough passage on the way over, and, because of the faulty tarpaulins and hatch covers that this ship carried—and because of the greed of the shipowner in stowing flour in every available corner he could put it—about 30 tons of water got into the ship's hold. The flour was rotting; it was mildewed, and was in a disgraceful state. While the ship was at sea, the crew had been put to work pulling this cargo on to the deck; dumping some of it, and trying to dry the rest of it out.

We protested strongly when that ship came to Fremantle. Even the flour left in the ship was not fit for pigs' food. It was in a filthy state and certainly unfit for human consumption. There was dirt and filth mixed in it. No attention was paid to it, however, and the cargo was sent overseas. It is small wonder that we lose our overseas markets.

The farmers must exercise more vigilance and control, because, after all, this is their bread and butter. Over the years we have lost in export, hundreds of thousands of pounds of flour to the Near-East, to India, to England and France. They want our flour if delivered in a decent state, because we still produce about the best flour in the world. I would recommend to members of the Country Party that the next time a ship is due to berth in Fremantle, they should go down about two hours later, and have a look at the ship uncovering; they should note the manner in which the farm machinery is usually stowed.

It is usually put on top of the general cargo. Members will see the main buffers which they put around this farm machinery constitute split peas, lupins, sub clover or the green peas for sale to gardeners. Without fear of contradiction I would say

that nine times out of ten when shipments of farm machinery have come to Western Australia those are the commodities that are set around this machinery; they are placed in the wheels and on top of it to keep the machinery in position. The waste that results is colossal. The moment one lifts one of these bags all that remains in it falls out from one of the holes. Several weeks ago I went to the water front and saw a ship unloading an 8-ton prime mover. All the gear necessary to unload this 8-ton lift was ready when the ship berthed. To my dismay when I walked down the hatch this 8-ton piece of machinery was loaded on top of raisins and sultanias which had come from the Eastern States. There were hundreds of cases literally, smashed and squashed to smithereens.

So it will be seen that it is not always the fault of the workers when we see things of that nature happening in relation to the stowing of cargo. I have another Press cutting which I would like to quote. Under the heading "Why They Lose Trade," it says—

Another illustration of over-stowing of heavy cargo on fragile cargo was given on the *Macedon* at 6 Dock, Melbourne, recently.

These far-too-numerous examples of gross and wilful inefficiency help to explain why private ship-owners are losing trade to road transport.

They also provide a telling argument for nationalisation of stevedoring and shipping services.

Steel containers, reports the *Melbourne Wharfie*, were loaded into No. 2 hatch of the *Macedon*.

On top of the steel containers cartons of tinned food were placed.

On top of the fragile tins of food, the shipowners placed case cables and welding electrodes.

My experience has been that case cables usually weigh about 3½ tons to 6 tons. To continue—

This heavy cargo, could not have been damaged by weight on top of it, and should have been put in before the tinned food.

All the cargoes were consigned to the same port.

The condition of the tinned food on arrival can be imagined.

At the after part of the *Macedon* hatch, bagged chaff was placed in the square of the hatch.

Machinery was stowed on top of the bagged chaff.

Before the ship sailed from Melbourne the machinery had pierced at least half a dozen bags.

"You can just imagine the damage by the time the ship reaches its destination," said the *Melbourne Wharfie*.

The *Wharfie* describes this as "incompetent" and as "wanton destruction."

So it will be seen that it is not the shipping company which acts in the best interests of the farmer. As soon as the company secures its profits it does not care about the farmer or what happens to his produce.

The farmer loses his markets, our economic situation worsens, and the whole community suffers. I hope that in the near future the Farmers' Union or the Country Party will give serious thought to the appointment of a competent officer to examine the waterfront not only in Fremantle but throughout Australia. I assure him he will get every co-operation from all the branches of the Waterside Workers' Federation to ensure that cargo is handled efficiently and stowed in a safe manner, so that we can continue to retain our overseas markets. The farmer needs the worker, and the worker cannot live without the farmer. It is in the best interests of all to tidy up some of the disgraceful things which have occurred.

There remain two points to which I wish to refer and which have been mentioned by Dr. Hislop. The first concerns carton milk. Many people advocate that milk be distributed in cartons. Many thousands of pounds have been expended in installing the machinery to carton milk. The cost of this milk will be increased by 1½d. I would like to know why this additional cost is to be borne by the public.

I am told that the cost of a milk bottle is 1s. 2d. The average life of a milk bottle is 10 fills, so it costs approximately 1½d. to fill a bottle every day, including the cost involved in cleaning and washing. If milk bottlers and dairymen supply carton milk to the public they themselves should bear the extra cost and market it on the present day price.

The second point concerns Hale School and the Empire Games village. Yesterday I attended the opening of some pensioner flats in Central Avenue, Beaconsfield. Three groups have been built by the Commonwealth Government and the Pensioners' League through the State Housing Commission. It was pointed out to me that it would be much better for pensioners' flats to be built in various districts in the metropolitan area, than for the Government to build a large scale Olympic village. These flats could house the athletes coming from overseas. They will also help to ease the burden on the State Government, as I believe the Commonwealth Government will subsidise such a project on a £2 to £1 basis.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How would you feed the athletes?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It is not necessary to have 1,500 athletes eating in one dining room. What I propose is the construction of 12 blocks of flats in

a group, each block to consist of three flats. Each block could house at least 12 people temporarily and the accommodation would be quite comfortable.

In a block of 12 flats a little kitchen could be built in a central position. After the athletes have left it could be converted into an amenity hall. The State Housing Commission should give serious consideration to this matter, especially as there is a likelihood of some financial assistance from the Commonwealth. Only yesterday Senator Robertson said that £6,000,000 to £7,000,000 had been allocated by the Commonwealth Government.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The Housing Commission has no power to build public halls.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It will have to build something for the athletes to eat in.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The Government is not under any obligation to do that, but you are placing that obligation on the Government.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I am trying too be helpful.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I realise that, but the Commission cannot build public halls.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It will be building kitchens which are convertible. If the Minister were to approach the Commonwealth Government he might get some financial assistance. Finally, I ask him to consider this point: When the proposed increase in the old age pension takes place steps should be taken to ensure that the rentals of pensioners are not increased. When the pension was increased by 2s. 6d. a week several years ago in the month of October, the pensioners living in State Housing Commission homes received notification in Christmas week to the effect that their rentals were to be increased by various amounts. A couple living together had to pay 1s. 3d. more a week.

Even if the pensioners received an increase of 7s. 6d. per week their plight would still be a sad and sorry one. I realise the Minister for Housing has not the final say on any increase. I will appeal to him to make every endeavour to ensure that the next increase in the old age pension is not partly swallowed up by increased rentals. The cost of living in this State for the last quarter rose by 4s. a week, and it will be hard enough for the pensioners to live, even with an increase of 7s. 6d.

On motion by the Hon. G. Bennetts, debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL

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

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

*House adjourned at 11.4 p.m.*