

getting money set aside for housing our native people. I am satisfied that the native problem can be solved in the next 10 or 20 years if these people are provided with accommodation for their young children who may be going to school; and for their teenagers who may be leaving school and becoming master tradesmen, as they are doing throughout the Northern Territory.

I think members know that these people are becoming master tradesmen, builders, plumbers, carpenters, and so on. They are building their own homes in the Northern Territory, and they could do the same around Western Australia if they were encouraged to do so by the Government.

I know the Minister has done a good job; but the Government has let him down very badly, because it has not been seized with the importance of the problem which the Government created itself last year when it passed certain amendments through the House which cost it nothing. It could, however, in my opinion ruin the future of thousands of young natives, particularly if the problem is not properly tackled by the Police Department, the Education Department, the Health Department, the Native Welfare Department, the Child Welfare Department, the State Housing Commission, and the other people who have some responsibility in this matter.

I have no desire to see a native woman drunk in Kalgoorlie, or in the Great Southern: but unless natives are educated in their handling of the liquor problem, it matters not what houses are built for them, or what else is done for them, it will be to no avail. If ever the Minister had a problem on his hands he has one today, and the Government should do all it can to assist him in this matter.

If we take a quick look at the money handled by the Department of Native Welfare we will find that exactly 11 per cent. of £1,000,000 spent is used in direct aid to help natives on the reserves, and to provide them with a bit of clothing and housing. I implore the Government to help the Minister with his problems, otherwise the situation will get much worse.

In conclusion, I trust the Government will give some consideration to what I have said in connection with the standard gauge railway and the other problems which affect my electorate, particularly those which relate to housing, pest control, volunteer firemen, and retail prices. The other matters which I wish to raise I will mention at a more appropriate moment, when I am not likely to raise your ire, Mr. Speaker, by speaking over my time.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Burt.

*House adjourned at 11.14 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 19th August, 1964

### CONTENTS

	Page
<b>ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : SIXTH DAY—</b>	
Speaker on Motion—	
The Hon. G. Bennetts	354
<b>MOTION—</b>	
Fire Brigades Act : Disallowance of Regulation 100A	352
Goldmining Industry : Urgency Motion	337
<b>PARLIAMENT HOUSE ENVIRONS—</b>	
Building Control : Ministerial Statement	335
<b>QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—</b>	
Education—	
School Bus Services—	
Costs in Metropolitan and Country Areas	351
Parents' Fee	351
State Schools : Items Provided by Parents & Citizens' Associations	352
Electricity Supplies : Extension to Southern Cross and Adjacent Areas	351
Hospital Charges : Increases	351
Housing for Aged People : Accommodation at Esperance	352
Railways—	
Crossing Signals—	
Cost of Flashing Type	351
Cost of Gate Type	351
Flashing Lights : Installation at Wellard Road Railway Crossing	351
Standard Gauge Railway : Use of Concrete Sleepers	350

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

### PARLIAMENT HOUSE ENVIRONS

*Building Control: Ministerial Statement*

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Town Planning) [4.33 p.m.]: Have I your permission, Sir, to make a statement?

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Yes.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Because of the Press letters which have appeared in the last few days regarding the controversy concerning the aesthetics around Parliament House, I thought it would be right to report back to this House to let the public be made aware of the conditions which led to the committee being set up.

If members will recall, on the 14th November, 1961, the House dealt with the following motion moved by The Hon. G. E. Jeffery:—

That in the opinion of this House the Government should treat as urgent and introduce legislation immediately to exercise a reasonable degree

of control over the erection of Government, semi-government, and private buildings adjacent to Parliament House and King's Park, such control to embody maximum height restriction, appearance, colour, and texture of materials of exterior construction.

This House is also of the opinion that the legislation should provide for a committee to be established, having the necessary power to make decisions which would be subject to appeal, but only to the Parliament of Western Australia, and comprising representatives of the Government, the Town Planning Board, and the Perth City Council, together with representatives of other public bodies which in the opinion of the Government should be represented.

That was put to this House on the 14th November, 1961, and passed. The 14th November was the day before the close of the session, and there was no chance of the motion being transmitted to the Legislative Assembly. However, because of that resolution having been passed here, I took immediate action to forward a copy of it to the Town Planning Commissioner who immediately assigned an officer of the department to consider ways and means of giving effect to it.

After some considerable time, he submitted a preliminary report to me, and this was then presented to Cabinet. As a result there was a discussion, and a further committee was set up consisting of Professor Stephenson; Mr. Punch, from the Main Roads Department; the Town Planning Commissioner, Mr. Lloyd; and Mr. Green, the Principal Architect. The idea of this committee was, among other things, to deal with this very situation.

The committee reported that to give effect to the motion and to give some control over the buildings around Parliament House, it would be quite satisfactory if the matter was dealt with by the Regional Planning Authority under section 32 of the Act. Under this section any development which is to take place in a certain area has to be referred to the authority. The value of this recommendation was appreciated by the authority, which put it into effect. The authority itself is not set up to deal with this particular type of aesthetics, and it is itself forming an advisory committee which will consist of three practising architects, the town planner, an artist, two representatives of the Perth City Council, and a representative of the Joint House Committee.

It is not intended that there should be any delay in buildings, but with an advisory committee such as this—and we all know that in connection with buildings of the magnitude which are to be erected round here, the plans are on the drawing

board for quite a few months—it will be possible for the architects concerned to confer with the committee during this time.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Is it intended that they would be on call constantly?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes. I discussed this with Mr. Lloyd the other day, and to overcome the problem at least the architects concerned—Professor Stephenson; the President of the Architects Association; and Mr. Green, the Principal Architect—will be available for discussion during the course of the development of these plans.

The advisory committee can only advise the authority on the applications, but I think it can be readily assumed that by the time it gets to the authority, the recommendation will be a pretty sound one. We do not want to stop development, and we do not want any delays, but I think it is essential, in view of the motion passed by this House, that some control should be effected in this area.

I think it will have been ascertained from Press articles that representations have been made to widen the scope, but that was not contained in the motion which this House passed; and I think from my point of view I can only deal with the matter in the light of the motion.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: It is a pity you allowed the erection of some of the buildings which have been built.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: We did not have control at that time and did not think it advisable to do so. I appreciate what the honourable member said in that respect.

Actually the authority has issued notice requesting the Perth City Council to submit to it applications for building approval within a defined area, generally comprising Malcolm Street, Harvest Terrace, Havelock Street, Parliament Place, and the top of St. George's Terrace, which might be said to comprise the environs of Parliament House.

I thought it advisable, in view of the controversy, to refresh the memory of members by recalling the motion passed by this House, as well as allowing an opportunity for the public to be made aware of the fact that the advisory committee has been set up as a result of the motion passed.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: When was it set up?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Well, actually, it is not completed yet. The authority has written to these people asking if they would be prepared to act on this committee. I think that each one of them has consented.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Would you read out the boundaries again, please?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I think a plan of the area was published in the Press the other day. It is an area generally comprising Malcolm Street, Harvest Terrace, Havelock Street, Parliament Place, and the top end of St. George's Terrace. It may be that these boundaries do not go far enough; that the area should extend a little more to the west.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: It does not go to the river frontage?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes; it covers all that.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I was wondering about the 30 ft. mounds.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: They will not be seen from here.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: They will fit in with the aesthetics?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes; and when it is all finished the honourable member might think it is a thing of beauty.

## GOLDMINING INDUSTRY

### *Urgency Motion*

**THE PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver [4.46 p.m.]: I have received the following letter from The Hon. E. M. Heenan, M.L.C., North-East Province:—

Legislative Council,  
Western Australia.  
Perth, 19th August,  
1964.

The Hon. the President  
of the Legislative Council,  
Parliament House,  
PERTH.

Dear Sir,

I feel to inform you that, at the commencement of the sitting of the Legislative Council today, it is my intention to move, under Standing Order No. 59, for the adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of urgency, namely:—

That in view of the importance of the goldmining industry to Western Australia and also in view of the difficulties now facing the industry because of the fixed price for gold, the Legislative Council requests the State Government to make an urgent approach to the Federal Government to invite Mr. L. E. Elvey, President of the Chamber of Mines of Western Australia—or if he is unavailable some other nominee of the Chamber, or a Mines Department Official—to accompany the Federal delegation to the meeting of the International Monetary Fund to be held at Tokyo next month for the purpose of participating in discussions or observing or advising on matters affecting the gold mining industry.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) E. M. HEENAN.

**THE HON. E. M. HEENAN** (North-East) [4.48 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Friday, the 21st August, at 2.30 p.m.

**THE PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Under Standing Order No. 59 it will be necessary for four members to rise in their places to support the motion.

Four members having risen in their places,

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Standing Order No. 59 as you, Sir, have pointed out, provides for the moving of a motion such as this; and some explanation is needed. Obviously one does not move a motion of this nature unless he feels fully justified in doing so. As you, Mr. President, have indicated, the usual purpose for moving such a motion is to consider some matter of urgency.

I feel I have to vindicate myself to the House for the step I have taken, and I crave the indulgence of members while I make a few comments in connection with the goldmining industry. Quite a deal of publicity has been given to the difficulties concerning the goldmining industry, particularly in recent months. Only last weekend most of the members of the State Parliamentary Labor Party visited Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and they saw and heard at first hand what the present situation is. I hope some of them will give the House their impressions of that visit this afternoon.

In *The West Australian* dated the 18th August, 1964—that is, yesterday—there appeared this article—

### *Gold Price Rise This Year Urged*

Kalgoorlie, Mon.: This year's slogan in Australia's goldmining industry is—"Now or never."

The industry regards 1964 as the crucial year for an increase in the price of gold, which has remained unchanged at 35 U.S. dollars an ounce since 1934.

I interpose here to mention the obvious; namely, that was 30 years ago. Continuing—

It is possible that Australian economist Ian Shannon will soon visit the main dollar countries and the Western Europe sterling bloc to press the case for an increased price.

An increase is considered a necessity by the Chambers of Mines of Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland.

The president of the W.A. chamber, Mr. L. E. Elvey, said today that in April the combined chambers had urged the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, that the Federal Government sponsor Mr. Shannon's case in the appropriate quarters overseas.

### Monetary Fund

The visit could include next month's meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Tokyo and centres at Washington, New York, London, Paris, Bonn, Berne, Brussels and Rome.

"We are interested in advancing the case for an increased price in every sphere possible," Mr. Elvey said.

"The chambers hope that by pressing the case world authorities may be made aware of the advisability and the necessity of such an increase."

The International Monetary Fund is holding a meeting in Tokyo next month. I understand this meeting will commence on or about the 7th September and will probably last a week. It can be assumed that Australia and other member nations of the fund who are interested in the production of gold will press for a variation of this standard price which has lasted for 30 years and which, in our State, now confronts the whole industry with grave and serious problems. Furthermore, these problems are not confined solely to those engaged in the industry itself.

We have the towns of Kalgoorlie and Boulder, which support a population of approximately 20,000 people, wholly and solely dependent on the goldmining industry. The industry has its official organisation which is called the Chamber of Mines of Western Australia, and practically all companies interested in goldmining are members of this chamber. The Chamber of Mines, of course, has a great responsibility, and is keenly interested in the future of the industry. It represents the owners of the mines, the shareholders, and the investors who have millions of pounds tied up in this industry.

There are, of course, others who are also vitally concerned; and I point to the 20,000 people in Kalgoorlie and Boulder whose livelihood depends on the industry and who have their homes and all their worldly possessions in those centres. The same applies, of course, to the people of Norseman, Mt. Magnet, and the few other remaining goldmining centres where the industry is actively operating.

Enough has been said on the subject in this House on previous occasions and during the present session, so, in short, I wish to impress upon members that we have to be gravely concerned about this situation; because, what a tragedy it would be for the whole of Western Australia if, in the immediate years that lie ahead, the industry reached the position where it could no longer carry on!

I am sure we were all saddened and full of sympathy last night when we heard that lucid, interesting, and sympathetic outline of the tragedy which recently befell Bunbury and Collie; and of course we have to do what we can to ensure that there

is never a repetition of that dreadful state of affairs. Therefore, I consider there is a heavy obligation on every one of us to face up to the problem which now confronts this important industry. Its importance is indicated in many ways; but in hard cold terms of money we have to remember that last year it produced wealth to the value of £12,500,000, or over £1,000,000 a month. It also found direct employment for just under 5,000 men, to say nothing of the vast number who were indirectly employed.

It is easy to mention those things. I mention them just to refresh the minds of members; because they have plenty of problems and matters to engage their attention. But there is no harm in repeating salient facts to indicate how important is this industry, and how necessary it is for us to do whatever lies in our power to assist in solving the problems of the industry.

Everyone will agree that it seems terribly unfair that this product of gold has now to be sold at the same price as existed 30 years ago. What would be the position if other primary products were faced with the same situation? It is almost beyond our power to do anything about the price, because it is fixed by an international body. As we know, the U.S.A. is the only country which buys gold in unlimited quantities. That country buys gold at the price I mentioned, and the mines have to take it or leave it.

I, like other goldfield members and other members of this House, have been perturbed about the situation. We would be unworthy of the trust reposed in us by the people of this State if we were not concerned and if we did not, to the best of our ability, do our utmost to find ways and means to devise some scheme whereby relief or remedy can be found. The Chamber of Mines says it is now or never.

While I was considering the subject I recalled one of the characters in Shakespeare's play, Julius Caesar, in which the following was said:—

There is a tide in the affairs of men,  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to  
fortune;

Omitted, all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.  
On such a full sea are we now afloat;  
And we must take the current when it  
serves,

Or lose our ventures.

That quotation might have some application to the position in which the goldmining industry finds itself.

What can we do to relieve the position? We can approach the Commonwealth Government and urge the people of Australia, through the Commonwealth Government, to give gold production a bounty and to subsidise the production of gold in some way to make it worth while and profitable for the industry to continue, and also to

expand. In this world we cannot remain static. Are we to tolerate a continuation of the state of affairs which has existed in recent years during which gold producers have closed down one after another?

The Chamber of Mines held its annual general meeting on the 26th May this year, and on page six of the official report the following is stated:—

Mining operations have ceased at Great Western Consolidated N.L., Bullfinch; Bayleys Reward, Coolgardie; Eclipse Gold Mines N.L., Mt. Magnet; Paris Gold Mines Pty. Ltd., Widgiemooltha, and at Sons of Gwalia Ltd., Gwalia.

These closures are reflected in the reduced tonnage of ore produced and the significant decline in the fine ounces of gold recovered from mines throughout Western Australia.

During the year no change occurred in the official price of gold, and this circumstance has contributed towards the closure of five mines.

The Minister for Mines attended that annual general meeting. I hope he will not think that any of my remarks are in any way intended to reflect on him or his department; because members representing the goldfields know full well that the Minister and his department have done a very good job, within their limited sphere. The following is an excerpt of what the Minister said:—

Since we last met in similar circumstances, as you have said, Mr. President, the passage of time together with the critical economic factors which have faced the gold mining industry—I refer, as you did, to the static price of gold—and the continual rising costs of production have unfortunately brought about the closure of the mines that you mentioned in your speech. It is undoubtedly a great change to see these big names removed from the list of West Australian gold mines. It is true to say that their removal severs an historical connection, the effect of which will not only be felt here but in the overall Australian gold mining scene. It is always a very sad day when this sort of thing happens and the effective life of a gold mine comes to an end; when the economics of production necessitate the throwing down of tools, as it has done on these occasions.

What can we do? We can approach the Commonwealth and press for something realistic and helpful in the way of a subsidy; or we can, as a nation, use whatever efforts are at our disposal to impress on the people who fix the price of gold the need for assistance. We should prevail on them to do the fair thing, by increasing the price of gold, so that the industry can carry on in the countries where gold is produced.

Obviously it is useless for Australia and the rest of the world to continue mining and producing a metal which has no value. It would be much better for the 20,000 people in Kalgoorlie to go on to farms, or into other secondary industries, or to find other avenues of employment, if the gold they are producing is of no consequence. But the whole world still finds it incumbent to have stores of gold. The people who fix the price of gold do not by any means go so far as to say that gold is redundant and is no longer of use.

I have before me a book entitled *The Economic Functions of Gold*, by Ian Shannon. I obtained my copy in January last year. The author is a graduate of Oxford University and was formerly a research fellow of economics in Melbourne University. He has had considerable experience in the application of economic theory to the problems of development both in Australia and in under-developed countries. I shall not weary members with too many quotations from this book, but shall refer to what he said on page 125, which is as follows:—

Gold will continue to occupy the central role in the system existing nowadays whatever the eventual outcome of international monetary co-operation. The central position of gold is itself dependent upon a number of factors outlined in earlier chapters of this study, and the significance of a revaluation has already been demonstrated.

This man was in Kalgoorlie a few days ago, and his book represents one of the hopes of the goldmining industry. This book has been widely applauded. It has been written by a man whose qualifications are beyond question and it contains some very convincing arguments.

I understand that the Chamber of Mines has approached the Prime Minister with the suggestion that Mr. Shannon should attend the meeting at Tokyo; but I think the State Government should also do something about it. The Tokyo meeting will commence in approximately two weeks. This was not solely my idea; I am the spokesman for goldfields members and others directly concerned in this matter. It is our considered opinion that in view of the importance of the goldmining industry to Western Australia and in view of the difficulties now facing the industry because of the fixed price for gold, the Legislative Council should request the State Government to make an urgent approach to the Federal Government to invite Mr. L. E. Elvey, President of the Chamber of Mines in Western Australia—or, if he is not available, some other nominee of the Chamber of Mines, or a Mines Department official—to accompany the Federal delegation to the meeting of the International Monetary Fund to be held at Tokyo next month, for the purpose

of participating in discussions or observing or advising on matters affecting the gold-mining industry.

The head of the Australian delegation will, I understand, be Mr. Holt, the Federal Treasurer. I do not know who will accompany him, but no doubt he will have his secretary and others with him. I fully appreciate that if Mr. Elvey were sent to Tokyo it is unlikely that he, as an individual, would be allowed to participate in the discussions. I do not know what the set-up would be, but I do not think he would be permitted to address the meeting.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: The fact of his being there would be important.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Members may read what Mr. Elvey has to say in his report to the recent meeting of the Chamber of Mines. He has often been quoted in the Press. At the civic reception which the Mayor of Kalgoorlie tendered to visiting parliamentarians last Friday the appearance of Mr. Elvey and the manner in which he spoke—he explained his subject in a capable and convincing way—made a favourable impression on everyone.

I have not spoken to Mr. Elvey and I do not know whether the proposition would suit him; but I do know that it would not be terribly costly to fly him to Tokyo for a week. I knew Mr. Elvey when I first went to Kalgoorlie in 1930. He has risen from the ranks. He is a man of stature and the industry can feel very proud of him. He would be a fitting person to send to Tokyo, if he is available, and if the idea appeals to him. If he is unable to go, perhaps the Chamber of Mines would nominate someone else. His presence there with Mr. Holt and Mr. Shannon would be an advantage. If he could get the ear of some of the members from other countries who will be attending, some good might come of it.

I do not know whether the idea will be considered fantastic, but I am concerned about the industry. We might not get anywhere with the proposition but no harm will have been done. In fact, I think that considerable good might be achieved. Mr. Elvey would return with new ideas, and that surely would be of some value. The Chamber of Mines might not be interested in the proposition; but, as I pointed out earlier, there are others, apart from the Chamber of Mines, who are concerned about this matter.

There are obligations owing to many people. I readily admit that there are obligations owing to those people who have spent millions of pounds in equipping the mines. They have invested their money in the industry and they are dependent on the income arising from their investments. There are also thousands of men and women who have invested their all in the industry. If no-one can attend from the Chamber of Mines, perhaps someone could attend from the Mines Department. I had

in mind a man like Mr. Telfer. It is a pity that the Minister will not be able to attend.

I think it was Mrs. Hutchison who last evening pointed out that not only must justice be done but that justice must appear to be done. We are all doing our best. I know that the Mines Department is doing its best with the limited finances it receives from the Commonwealth Government. I am sure that Mr. Holt will do his best; but Western Australia is the State that is principally involved. We produce approximately 80 per cent. of the gold, and this is a goldmining State. We are the ones who are mainly involved. We are pouring money into the development of the north. In 12 years the Wapet company has spent £23,000,000 in the search for oil. It will be a pity if so much is done for the north, and the goldmining industry in the central part of Western Australia is neglected.

Those are my reasons for moving this motion. I hope that no member will think it is a silly idea. I consider it is the function of members to put forward ideas. This is an idea that has been suggested by goldfields members. It is non-political and we do not wish to embarrass anyone. We wish to make some contribution towards the solution of the frightening problem that confronts us in the goldmining industry. I therefore place the suggestion before members for their consideration.

**THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS** (South-East) [5.26 p.m.]: I wish to support Mr. Heenan's motion, because the goldmining industry is in a frightful condition; it is dying fast. Mr. Heenan suggested that the proposition might appear to be fantastic; but a fantastic or desperate situation requires desperate action.

Mr. Ian Shannon, the noted economist, said there had been no appreciation in the price of gold in 30 years, and that it was a world record of price control. He has also been credited with saying that "this is the year; it is now or never." I heartily agree with that statement.

Something will have to be done for the industry, because it is gradually dying; it is gradually going back all the time. I agree with Mr. Heenan that the President of the Chamber of Mines, or the chambers nominee, or a Government official, or the Minister, or someone else who could present the industry's case, should attend the meeting at Tokyo. If he is unable to present a case, he should be allowed to sit in at the meeting as an observer. We might then be able to influence the people in the right places to do something about the price of gold. If something is not done soon, we will not have a goldmining industry.

Western Australia is vitally concerned in this matter. There are vast mineral areas in this State, and they are not confined to the Norseman, Kalgoorlie or Mt.

Magnet areas. There is still plenty of gold to be found; all that we need to produce it is a favourable financial climate.

The first meeting of the International Monetary Fund was held at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, U.S.A., in 1944, and the agreement came into being in December 1945. It is an international organisation and a specialised agency of the United Nations. In 1959 the total subscriptions in gold and national currency from 68 member nations amounted to \$13,800,000,000 or about £6,000,000,000. If all foreign holders of dollars demanded repayment in gold at a particular time, there would be serious embarrassment because there would not be sufficient gold to go around. I mention this in passing.

The gold mining industry has saved Western Australia twice. To give members an idea of how dramatically the demand for gold has increased over the years, between 1920 and 1930 the industry in Western Australia had had it.

In 1928 Kalgoorlie was about the only place where gold was being mined. That was the year before the economic depression, and there was talk of closing the Kalgoorlie School of Mines and pulling it down.

Then came the depression. I understand that in 1929 only 337,000 ounces of gold were produced. Then the price of gold increased through the economic depression and in 10 years there were 1,188,000 ounces of gold produced; and, at the outbreak of World War II, 13,500 men employed in the industry. In 1929 there were only 2,000 men employed. That production shows that the industry has got "it" if the price of gold is right.

[Resolved: That motions be continued.]

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: There are 3,000 men in Kalgoorlie producing half the gold in Australia, and 80 per cent. of the gold in Western Australia. If anything happens to the goldmining industry then Kalgoorlie will be finished. What will happen to the investors, the businessmen, and the miners? Kalgoorlie will become another ghost town.

Unfortunately, in goldmining the cost of production cannot be passed on to the commodity. We all know that, and it is an unfortunate position. It simply means that costs rise and if development is not kept going then the mines must cease. Therefore the goldmining industry is seriously hampered when the price structure comes into the picture. The mines are forced to mine higher grade ore, which means that some gold bearing ore of a lower grade is left behind. The ore is still bearing gold, but, unfortunately, it has to be abandoned because it does not warrant the cost of production.

Therefore, more selective mining is carried out and so reserves dwindle. My party fully supports this motion and feels

that something has to be done in the interests of goldmining. The people to approach are those who will attend the International Monetary Fund meeting in Tokyo next month. I think the meeting will accede to the request if all the countries concerned with the production of gold put their case for an increase.

In 1963 five mines closed down. Mr. Elvey said that most of the closures were because of the price of gold. This year's production is the lowest since 1952, so it can be seen that the industry is suffering from dieback and something needs to be done about it.

I know that we cannot do anything from the State angle, because it would require a lot of money to help the industry, and this Government has not that sort of money. However, I do think that every effort should be made to get assistance to send this gentleman, or his nominee, or someone else who knows all about the industry, to put our case to the important people who matter.

South Africa is so interested in its goldmining that it has put a subsidy on gold to keep the low-grade mines going. I think they are the biggest producers in the world and produce something like 26,000,000 ounces a year.

Mr. Heenan just about covered all aspects of the motion. The price of gold is now £15 10s. an ounce, which is equivalent to 35 dollars. If the price was increased to 50 dollars then it would equal £22 2s. an ounce and that would help the industry. If all the costs over the last 30 years were taken into account, the price would be at least 100 dollars an ounce. I conclude my remarks by saying that the goldmining industry wants justice, and I sincerely hope that this Chamber will find ways and means to accede to Mr. Heenan's motion.

THE HON. J. D. TEAHAN (North-West) [5.36 p.m.]: I would first like to say that Mr. Heenan is to be commended for bringing forward this motion. He has not asked for much, and the opportunity should not be lost to bring to the notice of those who matter the state of the industry and how it can be assisted. As Mr. Heenan said, about 30 members visited the goldfields recently and saw the mining operations with their own eyes. They have often read of the mines and now they have seen the town of Kalgoorlie with all its amenities and institutions; and I particularly refer to the educational institutions, which we certainly would not like to see collapse overnight. In other words, if anything serious happened so that the mines could not carry on—I do not like to talk pessimistically—what a tragedy it would be for the families that would have to abandon such institutions as the School of Mines. They would have to go to live elsewhere and would have to find other employment.

The Kalgoorlie School of Mines has turned out men equivalent in culture and learning to graduates from any university in the world. If one travelled to the Mt. Isa mine in Queensland, which is one of the most important mining centres in that State, one would find the place dotted with men who obtained their knowledge at the School of Mines at Kalgoorlie. There would be deputies in charge, and others, who learnt originally in Kalgoorlie.

If one went to South Africa the same story would apply. While on a recent parliamentary tour to Hobart we were surprised and pleased to see a young man who had come from Kalgoorlie in charge of an important industry. Too much is at stake for us to let any occasion pass whereby the industry can be assisted. The question of finance, which has often been a barrier, is not involved here. It is simply a case of the State Government making an urgent approach to the Federal Government to have our representative push our case at the International Monetary Fund meeting. At least it will show that the State is interested. It is correct that the industry should be represented, but the State should be represented also.

When the parliamentarians visited the goldfields last week they saw something which should have impressed them, especially those who went underground. They would have seen that the management and the men have played their part, and are playing their part. I live at Kalgoorlie, and I went underground a week ago. I was impressed with what I saw; and there is a lot one can learn. I was impressed with the brains and the activity of the men in charge and the willingness of the ordinary employees to co-operate. It was pleasing to hear the superintendent who accompanied us praising the men. He pointed out an employee who had a 5th or 6th standard education controlling a powerful machine and doing work that was being done for the first time in Western Australia. That man could operate any machine—a front end loader of the new powerful rock drilling machines just received. He could be put to work in any part of the mine without supervision; and that was said of many of the employees. The mining was neat, and the mine was nearly as clean as this Chamber.

The management is doing its part and the men are doing their part too. What is most revealing is that the mine I am speaking of is working a 3 dwt. Some years ago 3 dwt. would not have been looked at. I always think of the courage of the company to do such a thing as that. The men are working in solid rock all the way. They have a job in front of them, and they are doing it cheerfully too.

So I say we would be lacking if we did not do what we could to help those men. I am glad Mr. Heenan has not missed this

opportunity. However small the opportunity might be, the gold mining industry, to me, is big. I feel certain the Government will be impressed and I support the motion.

**THE HON. D. P. DELLAR** (North-East) [5.39 p.m.]: I congratulate Mr. Heenan for bringing forward this motion, and I support his move. He covered quite a lot of ground; and last night when speaking to the Address-in-Reply I also covered a lot of ground on the mining industry and the hardships it is facing. I also appeal to all members of this House to support this motion. It will not involve very much, but it will show the mining people and the people running the mines that we are doing our best to help them.

**THE HON. J. J. GARRIGAN** (South-East) [5.41 p.m.]: I want to support this motion brought forward by Mr. Heenan, and I congratulate him on the way he put the case to the House. I feel that all members realise how vital the goldmining industry is to Western Australia; how vital it is to the economy of our State. I think it is an excellent idea to send a delegate to Tokyo, irrespective of whom he may be—either Mr. Elvey, or one of the senior officers of the Mines Department. I hope every member will support the motion.

**THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY** (West) [5.43 p.m.]: I want to support the motion, and particularly in regard to the man mentioned by Mr. Heenan: Mr. Elvey. I could not think of any man better fitted for the job. I first met Mr. Elvey on this same matter when attending a conference in Kalgoorlie six years ago and he addressed us at the Kalgoorlie City Council civic reception to our group.

He had such optimism regarding what could be done if some further monetary help was given. When the Minister for Mines was first appointed to his position I congratulated him privately. He said he was very proud to have been appointed Minister for Mines as he was keenly interested in mining and before he finished his parliamentary life he hoped to make a name for himself, on behalf of the State, as Minister for Mines.

I want to pay a tribute to him. Goldfield members are lavish in their praise of the part Mr. Griffith has played in the mining industry in this State; and I am sure he will agree with me, when he speaks to the motion, that no better person than Mr. Elvey could be found to accompany the Federal Treasurer to Tokyo. I am sure if something can be done, and Mr. Elvey can accompany the Federal Treasurer, something worth while for the State of Western Australia will be achieved.



**THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON** (Suburban) [5.46 p.m.]: As one who came to Western Australia at a very early age and went straight to the goldfields to live, before the railway line was put through to the Murchison beyond Mt. Magnet, I would say that Mr. Heenan's motion is a most important one so far as the State is concerned. I congratulate him for bringing this matter forward because in doing so I think he has done a service to the State. I speak to it as one who was connected with the goldmining industry in the early days in this State and I know what it meant to the State in those days.

I feel sure it would be just as important in the future if there was better co-ordination among those who control the finances of the world today. I hope Mr. Heenan will be successful and that his motion will be passed. I wish him well and thank him for bringing the matter forward.

**THE HON. G. BENNETTS** (South-East) [5.47 p.m.]: I support the motion. As I will be speaking to the Address-in-Reply motion in a few minutes I will elaborate on the goldmining industry then. I know the Minister for Mines will give deep consideration to the matter raised by Mr. Heenan.

**THE HON. A. R. JONES** (Midland) [5.48 p.m.]: I am one who has had some experience in the goldmining industry in Western Australia, having lived on the fields for a number of years. Like other members I have a full realisation of the importance of the goldmining industry not only to Western Australia but also to the other States of the Commonwealth. I also have a full realisation of the courage needed by the people who went out into the centre of Western Australian and developed the goldmining industry and gave it everything they had. If it is possible, by agreeing to the motion, to put some further thoughts into the minds of those who determine the price of gold, and who will be discussing the matter within the next few weeks, then I think we should support the proposal put forward by Mr. Heenan.

There is one matter that I would like Mr. Heenan to clarify when he replies, because he did not mention it when he moved the motion. I would like to know that Mr. Elvey has been approached and is prepared to go if the Government can see its way clear to approach the Federal Government with a view to sending somebody from Western Australia with the delegation. In my view, as the Minister cannot accompany the delegation—I think that is obvious because of the job he has in front of him for the next week or two—Mr. Elvey is the man most fitted to take his place. If Mr. Elvey cannot go then I do not know who else could be sent. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [5.45 p.m.]: In the first place I would like to assure Mr. Bennetts that he is not going to speak on the Address-in-Reply debate in the next few minutes. The reason I say that is because I want to occupy the time of the House, at least until the tea suspension, to address myself to this very important matter.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Then I will be able to come back on a full stomach.

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

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I ask that what I have said be accepted in the spirit in which the statement was made.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: That is very kind.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: However, I would draw the attention of members who have spoken in support of the motion to the motion itself to point out exactly what they have supported when they have said, "I support the motion." Mr. Heenan's motion is to the effect that the House at its rising adjourn until Friday next, the 21st August, at 2.30 p.m. That is what members are supporting because that is the only motion before the House.

I do not want any remarks I intend to make in regard to this motion to be taken in any way other than that I am in full agreement with Mr. Heenan's comments concerning the difficulties with which the goldmining industry has been faced for approximately the last 30 years. Of course, had it been possible for the State Government to do anything about the price of gold it would have been done by successive Governments over the last 30 years; and in fact, to the extent possible, things have been done by Governments for quite a considerable time.

I pose this question: What are we going to do about the motion that we have before us? It is usual when a member avails himself of Standing Order No. 59 to state that what he wishes to place before the House is a matter of urgency. He addresses himself to that matter and, having done so, he asks for leave to withdraw the motion. This matter of great urgency—and I agree that it is—will, I take it, when all members have had their say, be withdrawn by Mr. Heenan; otherwise we will adjourn and come back at 2.30 p.m. on Friday. However, I am sure that is not Mr. Heenan's intention.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Surely the Minister will agree that urgency matters are provided for specifically under the Standing Orders.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: They are, and I do not cavil at the way the honourable member has proceeded. However, if I may be permitted to continue, I think there would have been a much better way of doing what the honourable member wanted to do. Parliament met on the 31st

July, and it did not take a visit to Kalgoorlie by Labor members of Parliament to find out the disastrous position the industry is in in respect of the price of gold. We have known this for a long time.

We have also had three weeks during which time members have spoken to the Address-in-Reply. Some members have taken advantage of that opportunity and have talked about the importance of the goldmining industry to Western Australia; they have drawn attention to the static price of gold—a price which has been static for the last 30 years—and they have drawn attention to the ever-rising costs of production; and they have also pointed out all the difficulties under which the industry is labouring. I am well aware of all those things and I am just wondering whether it would not have been better for Mr. Heenan to make a speech on the Address-in-Reply and say to me, "Will you refer this matter to the Government to see whether anything can be done?"

As a matter of fact at the conclusion of my remarks this evening I will say that that is what I intend to do: to see if anything can be done. However, for the record we have this move, and no doubt the motion will be withdrawn, but it may have been better for the honourable member to speak either on the Address-in-Reply or the Supply Bill. Be that as it may this is the way Mr. Heenan has decided to proceed and I find no real objection to it. I merely offer him the advice that it may have been better had he done what he wanted to do in another way.

Now let us look at what has been said. The suggestion attached to the motion moved by Mr. Heenan is that the Legislative Council requests the State Government to make an urgent approach to the Federal Government to invite Mr. Elvey, the President of the Chamber of Mines in Western Australia, or, if he is not available, to ask somebody else, to attend this meeting of the International Monetary Fund which is to take place in Tokyo next month.

Let me say at this point of time that I regard Mr. Elvey as a man who has done a great deal for the goldmining industry in Western Australia during the time that he has been President of the Chamber of Mines. He is a man with terrific energy and capacity, and he has a great belief in the continuation of the goldmining industry and its importance to Western Australia. He is a practical mining man and, to my way of thinking, the Chamber of Mines could not have done better in its choice of a president.

Members: Hear, hear!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I had the benefit and the pleasure of accompanying him, when I became Minister for Mines, early in 1959, as a member of a deputation to the Federal Government. The deputation asked the Federal Government to ensure that the Gold Mining Assistance Act

would be continued. At the same time we made ourselves heard on the question of the development allowance for mines. On this occasion plea number one was listened to, and the Gold Mining Assistance Act was continued, but plea number two was not listened to and the development allowance was not given. However, it was granted on a subsequent occasion when the Commonwealth Government was approached in that connection.

Now I think we ought to have a look at what we are attempting to do. We are attempting to send a man to a meeting of the International Monetary Fund, and I think we ought to have a look at what the International Monetary Fund is.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: To accompany the Federal Treasurer.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes. I think we ought to ask ourselves what it does; I think we should know who are the members of the International Monetary Fund; I think we should examine the basis of its operations; and I think we should have a look at what is on the agenda for the meeting scheduled to take place in Tokyo next month. When we have done these things we will have to decide whether or not sending Mr. Elvey, or somebody else if he is not able to go to the meeting, would assist us in what we all regard as an urgent and necessary matter.

In the first place the International Monetary Fund was formed when the events of the inter-war years left most countries conscious of the need for formal arrangements to foster international co-operation in finance. I am quoting from a booklet issued by the Reserve Bank of Australia and this is the *Statistical Bulletin Supplement* issued in March, 1963. An extract from this booklet reads—

Plans already formulated before World War II was over led to agreement by 44 nations at the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, U.S.A., on 22nd July, 1944, to establish the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The International Monetary Fund was to provide assistance to countries with balance of payments maladjustments. The International Bank was to supply long term funds needed for economic reconstruction or development, originally at a time when private capital, unaided, would be unlikely to risk international investment outside the Western Hemisphere. The need arose later for the International Bank's lending facilities to be supplemented by other forms of development finance. This led to the establishment, as I.B.R.D. affiliates, of the International Finance Corporation (1956) and the International Development Association (1960).

In common with other developing countries, Australia has benefited considerably from her membership of the I.M.F. and I.B.R.D. Australia is at present the third largest individual borrower from the I.B.R.D., and has obtained assistance from the I.M.F. on three occasions. We have also received the benefit of some investment by the I.F.C. but are not eligible for assistance from the I.D.A. The objectives of these institutions, the disposition and utilisation of their resources, and the terms and conditions under which assistance is made available to members are outlined in this Supplement.

I will be happy to make this available to anybody who wants to have a look at it, because it is an interesting document. I now think we should look at the objectives of the International Monetary Fund. They are set out under five heads as follows:—

The purpose of the I.M.F. as set forth in the charter are:

- (1) to promote international monetary co-operation by providing machinery for consultation and collaboration on international monetary problems,
- (2) to facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade,
- (3) to promote exchange stability, to maintain orderly exchange arrangements among its members and to avoid competitive exchange depreciation,
- (4) to assist in the establishment of convertibility on current account and in the elimination of exchange restrictions, and
- (5) to make available to members the Fund's resources to enable them to correct maladjustments in their balance of payments without resorting to measures destructive of national or international prosperity.

I now think we should ask, "Who are the people that belong to this fund?" We will find there are some 80 or 90 countries which are country members of the International Monetary Fund. It meets annually in different parts of the world and, as we know from the discussion this afternoon, it is going to meet in Japan next month. This year I am advised, from inquiries I have made, that the principal subject is liquidity; that is, the supply of funds to finance international transactions—gold is included in this, because gold forms a large part of the resources of the fund.

Further, I think we should ask, "Who are the people who attend the conference?" The people that attend are the governors;

not the governors of States, but the governors, being a term appropriate to a person appointed by his country to be a governor at this conference. There are alternate governors; there are executive directors; there are accredited members of delegations, and these could be members of the Federal Treasury. I have also been told that the delegates for the next meeting have been settled.

Naturally enough the basis of the conference had to be laid down some time before, and the delegates to attend this conference in about a fortnight's time have been settled. Furthermore, only the governors attending the conference will be able to speak. Nobody else will be able to speak. As I said, it is anticipated that 80 or 90 countries will be represented, and there will be 80 or 90 governors attending this conference. It is possible that we may not get our man in through the front door, or the back door, because of this arrangement.

I have also ascertained that there have been, in the past, arrangements for accredited observers to attend by invitation; but these are restricted to observers of international organisations, as I have just pointed out, whose work is directly associated with the fund; for example, the United Nations or GATT—that is, the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff.

These are the accredited organisations which they expect; and the practice of inviting special guests was discontinued in 1963, and I am advised it may not be re-instituted for the purpose of the conference next month. Attendance by outsiders is not permitted except as provided for under the terms I have just given. However, there are certain public sessions of the annual general meeting at which outsiders may attend.

I relate all this to the House because I think there is at least room for an inquiry to see what we can do to get some representation in this matter. Naturally enough, on as many occasions and in as many places as I have been able in the last five or six years, I have taken the opportunity to point out the disabilities from which this industry is suffering. I am sure that other Ministers and other members of Parliament interested in the gold-mining industry have also done this on every occasion that has offered. We have all pointed out the disabilities under which this industry is continuing.

Mr. Heenan read some remarks I made at the last annual general meeting of the Chamber of Mines. I have been fortunate enough, since 1959, to attend each of the meetings of the Chamber of Mines conducted in Kalgoorlie. This is something I would not miss if I could possibly avoid doing so; and I have not missed a meeting since 1959, and I have listened to the addresses given by various presidents. The

first person who invited me was the late Mr. Dolph Agnew, who suggested that it would be a good idea if I were to attend the annual general meeting. I am so glad I accepted the invitation, and I tried to make it as difficult as I could for him not to invite me again; and the chamber has been good enough to invite me each year.

By attending the meetings of the chamber, and by talking to its members, I have been able to formulate for myself some ideas of the difficulties experienced by the industry, not only in this respect, but in others also. I have said time and again, and I will say it here, that it is only understanding between management and capital that has kept this industry going. If the same understanding existed between management and capital in other forms of industry—without mentioning any in particular—I think we may be a lot better off in Australia; because the men employed in this industry, without doubt, demonstrate fully from their point of view just what they mean to the industry, and how necessary it is for labour and management to work side by side.

They know, as we know, that for 30 years we have had this static price for gold; and that for 30 years the costs of production have continued to rise; and that the only relief given to the goldmining industry—and of course it is considerable relief—is, in the first place, freedom of taxation in respect of income from gold; secondly the Goldmining Subsidy Act under which the Commonwealth subsidises the production of gold in certain circumstances; and now the development allowance given to some mines, also in certain circumstances.

So I am aware, as I have been given credit for being aware by some members who have spoken about this matter to-night, of these disabilities; and I have taken every opportunity to point out that this is the situation. I was asked a question without notice, though it was really one of those questions on notice. The member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Evans) sent me down a question without notice this afternoon asking what the State intends to do to assist the Australian representation to the I.M.F. conference next month in respect of our claims. I told the honourable member that I had been in contact with the Federal Treasurer, and that the Government intended to make sure that the Federal Treasurer was fully possessed of Western Australia's claims, and of its desire to have the price of gold increased substantially in the interests of the industry.

Mr. Holt, of course, has asked me to say that he is not insensitive to the difficulties from which the industry is suffering, and he has asked me to add that at previous meetings of the International Monetary Fund he has done everything he can to

try to point out to the meetings the necessity to have an increase in the price of gold.

Australia has been joined by South Africa at all these meetings, with the same people asking that the price of gold be increased; but the control of the price of gold is an international affair; international inasmuch as it is fixed by the member countries. So long as we have countries like the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom for that matter, which have constantly opposed an increase in the price of gold, the way ahead is difficult. It is a bit like the financial arrangement between the States, under which Western Australia does not get its just deserts. The only way we can get our just deserts is for the other States to agree to a change.

Similarly, the only way we can get an increase in the price of gold is to have the members of the International Monetary Fund agree that that should be the case. Up to date nobody has been successful in achieving that. Mr. Holt is the governor from this country, and he personally will be attending the meeting next month. He has asked me to say that the views of the Commonwealth Government have been conveyed to this meeting of the countries of this fund on more than one occasion.

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

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Just prior to the tea suspension I was almost to the point of concluding my remarks. I was saying at the time that the Federal Treasurer himself, as one of the governors of this fund, would be attending the meeting, and I also assured the House that Mr. Holt has said that he is not insensitive to the advantage which would accrue to Australia and to the goldmining industry if the price of gold were increased.

He said that the views of the Commonwealth Government in this regard had been expressed on a number of occasions at the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund; and at a recent meeting Mr. Holt is reported to have said, in addressing the board of governors of the fund, the following:—

We cannot continue indefinitely to ignore the significance of the price of gold. Sooner or later the price of gold will have to be raised to a level that corresponds to the cost of producing the needed annual increase in the supply of the metal.

At present an increase in the price of gold, as I have already stated and I repeat, cannot be secured without the consent of the United States Government, as one of the principal members of the fund; and the United States has made it plain on a number of occasions that it is firmly opposed to such an increase. I am led to believe that certain other countries have expressed themselves in similar terms. Furthermore,

it is clear that a proposal to increase the price of gold would encounter strong opposition at the present time. In this connection it is worth noting that a ministerial statement setting out the conclusions reached by a group of 10 major countries which issued a report earlier this month on matters relating to international financial matters contained the following observations:—

The Ministers and Governor reaffirm their convictions that a structure based as the present is on fixed exchange rates and the established price of gold, has proved its value as a foundation on which to build for the future.

Mr. Holt went on to say that I might be assured that the Federal Government will continue to bear in mind the importance of this question and will look for a suitable opportunity to express Australia's view. I am firmly convinced that the Federal Treasurer will do just that.

In his motion Mr. Heenan asks that the Legislative Council request the State Government to make an urgent approach to the Federal Government to invite Mr. L. E. Elvey, President of the Chamber, or some other person, to accompany the Federal delegation to the meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Tokyo. It has also been kindly said by Mr. Heenan, I think, that perhaps I could go. Well, I would like to be able to think I could go, particularly if I could do any good; but I do feel that because of my duties here at present, and because of the great knowledge of the goldmining industry which is possessed by Mr. Elvey, I would not have any hesitation at all in suggesting he should be the man.

It is also said by Mr. Heenan that he has not had an opportunity to approach Mr. Elvey to see whether or not he would be available, and I do not know this either; but I would like to say that I will approach Mr. Elvey, if it is the will of the House, to see first of all whether he would be willing to undertake this journey if it is possible for him to attend. If he says he will, or some other suitable person is available, I will then make an approach to the Federal Treasurer to see whether it is possible for him to attend, and I will take the advice the Treasurer might extend to me on this point.

I would like to conclude by assuring the House, if it is again necessary to do so, that I personally am very conscious of the difficulties the industry has laboured under for a very long time, and that anything I can do to assist this particular industry, which has meant so much to the national income of Australia over a long period of time, to ensure its successful and continued conduct as a primary producing industry of Australia, I shall be very happy to do.

**THE HON. F. J. S. WISE** (North—Leader of the Opposition) [7.38 p.m.]: I am sure all members were pleased with the note on which the Minister concluded his speech. I was very sorry that the only intrusion of disagreement made by the Minister was one that was not quite relevant, in my view, and not very satisfactory. The Minister objected to the way this theme was presented to the House, and indeed endeavoured to chide members and state that they were supporting a motion which would not be put.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Not chide.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Well, Standing Order No. 59 deliberately provides for such a case as this. Indeed its verbiage includes the words "for the purpose of debating some matter of urgency." There is no other way unless perhaps it be that we speak on the motion to adjourn the House. That is a method resorted to in very many Parliaments, as a matter of fact, to air grievances of the day and matters of urgency. It is rarely done in this State although it has been done. Therefore I was surprised the Minister suggested that Mr. Heenan would have been equally effective had he spoken on the Address-in-Reply to mention these matters.

There have been quite a few good speeches made in this Chamber this session but scant mention has been made of them anywhere unless a member has sent such a speech to a local paper, if he has one. The Address-in-Reply is not the medium, I submit, to deal with such matters as this. For reasons of its own the Press has frequently been absent from the gallery during this session. This is not the end of the House in which, as a rule, matters of striking Press importance are raised. Certainly it is unlikely that there would be scenes in this House; and scenes make headlines, particularly if it is a question of drinking beer in the precincts of Parliament House grounds or saying something rude to Mr. Speaker. That does not happen here.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Fortunately!

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Therefore the Press is not as interested in this end of the House as it is in the other.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I thought the desire was to get it over to the Government not to the Press.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I think the Minister will agree that the important thing is that even if this be a very long shot, it is a shot worth taking. I would say in reply to the interjection that I will be extremely surprised if the Press does not take up and support the Government in the matters presented to it in this motion. I have considerable regard for the judgment of *The West Australian* in a matter of such national importance as this; and how would it be if it had been

mentioned during the Address-in-Reply debate? It would have been swallowed up and lost with many other things.

I will leave my comments on that aspect there. I regret it happened. I would say that the honourable member introduced his theme with clarity and expressed with deep concern the case which overwhelmingly, in my view, justified the course he took. All goldfields members are tremendously concerned, as is the whole of the State, in doing something, even if it be a long shot, to have attention drawn to the serious circumstances of Australia, including particularly Western Australia, in this matter.

We have to be gravely concerned about the situation, as the honourable member said. There was £12,500,000 production last year on a basis of 30-year-old prices. Where would our friends of the Country Party, or indeed the City of Perth, be, if stable commodities produced from the soil were at the static situation of a quarter of a century ago? It would be impossible for this city to anticipate one million people which it is doing at the moment, if such circumstances had obtained.

Gold is in every way so vital to the well-being of the West Australian community that we should take every opportunity to promote the well-being of the industry. I have a great regard for the ability of the Federal Treasurer. He is such an able man that he would be the first to concede that any assistance in ideas or support of his case would be welcome to him; and I appreciate very much the manner in which the Minister dealt with the recent attitude of Mr. Holt in this matter.

I would be very surprised if some good did not come from an approach to the Federal Treasurer to assist in keeping his own thoughts refreshed—and the motion suggests that it be done by someone being an observer; not by someone being in the *sanctum sanctorum* where all the discussions take place, but by someone who can be at the Treasurer's elbow where he will have ease of access at all times to discuss the seriousness of the circumstances of this State and of Australia in the matter.

I think every avenue should be explored; and I think that even though this may be a very long shot, it is worth taking at this stage. I feel that the Government is fully aware of how serious is this decline, and how serious it will become unless it is stemmed at some point. The repercussions and the possible repercussions outlined by the Minister are obvious to everybody.

It would give a fillip to the goldmining industry if there was a £1 increase in the price of gold. In another sense it could cause a devaluation of the currency; so wide are the implications and the effects.

But in the initial stages, surely we are doing the right thing in highlighting the importance of this to all Australia and, through the State Government, to the Federal Government.

**THE HON. J. DOLAN** (West) [7.47 p.m.]: I wish to present only one angle of this problem to members. I think they will all appreciate that there is a crisis in the goldmining industry; but this is not the first crisis the industry has faced, and when a solution has been presented to the management it has acted wisely and quickly in order to put matters right.

I would refer to the year 1924 when the industry looked as if it were going to die on our hands, and a Royal Commission was appointed with Mr. Kingsley Thomas, a noted South African mining man, as commissioner. As a result of the commission, Mr. Thomas referred to certain faults in the industry—the shafts were too narrow and were inadequate; the plants were old-fashioned; welfare provisions for the workers were non-existent; and the relationships between labour and management were deplorable. He referred to the fact that the mines on the Boulder belt, which were at that time working on an average of 11 dwt. per ton, were unable to make a profit; yet mines in South Africa, with an average of 6 dwt. per ton, were clearing 10s. on every ton.

The industry had to face up to the situation. That marked the era of one of the greatest mining men in Western Australian history—the late Joe Thorn who became manager of one of our greatest mines, the Lake View & Star. He introduced modern methods; and in the process of introducing them the industry went further back. In 1928 things were so bad on the fields that it was even proposed to close the School of Mines. Yet, four years later, in 1932, there were no less than 65 students from that school working on the Lake View & Star alone. In 1932, following Mr. Thorn's work, the Lake View & Star again became a dividend producer, and in 1933 its profits rose to over £400,000 for the year and it paid a dividend of 50 per cent.

I quote that example to show that when there has been a problem the industry has always been prepared to face up to it and has always come to light with a solution. However, having listened to the President of the Chamber of Mines, Mr. Elvey, I realise that the mines have reached a crisis where management finds it has done everything possible to bring mining to a state of efficiency so that good results can be expected.

To give an example, by comparison with 1924, the latest big development on the fields is the Mt. Charlotte Mine where there are 3,000,000 tons of free milling ore within 700 feet of the surface. The average of that ore is only 3 dwt., yet the

company hopes to treat it successfully. So members can see that management has practically reached the last stage. It feels that if the price of gold is not raised, sooner or later the industry will go to the wall. That is a state of affairs to be deplored by everybody; and I am sure it will be deplored by the Government and by the Minister.

I feel that the International Monetary Fund meeting is the place where this matter will be discussed and where the case can be presented by somebody capable of doing so. It has been suggested that Mr. Elvey, the President of the Chamber of Mines, should be one man to present the case. It has also been suggested that the Minister should be one. Both these are ideal choices. If neither of these men finds it possible to go, and in the event of a decision being made to send someone, I would suggest a third man—the present Under-Secretary for Mines, Mr. Telfer. He knows the industry and is aware of what it means to this country, and he will do his best for us.

I commend the motion to members and feel that it is one which is going to have a vital effect on the future of Western Australia if the mission is successful.

**THE HON. H. K. WATSON** (Metropolitan) [7.52 p.m.]: With what Mr. Heenan said in moving his motion; with what the Minister said in speaking to the motion; and with what other members said in addressing themselves to the motion, I find myself in complete agreement. The motion is, "That the House at its rising adjourn until 2.30 p.m. on Friday" for the purpose, in substance, of drawing attention to the parlous condition of the goldmining industry, and suggesting that Mr. Elvey, or some other member of the Chamber of Mines, should attend the Tokyo conference of the International Monetary Fund and storm the citadel; and I think it is a jolly good idea.

I also think there is some substance in the objection, or, if you like, the criticism, of the Minister which he directed at the method and manner in which this motion has been presented to the House. Mr. Wise would decry the Minister's criticism; he would say that had this matter simply been raised on the Address-in-Reply it would, in the general scheme of things, have been lost amongst all the other items. That may well be. But, as the Minister has said, there has been a period of three weeks within which to bring this subject, or the proposal contained in the motion, before the House.

Mr. Wise has suggested that the matter will be highlighted by the method and manner in which the proposal has been brought forward. But will it be highlighted if the House simply contents itself with debating this subject from half-past four

until eight o'clock this evening? What difference is there between such a debate and a discussion on the Address-in-Reply, if it is merely to be debated and then asked by the mover to be withdrawn?

I have seen many proceedings in the House of Lords; and that august body, which only in the last issue of the *London Times* was described as the premier, senior, and most delightful debating Chamber in the world, deals with motions not unlike this one every day of the week; but it deals with them purely as a debate without any real fire, effort, or objective, and then leave is asked to withdraw the motion.

I would submit that if that is all that is done this evening, then I am with the Minister, and I disagree with Mr. Wise that this will serve to highlight the position. If we want to highlight the position and do something really dramatic and drastic, for my part I would be inclined to oppose any request for leave to withdraw the motion put to the House and would say, "Let us carry the motion and adjourn until 2.30 p.m. on Friday."

**THE HON. E. M. HEENAN** (North-East) [7.57 p.m.]: The debate is almost closed, and I want to thank each member who has spoken. I feel I owe some explanation to the House, which has been very patient and very helpful; but I have the feeling that because this proposal has been brought forward today all other business has been set aside.

Mr. Bennetts is ready to speak on the Address-in-Reply, but he has had to wait all the afternoon; and I daresay others may have been to some degree inconvenienced. So I feel that some explanation is called for, and the explanation is that I honestly and truly believe that this is an urgent matter. I have certainly had three weeks in which to bring it forward, but I can tell you, Sir, and members, that the idea did not occur to me until yesterday; and the idea was born in my mind after I read an article which appeared in *The West Australian* yesterday; and that article emanated from a statement by the Chamber of Mines at Kalgoorlie.

For a long time past I have studied; I have read articles; I have tried to make myself proficient in this subject; I purchased Ian Shannon's book and read it from cover to cover, and all the time I have been searching for the germ of an idea that might in some small way assist in the solution of this problem.

Yesterday it occurred to me, especially after hearing Mr. Elvey at the weekend, that this might be an idea. So I put it to the House in all modesty. I thought some members might laugh this off, some might think it not justified and that we cannot get anywhere; but at least it is a contribution which I have considered and which my goldfields colleagues think is worth while.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Why did you not move for suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 423 and 424?

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I do not know what those Standing Orders contain, but I cannot see that any great harm has been done. Several members have made worth-while speeches and not one has opposed the idea. If there is some better means whereby this matter could have been brought before the House I plead guilty that I am not aware of it, and I am sorry.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: My remarks were not intended to be critical; on the contrary, they were intended to be helpful.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I would have given formal notice of the motion willingly, but if I had done that this afternoon I was not certain that the House would be sitting tomorrow, and this conference at Tokyo commences on the 7th September. I do not know whether Mr. Elvey will be willing to undertake the assignment. He will require some notice at least, and the Minister will need time to contact the Commonwealth authorities; and, also, many preliminaries will have to be attended to. That was my sole purpose in bringing this matter forward this afternoon, namely, that it could be dealt with now and the opinions of members expressed upon it.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: And in a proper manner.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: Some very good views have been expressed this evening. Personally, I am delighted with the considerate way in which the Minister concluded his speech. I am quite satisfied with the trend of the debate, and I am sure other members are interested in this subject. It is not a party political matter. There are, of course, mostly Labor members on the goldfields, but this is a matter that concerns each and every one of us and it is, I think, urgent. Therefore, if I have transgressed by not bringing this matter before the House in the proper manner, I express my full regrets.

I am grateful to the House for allowing the time that has been taken up by members in expressing their views. Although I am going to ask the House for leave to withdraw my formal motion, I feel that what I set out to do has been achieved; namely, that this proposition should be fully considered. Those who have spoken to the motion seem to think there is some merit in it. I hope someone with the status of Mr. Elvey, the Minister—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: The Minister has already given an undertaking.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: —or perhaps someone like Mr. Buckett, the Manager of the Lake View & Star Gold Mine, can attend this conference. I think the mere presence of one of those

men would have a psychological effect. Each of them is a very capable man and whoever does attend the conference could meet others who have similar views and similar worries. In the light of all the circumstances, I think the people of Western Australia—to use an Australianism—would say, "Give it a go". Further, it would not involve a great amount of time or expense.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I did not intend to oppose your request to withdraw the motion, and I hope no one else will.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I am extremely grateful to all members of the House, because no one has expressed opposition to the motion, and I feel that quite a number of members, although they have not spoken, have silently endorsed a great deal of what has been said by the interest they have shown in the various speeches. I now ask the House for leave to withdraw my motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

### STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY

#### *Use of Concrete Sleepers*

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware that concrete sleepers have been utilised in the construction of the new Tokaido trunk railway in Japan?
- (2) In the light of this information, could the Minister advise the results of tests carried out a few years ago in the use of concrete sleepers at Bellevue on our State railways, with the prospect of adopting this method in the construction of the standard gauge railway?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is not proposed to use concrete sleepers on the standard gauge railway project. Western Australian indigenous hardwoods have an excellent reputation as railway sleepers and it is not proposed at this juncture to depart from the present practice of using our local hardwoods either for the standard gauge or the narrow gauge part of the State railway system. The commissioner and his technical officers keep under review from time to time the relative technical and economic aspects of concrete and other forms of sleepers, but there is nothing at this stage which indicates the need or desirability of changing from our local indigenous timber.



**HOSPITAL CHARGES***Increases*

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

With regard to—

- (a) departmental; and  
(b) board hospitals

in Western Australia, will the Minister advise—

- (i) which hospitals have increased their charges since 1959;  
(ii) what was the amount of the increases and when did they occur; and  
(iii) what were the reasons for such increases?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) All departmental and board hospitals have increased their charges.  
(2) There was a general increase as follows from the 1st June, 1960—

Increased from		To	
1 bed ward	72/- per day	1 bed ward	80/- per day
2 bed ward	60/- per day	2-4 bed ward	68/- per day
3-5 bed ward	48/- per day	Other beds	56/- per day
Other beds	36/- per day		

On this occasion the four categories of charges were reduced to three categories. From the 1st November, 1963, the rates were increased to 108s. per day, 84s. per day and 60s. per day respectively.

- (3) (a) Increased costs resulting from commodity rises, basic wage and marginal increases and advances in the field of medicine requiring expensive equipment and professional and technical staff to operate it.  
(b) Western Australia is a claimant State. The non-claimant States of New South Wales and Victoria increased their fees and Western Australia, as a claimant State, is required to retain a reasonable comparison in charges in order to avoid adverse adjustments by the Commonwealth Grants Commission. For the information of the honourable member, other States have also increased their charges and, generally speaking, their rates are comparable. The rise in hospital costs besides being a Commonwealth trend, is world wide also.

**ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES***Extension to Southern Cross and Adjacent Areas*

4. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:

When is it anticipated that S.E.C. power will be made available in Southern Cross and adjacent areas?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Negotiations will be opened with the Yilgarn Shire Council during 1966 with a view to supplying Southern Cross early in 1967. After the township has been supplied and work on all main lines in the area has been completed, the commission will be prepared to receive applications for supply from residents in adjacent areas.

**RAILWAY CROSSING SIGNALS***Cost of Flashing Type*

5. The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Will he inform the House the average cost of installation of a set of simple flashing signals at railway crossings?

*Cost of Gate Type*

- (2) What is the estimated cost of gate type signals such as are installed at Stokely railway crossing on Albany Highway, Maddington?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) £1,200.  
(2) £7,800.

**SCHOOL BUS SERVICES***Cost in Metropolitan and Country Areas*

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

- (1) What is the annual cost of school bus services in Western Australia in—

- (a) metropolitan; and  
(b) country areas?

*Parents' Fee*

- (2) Are parents subjected to any fee for this service?  
(3) If so, what is the charge involved?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) Metropolitan (figures for 1962-63)—£25,363.  
(b) Country (figures for 1962-63)—£1,028,701.  
(2) and (3) No charge is made on departmental contract services. Any charge on subsidised services is a matter between parents and the operator.

**FLASHING LIGHTS***Installation at Wellard Road Railway Crossing*

7. The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the main roads and railways flashing lights committee aware of the shocking loss of two young lives at the Wellard Road railway

crossing, East Rockingham, due to a collision which occurred between 8.30 a.m. and 9 a.m. on the 17th August, 1964?

- (2) In view of the decision of this committee contained in a letter dated the 17th June, 1964, in reply to an application in January, 1964, by the Kwinana Shire for the installation of flashing lights at this dangerous rail and road traffic intersection—

- (a) will the committee take immediate action to reverse its previous decision not to install flashing lights; and
- (b) indicate the date upon which flashing lights will be installed?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The position will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Flashlights Committee to be held in October.
- (b) Answered by (a).

### STATE SCHOOLS

#### *Items Provided by Parents and Citizens' Associations*

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

What are the separate items that the various parents & citizens' associations are expected to provide in State schools in Western Australia?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

There are no specific items which the parents & citizens' associations are expected to provide, but certain items when provided by P. & C. Associations are subsidised by the department.

### AGED PEOPLE

#### *Accommodation at Esperance*

9. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is the building of flats and dwellings for old people proceeding at Esperance this financial year?
- (2) If so, how many will be provided?
- (3) If not, why not?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) to (3) There are no outstanding applications for elderly married couples for accommodation at Esperance. Should applications be received, the programme position will be reviewed.

### FIRE BRIGADES ACT

#### *Disallowance of Regulation 100A: Motion*

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North)  
[8.12 p.m.]: I move—

That regulation 100A made under the provisions of the Fire Brigades Act, 1942-1943, as published in the *Government Gazette* on Thursday, the 16th April, 1964, and laid upon the Table of the House on Tuesday, the 4th August, 1964, be and is hereby disallowed.

I think I should begin by mentioning that the Fire Brigades Act embraces three separate groups of people. There is the Fire Brigades Board, the Fire Brigades Officers' Union, and the Fire Brigades Employees' Union. In the interests of smooth working and harmony among those three bodies it is necessary that they reach decisions on the administration of the fire brigades organisation by methods of arbitration; and they should function in situations whereby there is agreement upon any regulation gazetted, or any matter upon which a decision has been reached to the ultimate benefit and smooth operation of the fire brigades in this State.

Regulation 100A came before the Fire Brigades Board and was submitted to the Minister for approval, gazetted, and laid upon the Table of this House, but I understand it was never made available for consideration by the Fire Brigades Officers' Union or the Fire Brigades Employees' Union. The opinion of the unions is that the new regulation is superfluous, because there is ample provision already in the award, and further provisions are contained in the regulations themselves. These have been in operation for several years and contain satisfactory conditions in relation to the health of the individuals working within those two unions.

This applied rather to the employees' union which covered a more active working body of men. Entrance into the fire brigades service as a career is guarded very jealously. The privileges and rights extended within the organisation are designed to enable the men to give of their best, and to maintain a high degree of efficiency, in both their work and health.

Regulation 100A states—

(1) An employee of the Board shall, when so required by, and at the expense of the Board, submit himself for examination by the Government District Medical Officer who may, however, engage the services of consultants if, in his opinion, the case so requires.

(2) The services of an employee certified by the Government District Medical Officer to be physically unfit for further service, may be terminated by the Board.

(3) An employee who fails, when required by the Board, to submit himself for examination, is guilty of an act of misconduct and his services may be terminated by the Board.

We should examine the situation which existed prior to the promulgation of this regulation. Several regulations which were in force are related to the new regulation. For instance, there is regulation 97 which states—

Every approved candidate will be required to undergo a strict medical examination by the Board's medical officer as to physical fitness before being appointed to the Service.

Regulation 129 states—

Firemen shall receive such sick, annual and other leave (other than long service leave) as determined by an industrial award or agreement. Provided that further sick leave with or without pay may be granted at the discretion of the Board.

Regulation 130 states—

Medical certificates shall be furnished as to an officer's or fireman's fitness or otherwise for duty on application for sick leave and before resuming duty. Provided that the chief officer may dispense with certificates in cases where the sick leave does not exceed one day.

The three regulations which I have just read were in force prior to the introduction of new regulation 100A, which provides for medical examination by the Government district medical officer.

Within the industrial award which applies to these workers there are further provisions relating to this subject. Clause 15 of the award states—

(a) (i) A worker shall be entitled to payment for non-attendance on the ground of personal ill health for one-sixth of a week's pay for each completed month of service.

(ii) The liability of the employer shall in no case exceed two week's wages during each calendar year in respect of each worker, but the sick leave herein provided shall be allowed to accumulate and any portion unused in any year may be availed of in the next or any succeeding year.

(b) No worker shall be entitled to the benefit of this clause unless he produces proof satisfactory to the Board or its representative of sickness but the Board shall not be entitled to a medical certificate for an absence of one shift unless

the pattern of his absences appears to the Board to be excessive.

It will be seen that the board may require the production of a certificate, if it considers that an employee is absent from duty too often. It seems to be completely unnecessary to introduce the verbiage that is used in new regulation 100A.

The unions have accepted the regulations which are in force, and which I have referred to, and also the provisions which are contained in the industrial award. The work has proceeded on a satisfactory basis for many years. It is therefore a great pity that when regulation 100A was being considered, representatives of the union were not given an opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of the proposal. To have a proposal embodied in a gazetted regulation, without consultation with the men, raises some doubts in their minds. They consider with good reason that the existing provisions in the industrial award and the existing regulations made under the Act are ample to cope with any situation which may arise in respect of the standard of health of the employees.

I ask the House to consider the rejection of regulation 100A if, for no other reason, than that an opportunity will be given to the executive of the unions concerned to discuss the matter at a conference and under arbitration with the Fire Brigades Board, so that they can reach agreement in formulating a new set of regulations in the interests of the administration of the Fire Brigades Board and its employees. Such a course of action would be acceptable to the unions, because the men would have full knowledge of what was proposed before a regulation was gazetted. That would be preferable to the high-handed attitude adopted by the board in promulgating regulation 100A as an *ipso facto* case, without consultation with the men.

I understand a similar regulation was discussed with the late Gilbert Fraser, the previous Chief Secretary, in 1956; but after negotiations with the board members, during which they asked for an opportunity to place their views on the anomalies and advantages that might exist under the proposal, the Minister did not proceed with the amendment. He was quite satisfied to allow the *status quo* to remain, and it has remained for eight years since. There appears to be no reason for making an alteration at this stage. No cases have arisen to justify any alteration, because the position is adequately covered by the existing regulations and the award provisions. I ask the House to support me in this motion to disallow regulation 100A.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government).

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 18th August, on the following motion by The Hon. J. G. Hislop:—

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

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

**THE HON. G. BENNETTS** (South-East) [8.25 p.m.]: I must thank the Government for extending my tenure as a member of this Parliament. I thought on the last occasion when I spoke in this House that I was finishing my career as a parliamentarian. Members must think a lot of me, because they are keeping me back for another year. So this will very likely be my last year in Parliament, but of course members will miss me!

I fully support the sentiments expressed by one member when he praised Dr. Hislop for the speech he made in moving the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. It is just like Dr. Hislop; he always makes a remarkably good speech. On this occasion it was an outstanding one, and it contained much food for thought.

After hearing the remarks made by my colleagues representing the goldfields in connection with the goldmining industry, I am very concerned. I was on the goldfields on the 16th January, 1896—only two years after the goldmining industry had started there. My father preceded me by 12 months, and he was one of the first engine drivers on the Great Boulder Mine. We both had much experience in the goldmining industry.

I am one of the oldest continuous residents on the goldfields alive today, although there might be a few others about whom I do not know. I have lived there continuously over the years, and have seen many of the miners die from complaints, such as silicosis, and through mining accidents. This state of affairs was overcome to an extent by the formation of unions of workers which negotiated with the mining companies to provide better ventilation. Better conditions have been obtained, and they have been responsible for removing many of the complaints.

The other day I went down a mine in company with some of my colleagues. I used to work underground myself, and in 1912 I was buried under a fall of earth,

but had a remarkable escape. On this occasion when I went underground it brought back memories of the wonderful co-operation which existed between management and staff. Mr. Simpson is the manager of this mine, and he treats everybody on the same footing. He is a practical man. A suggestion has been made that Mr. Elvey should be sent to Tokyo, but if he cannot go, then Mr. Jack Holley or Mr. Simpson could fill his place. Those two gentlemen are top-notchers in the mining industry.

The mine which I inspected the other day is operating with the most modern equipment; but, of course, such equipment is not new in some parts of the world. This mine is working on  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 dwt. dirt, and the reason it is able to work on such low-grade ore is that it uses modern equipment, applies good management methods, and does away with timbering. The timbering in goldmines costs thousands of pounds. Practically all the drives are timbered and the wages for a timber man range from £5 to £7. Therefore, if the timber men and timber were taken away, the mine could work on a lower grade ore.

This mine is taking out 16,000 tons of dirt per month, and before Christmas it will be up to the maximum of 26,000 tons. That is its limit in order to make the mine payable. This dirt is to be taken from Mt. Charlotte to the crushing plant at Trafalgar, three miles away. The carting is let by contract; and it can be seen that heavy expenses are being incurred to keep this mine in production.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Would not a conveyor belt be much cheaper?

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: No, because of the distance. Everything is being done at this mine to prevent gases and dust from polluting the air. The latest type of appliance is used to test the gases in the mine, and this appliance is a little thing no bigger than a foot square. It costs over £1,000 and is taken underground by a person who tests the gas and air in the mine at certain periods of the day. As a result, the air in that mine is as clear as it is on the surface. It can be seen that great strides have been made in the mining industry.

I do not know what will happen if we cannot increase the price of gold. If this is the case, we will have to go to the Commonwealth to obtain further subsidies to keep the mines going. In Kalgoorlie the population in the municipal area is 11,000: I think Mr. Heenan mentioned a figure of 20,000. There are 7,000 people in the road board area, and 5,000 in Boulder. That makes a total population of approximately 23,000 people on the goldfields. Many of these people have worked there for years and everything they own is there. Their occupation is mining. I think Mr. Heenan said that perhaps if the goldmines went

out these people could move away to other occupations; but it would take them a lifetime to get used to other types of employment. They are miners and that is all they know.

Another point is this: It takes capital to get started in farming and it is also necessary to obtain land. It would certainly be a big job to do this for 23,000 people. Going back a few years, I would say that but for the goldmines finding gold, and the amount of capital which was pushed into the country, the metropolitan area would not have grown as it has; nor would the places between Perth and Kalgoorlie have developed. There is no doubt about that; and if the goldmining industry went flop, not only would the goldfields people suffer, but the metropolitan area would receive a serious setback, because most of the commodities used on the goldfields are carted from the metropolitan area. So, Mr. President, you can see that the motion which was debated tonight is a very important one, not only to Western Australia, but to the whole of Australia.

We must not forget that during the depression this industry did a lot for Australia as a whole; and when the war came the industry got moving again and assisted this State and the Commonwealth. If we can get over this period and reach a stage where the mines will find better methods to produce and treat ore, the industry may get on top again and do more for the State than it is doing today. Do not forget that Western Australia and Australia today are on the pig's back as regards wool.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I thought it was the sheep's back.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: If the price of wool drops, we could turn to the mining industry, provided it is given the support which is asked for. I have heard other members speak about prospectors, and what they have had to say is true. There are not many prospectors in the bush today. I put some of the blame on the chain stores that have come into this State. Years ago the prospectors were supported by leading citizens on the goldfields. One was John Wills & Co., a grocer at Boulder. He used to lend them cash and groceries. There were also Sheed and Jacksons at Boulder, Morans at Coolgardie, and others on the goldfields that supplied these men with provisions so as to keep them in the bush. They were the men who found the gold. However, chain stores came into operation and put the other firms out of business.

We will have to take heed now in regard to our iron ore deposits. I noticed an item in the Press the other day to the effect that China was negotiating with Japan for the sale of iron ore. I saw a copy of *The West Australian* of the 3rd August containing an article headed, "Japan Holds The Cards In Iron

Ore Deal." There is no doubt about that. An engineer said to me the other day that if we did not stop muddling about, as is being done at the moment, we would lose the sale of iron ore to Japan. We will have to see that we do not.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: We tried to do it.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Last year I rose on my feet and said what would follow as a result of the Government doing away with the Arbitration Court. What do we find today? We find that the commission has adopted tactics that have never been known in this State before. It said that the parties to the basic wage case would have to submit their cases in writing because one of the commissioners was crook. Mark my words. We have never seen rioting in this country before. We have had a peaceful country and a good mob of workers.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You forget the Italians on the goldfields.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: This Government is trying to take away the right to strike and put everyone back on the slave market. That is going to happen, but I hope it will not take place during my life time. I do not want to see trouble arise in this country.

I am pleased to find that we have now started to build the standard gauge railway. Going back to 1918, when I was head conductor on the Commonwealth Railways, we had an outstanding engineer from the Eastern States. In conversation with him, he mentioned the standardisation of our railways and said he was trying to get the line brought from Sydney through Red Hill, Port Augusta, to here. When I was in the Kalgoorlie Municipal Council about 1945 I brought the matter up so that we could get local governing bodies to deal with it with a view to sending a request to the Prime Minister for the standardisation of our railways. That motion was submitted to the Federal Government, and it was one of the moves in which we took part.

We have to congratulate an ex-Commissioner of Commonwealth Railways, Mr. Hannaberry, who was responsible for the dieselisation of the Commonwealth Railways and of all railways in Australia. After the Commonwealth Railways turned to diesel locomotives it was seen by the rest of Australia what money could be saved by converting to diesel. The Commonwealth Railways were brought from a non-paying service to a paying one. Mr. Hannaberry was assisted by his Chief Mechanical Engineer—now the Commonwealth Commissioner for Railways, Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith was responsible for the building of the north-south railway; and both he and Mr. Hannaberry were responsible for bringing in the pickaback service on the north-south line and the Commonwealth Railways.

Today the Commonwealth Railways are reorganising their stock and increasing the size by about four times that which previously existed so as to double the train loading. In addition, they are relaying the track. Previously an 80 lb. rail was used. It was laid with 14 sleepers to 33 rails. They are now being replaced by a 94 lb rail which is 270 ft. in length. These rails are welded in the Port Augusta yards. They are dropped alongside the present rail and there is a flying gang with modern machinery to place them in position. The men do not handle anything; it is all done by machinery. My son-in-law was there the other day with a rake of ballast. The train unloaded this ballast and within 30 minutes it was able to go over the line that was relaid. That shows what is taking place today with the latest equipment, and the necessary know-how.

The welded rail means, too, that fishplates and bolts are done away with. On the 80 lb. rail there were 13 or 14 sleepers, but the new rail has 17; and a small iron base plate goes under the rail on to the sleeper. Excessive vibration causes the rails to cut into the sleepers. Heavy traffic passes over the rails and the ends of the sleepers break off and become dangerous. They are now putting in base plates which help to strengthen the rails and this provides a better ride for rolling stock, and so on.

The rails are welded together and on the trans-line they are welded into 4½-mile lengths. There are 17 sleepers in each length of 33 ft. In a distance of 4½ miles, 720 33-ft. rails are welded together. On a double track there are 1,440 rails welded together. This does away with 3,760 fishplates, 28,560 fishplate bolts, and 28,560 slip washers. By doing away with this equipment they save on labour. Gangs who work in these places have to check the fishplate bolts to see that they are tight. The welded rails will do away with all that. They also save expense because the money can be used for base plates.

Members will be surprised at the length of life of some sleepers. The line was started in 1912. I was working on it at the time. Jarrah, wandoo, and Powellised sleepers were used. The Powellised sleepers were ordinary sleepers that had been dipped in a certain solution. They are now pulling up some sleepers that were laid in 1912. Wandoo sleepers last for 30 years; jarrah sleepers last for 20 years. They have scrapped the use of karri. They will not have it on their minds.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The Powellised sleepers would have been made of karri.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: They might have been. On the central Australian railways the rails are welded into 17½-mile lengths. On the new railway in Japan

they use continuous rails. There is a continuous length, I believe, of about 400 miles. On the central Australia railway the lengths of rail are 17½ miles.

Our railways are suffering from the same defects as are the Commonwealth Railways. The men who were working on the railway that I mentioned were making good money. They were paid expenses and their rate of pay would have been somewhere in the vicinity of £30 a week. I am only guessing. The wages of ordinary fettlers would be around £16 or £17 per week. They have to go to isolated places and it is hard to get fettlers to go to such places. I have seen only two men in a gang and it was impossible for them to do anything. All that those men could do was to get on the trike and inspect the tracks. It is unfortunate that the Government should be in such a position. Only a certain class of man will work in those out-of-the-way places.

The Esperance line has the heaviest volume of traffic in the State according to the weight of rail. The rail has a weight of 45 lb. On that line there is the same trouble: the railways cannot get men. The other day I saw a gang which comprised only one man. Men are not keen to work in places where there are no stores. One man at Norseman was paying 50s. a week for his house. His wages were £15 5s. or £15 10s. There was not much left out of his wages for his family.

One man paid 6s. for accommodation at a camp site, but rates range from 6s. to 50s. per week. A man who is sent to an isolated place has to carry his swag and his food because there are no stores in those isolated places. When he gets to his destination he finds that there is no bed; and in some cases he arrives in the morning and leaves on the next train, because he will not stay.

We cannot get men to fill the gangs. The fettler has been called many names and has been looked down upon; yet he works night and day whenever there is a washaway. When an engine recently turned over at Coolgardie, I went to see it and I thought it was a pity that I did not have a tape recorder. I found that the men there were working night and day. They had only skimpy tucker and they were allowed only a quarter of an hour for a meal. Many of those men left. They would not carry on.

The goldmining industry has the pick of the men who are available from the employment bureau. Local government bodies take second pick, and the railways get the rest. The men on the railways should be given better conditions. Perhaps their rents could be reduced. It would not hurt the Government to build cottages in those isolated places and to say, "We are going to give you the accommodation free of charge." The Government should give the men a decent away-from-home allowance or it should set up flying gangs, or gangs

that could look after longer sections of line. On the Commonwealth Railways there are gangs working 40-mile sections.

The unions could go for a higher award for these men. I have placed a case before the Minister for Railways. Something will have to be done. There are a lot of native men working in the gangs on the Esperance line. There are quite a few in the north.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: Right through to Meekatharra.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Yes. The conductors employed on the State Government Railways are men with practical railway experience. They have passed their safe working examinations, have had a sight test, and are capable of doing shunting work or any other type of work connected with the railways. Conductors employed by the Commonwealth Railways and other State railways are put on without any railway experience. They do not have to have the same qualifications as the men on our State Railways.

The Hon. J. D. Teahan: The men on the State Railways must have a knowledge of first aid.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Wait a minute. I was the secretary of the St. John Ambulance section on the Commonwealth Railways. We were encouraged to enter teams for competitions. I will never forget the time when I had a team ready to go to Port Augusta to take part in a competition. At the last minute our trip was cancelled, because the cost of sending the men to Port Augusta was considered too expensive. It was too expensive for five men to travel over a railway they owned themselves and for them to be provided with accommodation for two days. I sent all the gear back to the welfare officer of our department and told him that it was the finish of the first aid group on the Kalgoorlie end of the line.

About a month afterwards I went to see an official who was on a train that had arrived at Kalgoorlie. While I was there a person caught his finger in a sliding door. This gave me food for thought. The official said, "Get a first-aid man." I said, "Where are you going to get one, Mr. Skinner?" He said, "Haven't you got a man?" I said, "There isn't a first-aid man on the train." I told him it was due to his lack of foresight in not allowing the men the right to travel to the competition, and so the men had lost interest in the first-aid movement. On the Commonwealth Railways today the head conductor has to be a first-aid man and qualified in safe working.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Mr. Teahan said that it was the State Railways that had a first-aid man.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Yes. There is another important thing: every care is taken of people arriving in Perth from the

Eastern States. On arrival in Kalgoorlie conductors take charge of their luggage and put it on the train; but when local people arrive at Kalgoorlie their luggage is put on the platform and no assistance at all is given to them. If members know the length of the Kalgoorlie station they will realise that if these people are put off at the end of the platform they have a considerable distance to walk. I raised the matter with the department and I was told that we would have to try to engage a redcap or somebody else to take on the job.

But it would take a man only a quarter of an hour to pick up the luggage of Kalgoorlie people and transport it by barrow. At the present time when women with children arrive in Kalgoorlie with luggage they find they are considerably inconvenienced. I have seen Eastern States people picking up bags for women with children and helping them on their way. If we want to provide a good service and attract patronage for the railways we will have to do something for the passengers. I think our service is a good one, and the attention provided by the staff is first-class. They are all familiar with their work and they do a good job. The girls in the buffet car and, in fact, all the railway employees give excellent service, as do the heads of the department. They are most efficient.

As regards the questions of education, about five years ago I contacted the department regarding the school yard at the central school in Merredin. The yard was gravelled but never graded; and while I was there with Mr. Stubbs, during the heavy rain about a month ago, the ground was a lake of water and has been so each winter for the last five years. The schoolmaster and friends of mine in Merredin told me how the children come home every day with wet feet; and that was quite evident from the fact that the floors of the school were covered with mud.

This school is still fitted out with all the old equipment; it has been there for years and it is all out of date. It is about time these old schools were attended to. A high school has been built at Merredin and another school has been erected on the south side of the town. These schools are on the high ground; and as they are new they have been provided with all the latest equipment and the other school is left with all the old fixtures and fittings. Unfortunately, however, the high school, which was built about seven years ago, is still without a sports ground and the children have to walk approximately a mile for their sport. Mr. Stubbs asked some questions of the Minister in regard to this matter and I think the reply was that the Government would do something about it.

The Southern Cross School is in much the same position. For years I have been trying to have something done about repairs and renovations to this school but so

far nothing has been done. When I was there the other day I found the side verandah had been closed in. It was a manual training school but the verandah is very narrow and the seats run lengthwise. One teacher is trying to look after a class of children in that room. All the rooms are overcrowded despite the fact that the Bullfinch mine has closed down. It was first thought that when the mine closed the population would decrease. However, as the Southern Cross area is being opened up for agricultural purposes the population is increasing.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It is a very good area.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: There are 170 children at the school now. The reply given to a question asked by Mr. Stubbs in regard to the school indicated that the Government intended to build a high school at Southern Cross. But I would like to know when the Government intends to build it. It is all very well to promise something, but if the Government does not get on with the job, and call tenders for the work, the school will not be finished by the beginning of the next school year.

I was talking to the principal of a business firm the other day and he said to me, "You know, Mr. Bennetts, every one of the boys we have in this firm has his Junior Certificate but nothing seems to be done about tradesmen. We are getting too many of the higher educated ones and not enough with trade experience. Isn't there something you can do to train more of our own boys in a trade instead of bringing other people into the country?" I was wondering whether something could be done along the lines suggested by that man so that more of our boys could be taught a trade instead of going on to get their Junior Certificates.

I know of one girl who passed six subjects in her Junior examination. She wants to become a nurse and she would be very suitable for the nursing profession. Unfortunately children at school are not told what subjects are required if they wish to become nurses. This lass passed six subjects but they did not include history or geography and apparently a child cannot get into the nursing profession unless she has passed either geography or history at the Junior examination. That is ridiculous. What is the good of geography these days? The world is changing all the time, and the pattern will change much more quickly if we do not watch out.

Look at the eleven hundred million people who are trying desperately to do something about this country now. Things can change overnight; so what is the good of geography or history to a girl who wants to become a nurse? What they ought to know is how to scrub some of these people, change the kids, and things like that.

They want to know how to adapt themselves to the requirements of the aged and the young. I do not know how some of these young tarts with a Junior Certificate and all the other qualifications they have would get on in a maternity ward. They would drop dead at some of the things that happen.

The young girl I mentioned has not got all the qualifications required. She has plenty of other knowledge but she cannot get into the nursing profession. If she wants to become a nurse, she must go in as a trainee-nurse for 12 months and during that time pass in either history or geography. But what is the good of that? I do not know. So I ask the Minister to have a look at that matter to see if he can work something out with his administrative officers to assist girls who are prepared to go into the nursing profession but who do not possess all the necessary qualifications. In my opinion many of them would be far more suitable than some of these high-class people who think they are tin gods but who would be useless in a hospital ward where they have to attend to the sick and injured.

I now come to a touchy subject. In *The West Australian* of the 4th August the Minister for Native Welfare said that a survey of the farm labour needs in the Esperance district would be made with a view to increasing the number of jobs available for natives. I do not know whether members recall this, but some years ago I said that the Government should take over an area of land in the Esperance district for the purposes of a native settlement scheme. There are thousands of acres in the area between Southern Cross, Yellowdine, and down to Salmon Gums. The area has a 12-inch rainfall. At one time it was thought to be unsuitable for farming. But today, such land, which was thought to be useless can, with the use of modern equipment, fertilisers, and trace elements, be brought into production. If we were to open up all the land we have in Western Australia and put it into production there would be no need for any Minister to go overseas with a view to encouraging the investment of capital in this State. People would rush here and they would willingly invest their money. The State would be fully developed and there would be plenty of openings for the capital that would be offering.

Year after year requests have been made to the Minister for Lands for that land to be thrown open. Requests have been made by the Shire of Southern Cross and other organisations in the area but up to date nothing has been done. At least half of the land in that district could be opened up for the purpose of a native settlement scheme: and there is no doubt that we have to do something for these people.



Look at what is happening in South Africa today. The black race is not wanted by the whites. There is trouble over segregation and everything else. What has caused that? In about 1902 or 1903 my father went to South Africa to find my mother's brother who was a shift boss on one of the mines. He found the shift bosses there used whips to flog the boys to make them work and he was absolutely disgusted. In the Boulder cemetery there is the tombstone of a man by the name of Poole. He was a shift boss in South Africa and he told us the same thing. That was the job of the shift boss. Is it any wonder there is all this trouble in South Africa today?

We have educated the coloured people in our schools and universities and they know what happened to their own people years ago. Naturally they want to do something better for themselves but the white people do not want them. The same sort of thing is happening in our own country today. When I arrived in Kalgoorlie I was only a little whipper-snapper of about six years of age and I can remember my parents saying that at that time there were only 10 to 20 white women on the goldfields. When the natives came in they were completely in their primitive state; they were completely naked.

This state of affairs continued until they got mixed up with the whites. I recall that when I was a bit bigger I used to wonder why the native girls would sit on one doorstep or another. I was told they were doing their washing. But after what happened later on I realised that they were doing anything but their washing; because very soon after we had a half-caste population. I want to stress that we are going to have trouble with these people. The half-castes are not wanted by the blacks or by the whites.

I remember that in 1910 I signed a contract to work with the Germans at the Whim Creek copper mine. I worked under a German in slave-labour conditions. I stayed for half a shift and then I picked up my bag and walked about 96 miles into Roebourne. I heard of a mob of cattle coming through which belonged to a man called Ernest Hall. He was another man who liked to treat the native people as if they were slaves. He very often used the whip on them. I have heard members speak of the cattle stations that I know of, and I would point out that it was necessary for us to give the station managers 12 hours' notice of our arrival. The reason we had to do this was that these station people were running harems. The native girls were locked up and kept on the verandahs. There is no doubt they were being run on a slave-labour basis.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is not so today.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: No, I am glad to say it is not so today; and although I have not very much time for the man, I must say most of the credit for it goes to Mr. McLeod. He seems to have brought these station managers into line to a great extent. I do not wish to cast any aspersions on members of this House, but I would have no hesitation in saying that where native labour is employed they are certainly not being given the pay they should get.

I certainly do not know what help their voting rights are going to be to them, because after all the station manager will fill out their ballot paper and sign it on behalf of the natives; to whose benefit of course is anybody's guess. I think it is very necessary for the Government to open up a land settlement scheme in the Esperance district where it can train natives to become efficient in farming and animal husbandry, and get them to the stage where they can run a plot of their own. The scheme I have in mind could be controlled by the Government and worked on a community basis. The natives would marry and be given an allotment and paid wages by the Government for their produce. The natives could quite easily be given land in the Southern Cross district. It is high time we did something for these people, because the whites are responsible for their present condition. We took the country off them and a number of their women were seduced by the white people, so I feel their rehabilitation is very much the responsibility of the whites.

There is no doubt the men employed on the railways are doing a very good job. Here again is something to which the Minister for Native Welfare might give some thought. He could select some native boys and train them as fettlers on the railways. There is a committee in Kalgoorlie at the moment working in an endeavour to better the standard of the natives. It is proposed to build a hospital in that area. I would point out that some of the business people are members of the committee to which I have referred. This story was told to me second hand. One of these businessmen was asked about employing natives, but he would not have them at any price. At the same time he wanted everybody else to employ them. To make my point that the natives have the ability, I would only mention that there is a native girl in Kalgoorlie who does typing and bookkeeping, and her work is of a pretty high standard.

One of the biggest bugbears, and the reason why natives revert to their previous state, is that while they are being looked after in the missions they are all right; they are protected.

For example, in Norseman there is a Church of Christ mission. A number of these people are kept there from the time

they are babies until they are 16 years of age. The girls' dormitories are in some cases cleaner than those of white girls I have known. They are looked after well in the mission, but when they leave and go into the world they are generally picked up by some shrewd half-caste natives who take them away. These girls, of course, only know the white man's ways; they know nothing about catching goannas and eating bardiess. The first thing that happens is that they fall prey to the ways of their mothers or the man who has taken them away. It is a great shame that nothing can be done about it.

I would now like to touch on tourism. I was greatly amazed on my recent visit to the Eastern States to find that the tourist department in South Australia had no information at all on Kalgoorlie or Esperance. I am talking about the Western Australian tourist department in Adelaide. It is a wonderful building, and I recommend that members visit it. While I was there I asked for the manager, but I was told by the young lady that he was not in. I told her who I was and she asked me if I would like to look around. I said I would, and she showed me around the place.

I noticed huge enlargements about 4 ft. by 4 ft. of scenes in the metropolitan area; there was also one of Geraldton. I asked if she had anything on Kalgoorlie, and she said she did not think so. She then remembered that she had a brochure signed by a man named Spencer Compton of the Historical Society of Kalgoorlie. I said I was glad to see the brochure because I was a member of the society. I told her about the size of Kalgoorlie and the population, and she was amazed. I then asked her if she had any literature on Esperance, but she did not know the place.

When I returned I wrote to the Minister concerned, and a few weeks later he sent me along some brochures and books which were printed after the date of my letter. He also said that from time to time other parts of the State would be advertised and publicised. The next time I am over there I hope to see large photos of the Golden Mile and Esperance.

I now wish to deal with the Police Department. I think we all agree that the numbers in the Police Department ought to be increased, particularly with the trouble we have these days from teenagers and so on. A policeman risks his life when he goes out alone, and I think they ought to be sent out in pairs. Today a policeman is not permitted to carry a fire-arm or to lay his hand on a person.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: He is lucky to have his uniform.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: We must give these people more protection and more authority, otherwise I cannot see how we can get men to join the Police Force. They are risking their lives and they deserve

some protection. In some cases they come before the court and the decision is given against them. There is no doubt that they are at a great disadvantage when they are faced by lawyers in some court cases. I know of incidents where the policeman has anticipated trouble and has nicked off because he was alone and was afraid of being belted if he interfered. I think that is the right attitude. At one time the Police Force was looked upon as being of a high standard, and the training of policemen was very strenuous. It was necessary for them to do gymnasium work, and other physical exercise. Today, however, that is not the case.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: They undergo training in the gymnasiums.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I did not know that. It is a very good thing if they do. The other night I heard Mr. Robinson speak about the amalgamation of certain local governing bodies in his area. I think he said there were two or three small ones.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: There are 22 in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: We have three in Kalgoorlie in a radius of four miles. In one local governing body there are 11,000 people, in another 7,000, and in the other 4,000 or 5,000, but in the whole of that area we have not one engineer, because they cannot afford one. But we have everything else in triplicate—all the plant and everything. I have been asked to mention this matter. I would not like to see any local governing body go out of existence, but if by doing so the burden of rates would be lightened and more work would be done on roads and footpaths, etc., then I am for it. However, I do not think that any amalgamation should take place unless a referendum is held by the local governing bodies concerned.

I do not know who has to take the action. I think the local governing bodies themselves have to make application. It does seem to me that there is a lot of extra equipment and bookwork which could all be concentrated into one body and thus perhaps provide a profit.

I am worried about the present crisis throughout the world particularly in Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Red China. There are 350,000,000 Indonesians and 750,000,000 Chinese very close to our shores.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: They might have been the figures yesterday. There would be more today!

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Yes. They increase yearly by the million. They are like rabbits. However, they are becoming well equipped and well armed. They are not the old folk who used to run around with a basket and a pigtail selling vegetables. This fellow is physically developed today and he is trained to the teeth. He has no fear.

I do not know the ability of our administrative staff in Canberra in control of the Navy, Army, and Air Force. Are they capable of running those forces? We are a small country and one of the wealthiest, I suppose, in the world with a population of 11,000,000, as against the 1,100,000,000 nearby. Yet we have not much more equipment than we had during the last war. There was mention made in the Press a few days ago of an incident involving an aircraft. When we think of that and the collision between the Voyager and the Melbourne it makes us realise that we are not spending enough on defence. The summing up of the evidence of the collision did not appear favourable for the heads of our defence departments. Have we square pegs in round holes trying to administer? I do not know, but I do believe that those in such positions should be trained and educated so that we might be safe.

The subject about which I now wish to deal I am sure will gain for me support from the Country Party members in this House. I refer to the menace of Bathurst burr. The cost of buying sheep and landing them on to properties in this State is five guineas a head, and when we realise that 200,000 sheep have arrived, we can calculate that they would be worth £1,000,000.

When these sheep are bought in the Eastern States an affidavit must be signed to say they are free of burr and all diseases, and that affidavit is carried with the sheep. Then in addition a stock inspector's receipt must be obtained indicating that the statement contained in the affidavit is correct. Despite this, sheep are arriving with the burr.

The facilities for inspecting and the time allowed on arrival are ridiculous. There were 30,000-odd sheep in the yard with transport waiting to take them away to different places. They were rushed in, some with broken legs, or crippled, and as thin as matches. The crows could have landed on any part of them. No inspection was ever made of the hoofs of those animals. I have been talking with some of our pastoral men in Kalgoorlie—men of great experience, and they are very worried about it.

Years ago I used to run guard on stock trains from the Eastern States and in those days we brought in a lot of horses from there. They went right up through the back country, and their hoofs, manes, and tails had Bathurst burr in them. So the burr spread up into that back country then.

These sheep which are arriving are being sent into different districts and the time that is available for inspection is ridiculous. I am told that the sheep are being sent out with burr in them. The only way that this can be avoided is to arrange for the sheep to be shorn in the east before they are loaded into the

wagons. Shearing is being done in Kalgoorlie where a shed has been provided for the purpose, but the burr is already in the State and once it gets here it can be spread through being on clothing and in every other way. There are many transports a day leaving Kalgoorlie with these sheep, and if the burr is in the hoof of a sheep it could drop anywhere along the road. Once it is dropped it will spread and spread, and the State will be full of it.

It must be remembered that Kalgoorlie is developing into a real sheep area. Barton Jones recently sheared 18,000 sheep and obtained 694 bales. Jack Warren sheared the same number. Therefore, it is evident that there is an enormous number of sheep on those two stations alone, apart from those further north. All these men have the burr in their districts.

The Minister about six months ago visited Kalgoorlie to attend the local governing body's conference which was considering this problem. I know the Government cannot do the lot, but it can help to eradicate this burr. I do not know what the Minister finally decided, but I think he was supposed to report back to the conference at a later date and indicate what assistance the Government would give. We do have the burr there.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: Plenty of it, too.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: There will be plenty more, now, with these transports. The other day six transports left whilst Mr. Wise, Mr. Strickland, and I were there, and they were going to different parts of the State. One person told us that there was no guarantee that the loads were free of the burr. The sheep had about two inches of wool on them I suppose.

Another thing about which I am concerned in this State is the fruit fly. As members who travel on the interstate train will know, a fruit-fly inspector boards the train on its journey east, about 100 miles out of Augusta on the South Australian side. He goes through every compartment and contacts each person on the train, and of course he has plenty of time to do this. But what happens this end?

Under the old system no fruit was given to passengers on the train. However, under the new system each passenger in the morning is given some wheaties, a cup of tea, a slice or two of toast, and an orange and apple. That is distributed on the morning of the train's arrival in Kalgoorlie. If the passenger does not eat the apple or orange, he puts it into his case. Of course, anyone who is fruit-fly conscious would not do this but would hand it over. However, on the train on which I travelled recently there was no-one to hand it to, because there was no inspector on board. Usually there is an inspector, but he comes on the train only 15 minutes before it reaches Kalgoorlie. He boards the train at Parkeston, having driven there by car.

I travelled on that train for many years and I could never check it in 15 minutes. Apart from the fact that there is not sufficient time, even if the passengers are in their compartments, half of them are by then waiting on the platform with their bags packed ready to transfer to the other train.

The inspector has 15 minutes in which to inspect the whole of the train. I was pretty slick on my feet, but I could not do it. The inspector must explain why he is there, and he would not get through many compartments in the 15 minutes. Sometimes there is a double train, and then the train is split at Parkeston, one half proceeding to Kalgoorlie, leaving the other half to be brought in after the first part has arrived.

The inspector would not have time to go back to Parkeston; but the Minister told me he would be on the platform seeing the people get off. How many people would he see? They get out of the different carriages and walk away. He would have to be pretty good to be able to check those people. He went on to say that South Australia is free of fly and the authorities there are only frightened of codling moth. They inspect the trains arriving with goods, and they also inspect transport trucks. That would be a hard job for one man. He said that when the standard gauge railway came into being there would be a better system.

What happens to the fruit one leaves is that the conductor comes along within 50 miles of Parkeston and takes the rubbish containers and tips them out of the train. The remains of the fruit then go out of the train. The whole thing is pretty dangerous.

There is another matter about which I have had a few complaints, and that is second-hand car dealing in this State. These dealers are the biggest scroungers on the face of the earth. They will buy a car for a couple of hundred pounds, give it a good wipe over, and put it on the floor at £300. They are working on the weakness of the poor people who have to get rid of their cars. I do not know how we are going to overcome the position. The system is a pretty rotten one. Whether the Government has any control over these people in their dealings, I do not know. The Minister might be able to tell me whether it has.

Another complaint I have received comes under the Minister for Health. Last year an age pensioner, 81 years old—a mother who has reared eight children and who has 23 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren; she has done her part, and she is a resident of Kalgoorlie—was sent to the Royal Perth Hospital to undergo an eye operation. One member of her family was able to bring her to Perth. She was supposed to be at the hospital at 10 o'clock on, say, a Friday. She had to leave the

day before, because the train might have run late and she would have missed the appointment. Luckily for her, she had a friend here who said she could stay with her, which she did. She went to the hospital the next day and was told she had to come back within a few days to undergo the operation.

She left with the hospital the address at which she was staying—somewhere in Fremantle—so that if anything untoward arose the hospital could contact her. After she left the hospital, word was sent by the hospital to her home in Kalgoorlie to say she would not be wanted for some months; but her home at Kalgoorlie was vacant. In the meantime, while she was waiting to hear from the hospital, she slipped on one of the pedestrian islands in the middle of a street and broke a rib and had to be attended to by a doctor somewhere in Fremantle. She subsequently went to the hospital where she was told, "We wrote to tell you you would not be wanted until some months hence." That meant she had to go back home.

I have here a letter which was written on the 12th May last from the Royal Perth Hospital. The letter is addressed to Mrs. R. Turrell, c/o 14 Harris Street, Palmyra. The hospital officials wrote to her here, but she was then living in Kalgoorlie. This was some months ago. That letter states—

Dear Madam,

Please report to the Eye Clinic at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 20th May. Please present this letter to the Clerk. Arrangements will then be made for your admission to hospital the following Saturday if a bed is available.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) T. S. SMITH.

That person is 81 years of age and is living by herself. Members know the condition of a pensioner like her with eyesight like she had. There was no-one to help her on this occasion, which meant that she would have had to make use of outside accommodation whilst waiting to go into the hospital. People in these circumstances coming from remote areas should be guaranteed accommodation until they are sent home after an operation.

I called on Mr. Devereux last year in connection with the other case, but I have not seen him about this one yet. He told me he was going to a board meeting that day or the following day and he would have the matter brought forward. These are some of the hardships that people in the back country have to face. They cannot get certain hospital treatment on the goldfields but have to come to Perth for it.

I heard Mr. Willesee and Mr. Ron Thompson mention Kelvinators and hire purchase. I am interested in this matter because three years ago I had a nine

cubic foot Kelvinator. My wife said, "What about changing it? Get a bigger one on account of the children coming home; we want more storage space." I said, "All right"; although I did not like losing the one we had. I went to four different firms, because I knew them all, to get a quote. There was a bit of a credit squeeze at the time and a man from one of these firms saw my Kelvinator and said, "I will give you £75 for it." The refrigerator I was looking at was a Pope, and its price was £205; and that was the standard price at two different shops.

The other shops sent word to tell me they could not negotiate with me because of the squeeze. So I went to another firm and said to the chap, "Would you be interested in a changeover?" He said, "Too right, Mr. Bennetts. I will have a look at your refrigerator." My wife saw him, and he said, "Tell Mr. Bennetts I will give him £80. Will he be paying cash?" She said, "Yes." He said, "Make it £100."

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He must have known you had plenty of money.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I saw him and he said, "Give me £85 and the new one is yours."

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: You should have delayed another day.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Look at the cop they must be making; they are not selling for nothing.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Look at the cop you made.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: I did all right. He wrote down the terms of the offer; and in order to be fair, I took it to the other firm, and the chap there who had seen me said, "Snap it up; I could not do that." That is what is going on in this line of business; it is terrific.

Because of what we have heard about the mining industry tonight, and the increasing of the basic wage all the time, we cannot blame the worker for trying to get more money, because everything is sneaking up, and it is because of these scroungers. I do not want to be insulting to any members of the House, and I will not refer to anyone, but members' bosses—the big combines, and so on—are the people who are forcing the worker to go for higher rates of pay. If there is an increase of 1s. in the basic wage, we can guarantee that some business firms will add 1s. or 2s. on to every item in the shop. The only thing to do is to do what Ben Chifley said many years ago—peg it at both ends. Everyone should work on a fair margin.

Something that I saw only last week was this: At Foy and Gibson's there was on the counter a clock which played a tune. The clock was a long one—about 18 inches long—and a very nice one, and it was

priced at 79s. 6d. A clock exactly the same on a counter at Boans was marked at 52s. 6d.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Shop at Boans.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Yes. But what is happening? What margin is there on these articles? There is another matter. I got a quote for a nine transistor radio for my car. It was about £60 for the aerial and the transistor, but I got it for £30 cash from a dealer—a registered dealer too; there was no undercover business about the purchase. He said, "I know you George; you are a good sort of chap", and he gave it to me for £30.

I will not weary the House longer. I thought I would bring up these matters because this will be my last chance to speak at random. I hope that as a result of the debate tonight on the motion dealing with the mining industry, something will be done to keep the industry flourishing; because if anything happens to that industry, where will we place the people who will be put out of work? We have the spectacle in the southern part of the State of people who have lost everything because of floods. It will cost a few million pounds to fix them up and put them back in their homes, but we will never be able to replace everything they had.

We do not want to see the people in the mining towns who pioneered the State of Western Australia carting their goods away in wheelbarrows and prams. I hope the motion will be carried and that some good will result from it.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson.

House adjourned at 9.58 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 19th August, 1964

CONTENTS		Page
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : SEVENTH DAY—		
Speakers on Motion—		
Mr. Burt	....	371
Mr. Graham	....	387
Mr. H. May	....	376
Mr. Williams	....	384
Speakers on Amendment to Motion—		
Mr. Craig	....	395
Mr. Davies	....	420
Mr. Fletcher	....	399
Mr. Gayfer	....	414
Mr. Graham	....	395
Mr. Heal	....	405
Mr. Jamieson	....	408
Mr. W. A. Manning	....	423
Mr. Mitchell	....	419
Mr. Moir	....	411
Mr. O'Connor	....	410
Mr. Oldfield	....	415
Mr. Tonkin	....	401