

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is what is told to the unemployed.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: We should not tell local people that there is to be a stimulus to their township overnight. The headlines are unpardonable and unfair. It is quite wrong, and I do not believe in this glamorised stuff. I do not believe in representing anything with pretty pictures. I resent getting my own photograph taken, because I know how it would mislead people.

In the north-west at the moment, we have a film unit, being paid by the Liberal Party, to feature all the things that are in the north.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: If you go to the Piccadilly Theatre you can see that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Did you say the unit was being paid by the Liberal Party?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I said by the Liberal Party; and I was told that by the person taking the pictures. Obviously, the pictures are being taken to portray to the people of the south—not those of the north—all the remarkable things this Government has initiated and developed. Of course, that film will not be true. I had long talks with the man taking the pictures and with his assistant, and I fear they did not know to whom they were talking, or I would not have heard so much. Be that as it may.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: He will get his wings clipped now.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: We can expect three or four films showing everything which purports to be something this Government initiated; and, I repeat, it will not be true. But the pictures will be there in grand form from Kununurra to Mt. Tom Price.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They will contain pictures of all the Ministers.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: The films will show pictures from Broome to Derby—pictures of the hospital, which was commenced by a former Government and which Dr. Hislop drew our attention to. The pictures will also show achievements purporting to be the work of this Government. However, they will not necessarily be the work of the people who wish to take the credit.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I hope some pictures of you are included, as one of the members of the district.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: The last time I saw the man from the film unit, I was collecting £2 from a bookmaker at the Broome races. I do not know whether he took that picture.

I had an idea to indulge in some trivial, and some serious, remarks, but I think I will keep them until another occasion. Maybe there will be another opportunity during the next 48 hours or so.

Perhaps we can now deal with the relationship of two political parties in this State, which relationship has been so greatly publicised lately. You may not have read them, Mr. President, but I have some photostat copies about interesting things, such as, "You cannot afford to sit on the fence."

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I thought you might have a go at this subject.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I will entertain you when I do. Being very serious for the time being, I will quit on that note.

I share with Dr. Hislop the feeling of satisfaction that all people must feel in this State, or any other State of Australia, at the buoyancy of Government revenues which gives restriction in some cases to the community. It is true that some Governments do not like complete employment, but we have reached the stage where most people are benefiting from Government spending, from the high prices for our primary products, and from the healthy overseas trade balances. We are all benefiting from that realisation and from the expectation of great things that will come because of the tremendous affluence of the central Government.

Who would have dared to dream that the revenue of the Commonwealth Government would exceed £2,000,000,000, and that our loan raising and expenditure would double the State Budget of a quarter of a century ago? With the lessening value of the pound thrown in, he would be a foolish person who would say that people, as a general rule, are not better provided for now than we ever thought possible not many years ago. I hope the buoyancy of prices, and the price of export commodities, continues.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Not all of us are better off.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I hope that everyone who has the ability to work will share in this buoyancy at some point. The commodities will get more profitable, resulting in higher benefits. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. H. R. Robinson.

House adjourned at 5.58 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 4th August, 1964

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The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE****FLUORINE***Prohibition by Danish Government*

1A. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware of the issue, on the 28th January this year, of an order by the Ministry of the Interior, Denmark, prohibiting any person or firm from manufacturing, producing, and dealing in food and stimulants as well as cosmetic preparations to which have been added or in which are used fluorine compounds or substances containing fluorine?
- (2) Is he aware of the reasons which have caused the Government of Denmark to assume such tight control over the use of fluorine?
- (3) If "Yes" will he state them? If "No" will he endeavour to ascertain them?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) Inquiries will be made, and an endeavour made to provide an answer in due course.

**FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES***Recommendations of Michigan Select Committee*

1B. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware that a Select Committee appointed by the House of Representatives, State of Michigan, U.S.A., in a unanimous report made to the House on the 24th April, 1964, recommended immediate legislation which would prohibit additional systems being ingested with fluoride until the subject can be further explored?
- (2) Is it not very significant that the Legislature of a State which has within its borders one of the original experimental towns and the first U.S. city to adopt fluoridation, viz., Grand Rapids, should be considering limiting fluoridation of water supplies on the ground that, "in the interests of the health, safety and welfare of its people much more research is needed before an unquestionable green light be given"?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No; but inquiries will be made.
- (2) An answer will be provided to this question when the relevant information is obtained.

**SOIL EROSION***Control Measures*

2. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What special measures does he propose to take to check widespread soil erosion as was indicated in his announcement of the 30th June?
- (2) When will the first of these measures be taken?
- (3) Will action be taken in pastoral areas as well as agricultural districts?
- (4) What is the estimated annual cost of the special measures he contemplates taking?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The announcement of the 30th June stated that expanded advisory services and further encouragement to farmers were the only ways to improve the situation.
- (2) Regular publicity through the *Journal of Agriculture*, Press, and radio is being maintained. Additional field assistants for contour surveying were appointed in 1963-64. Further staff appointments are being arranged.
- (3) Yes. In the pastoral areas this will be mainly advisory work, on grazing management. On the Ord catchment area £50,000 is being spent annually on pasture regeneration and related fencing.
- (4) No definite limit has been placed on the cost of this work, which is expected to continue expanding.

**RENTAL AND PURCHASE HOMES***Applications, and Accommodation Provided*

3. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) At the 30th June last, what was the number of applications then current for rental and purchase homes, respectively?
- (2) Of these applications, how many in each category were lodged prior to the 30th June, 1963?
- (3) During the year ended the 30th June, 1964, how many applicants were classified as "emergent"?
- (4) How many emergent applicants were provided with accommodation during the 12 months ended the 30th June, last?
- (5) After being classified as "emergent," what was the longest period any such applicant had to wait before being provided with accommodation?

- (6) During the month of June this year, what was the month and year of applications (other than emergent cases) of applicants provided with accommodation in—

- (a) rental homes;  
(b) purchase homes?

- (7) How many applicants for—

- (a) rental homes;  
(b) purchase homes

were provided with accommodation, respectively, during the 12 months ended the 30th June last?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Rental 3879, purchase 1887. (Sample analyses of these figures show that approximately 30 per cent of each total are revived applications, some of which were reviewed after being dormant for several years.)
- (2) Rental 1418, purchase 210. (Sample analyses of these figures show that approximately 30 per cent of each total are revived applications, some of which were reviewed after being dormant for several years.)
- (3) 986 including 93 for transfers.
- (4) 854. The difference of 139 is made up of those who declined assistance offered, those who found alternative accommodation plus 47 waiting for accommodation as at the 30th June, 1964.
- (5) The longest waiting period was 10 weeks by a paraplegic for whom especially modified accommodation had to be arranged. The average waiting time during the year was 10 days.
- (6) Waiting period for rental housing varied according to locality and size of accommodation required. For applicants not eligible for emergent assistance, the waiting period ranges from immediate for accommodation in outer metropolitan estates to 28 months in the inner estates. Similar variations exist for country applicants, depending on the town, its size, and rate of growth. For purchase homes, the waiting time depends on whether the applicant provides his own land—in which case assistance is immediate, or desires to purchase a group house for which the waiting period ranges from five to six months for the outer suburban estates and most country centres to 12 to 15 months for the inner and popular estates.
- (7) (a) 2881;  
(b) 721—and, in addition, a further 234 were assisted under section 60A—second mortgage scheme.

## TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

### *Telephone Bets on Anzac Day*

4. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is he aware that during the morning of Anzac Day this year some, if not all, agents of the Totalisator Agency Board were available to take, and actually did take, telephone bets on behalf of the board?
- (2) Is he also aware that there is no legal authority by which the board, either directly or through its agents, can take telephone bets outside business hours and that these hours did not commence before 1 p.m. on Anzac Day?
- (3) Is he also aware that the Chairman of the Totalisator Agency Board was reported to have said that he saw no harm in the board's accepting telephone bets before one o'clock on Anzac Day?
- (4) As section 13 of the Betting Control Act expressly prohibits a licensed bookmaker from betting before one o'clock on Anzac Day and as the administration of that Act is under the Totalisator Agency Board, is it not somewhat incongruous for the board to bet during the prohibited period?
- (5) What action does he propose to take in connection with the matter?
- (6) Does he intend to allow the board to bet before 1 p.m. next Anzac Day if he is then still Minister for Police?

Mr CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes. Several agents took a few isolated telephone bets before 1 p.m. on Anzac Day.
- (2) There does not appear to be any legal authority to prevent the board from accepting bets before 1 p.m. on Anzac Day.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No. The board considers that it acted in a proper manner in permitting the acceptance of a few isolated telephone bets under special circumstances before 1 p.m. on Anzac Day.
- (5) None.
- (6) No.

## CANCER DETECTION

### *Cytology Service: Tests Performed and Cases Detected*

5. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is there a cytology (smear test) service available in Western Australia such as is in operation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Adelaide, for cancer detection?

- (2) If so, how many cases of cancer were detected last year and of the number how many were "symptom free"?
- (3) How many tests were done by the service last year?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 217 positive or suspicious. 70 symptom free.
- (3) On 13,000 cases approximately.

## KWINANA ALUMINA REFINERY

### *Electricity Supplies*

6. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Was a request made for additional electricity supplies to the Kwinana alumina refinery of Western Aluminium, which the State Electricity Commission was unable to meet?
- (2) If so, what was the reason for the commission's inability to supply?
- (3) Was the South Fremantle power station working at full capacity at the time?
- (4) Is the South Fremantle station at present on its maximum load?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) See No. (1).
- (3) See No. (1).
- (4) When required.

## GOVERNMENT OFFICES ON OBSERVATORY SITE

### *Defects in Foundations*

7. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What defects in the foundations of the building for the new Government offices on the Observatory site were reported upon by Professor J. W. Roderick?
- (2) What were the nature and cause of the defects and how and by whom were they first detected?

### *Recommendations by Professor J. W. Roderick*

- (3) What change in the structural design of the proposed building was recommended by Professor Roderick as a consequence of the defects which had occurred in the foundations?
- (4) Were all of Professor Roderick's recommendations followed?
- (5) If not, what recommendations were disregarded?

### *Accommodation*

- (6) What was the number of persons which the building originally was designed to accommodate?
- (7) What reduction in the number of personnel to be accommodated has resulted from the inadequacy of the foundations?

### *Additional Expenditure*

- (8) Did the inadequacy of the foundations involve the Government in any additional expenditure on the building?
- (9) If so, how much?

### *Tabling of Papers*

- (10) Will he table the relevant papers?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Voids in the concrete raft on which the building is being constructed.
- (2) The voids in the concrete raft were caused by improper compaction of the concrete when the footings were being poured. The defects were first discovered by the architects for the project.
- (3) The report by Professor Roderick recommended that the existing foundations be stiffened by grouting and in addition that the design of the structure of the building be amended so that the lower portion of the structure would act in conjunction with the foundation and relieve it of some strain.
- (4) No. The structural engineer for the project, who had to work out the details of the scheme recommended, submitted an alternative proposal to Professor Roderick. After consideration of the data the professor approved of the alternative, subject to some minor adjustments. The contractors have been instructed to carry out the alternative scheme as approved by Professor Roderick.
- (5) Answered by No. (4).
- (6) Approximately 1,300.
- (7) None.
- (8) and (9) The responsibility for the additional costs involved has not yet been determined. Arbitration proceedings will be undertaken shortly and the interests of the Government are being watched by legal officers of the Crown Law Department.
- (10) The relevant papers can be perused at the office of the Under-Secretary for Works.

8. *This question was postponed for one week.*

**TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD***Audit of Operations*

9. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What amounts has the Totalisator Agency Board paid as audit fees for each year of its operations, respectively?
- (2) Do the auditors audit every double and quinnella pool run by the Totalisator Agency Board?
- (3) Does the scope of the audit cover the operations in the various agencies particularly the position of accounts as between the agents and the board?

*Agents' Indebtedness*

- (4) How many agents were at any time during the past two years in debt to the board because of their being unable to make payment in full as required by the terms of their agreement with the board?
- (5) How many agents are still so indebted?
- (6) Was the indebtedness to the board of William Gerard Donohoe discovered and reported by the auditors McLaren & Stewart?

*Replies to Questions re Agent Donohoe*

- (7) When does he propose to honour his undertaking given to Parliament on the 22nd August last year to answer the questions concerning Donohoe replies to which he then declined to make on the grounds that investigations were being currently conducted?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) £800 for each of the last three years.
- (2) No. This function is mainly covered by the board's internal auditors and a representative of the Commissioner of Stamps.
- (3) Yes, as far as is considered necessary.
- (4) Five, with one more doubtful.
- (5) None.
- (6) No, the matter was discovered by the board's inspectorial staff.
- (7) After lengthy inquiries, both the police and Crown Law authorities reached a conclusion that there was no evidence on which to prefer a further charge against the person concerned.

**METROPOLITAN REGION TOWN PLANNING SCHEME ACT***Loans for Land Purchase*

10. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) What are the amounts of each of the seven loans referred to in the Auditor-General's Report, 1963, as having been raised under section 39 of the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act to provide funds for land purchases?
- (2) At what rates is interest payable on the loans, respectively?

*Sinking Fund Provision*

- (3) How much per cent. additional cost is involved in respect of each loan to make the required provision in the Metropolitan Region Improvement Sinking Fund at the Treasury?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

		£
(1) Loan 1	....	100,000
" 2	....	100,000
" 3	....	5,000
" 4	....	150,000
" 5	....	30,000
" 6	....	15,000
" 7	....	50,000
		<b>£450,000</b>
		<b>Per Cent.</b>
(2) Loan 1	....	5½
" 2	....	5½
" 3	....	5½
" 4	....	5½
" 5	....	5½
" 6	....	5½
" 7	....	5½
		<b>Per Cent.</b>
(3) Loan 1	....	.83
" 2	....	.83
" 3	....	1.2
" 4	....	.83
" 5	....	.83
" 6	....	.87
" 7	....	.84

**STATE HOUSING COMMISSION***Disposal of City Beach Land*

11. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Was the report published in *The West Australian* of the 9th March, 1964, that six home sites in Pandora Drive, City Beach, had been sold for a total of £11,325 by auctioneer John Gregson, acting under instructions from the State Housing Commission, correct?
- (2) If not, in what respects was the report inaccurate?

(3) If so—

- (a) when, from whom, and for what purpose was the land in question first obtained by the State Housing Commission;
- (b) by what method was the said land obtained;
- (c) what was the cost to the commission of acquiring the land;
- (d) what amount, if any, had been paid to the appropriate local government authority by the commission for, or in lieu of, rates;
- (e) why did the commission dispose of the land?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) See No. (1).
- (3) (a) In 1961 the Perth City Council made available to the State Housing Commission an area of land in broad acres at City Beach for the purpose of design, development, and construction of houses for a village to house competitors and officials participating in the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games.
- (b) and (c) By transfer, conditional upon the commission paying the costs of the surveys, clearing, earthworks, and proportional costs of roads, garden development and maintenance, installation of water bores, pumps and reticulation, and the village design competition.
- (d) The council exempted the village sites from rating until each was sold. Water and sewer rates were paid at concessional rates.
- (e) The subdivision resulted in the provision of 156 residential sites of which 150 were required for the houses; the six sites were surplus to normal requirements.

#### TIDAL POWER AT COLLIER BAY

*Cost of Investigations by Sogreah*

12. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:

- (1) What is the total cost to date to the State for the services of Sogreah in connection with investigations and advice concerning the feasibility of harnessing tidal power in the Collier Bay area north of Derby?
- (2) Is expenditure still being incurred?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) £7,370.
- (2) Yes.

#### GERALDTON HARBOUR

*Deepening: Cost of Investigations*

13. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:

- (1) How much has been spent by the Government on investigations into the practicability of deepening Geraldton Harbour to enable it to provide a 32-foot safe draught for 20,000-ton vessels?
- (2) What further investigations on deepening Geraldton Harbour are currently proceeding?

Mr. BRAND replied:

	£	s.	d.
(1) Departmental expenditure	11,037	4	0
Consultant's fees, etc.	1,540	10	9
Administrative charges	1,572	0	0
	14,149	14	9

- (2) Having completed diamond core drilling and other investigations, it is intended to invite tenders for the work of deepening the approaches in the near future.

#### WATER RATE VALUATIONS

*Cost Incurred by Water Supply Department*

14. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the estimated amount which was charged in the accounts of the Metropolitan Water Supply Department to cover the cost of making valuations of ratable properties for the last financial year for which the department carried out the valuations?

*Amount Charged by Taxation Department*

- (2) What charge was made by the Taxation Department to cover the cost of the valuation work done by it for the Water Supply Department for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1963?

*Valuers Employed*

- (3) How many valuers now in the employ of the Taxation Department were previously employed in a similar capacity by the Metropolitan Water Supply Department?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) For 1960-61 the cost of valuations made by the department was £22,702.

These valuations covered only new ratings for mains extensions and new building preparatory to a complete review of valuations by

the Taxation Department to be effective from the 1st July, 1962. In addition, £9,830 was paid to the Taxation Department to cover the cost of the initial stages of the review of valuations.

- (2) £32,680. This included expenses relating to valuation appeals.
- (3) Seven officers of the Metropolitan Water Supply Department were taken over by the Taxation Department. However, the disposition of their duties is unknown.

## SCIENCE TEACHING LABORATORIES

### *Use of Commonwealth Grant*

15. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What specific projects have been planned to take advantage of the grant to the State from the Commonwealth of money for science teaching laboratories in secondary schools during this financial year?
- (2) Will the total sum available for expenditure in Government schools this financial year be expended?
- (3) How much of the proposed capital expenditure, related to science teaching, would be made if no money were being made available for the purpose by the Commonwealth?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Additional science laboratories and lecture theatres are listed for the following schools:—

Governor Stirling,  
Mt. Lawley,  
Applecross,  
Tuart Hill,

and, if possible, one or two smaller high schools will be equipped.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) The amount of money to be made available by the Commonwealth for this purpose was known before the provisional loan estimates were drawn up. The amount which could have been provided from this year's loan allocation for this purpose would, of course, have depended on the total funds available.

## TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

### *Total Turnover*

16. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What was the total turnover of the Totalisator Agency Board for the racing year just concluded?

### *Profit Granted to Racing and Trotting Clubs*

- (2) What amount of profit for the whole year will be given to the racing and trotting clubs?

### *Revenue From Unpresented Tickets*

- (3) How much of the board's net revenue was derived from unpaid dividends resulting from lost, defaced, or destroyed tickets?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Approximately £13,961,000.
- (2) This figure is not yet known, but it will be available from the board's report to be tabled in Parliament before the 30th September, 1964.
- (3) £19,662.

17 and 18. These questions were postponed.

## HOUSING FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

### *Government's Proposals*

19. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government yet formulated housing proposals which are acceptable to the Teachers' Union and the Civil Service Association?
- (2) If "Yes," what are the proposals?
- (3) If "No," what is the present position?

### *Tabling of Report*

- (4) Will he table the report which was prepared for him on the subject of housing for Government employees?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) Further discussions between the Teachers' Union, the Civil Service Association, and the Public Service Commissioner are planned to take place shortly.
- (4) There have been several departmental reports on this matter but these are confidential to the Government at this stage.

## AUSTRALIAN TRADE MISSION TO ASIA

### *Cost of Space on M.V. Centaur*

20. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) What was the outlay by the Government for the purchase of space on M.V. Centaur in connection with the 1964 Australian Trade Mission to Asia?
- (2) Of the total amount for which the Government was responsible, how much was recouped from exhibitors?



*Government Subsidy*

- (3) Is the claim that it was "a purely private enterprise project" justified?
- (4) If not, to what extent was it Government subsidised?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) £13,200.
- (2) Of the above total amount paid for space by the Western Australian Government, £6,600 was recouped by private exhibitors. The Government used the remaining space for official Western Australian exhibits as distinct from private commercial displays.
- (3) and (4) The *Centaur* trade ship was organised by the Australian Chambers of Commerce Export Council as a private enterprise project. The State Government's participation was as one of many exhibitors and part of its export promotion work. To achieve the greatest Western Australian impact the Western Australian Government co-ordinated the local exhibitors who collectively only formed part of the Australia-wide project.

**COPPER OXIDE***State's Consumption, Production, and Current Requirements*

21. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What was the State's total consumption of copper oxide last year?
- (2) Of the quantity used, how much was produced in Western Australia?
- (3) What is the total estimated requirement for the current year?
- (4) Of this quantity, how much is it expected will be available from Western Australia?
- (5) What special efforts, if any, are being made to increase this State's production?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Local use of copper is in fertiliser. The sources of copper used in fertiliser are copper sulphate (blue-stone) and locally mined cupreous ore. Copper oxide as such is not used.
- (2) In the year ended the 31st December, 1963, 3,234.75 tons of cupreous ore averaging 14.1 per cent. copper and valued at £136,199.85 was produced in Western Australia and sold for use in fertiliser.
- (3) To the 30th June, 1964, approximately 110,000 units of copper were used in fertiliser. This is

equivalent to 4,400 tons of copper sulphate or 7,333.3 tons of a 15 per cent. cupreous ore. The quantity used would be expected to increase in the coming year by up to 15 per cent.

(4) This cannot be estimated.

(5) The Department of Mines has encouraged activity by companies and individuals to explore likely areas in the State for copper and, as a result, a considerable number are engaged in the field today.

**MEDICAL PHYSICISTS***Students Training Abroad and Inducements Offered*

22. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many Western Australian students are known to be training abroad as medical physicists?
- (2) As there is a serious shortage of physicists in Australia, has the Government given consideration to the desirability of offering some special inducements to encourage and assist students to take the necessary course?

*Training Facilities in Australia*

- (3) Are there any prospects for the early establishment anywhere in Australia of the required training facilities?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) None are known.
- (2) No.
- (3) None are known, but it is possible that some Eastern States university may undertake this in the future.

**CEMENT***Calling of Tenders*

23. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) From time to time when the Government requires supplies of cement, does it invite tenders?
- (2) If not, why are tenders not invited?

*Price in Western Australia*

- (3) What was the price per ton to the Government for cement purchased last financial year?
- (4) What is the present price in Western Australia?

*Price in South Australia*

- (5) What is the price of cement to the Government of South Australia?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Supplies of W.A.-produced cement is available through one firm only—Cement Sales Pty. Ltd.—thus no competition.
- (3) (a) Perth Metropolitan Area:  
£12 15s. per ton less 2½ per cent. 30 days.  
(If under 5 tons, plus 3s. per ton delivery charge).
- (b) Country:  
Under five tons—£12 18s. per ton F.O.R., less 2½ per cent. 30 days.  
Five tons and over—£12 5s. per ton F.O.R., less 2½ per cent. 30 days.
- (4) Price charged builders, etc., by merchants (e.g., McLean Bros. and Rigg) is the same as detailed in No. 3 (a) and No. 3 (b) above.
- (5) Price not known.

#### **BUILDING CONTRACTS: RISE-AND-FALL CLAUSE**

##### *Reintroduction*

24. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has an agreement been made between the Master Builders' Association and the Public Works Department on the reintroduction of a rise-and-fall clause in building contracts?
- (2) If so, on what date was such agreement made?
- (3) If the rise-and-fall clause is not unconditional, what are the conditions?

##### *Application to State Housing Commission Homes*

- (4) Will the clause apply to contracts for the building of houses for the State Housing Commission?

##### *Retrospectivity*

- (5) Will the agreement have any retrospective effect on long-term existing contracts?
- (6) If so, which contracts may be affected?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The first tender documents to be issued containing the new clause were available on the 16th July, 1964.
- (3) The basic conditions applying to the new clause are—  
(a) It only applies when the total contract sum as defined in the clause is £30,000 or over, or

(b) when the contract period is 26 weeks or longer.

- (4) No.
- (5) No.
- (6) Answered by No. (5).

#### **HOUSING ACTIVITIES**

##### *Home Building in Country Areas*

25. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) Relative to his published statement that the Government would put greater emphasis on home building in country areas this financial year, what is the total sum allocated for this purpose?
- (2) Of this amount how much has been allocated to meet requirements of Government and semi-Government employees in the country?
- (3) What amount has been allocated for housing development for special industrial projects?
- (4) What amount, if any, has been allocated to make special provision for migrant tradesmen who are to be sought abroad?

##### *Amount to be Expended*

- (5) What is the total sum which is being provided by the Government to finance its housing activities this financial year?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) to (5) This information will not be available until the Estimates have been determined. However, it is proposed to increase the programme of home building in country areas.

#### **MULTIPLE LISTING BUREAU OF W.A.**

##### *Establishment and Advantages to Landowners*

26. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) What is the "Multiple Listing Bureau of W.A."?
- (2) When was it first established here and by whom?
- (3) What advantages, if any, does it give to a landowner who is induced to enter into a uniform sales agency contract with a land agent?
- (4) Is the bureau in any way intimidatory of owners or land agents?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The records of the Registrar of Companies show it to be a business name registered under the

Business Names Act, 1962. The particulars of the registration are as follows:—

Business Name: "The Multiple Listing Bureau of W.A."

Address: London Assurance House, 1st Floor, 12 Howard Street, Perth.

Nature of Business: Real Estate co-ordinated conjunctional selling.

Person carrying on the business —Alfred Cyril Kirby of 45A Mount Street, Perth.

Mr. Kirby is the Secretary of the Real Estate Institute of W.A. and supervises and co-ordinates the affairs of The Multiple Listing Bureau of W.A. in that capacity.

- (2) It was first registered as a business name under the Business Names Act, 1942-46, on the 14th March, 1956, by Alfred Cyril Kirby.
- (3) The Land Agents Supervisory Committee is of the opinion that the prime advantage to a landowner from an exclusive agency contract—in the question, referred to as a uniform sales agency contract—is that the vendor's property is listed for sale with all land agents who are members of the bureau thus affording the vendor access to a greater number of prospective purchasers.

Listing gives a wide advertisement of the intention to sell at no extra cost to the vendor.

- (4) All members of the bureau are licensed land agents whose conduct is the concern of the Land Agents Supervisory Committee of W.A. The committee is not aware of any wrongful intimidatory conduct of the bureau or of its members as such in relation to owners or land agents.

## METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENT TAX

### *Yield, and Servicing of Loans*

27A. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the yield during last financial year from the metropolitan improvement tax?
- (2) How much of the revenue from this source was required to service loans raised by the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Authority?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) £194,824.
- (2) £37,243.

## LAND TAX

### *Excess of Revenue Over Expenditure*

27B. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:

By how much did the land tax for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1964, exceed the revenue derived from that source during the financial year ended the 30th June, 1962?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The figure was £78,556.

## BREAKWATER AT ESPERANCE

### *Completion*

28. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) When the contract was signed for the construction of the Esperance breakwater, what was the scheduled completion date?
- (2) As he stated on the 19th September last year that "negotiations to accelerate the project were proceeding," how does he account for the lack of success in that direction?
- (3) When is it expected that the work will be completed?
- (4) What is the effect on the port of Esperance of the uncompleted breakwater?

### *Lowest Tenderer*

- (5) Was Barbarich Construction Pty. the lowest tenderer?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The 18th October, 1963.
- (2) The contractor has experienced physical and financial difficulties in executing the contract and was declared bankrupt on the 6th March, 1964. The Official Liquidator has made arrangements to complete the contract and work resumed on the 14th July, 1964.
- (3) It is anticipated that the original contract will be completed in approximately three months and additional work required by the department will take approximately a further two months.
- (4) Notwithstanding delays on the breakwater, it is anticipated that the new land-backed berth will be operative by the originally planned date of approximately the 30th June, 1965.
- (5) Yes.

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

### *Source of Finance*

29A. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Health:

What is the principal source from which the World Health Organisation derives the finance necessary to enable it to continue its activities?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The World Health Organisation derives its finance from some 120 member countries. The principal contributors are the United States of America, Russia, and the United Kingdom. (Reference: Official Records of the World Health Organisation, No. 130, pages 13 and 14.)

### FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

*Promoter and Originator in U.S.A.*

29B. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Health:

What organisation in the United States of America was the originator and promoter of compulsory fluoridation of water supplies?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Credit for originating and promoting the controlled fluoridation of drinking water supplies in the United States of America cannot be attributed to any one organisation. It must be shared by the United States Public Health Service, the American Medical Association, the American Dental Association, and other scientific organisations.

### ESPERANCE HIGH SCHOOL

*Accommodation, Tenders, and Completion*

30. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will he detail the accommodation to be provided and for which tenders have been called for the new Esperance High School?
- (2) Has a tender for this work been accepted; and, if so, who is the successful tenderer?
- (3) When will the work commence?
- (4) What date has been set for the completion of the school?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Five classrooms and one science laboratory are to be erected as the high school annexe of the Esperance Junior High School. As it increases in numbers this section will become a high school.
- (2) Yes. Geo. A. Esslemont & Son.
- (3) Almost immediately.
- (4) The 22nd January, 1965.

### DAM SITES ON GASCOYNE AND LYONS RIVERS

*Tabling of Files*

31. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

Will he lay on the Table of the House all files relating to surveys and investigations carried out on the following dam sites on the Gascoyne and Lyons Rivers:—

- (a) Rockey Pool;
- (b) Kennedy Range;
- (c) Lyons River Homestead;
- (d) Chalby Chalby; and
- (e) The Furphy Report?

Mr. WILD replied:

Investigations are incomplete and files are in continual use.

Arrangements will be made for the honourable member to discuss available information with departmental officers should he so desire.

### AIR FARE SUBSIDY FOR TRAINEE TEACHERS

*Withdrawal North of 26th Parallel*

32. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the subsidy of one free return air fare granted in 1960 to trainee teachers, living north of the 26th degree parallel, and which has been in operation until this year, now been withdrawn?
- (2) Should the answer be "Yes," what are the reasons why?
- (3) If the answer is "No," will he advise why MacRobertson Miller and/or the Transport Commission are refusing to grant this subsidy?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) Answered by No. (1).

### TRAFFIC OFFENCES

*Appeals against Magistrates' Findings*

33. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) What legal avenues are available to the general public desirous of lodging an appeal against a magistrate's finding relevant to a traffic offence?
- (2) In which court would the appeal be heard and what would be the approximate cost to appellant per day—
  - (a) if the case were won;
  - (b) if the case were lost?
- (3) What would be the time lag, from day of lodging appeal, to having same heard?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Appeal by way of order to review under section 197 of the Justices Act.
- (2) Supreme Court:
  - (a) 30 to 60 guineas;
  - (b) 60 to 120 guineas.
- (3) From six weeks to three months.

### UNEMPLOYMENT AT ALBANY

#### *Finance for Public Works Programme*

34. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

Would he give earnest consideration to making finance available for the extension of the public works programme at Albany to ease the increasing unemployment in that centre due to a fall-off in seasonal and industrial employment?

Mr. WILD replied:

The 1964-65 works programme is still under consideration and the representations will be borne in mind when the schedule is being finalised.

### FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

#### *Expenditure on Promotion by Public Health Department*

35. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Of the total revenue expenditure of his department for the financial year 1963-64, how much was directly or indirectly expended in the promotion of a scheme for the fluoridation of public water supplies in Western Australia?
- (2) Is it proposed to continue expenditure to promote fluoridation?
- (3) If so, how much is it expected will be spent during the present financial year?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No funds were spent directly by the Public Health Department on the promotion of fluoridation of public water supplies in 1963-64. Some officers of the department were required to spend time on the preparation of legislation which was considered by Parliament in 1963. Time was also spent by officers of the department in answering questions on fluoridation asked by the honourable member as well as by other members. Some costs were incurred, however, by the Health Education Council. These were detailed in a reply given on the 23rd October, 1963, to a question asked by The Hon. N. E. Baxter, M.L.C.

- (2) No special funds have been sought for the purpose of the estimates for the current financial year.
- (3) Answered by No. (2).

### BASIC WAGE

#### *Personnel of Inquiry Panel*

36. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Who decided that Arbitration Commissioner Cort who was previously on the staff of the Employers Federation should be a member of the panel chosen to hear and determine the current basic wage case?
- (2) Who decided that Arbitration Commissioner Flanagan previously a trade union official should not be a member of that panel?
- (3) Why is Arbitration Commissioner Flanagan not a member of the panel?
- (4) Will Commissioner Flanagan have any voice or influence in the decision as to the figure at which the new State basic wage will be set?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) to (4) The attention of the honourable member is drawn to section 54 (3) (a) of the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912-1963 which reads as follows:—

"The Chief Industrial Commissioner—

(a) shall allocate the work of the Commissioners;"

Mr. Graham: A very convenient arrangement.

### TECHNICAL SCHOOL AT GERALDTON

#### *Commencement of New Building*

37. Mr. SEWELL asked the Premier:

In view of his public statement in Geraldton on the 16th July that a technical school would be built commencing the 1964-65 financial year, and the subsequent statement by the Minister for Education that his department does not plan to erect a new technical school at Geraldton in the immediate future, will he give the reason for these two irreconcilable statements and state the true position?

Mr. BRAND replied:

It is hoped that the technical annexe which is to be commenced at Geraldton will eventually become a technical school.

This follows the usual pattern of development of the department's schools in country towns.

A technical annexe is part of a high school only for the purpose of administration, but when the number of students warrants a separate administration it will branch off as a full technical school under its own administrative head.

An example of this can be found in our junior high schools in the country which, when the number of enrolments warrants it, break off into separate high schools.

The public statement I made in Geraldton was an extract of a letter written by the Minister for Education to the Advisory Committee, and these were the two paragraphs that I read—

Unfortunately, until now it has been quite impossible to provide funds to establish full technical facilities at any country centres other than Bunbury and the Eastern Goldfields, where high enrolments justified the heavy expenditure involved. Albany shares facilities with the local high school on a similar basis as does Geraldton.

However, the recent Commonwealth decision to assist the States in erecting and equipping technical institutions has allowed the Education Department to plan for the establishment of a separate technical school at Geraldton. Commonwealth approval has already been received for this expenditure and a start will probably be made from funds allocated during the 1964-65 financial year. Initially it is hoped to provide three classrooms, an administrative section and carpentry and joinery and engineering trades workshops.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### TYPHOID

#### *Cases in Western Australia*

1. Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Minister for Health): On Thursday I was asked by the member for Albany if I could advise the House whether there were any known cases of typhoid in the State recently, and, if so, how many. I informed the honourable member that I did not have the information, but I would find out and let him know. I would now advise that the last case of typhoid notified was on the 21st October, 1963.

## WOOLLEN GOODS

### *Government Purchases*

2. Mr. HALL asked the Premier:
  - (1) Can he advise whether the Government has purchased and is purchasing all its requirements relating to blankets, rugs, and worsted serges from the Albany worsted and woollen mills?
  - (2) If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes," will he undertake to have Government stocks checked with a view to placing further orders with the Albany Woollen Mills so as to stimulate production and thus prevent the contemplated action of stand-down and dismissals of the skilled work force?

Mr. BRAND replied:

I would like to thank the honourable member for giving me notice of this question. The replies are as follows:—

- (1) Yes, it is the policy of the Government to purchase all its requirements—that is, the requirements to which the honourable member referred—from the Albany Woollen Mills.
- (2) Ordering for future governmental requirements is constantly under review.

## FLOODING IN SOUTH-WEST

### *Position at Collie*

3. Mr. H. MAY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:
  - (1) Is the Minister aware of the flooding situation which has occurred again at Collie with the result that the Collie River has overflowed, flooding the town's main shopping centre? Late last night the river was still rising and, as a consequence, detour signs were erected to warn motorists?
  - (2) Does the Minister know that—
    - (a) More than 4½ inches of rain has fallen at Collie during the last 48 hours, and caused the main Collie road to become impassable?
    - (b) Buses transporting miners from the Muja area returning to Collie were almost submerged?
    - (c) A train loaded with coal is stranded six miles south-east of Collie?
    - (d) The Collie-Roelands road is the only road to the South-West Highway and it is now impassable?

- (e) Flood waters from the Hamilton River have washed away a complete section from the Hamilton bridge, and the bridge is covered by 10 ft. of water?
  - (f) Deep water has cut the main road between Collie and Darkan, completely isolating Darkan from Collie?
  - (g) At Allanson, four miles from Collie, the school house is marooned from the road and children who travel by bus will not be able to reach the school?
  - (h) At Ewington, an outer residential area of Collie, water from the Collie River is already lapping at the front doorsteps of houses, and it is expected the river will continue to rise? This was the situation at Collie at midnight last night, and it is expected to worsen during today. I might say it has considerably worsened.
- (3) Will the Minister order an immediate evaluation of the situation in Collie, in view of his refusal to meet a deputation from the Collie Shire Council as recently as the 30th June, 1964? The clearing of the Collie River to prevent this yearly flooding of the town is absolutely beyond the financial resources of the shire council and, as a consequence, the situation should be taken in hand by the Government to stop this ruin and desolation to business premises and homes, which occurs annually in Collie.

Mr. WILD replied:

I wish to thank the honourable member for giving me prior notice of this question this morning. The answer is as follows:—

- (1) to (3) Yes.

*Statement by Premier*

4. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

Would he be good enough to give an up-to-the-minute report to the House in relation to the flood situation in the south-west generally, with particular relation to Harvey, Collie, and Bunbury?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Yes, I can give the Leader of the Opposition and the House the latest information, initially in respect of Harvey. The situation seems to change hourly; but since lunch the Director of Engineering has advised me that people should

stay out of the danger area of Harvey tonight. As I have said, the situation may be that with more promising weather reports, some of the people, perhaps those who could manage to go home and look after themselves, might be allowed to do so, with a warning that they may have to evacuate at any time.

The Director of Engineering said that we are experiencing what the engineers of the Public Works Department term a "thousand-year flood"; that this is really a maximum flood by the standards we know here.

I believe the advice which was tendered me last night showed that the danger was such that I had no option but to take action to order the area to be evacuated. There is access to the school through a back road; there are adequate food supplies; and we are able to provide all necessary sleeping accommodation that will be required for the people if they stay there for the night.

I understand that a babe has been born, and there was a possibility of even twins arriving in this difficult situation. However, I believe the person concerned is arranging to go to the hospital at Pinjarra. So all in all, the emergency services worked very well indeed, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the local people and the Police Department for all they did in the difficult circumstances of last night.

As for Bunbury, the situation is that 400 houses are in danger of flooding. The water is at a high level and in some houses flooding has reached floor level as a result of the overflow from the estuary. Some members will recall that a plug was put in at the bottom of the harbour and alternatively a cut was put through above Turkey Point out of which the water would flow from the river. As this water in the estuary is now some 3 feet or more higher than the sea, flooding is taking place; and the Government is faced with the problem of whether to remove the plug to allow the water to recede to some extent. At the same time the Government must face up to the problem of isolating the power station and what sand works are taking place in that area.

The Minister for Electricity has checked on the amount of coal available to the S.E.C. and this is some eight weeks' supply, and

therefore there is not any great danger of shortage of coal. On the other hand we have examined the possibility of dumping coal on the other side of the plug. If we are not able to do this, of course, it would mean there is a possibility of the stand-down of coal-miners; but I want to assure the House that this problem can be and will be resolved.

If the plug is taken out it might take three to four weeks to replace, and this in itself will present some problems. In the meantime the very muddy water of the estuary will flow into the sea and cause whatever problems siltation does create.

In regard to the Collie area the latest report I had was that the people had been taken from the danger areas, and we are using empty State houses in the higher region and offering safety to the people.

By and large that is the story; but in the event of further rain some very difficult situations could develop.

Mr. Hawke: Thank you.

## TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

### *Replies to Questions re Agent Donohoe*

5. Mr. TONKIN: On the 22nd August last year, I placed a question on the notice paper. The Minister for Police informed the House that he could not answer the question then because certain inquiries were being undertaken by the Police Department. I asked him a further question on the same day as to whether those inquiries would be protracted and if, when they were completed, he would answer the question. The Minister gave the House an assurance that he would answer the question when the inquiries had been completed, and he did not think those inquiries would be protracted. He now has informed the House today that the inquiries have been completed. I ask him whether he intends to make good his assurance to the House and answer the question.

Mr. CRAIG (Minister for Police): Yes. When I give an assurance I stick to it. In explanation I would say that those inquiries have only recently been completed, and I was anxious to supply the information sought by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition but was not in a position to do so at the time of

the completion of the inquiries. However, I undertake to ensure that the information will be supplied to him; but there is confusion in my mind as to the particular question to which he is referring. It would assist me and him if he would kindly inform me of the particular question to which he requires the answer, because there have been quite a number submitted in association with this matter.

Mr. Tonkin: Thank you.

## RAILWAY BUSES: PERTH-NORTHAM

### *Confusion and Inconvenience to Passengers: Ministerial Statement*

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Railways) [5.8 p.m.]: May I have your permission, Mr. Speaker, to make a statement?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Yes.

Mr. COURT: I undertook to re-examine the answers given to a series of 13 questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition as question 14 on the notice paper of the 20th November, 1963, and with particular reference to the answer to question 12.

This has been done in conjunction with the commissioner and the result conveyed by letter of the 23rd February, 1964, to the Leader of the Opposition.

This information was also conveyed by the commissioner and me on the 8th January, 1964, to the person who made the complaint. I desire to place on record the necessary correction following re-examination of the position.

The investigations established that the last two sentences of the answer to question 12 were not correct. The bus had to wait until a passenger was brought to Midland on a following bus and transferred to the bus in question.

The inaccuracy in the original information supplied to me and conveyed by me in the answer is regretted, and I desire that the correct position as now understood be recorded.

## DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

### *Appointment*

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I desire to announce that I have appointed the member for Claremont (Mr. Crommelin), the member for Narrogin (Mr. W. A. Manning), and the member for Perth (Mr. Heal) to be Deputy Chairman of Committees for the session.



## SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

### *Days and Hours*

**MR. BRAND** (Greenough—Premier)  
[5.17 p.m.]: I move—

That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m., and on Thursdays at 2.15 p.m., and shall sit until 6.15 p.m., if necessary; and, if requisite, from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

**Question put and passed.**

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

### *Precedence on Tuesdays and Thursdays*

**MR. BRAND** (Greenough—Premier)  
[5.19 p.m.]: I move—

That on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Government business shall take precedence of all motions and Orders of the Day.

**Question put and passed.**

## SUPPLY BILL, £26,500,000

### *Standing Orders Suspension*

**MR. BRAND** (Greenough—Treasurer)  
[5.21 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees, and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day, and to enable the business aforesaid to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-Reply is adopted.

**Question put and passed.**

### *Message: Appropriation*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

### *In Committee of Supply*

The House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, the Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. Crommelin) in the Chair.

**MR. BRAND** (Greenough—Treasurer)  
[5.22 p.m.]: I move—

That a sum not exceeding £26,500,000 be granted to Her Majesty on account of the services of the State for the year ending the 30th June, 1965.

This is a motion that is brought to this House at this time every year. It has been customary for many years to limit supply in the first instance to a sum sufficient to carry on the services of the State for a period of approximately three months and the Bill now before members adheres to this practice.

As the Appropriation Bill is generally not passed until towards the end of a parliamentary session it has also been the practice to seek further supply during the course of a session. No doubt similar action will again be necessary this year—probably in October—by which time the Budget will have been presented. At this stage we are only concerned with requirements for the first three months of the financial year 1964-65 and the Bill provides accordingly.

The amount of £26,500,000 which is being sought represents an increase of £1,500,000 on the sum granted by the No. 1 Supply Act of last year. Of this increase, £1,000,000 relates to services financed from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the balance of £500,000 to transactions on the General Loan Fund.

Proposed issues from these funds have therefore been increased from £18,000,000 to £19,000,000 in the case of Consolidated Revenue and from £5,000,000 to £5,500,000 for the General Loan Fund.

For the purposes of temporary advances made by the Treasurer the proposed issue of £2,000,000 from the public account is identical with the amount made available in the same Supply Bill last year; and in the event of the Supply Bill being approved this will enable us to carry on until such time as the Estimates are agreed upon or another Supply Bill is necessary.

I give the explanation as one of simply obtaining the approval of this House for the advance of money to enable us to continue as we have done for so many years in the past until the Estimates are agreed upon.

**MR. HAWKE** (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [5.25 p.m.]: It is true as the Treasurer has told us, that this procedure is normal at the commencement of a session and is necessary to enable the Government to obtain the approval of this House for the expenditure of moneys from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the General Loan Fund, and the Public Account. We all admit the necessity, and therefore as far as I am aware it does not seem likely that this motion will be defeated, or that the Bill which is to follow it will be defeated. However, it is not to be expected of members that they should accept the introduction of this motion or, later on, the introduction of the Bill, without any comment at all in relation to the financial administration of the Government or in regard to any particular item of Government activity which incurs the use of money from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the General Loan Fund, or the Public Account.

I was particularly interested a few days ago when I read the heading in an article in *The West Australian* of the 9th July, 1964, the article having been written by

someone who is described by the newspaper itself as "Our Political Writer." The heading reads—

**£1m. Deficit May Turn to State's Benefit: Brand.**

When I read this heading, I was naturally interested, and somewhat mystified. It was not easy to work out how £1,000,000 deficit in the Consolidated Revenue Account could be turned to the State's benefit. So I read the article with very great interest and with as much mental application as I could bring to it. But I must admit that when I finished reading it three times I was still a bit mystified. The subheading to the article reads as follows:—

The State Government ended the 1963-64 financial year with a deficit of £1,396,000—almost double its budget target of £713,000.

The next part of the article reads—

But, according to Premier Brand, W.A. will benefit because its deficit was bigger than planned.

State Treasury officers estimate this benefit at about £850,000.

As I read that part originally, I thought to myself, "Well, if that be absolutely true in fact as well as in theory, it is possibly a great pity that the present Minister for Works had not been Treasurer during the period because then the deficit would probably have been four or five times greater and the State, instead of recouping £850,000 from the Grants Commission, would have been able, possibly, to recoup £4,000,000 or £5,000,000, and the State thereby would have been that much better off." The rest of the article goes on to explain how this peculiar situation is supposed to be brought about.

I know the article makes some clear-cut reference to the special financial grant which the Commonwealth Government made available to the States for the purpose of providing more employment in each State. I know, too, that New South Wales was thought likely to put a lot of its money into the Consolidated Revenue Fund to prevent a deficit from occurring. However, matters financial, in New South Wales—and I think to a lesser extent in Victoria—went better throughout the financial year than was first anticipated, and consequently that Government—perhaps the two Governments over there—did not have to put as much money into the Consolidated Revenue Fund from this special Commonwealth grant as was anticipated. This set up a situation, according to this article, which allowed Western Australia to get into a position, so we are told, whereby the development of this large deficit in our Consolidated Revenue Fund last financial year will give us an opportunity to put up a special claim to the Grants Commission to obtain back, by way

of recoup from the Grants Commission, £850,000 of the £1,000,000 special grant from the Commonwealth.

The latter part of the article goes on to read—

If the whole £1,000,000—

that was the £1,000,000 special grant from the Commonwealth for employment purposes in Western Australia—

—had been used as general revenue, as proposed in the budget, the year's deficit would have been only £546,000, or £850,000 less than the actual deficit.

Mr. Brand said he was confident, after a careful study of factors which the Grants Commission would take into account, that the whole of the £1,396,000 deficit would be recouped in due course through the State's special grant.

I am sure we would all wish to support the Premier in his confident belief; but I would be very pleased indeed if he would this afternoon, at some stage of this debate, pay some attention to this proposition and, if possible, give us additional information which would be likely to clarify the whole situation; because, at first glance, this situation seems to be most paradoxical, if not a bit crazy.

Mr. Brand: I agree.

Mr. HAWKE: I have yet to be convinced that the members of the Grants Commission will accept the situation as being one in which they should come forward and agree to recoup to Western Australia the whole of our deficit, amounting to £1,396,000, in the Consolidated Revenue Fund last year.

I want to know from the Treasurer whether the Government has given any consideration to the movement of prices in recent times in Western Australia. This situation is developing in a way which is rather alarming. If price rises are to continue, and if they are to spread through a wider field than that in which they are now operating, the outlook for people on smaller incomes in this State is bleak indeed.

I heard only last week that prices of men's shoes—and this might apply to women's shoes also—had risen by 10s. a pair, at least in relation to some special brands. Presumably if shoe prices in relation to special types are to go up 10s. a pair, the prices of all shoes, irrespective of brand, quality, or anything else, will also rise.

The excuse, I understand, which has been put forward by the shoe manufacturers in the Eastern States for this increase in prices is the increase of £1 a week in the Federal basic wage. I cannot imagine there is one member in this Chamber—not even one on the other side of the Chamber—who would think for a moment that an increase of £1 a week in

wages in a shoe factory would bring about an increase of 10s. a pair in shoes in actual production cost; and not everybody in a factory would receive an increase of £1 a week, because there are apprentices, juniors, females, and so on working in large footwear factories.

We also know that in footwear factories these days a great deal of machinery is used. I do not know the output per skilled adult male in a shoe factory, but I think such a person would be responsible, with the aid of machines, for turning out more than one pair of shoes a day. I would be very surprised indeed to learn that he would not turn out five or 10 pairs a day. So, if we relate that situation to the increase of £1 a week in his wages, we can see that an increase of 10s. a pair in shoes is by no means justified. On a calculation I made, which I must admit is not expert in any way, I would think that 1s. a pair would be ample.

So it does appear as if some people in the business world—not all, I know—are going to make a welter of the situation which has developed as a result of the Federal Arbitration Commission granting this increase of £1 a week in the basic wage. If some other people in the commercial world follow what appears to be the greedy example set them by the shoe manufacturers in the Eastern States, then the general public are in for a proper hiding; and this will, of course, as I suggested earlier, fall most heavily and bitterly upon those substantial sections of the community who are in receipt of smallish incomes.

The State basic wage in Western Australia is under consideration at present, as we all know. The trade unions have made application for a substantial increase, and the Government has offered what, in my opinion, is a paltry increase. The Employers Federation has offered no increase at all. However, the court may in due course grant an increase of some proportion; and, if this present increase in shoe prices—to take an example—is to become the rule, as represented in relation to the increase in the Federal basic wage, goodness knows what might happen in Western Australia in a few weeks' time if our arbitration commissioners grant an increase which is more than 3s., 4s., or 5s. a week. We will have the cost of living going up in all directions, far out of proportion to what would be justified by any increase in the basic wage which these commissioners might grant.

Another feature of this situation is that those in the commercial world who impose these unconscionable price increases upon the goods which they control create in the community a belief that the trade unions are responsible for the increases which occur, and that the increases in the basic wage are responsible for the increases which take place. If there were

a true relationship between the increases in prices and the increase in wages, that would be a fair, logical, and tenable argument. But when the increase in the price of a commodity goes five times or 10 times higher than it should in relation to the increased wage content of the product, then the situation is most unjust and is one that should be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Crommelin): Order! The Leader of the Opposition's time has expired.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

*In Committee of Ways and Means*

The House resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means, the Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. Crommelin) in the Chair.

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [5.42 p.m.]: I move—

That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty for the services of the State for the year ending the 30th June, 1965, a sum not exceeding £19,000,000 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund; £5,500,000 from the General Loan Fund; and £2,000,000 from the Public Account.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

*Introduction and First Reading*

In accordance with the foregoing resolutions, Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Brand (Treasurer), and read a first time.

*Second Reading*

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [5.44 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [5.45 p.m.]: When the Standing Order had to be applied during one of the Committee stages of the Bill I was discussing the importance of the price level, especially in relation to those people in the community who receive only smallish incomes. On many occasions in this House I have emphasised and re-emphasised the importance of the price level and have underlined the unjust situation which exists when wage earners and salary earners have to approach a legally-established tribunal and, to the last detail, prove their claims before they can receive consideration; whereas, on the other hand, those who produce and sell goods, in most instances, are able to put on those goods any price which they think is satisfactory to them.

In that situation, wages and salaries, from the time they are increased, can start to lose portion of the increase, and in a comparatively short space of time lose all the benefit of the increase which has been granted by the legal tribunal. So I want the members of this Government to look at this situation because it is serious enough even today and, beyond any shadow of doubt, it is going to become more serious during the next few months.

It could easily become an extremely hot issue in the minds of the people of this State before this calendar year has run its full course. I know that members of the Liberal Party in this House and in this State say they are opposed, in principle, to any control over prices. They say they believe in, and uphold, free enterprise, and believe in allowing those who operate free enterprise to be free to control their industries and their commercial undertakings as they think best. In other words, they uphold the old catch-cry: "No interference by Government in industry!"

That may be all right up to a point, and could be all right in regard to those engaged in industry and commerce who do the right and fair thing, but it is no good at all in relation to some engaged in industry and commerce whose only consideration, or main consideration, is to drag the largest amount of profit possible from the public and who have little or no consideration for the public at large.

I hope members of the Country Party in this House will give this problem some thought because it is one which bears quite heavily upon the farming community. Even though the farming community is reasonably well off, I fancy that some farmers—especially those in the newer areas—are finding costs a heavy burden upon them. When seasons are as difficult as last season was in many areas, the cost of machinery which farmers buy and the cost of commodities generally must have added up to a very heavy burden indeed.

It is rather peculiar that Liberal Party members in this State say that price control of any kind is out of the question; that they will not consider introducing legislation in any form to keep the price level under reasonable control, whilst, at the same time, the Liberal Party Government in South Australia has maintained price control legislation and issued price control regulations ever since the war finished—ever since Commonwealth control over prices came to an end. I believe the same applies in Queensland at present under a Liberal Party-Country Party coalition Government, which Government still maintains price control legislation; still issues price control regulations; still sets maximum price levels in certain fields, and those maximum price levels are enforceable by law.

So if it is good enough for the Liberal Party Government in South Australia—led by the Premier, Sir Thomas Playford—and if it is good enough for the Liberal Party-Country Party coalition Government in Queensland—led by the Country Party Leader, Mr. Nicklin—to maintain price control legislation and to be active in the field by the issuance of appropriate regulations controlling certain articles, which regulations have to be observed, it is beyond logical explanation why even Liberal Party members in this State will not have anything to do with protecting the public against exploitation, and it is even more beyond logical explanation why Country Party members will not have anything to do with the same principle. I think pressure of events within the next few months might compel even Liberal Party members to have second thoughts on the matter and I certainly hope that will prove to be the case.

Before I conclude I want to say a few words about contracts let by this Government which, as far as I have been able to ascertain, have created a great deal of difficulty for all concerned. I am going to quote only two or three instances where I have had an opportunity of actually seeing the situation myself. I know there are many other instances where similar trouble, difficulties, and additional expense have arisen; but I think if I deal with the two or three instances of which I have personal knowledge, they will be sufficient.

I was at Esperance several weeks ago and looked at the deserted breakwater which is being constructed there. At the time, there was no-one working on the job, although there had been men and machines working on it for several weeks some time previously. The big machines which had been used previously were standing idle. No-one was the slightest bit concerned about their condition or the rapid deterioration of them which appeared to be taking place. I understand most of them were secondhand when they were taken on to the job. They certainly did not look capable of continuing on the job satisfactorily, and the contractor for the project had found himself in a position of financial embarrassment: he was unable to continue with the contract which the Government had given him.

As a result, as I have already said, the work had ceased and the force of the heavy waves, when they did develop in the Esperance harbour, was having a detrimental effect on the work already done, although I understand that was not very serious up to the time I was there. Whether the position has become much more serious since, I would not know, although I do know we have had tremendously rough weather since that time, especially during the last five or six weeks.

It could be, therefore, that the rough weather has played havoc with the work which had been done up to the time I

had a look over the breakwater. From what I can find out, the contractor to whom the Government originally gave the contract was not of substance financially. I understand he had to depend on being able to hire machines from whatever source he could hire them. I understand he had to depend on being able to obtain finance from whatever source he could obtain it and, subsequently, he was not able to make the grade financially and the whole of the work had to be abandoned by him. I also understand he left the job very heavily in debt to several people.

That situation, of course, is most unsatisfactory for the Government, for the contractor concerned, for his creditors, and for the local people who are anxious to see the work proceed as quickly as possible and without the rather terrible delay or breakdown which has taken place.

This afternoon, we had some questions asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition as to what happened on the Observatory hill in regard to the foundations of the large-scale building which is being erected there. It seems to me that what happened up there should never have happened; but the fact that it did happen seems to indicate the care and precautions which should have been taken in relation to such a huge building were not taken and, therefore, as far as I am able to judge, someone blundered very badly.

The Minister's replies today did not indicate who was responsible for what happened; and I think, as members of Parliament, we should not only know who was responsible, but also it is our duty to do our utmost to ascertain exactly how the trouble, which did develop, came to pass.

The other instance I wanted to mention has to do with some additions to the Geraldton High School. Together with some of my colleagues, I was at Geraldton a few weeks ago. We inspected industries within the town and, among other places of interest, we had a look at the Geraldton High School. I was extremely grieved to see a building away from the main building which was absolutely out of relationship to the main building. The main high school building at Geraldton is a very fine one. It has a wonderful appearance and is indeed a credit to the town. It would be a credit to any country town, or even to the city or any part of the metropolitan area.

Yet the Government, through a private contractor, has had a building containing some classrooms built adjacent to the main high school building; and this new building is, in every way, out of relationship to the main high school building itself. As far as I can see, it has nothing—except, of course, some accommodation within it for two or three classrooms. Even the work inside the classrooms is not as good as it should be. Some of the cement work

on the inside is very bad. I understand the job of constructing this building has taken far longer than it was supposed to take, and certainly far, far longer than should have been required. At this stage, or some later stage, when the Minister for Works has had an opportunity to look into this matter—or the Premier has had some information from him—I would like to hear something about it from the Government.

First of all, I would like to know why this type of building is being erected so much out of relationship to the main high school building itself; it looks to be out of place and inappropriate. I do not think the reason for that can be anxiety on the part of the Government to save money, because I believe that for the same amount of money as the Government will finally have to pay for this building it could have had a complete construction, providing at least equal accommodation, and providing a far better appearance from outside, on the roof, and inside the building. This is a matter which has given me some concern. I would certainly require some clear-cut information in relation to the three examples I have given.

**MR. WILD** (Dale—Minister for Works) [6.1 p.m.]: I would like, from memory, to give the Leader of the Opposition some information on the first two problems that he posed. I cannot give any information now in relation to the Geraldton High School, because I am not informed on that matter. However, I shall certainly at some later date obtain and give the information he is looking for, probably during the Address-in-Reply.

In regard to the contract for the Esperance breakwater, this was given to the lowest tenderer, as was indicated in reply to a question asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition today. As a department, we were not very satisfied with the lowest tender, and this matter was discussed by the Director of Public Works, the under-secretary of the department, and myself on numerous occasions.

It was only when representations were made by a financial backer, who was prepared to support the lowest tenderer, that virtually against our better judgment the contract was given to that tenderer. It is very difficult when tenders are called for a project, and the lowest tenderer does not measure up to the standards according to the reports from the T.P.S. and bank, to arrive at a decision. Naturally one is very loth to give the contract to such a person.

In this case a person with pretty strong financial resources gave the necessary backing to the lowest tenderer, so with some diffidence the contract was let. As I understand the position, the successful tenderer obtained his machinery through finance made available by a finance company, and the cost of that machinery was

guaranteed by the financial backer. The tenderer obtained the machinery and went ahead with the work.

He began to fall back in the work, and was not keeping up to the schedule required of him, which he had undertaken to adhere to. Then it was found he was not paying the financial backer who had guaranteed him for the purchase of the machinery. The result was that the financial company which had provided the machinery approached the Public Works Department and intimated that it was not being paid by the tenderer. That company asked the department to pay. We told the company we were not permitted to do that, and we could only pay the person who obtained the tender.

Finally—if I might use these words—the three thieves fell out. Eventually an injunction was taken against me, as Minister for Public Works, because when we issued to the tenderer an order to cease work for falling so far behind, they tried to implicate me in some way, and to imply that I had done something wrong to take the tender away from this person.

The tenderer, Barbarich, was subsequently declared a bankrupt, and the department decided to allow the Official Receiver to continue with the contract. The whole affair was most unsatisfactory from the start. Fortunately we were able to pick up some time on the contract. The Official Receiver let the tender to somebody else, and it does not look as though the work will be completed very far beyond the date on which the job was scheduled for completion.

In regard to the new Government buildings on the Observatory hill, the rather unfortunate circumstances of the Kings Bridge in Melbourne had a lot to do with the faults found under the six lift wells of the buildings. I might be wrong in this regard, but I assume that purely from my observations. At least that incident did have the effect of putting the engineers and architects all over Australia on the alert. As a result of the trouble experienced with the Kings Bridge engineers are making certain that big undertakings are being constructed correctly in every engineering detail.

When the concrete pourings were taking place the private architects—the three successful ones selected from an Australia-wide competition—kept a very close watch. One day they approached the Principal Architect of the Public Works Department and indicated there was just a possibility that the footings might not be correct. They suggested that some test bores be drilled into the concrete footings. From memory I think about 25 test bores were drilled. They discovered there were some deficiencies in the foundations; and in fact there were some fairly big gaps fairly well down in the concrete. As I

understood the position, the concrete pouring had to be completed in one continual operation lasting over 24 hours.

These particulars were ascertained by Professor Roderick and supplied to me as the Minister in charge. Again I am speaking from memory, but there were supposed to be 25 men on each shift to carry out these continuous pourings. They were to be in charge of a foreman. They started at 8 o'clock in the morning, and when the afternoon shift came around, instead of there being 25 men to do the pouring, I think the number was down to about 20. Apart from this, quite unbeknown to anybody, the foreman had taken ill, and he had handed over to a leading hand carpenter. The evening shift consisted of 19 men, some of whom were New Australians, who were not very experienced.

That happened in the course of a night. As members know, in this type of work it is necessary for the concrete to permeate three or four layers of wire mesh. This operation must be very carefully watched to ensure that the concrete goes through not only the top layer, but through the second, third, and fourth layers right to the bottom. Because of the men being inexperienced, this did not happen, and, as a result of the probings, cavities were discovered in the foundations. Consequently we sent to the Institute of Engineers in Canberra and asked it to recommend one or two men to have a look at this and advise the Government accordingly.

In regard to arbitration, this will be between the architects and the contractors, and I can assure members that we, the Government, will be sitting on the sidelines watching the interests of the Western Australian people very closely in regard to this project. We are quite satisfied that everything is being done in accordance with the recommendations made by Professor Roderick; and I have no doubt that even though the contract may be a couple of months late, it will be completed, and completed in first-class condition.

**MR. FLETCHER** (Fremantle) [6.10 p.m.]: I have no desire to oppose the Bill, but I would like to point out that the proposed £19,000,000 expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund will, unfortunately, buy less and less as the year progresses. Even as early as my first contribution to the House in this session I shall become controversial to the extent of saying that the Government, as a consequence of its policy, will bring about a devaluation in the purchasing power of money. There is no doubt that value is being whittled away as a result of increased prices. One example of this was given by the Leader of the Opposition when he referred to the price of shoes.

As we all know, the shoe manufacturers put up their prices without any application whatever to any authority. As a result of this increase in the price of shoes, the

£19,000,000 is whittled down proportionately. This is repeated over and over again and, consequently, it must result in a devaluation of what the £19,000,000 will purchase.

I would like to know to which authority the shoe manufacturers appealed when they increased the prices by the figure quoted by the Leader of the Opposition. They appealed to no authority whatsoever. In spite of this we find that those same manufacturers insist that the wages of those who are employed in the manufacture of shoes should be governed by their having to appeal to some authority or the other. Indeed, they go so far as to insist that these employees appeal to the authority concerned in relation to any possible increase in the wages they receive for manufacturing that very essential commodity.

The employers and the manufacturers are vociferous in their insistence that trade unionists should take their case to arbitration; but they are equally vociferous in their opposition to any restriction being placed on their right to charge what they like, when they like, for whatever commodity is sold. They insist on an unfettered right to sell it as they please.

I would now like to refer members to an article which appeared in this morning's paper and which supports my contention. In *The West Australian* of the 4th August, 1964, we find the following:—

#### Conference Urged on Trade Laws.

Canberra, Monday.—The Associated Chambers of Commerce today called for more talks between the Federal Government and private enterprise organisations on the proposed restrictive trade practices legislation.

The request was made in a letter to all Government members of Parliament.

It said the Chambers of Commerce were seriously concerned about the uncertainty of the Government's intention on key aspects of the legislation.

Further on the article says—

The letter said business men should be given a chance to study and criticise all aspects of the proposals before legislation was introduced.

Otherwise, there would be a risk of unnecessarily punitive provisions, damage to business confidence, and uncertainty on future economic expansion.

There we have evidence of the objection raised by the business interests mentioned in this newspaper. They consider it their right to indulge in whatever practices, or malpractices, they think proper, without being granted any authority to do so. They are prepared to increase prices without reference to any authority, but they are not prepared to grant a similar privilege

to those whom we on this side of the House defend, when they seek an increase in their wages.

In the same paper appears the following:—

#### £21m. Involved in Claim for Rise: Employers.

An increase of £3/1/ in the basic wage as claimed by unions would cost private industry in this State about £21,000,000 a year, employers' advocate J. Robinson told the Industrial Commission yesterday.

Mr. Robinson said that the claim that the State's economic capacity could sustain such an increase was irresponsible.

The question was whether there should be any increase.

I repeat that Mr. Robinson said, "The question was whether there should be any increase." The article continues—

Since the basic wage was reviewed in 1950 there had been no deterioration in its real value or of purchasing power because of quarterly cost-of-living adjustments.

That is definitely wrong, particularly when it says that there has been no deterioration in the situation. We all know that is quite wrong.

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

Mr. FLETCHER: Before the suspension, I was expressing concern that the £19,000,000 which the Treasurer will acquire from Consolidated Revenue will buy less this year than it did last year and back in the years before that. I was quoting from today's issue of *The West Australian* that the employers claim that £21,000,000 will be involved in any increase in the basic wage. I also claimed that the purpose of this article was to lead the public into believing that the unions were responsible for the rises in prices and that the purpose of the article was to influence the Industrial Commission into granting no increase. I would also quote the following from that article:—

The W.A. employers do not support an increase in the basic wage from £15 4s. 2d. to £15 8s.

That is the end of the quotation. But I would say here that employers do not have to prove the right to charge what they like for the articles they sell. I was developing that theme; and nobody but the employers determine the prices of the commodities they sell. I was arguing that this did affect the value of the £19,000,000 to be expended from Consolidated Revenue.

I regret that the Government has put an advocate into the court to express opposition to any increase in the basic wage. However, I notice that the Government fails to put into any court or before any authority an advocate to determine prices. I would point out to members, if

they do not already know, that equality between the State and Federal basic wage in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania was effected by legislation. However, the Western Australian Government has not stated that it intends to legislate for parity of the State and Federal basic wage. On the contrary, as I said earlier, it has intervened and put an advocate before the commission.

In conclusion, I would like to make this point: Those who determine the prices for goods and services determine how much or how little this £19,000,000 will buy. I feel sorry for the taxpayer who pays the prices and who is, at the same time, led to believe that wages are the cause of high prices and that the Opposition is at fault in urging that wages should be commensurate with prices.

**MR. ROWBERRY** (Warren) [7.35 p.m.]: I would like to make a few observations on this Bill. At the outset I would say I have no intention of opposing it because of a certain factor which occurred to me during the tea suspension. I should think this Supply Bill has been too long delayed because it seems that more money should be made available to the House Committee, or whoever is responsible for the comfort of the members of this Assembly. During the tea interval I, with several other members, went to view television and where formerly we were provided with seating accommodation, we are now expected to stand up to view television. I wonder if that is because the Treasurer has been too niggardly in his advances to the House Committee, or whoever is responsible for this situation.

**Mr. Brand:** I could give the figures if you like and you could draw your own conclusion as to whether we have been niggardly or not.

**MR. ROWBERRY:** I cannot imagine that anyone in his proper senses would take chairs away from where they were before and expect members to stand up when they should be sitting down. We hear quite a lot about Standing Orders and about sitting members; but there are certain times when it is appropriate to do the opposite thing, and I think it would be right and proper if certain allocations were made immediately so that members can view television in comfort.

**Mr. Brand:** You speak to the House Committee.

**MR. ROWBERRY:** Certainly the things we did see on television were anything but comforting.

**Mr. Brand:** I suppose we are lucky to have television to watch.

**MR. ROWBERRY:** I hope I am not disturbing the Treasurer too much.

**Mr. Brand:** Not in the slightest.

**MR. ROWBERRY:** Seriously, there are some observations I would like to make on a Bill of this description. The Leader

of the Opposition and the member for Fremantle have drawn attention to the fact that the claims of the unions that are before the Industrial Commission could cost the State the sum of £21,000,000; and because of that could, according to the words of some of the economists we read, especially in bank reviews, cause a distinct inflationary spiral. The State could also seriously be inconvenienced because the Treasurer has had no prior knowledge as to how to estimate for a possible basic wage rise.

So you see, Mr. Speaker, there is a distinct relationship between this Bill and what is going on in this State; and whether there is a distinct relationship between inflation or an inflationary spiral and a rise in wages is very problematical. As far as I am concerned it remains so much in the realms of peradventure. Inflation has been described simply as too much money chasing too few goods; but anyone who looks at our economy at the present time cannot possibly say there are too few goods being chased by too much money. In fact, the very opposite is so.

But in a bank review I read recently there has been a changed conception of inflation. There are nine or 10 different sorts of inflation. One of the very destructive types, with which the unions at present are dealing, is described as cost inflation. This cost inflation appears to be suffered only by certain people in the community; it is suffered only by big business and banks and people who employ other people.

To get back to the simple explanation of inflation where too much money is chasing too few goods we find it lets out the wage and salary earner altogether, because before wages and salaries come into existence they have provided goods and services to far greater value than the actual disbursement of wages and salaries. So surely on our simple exposition of inflation it cannot be truthfully or scientifically demonstrated that wage or salary rises cause inflation.

Just look at the situation from the other side. We are told that this cost inflation is to be detrimental to the manufacturer and employer of labour. We are never told that cost inflation by reason of its increased profits is going to be detrimental to the wage earner and the salary earner, because immediately their wages and salaries are swallowed up by increased prices. But that type in the community is not allowed to deal in terms of cost inflation or similar economic terms. Surely if cost inflation applies to one section of the community, it applies to the other.

I merely take this opportunity of intruding these few remarks about our economy because it seems it is impossible to get the daily Press, the weekly Press, or the radio to accept these ideas. I have tried—unfortunately, without any success—to have ideas like that accepted for publication;



but apparently they are very dangerous ideas, and the Press and radio will not allow the working people and ordinary wage and salary earners to really get down to tin-tacks so far as economy is concerned. They have to be brainwashed and stuffed up with nonsense we get in bank reviews and other economic reviews, which tell one thing one day, and exactly the opposite next week, hoping that what was said the week before has been forgotten.

I know the members on the other side think I am just indulging in a lot of eye-wash. But I am serious, because I can see what our economy is like. There are signs throughout the civilised world that this economy of ours—this so-called private enterprise—is gradually running to a standstill, and eventually something will have to take its place. That is why we on this side of the House strive so heartily to uphold the policies we do uphold, because we can see that unless something is done about these things eventually the world is going to suffer—and suffer enormously.

We read in papers like *Newsletter* and *Time* that President Johnson of America is going to spend £900,000,000 to relieve distress. In the greatest economy-proud country in the world, there are 35,000,000 people beneath the headline. That is the greatest private enterprise—

Mr. Fletcher: Allegedly greatest.

Mr. ROWBERRY: As my colleague states, that is the allegedly greatest private enterprise country in the world; and yet there are in it 35,000,000 people below the headline. If that is what is going to happen in a highly mechanised country it will inevitably happen in every other country too. Until we find some means of distributing the profits being earned by machinery and putting it into wages and salaries to be used usefully in consumption, we can hope for nothing better than that we will follow suit.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [7.47 p.m.]: There is one point I wish to raise in this debate, and that is in respect of concession air fares which were granted in 1960 to university students, teachers' training college students, and those attending technical colleges. At the beginning of June this year some parents brought to my notice the fact that they were unable to get the normal free return fare for their children when they wished to go back for the May holidays. Instead, M.M.A. issued them with free half fares, charging the other half to the students. In the past the fare has been completely paid when the student has filled in the requisite application form, and it has been approved by the Transport Commission.

When this was brought to my notice, so as to make sure of my facts, I wrote to the commission asking if there were travel concessions available to students educated

away from home—university students, trainee teachers, and trainee nurses; and in its reply was stated the following:—

Of the four categories listed in your letter of the 8th instant, travel concessions through this Department apply to the first three.

They may obtain a free return air passage (or two single trips) annually between the nearest regular airport to their home and the place at which they attend an educational establishment as full-time students.

University students do not render themselves ineligible by taking paid employment during vacations, nor does the salary paid to a trainee teacher at the Training College disqualify him.

The case for trainee nurses was submitted by me personally some four years ago when application of the scheme was extended to those attending the Teachers' Training College but was not approved. I understand, however, that the Medical Department provides free or concessional fares for trainees attending the Government School of Nursing, but not for those training in private hospitals.

Incidentally, although the vast majority of students travel by air, if desired they may make the journey by State ship with similar free passages.

The fare by a State ship, unless the student has to pay his own board, or for the food on the boat, is considerably dearer than the return air fare; so I do not see why the objection has come about here.

However, I wrote again to the commission pointing out that two children had been refused these concessions by air, and giving their names. I asked the commission to take the matter up with M.M.A.

Mr. Craig: Students or teachers?

Mr. NORTON: Trainee teachers. The letter reads as follows:—

It appears that in the past no questions have been asked by M.M.A. as to the age of students travelling under subsidy and all have been carried at half fare. Recently, however, we were advised that the company proposed adhering to the fare schedule which provides, *inter alia*, that no concession fares would be available to any student in receipt of remuneration.

I would like to interpose that when M.M.A. was operating, the company allowed students a half-fare concession rate; but since the airline has been taken over by Ansett-A.N.A. the concession has been removed. The letter continues—

If Teachers' Training College students are to travel free, as announced, then the Government will be forced to pay their air fares at full adult

rates, and to establish this point definitely the question has been referred to the Treasury. A reply is awaited.

In the previous letter the department stated that full return air fares were available to students; but the department is now hedging.

Mr. Craig: There is a full return air fare concession once a year.

Mr. NORTON: The department now has to apply to the Treasury to see whether it can grant free return air fares once a year. I do not think that is right, especially in view of a report released by the Minister for the North-West, which appeared in *The West Australian* on the 25th January, 1960. It reads as follows:—

Subsidised air transport had been extended to include University, Technical College, and Teachers' College students whose permanent homes were in the North-West or Kimberleys, Mr. Court said.

The concession of either one free return passage or two free single passages in each calendar year would apply to all full-time students, irrespective of age, and would not be governed by possible earnings during vacations.

The department's letter states that University students are the only ones who are allowed to earn during vacation periods without their free air passages being affected. This article implies that University students, Technical College students, and trainee teachers are entitled to free air travel. It appears to me that the Department of Transport does not know where it is going.

In reply to a question asked by the member for Pilbara on the 17th August, 1960, the Minister for the North-West said—

... the free air travel provides for one free return fare or two single fares per year for students residing in the north and travelling to attend an educational institution. This concession was recently liberalised to include students attending the University, Technical College, and Teachers' Training College. It is now available irrespective of age or the amount earned by the student during vacation.

The concession is not being granted this year. I have definitely seen a letter from M.M.A. stating that only half-fare passages were available. Apparently the Department of Transport is still negotiating with the Treasury on this matter, although the Minister for the North-West made it clear on two occasions that the concession was available. The last letter that I received from the Department of Transport reads as follows:—

I notice that in the absence of Mr. G. Slater on leave your letter to him on the 6th July has remained unanswered.

The fact that a child is the winner of a bursary or scholarship does not debar him or her from participating in the subsidised air transport scheme. The eligibility to participate is determined by the rules which have been formulated by the various governments from time to time. These rules are applied by the Commissioner of Transport.

He is the man who should carry them out. To continue—

and under them the holder of a scholarship or bursary would not be deemed to be in receipt of remuneration.

I would suggest that the important thing is to remember that any concessions given by the Government and by M.M.A. are separate and distinct. If M.M.A. take away, or reduce, a concession the only effect is that the Government pays more. For example, if M.M.A. decides that a trainee teacher is not entitled to claim a concession from the company because that trainee teacher is in receipt of remuneration, the company's decision has no effect on the rules of this Department, which prescribe that a trainee teacher is entitled to one free trip per annum, irrespective of the fact that he may be in receipt of some payment from the Education Department.

The department definitely states that a trainee teacher is entitled to that concession; yet it is not within the transport commissioner's power to carry out the ruling, and he has to refer the matter to the Treasury. How are trainee teachers being affected? How are parents in the north-west, who are trying to provide their children with a good education to fit them for responsible jobs, being affected? The cheapest return air fare in the north is between Perth and Carnarvon. If a student wished to return home for each vacation period, his return air fares would cost him £93 12s. per year. In the past, M.M.A. allowed students to travel at half-fare rate and the Government paid the other half. This allowed students to meet the cost of air fares from out of their own salaries and allowances.

The single air fare to Wyndham costs approximately £46. If a student wished to return home for each of the three vacation periods it would cost him or her £276 per year. A trainee teacher receives a living-away-from-home allowance of £145 per year over and above his salary of £345. This allowance does not cover his normal living-away-from-home expenses. If a Carnarvon student had to deduct his air fares from this allowance it would be reduced to £51 8s. per year. A Wyndham student would have his salary reduced

from £345 to £214 after using up his living-away-from-home allowance. I do not think that is very fair.

Probably the trainee teacher is better off than the other two categories of children who come to Perth for a higher education. The university student is not paid and neither is the student who attends the technical college. Therefore the burden for those students falls directly on the parents concerned. With the jurisdiction which apparently the Transport Board exercises, it should at least honour the obligations which have been set out so clearly by the Minister for the North-West both in the paper and in answer to questions asked by the member for Pilbara.

There is one other point I would like to mention in regard to the Transport Board, and this is in reference to the type of letter which is being written by the board's officers to those who make application for concessional air fares. One would think that the chairman, or some of his staff, were paying these fares out of their own pockets.

One family came to the north-west last November, and there was no school at the centre where the husband was stationed. Because of this their child was left in Perth at an address in Mt. Lawley; she was not sent as a boarder to a school in Perth. An application was made for the child to get a free return air fare during the May holidays. At first this application was refused, and I think it would be as well if I read the letter to show members what happened. I will omit the name of the person concerned and the address in Mt. Lawley, and also the centre to which the family was sent. Afterwards the Minister can have a look at the letter and read the name for himself. The letter reads—

When we received an application from you covering the subsidised travel of your daughter by air from . . . to Perth, a check was made to ascertain whether your name appeared on the electoral roll for Gascoyne. Although the roll was not up to date by several months, your name was not shown.

A telephone call was then made to . . . and our officer was advised that . . . lived at that address. The application was therefore refused.

Naturally the girl lived at that address! Where else could she live unless at a boarding school? She had to live somewhere, and an address has to be given on the application to the Transport Board. The child lives at the address in Mt. Lawley and attends a local school. But the

parents are not living in Perth; they are employed in the north. The letter goes on—

In the light of your advice to the M.M.A. booking office dated 9th March, it must be accepted that you have the necessary residential qualifications—

I think that is an absolute slight on the person who applied for the subsidy. The letter continues—

—although I am firmly convinced that the child's home is not at . . . but at Mt. Lawley.

The writer of the letter, I should say, is calling the applicant a liar. To continue—

In the circumstances you have a legal right to claim the subsidised travel concession and I am prepared to approve the application accordingly.

Can anyone understand a responsible civil servant writing such a letter? I think it is time that this dictatorial Transport Board was pulled into line.

**MR. W. HEGNEY** (Mt. Hawthorn) [8.4 p.m.]: At this stage I desire merely to refer to one matter which, to my mind, is most important. This will not be the first time I have raised it; I have done so on about five occasions in the last five years—since the present Government took office. I refer to the Workers' Compensation Act.

Once again there is no reference in the Governor's Speech to any proposed amendments to this most important Act. There is a reference to such Acts as the Administration Act, the Justices Act, and a few other Acts; and there is also a reference to the introduction of legislation in regard to chiropractors and suitors, and the provision of a water supply for Gnowangerup, Broome Hill, and Wickepin, but there is no reference whatsoever to amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act.

I know it is the prerogative of the Government to draw up the Governor's Speech and to have the Governor read it in the Legislative Council. But on a number of occasions we have asked why the Government has not made provision for amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act, or why there was no reference to it in the Governor's Speech. On at least one occasion the Minister for Labour indicated to me, by way of reply to a motion which was introduced in regard to this matter, that it was his intention to amend the Workers' Compensation Act during that session. He did not keep his word.

In the 1963 session, the Minister again indicated it was his intention to introduce a Bill to amend the Workers' Compensation Act. Indeed, he gave an impression to the House that the amendments would be of a rather comprehensive

nature. But we all vividly recollect his inglorious display about midnight, a few hours before the session closed.

Mr. Hawke: Wicked!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: When the House rose, members on this side were given about two hours during next morning to consider the provisions of the Bill, which he took about 4 minutes 5 seconds to introduce.

I just said it is the prerogative of the Government to draw up the Governor's Speech, but there may have been some unconscious insult—I will include the word "unconscious" in my statement—offered to the Governor on this occasion because there is no reference to an amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act in the Governor's Speech this year. Why do I say that? Because we have a very notable and widely known Minister for Industrial Development addressing a meeting of the Liberal Party—and I believe at this particular meeting there was no undue criticism of the Country Party or of Senator Drake-Brockman—and according to *The West Australian* of the 11th July of this year he had this to say on page 8 of that issue, under the heading, "Promise On Workers' Act."—

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

This is the Minister for Industrial Development and not the Minister for Labour or the Premier making the statement. The article goes on—

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

I would like to know what he means by the word "tackle," because he has tackled a number of things before and has made a mess of many of them. We do not want any tackling of this Act if it means any reductions, and so I presume the "tackling" will mean an improvement in the present position. The article goes on—

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

Over the past five years we have repeatedly endeavoured to get the Government to agree to substantial improvements being made to the Workers' Compensation Act. The newer members who came to this Chamber in 1962 will recall the attempts we have made in this direction; but it was only, as I said, in the dying hours of the last session of Parliament that the Minister for Labour, on behalf of the Government, introduced a substantial amendment to the Act! I think, speaking from memory, there was only one amendment made to the Act,

and that was a modest increase in hospital and medical expenses, despite the fact that we were able to submit unanswerable evidence to show what was happening in the other States in regard to the payment of medical and hospital expenses.

Among other things, we indicated that a State like Tasmania had written into the Statute book a provision for no less than £1,000 for the medical and hospital expenses of an injured worker and that, in Victoria and New South Wales—which States are so often quoted by this Government when it suits it to point out that Western Australia is a claimant State—the legislation provides that reasonable medical and hospital expenses shall be provided for the injured worker.

My contention is that in the circumstances there should have been some reference by the Government in the Governor's Speech as to whether it proposed to introduce amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act during this session. I suggest it is most unsatisfactory to members of the Government—not to mention members of the Opposition—to read a report in the daily newspaper that a responsible Minister has stated that a certain important Act is going to be amended when no reference is made to it in the Governor's Speech.

Therefore I hope I will not be obliged to place a series of questions on the notice paper to ascertain the attitude of the Government on the question; and that will not be necessary if one of the responsible Ministers of the Government will agree to let us have the required information during the debate on the Supply Bill.

MR. DAVIES (Victoria Park) [8.12 p.m.]: I want only a few minutes to say that I have been disappointed over the handling of the flood tragedy in the lower south-west, and the reaction from the Government emergency services which are set up to handle such emergencies.

Mr. Nalder: Here comes an expert!

Mr. DAVIES: Where is he?

Mr. Graham: The Minister had better keep to his Alsatian dogs.

Mr. Nalder: Go on.

Mr. DAVIES: I am disappointed at what appears to be a lack of reaction from the State Civil Defence and Emergency Services which I would have thought, by now, would be operating very effectively and smoothly. I do not presume to be an expert in this field. I can only view the position from Press reports, and from them it would appear there are only volunteer emergency services operating in the town of Harvey. In his Speech the Governor said—

The development of the State Civil Defence and Emergency Services is proceeding and one hundred local emergency services have now been formed under the authority of Shire

or Town Councils. Further training schools are to be conducted in both the metropolitan and country areas.

Unfortunately, we are unable to forecast when emergency services will be needed, but one would expect when the occasion arises they would be able to go into operation very smoothly when called upon. I remember that on one occasion during the cyclone season last year up north, nothing had been heard from a station for three days, and this same service thought that everything was all right at the station because nothing had been heard from it. It did not bother to try to contact the station to find out whether the people there—who were known to be in the path of the cyclone—had suffered damage, and it was some three days before the owners of that station were able to come to civilisation and tell those in authority that help was needed.

I would have expected that the State Civil Defence and Emergency Services would be operating not only in north Bunbury, where there seems to be a considerable amount of flood damage, but in Collic, Brunswick Junction, and Nannup. On reading the newspaper, one finds statements being made by the Premier, the Minister for Works, Red Cross workers, and representatives of the police. Yet now should be the time when we could ascertain how effective these emergency services are. If they cannot go into operation in what could be considered not a major, but a very serious disaster, and co-ordinate all the rescue work that is required, then the question arises in one's mind how effective such services would be in times of a major disaster. This is merely a point I want to make.

I would expect that from one person we could get a clear picture of what was happening in the south-west rather than have many Government departments making various statements on the position.

**MR. BRAND** (Greenough—Treasurer) [8.16 p.m.]: I am rather surprised at what the member for Victoria Park has said. It is fair enough to voice criticism in a situation such as this, but in all the circumstances I consider the local emergency service has acted very well. I have had no report to the contrary. It is not altogether the responsibility of the State Civil Defence and Emergency Services to round up every representative of every Government department. In fact essentially, in this scheme the police have taken the lead; and in this particular instance I would like to mention the sergeant of police in Harvey, who evidently has performed a superb job in all the difficult circumstances. I understand that the local emergency service has worked very well in Bunbury and Harvey. I have not heard anything to the contrary in any other place.

**Mr. Wild**: It is absolutely excellent in Harvey.

**Mr. BRAND**: Surely there is no reason to criticise, even if there has not been all the co-ordination that one would expect to find! In fact, I think we should give credit to the local people for handling a situation which was very difficult indeed.

**Mr. Craig**: And with no warning of it!

**Mr. BRAND**: It is unfortunate that the Director of the State Civil Defence and Emergency Services (Mr. Lonnie) is in Canberra at present; but his deputy took over and did all the co-ordinating that was necessary together with the Commissioner of Police. I regret the criticism somewhat, and I hope it is not misunderstood by the local people, who have done their best and have achieved satisfaction all the way round by dealing with a matter which was quite serious at the time but which now, fortunately, is abating, according to what I have been told.

**Mr. Graham**: To what extent do the emergency services come into the picture?

**Mr. BRAND**: The emergency services are simply called in whenever an emergency is declared. In this case, the line followed last night was that as soon as the Chief Engineer reported the difficulties and the danger, I got in touch with the under-secretary of the department and he then contacted the leader of the emergency services in Harvey, a Mr. Goode.

**Mr. Davies**: Who is Mr. Goode?

**Mr. BRAND**: He is the Mr. Goode in charge of this particular unit. From there they went on and did their best. So far as I know, there has been no criticism or complaint from these people. It seems strange that, after such tragedy, we in this House can get on the band waggon and make some capital out of it.

**Mr. Davies**: You are the one who is doing that! I merely said there was lack of co-operation.

**Mr. BRAND**: There is no question about what the honourable member said!

**Mr. Davies**: You are saying that I am criticising the people down there, which I am not.

**Mr. BRAND**: The honourable member said there was lack of co-ordination, and it seems to me there was no reason to follow this line of criticism.

**Mr. Davies**: You are putting it round the wrong way.

**Mr. BRAND**: However, I would like to say that we recognise the difficulties faced by the local people in dealing with a situation such as this. Perhaps the House might be interested to know that the local people and the local engineer have breached the plug in the Bunbury estuary and the water is now flowing rapidly out to sea. This has provided some relief for the people whose homes are in immediate danger.

Mr. H. May: Have you had any further report from Collie?

Mr. BRAND: No, not yet.

Mr. Graham: Collie has gone under for the third time.

Mr. BRAND: In dealing with the points raised tonight, I would start by saying I have no doubt that the matter of price fixing will get a thorough airing during this session of Parliament. In reply to the Leader of the Opposition, all I wish to do is to acknowledge that this is the line he has taken for as long as I have sat in this House. He has clearly indicated his belief in this system. On the other hand, we on this side of the House have fought elections on the issue; and, as the Leader of the Opposition has said in his speech, we have indicated our belief in the other system.

Mr. Hawke: Which system?

Mr. BRAND: The Leader of the Opposition has quoted the Governments of South Australia and of Queensland as being Liberal-Country Party Governments that have set an example for us to follow. As we all know, however, there are countries throughout the world, and there are States in Australia, where there is no price fixing at all. So why should we not follow their example? The fact remains that the States which still retain price fixing are no better off than Western Australia.

Mr. Tonkin: Cement is a lot cheaper in South Australia than it is here.

Mr. BRAND: Is it?

Mr. Hawke: It is £3 a ton cheaper.

Mr. Court: Let us have a look at the other States.

Mr. BRAND: As the Minister for Industrial Development has said, let us have a look at the other States and see whether this is going to be the answer to cheaper cement. I wonder whether the Labor Party, if it were returned at the next election, would introduce price fixing. I thought I might just query that point.

Mr. Tonkin: A similar query would be whether the Commonwealth is going on with its restrictive trade practices legislation.

Mr. BRAND: I cannot say whether or not it is; perhaps the honourable member would care to get in touch with the Prime Minister and find out. The Attorney-General will be here very shortly, and perhaps the Deputy Leader of the Opposition could ask him. I simply raise the question and ask whether the Labor Party will introduce price fixing if it is successful at the next election.

Mr. Hawke: We will try to protect the people against exploitation by some of the Government's friends.

Mr. BRAND: The Leader of the Opposition raised the question of the public deficit of £1,390,000. He pointed out that,

in a statement to the Press, I had expressed the belief that we would benefit as a result of getting this deficit back through the Grants Commission. Just to make sure that I am quoting the Treasury opinion, I would point out that I am told by the Under-Treasurer that this situation was explained to the Grants Commission at its recent hearing a month ago or less.

I think members will recall that when I introduced the Budget last year I pointed out we had been forced to take in £1,000,000 of grant which had been made by the Commonwealth Government for the special purpose of creating employment. This was a grant which was free of interest, and which had no tags attached to it at all.

The Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, however, had, the previous year, taken a similar grant into their revenue fund in order to bring about a more balanced Budget. They are the standard States. Last year we were told that they intended to do the same thing again. The Grants Commission had made it very clear that it expected us to use our money in this way to help lessen our deficit. As I explained when introducing the Budget last year, we did just that; and we aimed, I think, for a deficit of something over £700,000. During the financial year, however, the Government of New South Wales, as a result of probate and through one or two other unexpected windfalls, found its budgetary position to be very sound.

Mr. Evans: It is a better Government.

Mr. BRAND: That Government accordingly decided it would take out this money which it had in the Budget and use it for other purposes; for the purpose for which it was originally given, I believe.

So it set the standard, and it was decided by the Treasury of this State that if New South Wales was going to withdraw that money we could do the same. It was accordingly felt that it was not necessary to include £850,000—I think that was the figure—of the £1,000,000, leaving £150,000 in the Budget. Having set this money aside, and not having included it in the Budget, we finished with a deficit of £1,390,000. Because we are judged by the standard set by New South Wales and Victoria, we have followed what those Governments have done in respect to those matters; and the Grants Commission must accept the fact—indeed it has indicated its acceptance of the fact—that less the £1,000,000, the situation in Western Australia showed a deficit of £1,390,000.

Accordingly the Grants Commission will treat our accounts on this basis, and we quite confidently expect to get back the majority of this deficit from the Grants

Commission. The Leader of the Opposition has said that this is very difficult for him to understand. It was difficult for me to understand.

Mr. Rowberry: It is difficult for anybody to understand.

Mr. BRAND: It merely stems from the situation which exists between the States, the Commonwealth, and the Grants Commission. Accordingly the standard which the Government of New South Wales has set has enabled us to obtain quite a large financial advantage in the treatment of our accounts from the Grants Commission.

Mr. Rowberry: How will it be used?

Mr. BRAND: It has been set aside, and will be used in such a way as to bring profit to this State. In any case it seems to me to be far better to show a deficit as we have done—a published deficit of this kind—and get the money back from the Grants Commission, than to leave £1,000,000 where it was, show a small deficit, and leave perhaps £800,000 or £900,000.

Mr. Graham: This needs an accountant, not a statesman.

Mr. BRAND: When the Leader of the Opposition was the Treasurer he clearly understood the situation in relation to the standards set by other States, and how the Grants Commission treated our accounts. When the boot was on the other foot then, it appeared that the Grants Commission did not hesitate to penalise us or bring down an unfavourable adjustment. On this occasion I hope the Grants Commission will make a favourable adjustment in favour of Western Australia.

Mr. Graham: Nobody on this side of the House is upset because more money is coming to Western Australia.

Mr. BRAND: I am glad to hear that. I was merely expaining how it was done; and the Grants Commission understands it. I would like to thank members for the support they have given to the Supply Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. Crommelin) in the Chair; Mr. Brand (Treasurer) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Issue and application of £26,500,000—

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I made reference to a report in *The West Australian* of the 11th July which contained a statement made by the Minister for Industrial Development. Is it the intention of the Government to introduce amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act; and, if so, what did the Minister mean when he used the word "tackle"? Can the Minister

explain his statement to the Norseman branch of the Liberal Party that the easing of medical and hospital charges was contemplated, and indicate whether that will mean an increase or a reduction in the amount available to the workers?

Mr. BRAND: The Minister for Industrial Development represented me at that debate. The statement he made regarding the Government's intention to introduce amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act was quite right. It is the intention of the Government to make some amendments.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I draw the attention of the Treasurer to the loss of income by the State in the last two years through the non-payment of timber royalties. A big timber milling company situated in Pemberton holds a lease of certain forest areas; and, according to very reliable information, it has only cut 43 per cent. of its permissible intake of timber. If the royalty for the remainder of the permissible intake had been included in the Budget, what effect would there be on the deficit? Furthermore, what steps will the Treasurer take to see that this State is no longer deprived of this income?

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2 put and passed.

Preamble put and passed.

Title put and passed.

#### *Report*

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

#### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Brand (Treasurer), and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 8.36 p.m.

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 5th August, 1964

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