

of many of the big crashes we have seen take place with some electrical companies over past years. I have in mind the Reid Murray group.

Having read these advertisements, I do not propose to go any further as I do not know how much profit is made on a refrigerator. I wonder what the position would be if a person came along who had not seen the advertisement and said, "I am a genuine buyer of a refrigerator and have cash in my pocket." How much would he pay? I venture to say he would pay the full retail price shown on the tag on the door of the refrigerator. One honourable member shakes his head as if to say this would not happen, but I think it would. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. A. R. Jones.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [5.57 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 18th August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.58 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 12th August, 1964

CONTENTS

	Page
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY—	
Speakers on Motion—	
Mr. Evans	223
Mr. Fletcher	241
Mr. Hall	231
Mr. Hart	228
Mr. Rowberry	249
ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE:	
SPECIAL	256
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	223
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Basic Wage Increase: Effect on Grants	
Commission's Findings	220
Breakwater at Esperance—	
Cost	211
Date of Completion	211
Dimensions	211
Esperance Breakwater Construction	
Company: Principals and Sub-	
scribed Capital	211
Rock Required	211
Car Parking Facilities: Partial Closure of	
Stirling Street	219
Cement: Price in South Australia	214

	Page
Education—	
Classrooms: Number of Children—	
High Schools	217
Primary Schools	217
Swimming Pool at Albany: Use of	
Land Adjacent to Albany High	
School	218
Teachers' Homes: Rental Formula	209
Youth Centre at Albany: Erection	218
Fisheries Department: Submission of	
Annual Report to Minister	216
Fruit—	
Fertiliser Use in Orchards: Articles	
in "Agricultural Journal"	218
Income from Fruit from Stoneville	
Station	218
Money Spent in Interests of W.A.	
Fruit Growers' Association	218
Number of Research Stations	218
Gregson, Mr.: Salary Paid and Nature of	
Duties	213
Harvey River Diversion: Payment of	
Compensation for Flood Damage	219
Health—	
Nicotine and Alcohol Poisoning: Re-	
duction of Incidence	210
School Dental Units: Number Unused	
and Schools not Visited	211
Smoking: Restriction on Advertising	220
Housing—	
Flats at South Perth—Application of	
A. I. McClelland: Tabling of	
Papers	210
Government Houses: Right of Occu-	
pants to Discuss Furnishings	221
Houses in Canning Electorate:	
Number Built in 1963-64	219
Housing Commission Homes: Avail-	
ability to Migrants	210
State Housing Commission—	
Peak Profit Prior to 1959	215
Profit for 1962-63	215
Immigrants: Inducements Offered by	
Government	214
Industrial Commissioners: Date of Ap-	
pointment, Seniority, and Previous	
Occupations	217
Land at Kwinana—	
Effect of New Reservations on C.B.H.	
Allocation	220
Reservation for Fertiliser and/or	
Chemical Works	220
Land-backed Wharf at Esperance: Date	
of Completion and Facilities Available	212
Margarine Production in W.A.: Amend-	
ment of Quota and Population of State	
Members of Government Boards—	
Decision as to Retiring Age	212
Egg Marketing Board: Mr. C. L.	
Harvey's Successor	212
Producer Representation on Egg Board	212
Uniform System of Dismissal	212
Metropolitan Region Town Planning	
Scheme Act—Loans for Land Purchase:	
Sinking Fund Provision	215
Police—	
Kalamunda: Appointment of Addi-	
tional Officer	216
Station for Gosnells: Establishment	219

CONTENTS—continued

Page

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—continued

Railways—

Albany Harbour Board Access Road : Accident Prevention Measures at Crossing	218
---	-----

“Contract Goods” System—

Effect on Goods Shed Staff	217
Supply of Wagons to Transport Firms	217

Flashing Lights : Installation at Verna Street Railway Crossing, Gosnells	219
---	-----

Midland Workshops Road— Maintenance Responsibility	209
West Midland Overhead Bridge Traffic	210

Widening	210
----------------	-----

Railway Traffic : Dislocation South of Brunswick—	
--	--

Delay in Delivery of Potatoes	216
Effect on Supply of Goods	216

Emergency Services of Private Firms	216
--	-----

Rapid Transit : Armadale-Kenwick : Location of Special Terminal	219
--	-----

Rapid Transit : Hills Area— Commencement	216
---	-----

Platform and Parking Area at Midland Junction	216
Timetables and Routes	216

West Midland Railway Station : Re- siting, and Provision for High School Students	209
---	-----

Serpentine River Flooding— Inspections and Damage Repair	213
---	-----

Suspension of Operation of School Bus and Milk Truck	213
---	-----

Shipping through Albany : Report of In- dustrial Officer	217
---	-----

Totalisator Agency Board : Bets Refused after Acceptance by Agents	214
---	-----

Unemployment in Metropolitan Area— Establishment of Industries : Appeal to Commonwealth	210
---	-----

Water Rates : Charges at Southern Cross, Merredin, and Kellerberrin	213
--	-----

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—

Cannington High School—Inspection by Public Health Department : Tabling of Papers	222
---	-----

Cement : Price in South Australia	222
---	-----

Industrial Seminar at Albany : Comments by Deputy Premier	221
--	-----

Land at Kwinana : Availability to Co- operative Bulk Handling	223
--	-----

Ord River Scheme : Commonwealth Aid Questions for Notice Paper : Closing Time for Receipt by Clerk	221
--	-----

Television for Eastern Goldfields : Corres- pondence with Commonwealth Govern- ment	222
---	-----

Totalisator Agency Board : Replies to Questions re Former Agent Donohoe	223
--	-----

Water Rates : Valuations of Premises at Merredin, Kellerberrin, and Cunderdin	221
--	-----

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TEACHERS' HOMES

Rental Formula

1. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the formula for determining rental rates for departmental teachers' homes contained in the education regulations?
- (2) If so, for what reason is a change of this formula contemplated?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Consideration is currently being given to the setting up of an authority which will be responsible for housing, including the fixing of rentals for Government employees, including teachers who live in country areas.

WEST MIDLAND RAILWAY STATION

Resiting, and Provision for High School Students

2. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is the West Midland station to be transferred to another site during the laying of the standard gauge railway?
- (2) Is provision being made to cater for students of Governor Stirling High School by having an overway or underway incorporated in the new station plans?
- (3) Will the Main Roads Department be requested to co-operate to avoid current slow-down of traffic to allow picking up and setting down of school students?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, provided that agreement can be reached with the other authorities concerned.

(This information and that conveyed in No. (1) was conveyed to the Midland Town Council deputation introduced by the honourable member.)

- (3) This question has been referred by the Railways Department to the Main Roads Department for reply direct to the honourable member.

MIDLAND WORKSHOPS ROAD

Maintenance Responsibility

3. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Who is responsible for maintenance of the road past the Government Railway Workshops at Midland?
- (2) Are the general public (including road hauliers) entitled to use the road past the workshops?

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

Widening

- (3) In view of the large increase of motor vehicles used by railway employees, will he have investigations made with a view to widening the road?

West Midland Overhead Bridge Traffic

- (4) Will the proposed overhead bridge at West Midland cater for the general public or only railway employees?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Road fronting workshops is part of the railway reserve and is a railway responsibility.
- (2) The through road from Helena Street to Lloyd Street crossing carries departmental and public vehicular traffic.
- (3) Sections of the roadway are in process of being widened.
- (4) Yes.

FLATS AT SOUTH PERTH*Application of A. I. McClelland: Tabling of Papers*

4. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

Will he lay on the Table of the House all papers relating to the application of A. I. McClelland to erect a block of flats at 16 Hensman Street, South Perth?

Mr. NALDER replied:

Yes, for one week.

The papers were tabled.

HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES*Availability to Migrants*

5. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Further to his reply "that those nominating shall be responsible for housing and employment of such migrants," does this imply that if an employer nominates a number of migrants a number of State Housing Commission houses will be made available to house them; and, if so, will this not increase the figures and waiting periods mentioned in the reply to question No. 3, *Notices and Orders of the Day*, of the 5th August, 1964?
- (2) Is any restriction placed on migrants mentioned preventing them from applying for State Housing Commission consideration on grounds of overcrowding, incompatibility, or any other reason?

- (3) If no restriction, will not the Housing Commission's current applications and waiting periods be increased to the detriment of local and long-standing applicants?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The migrants mentioned may apply for State housing consideration when their turn is reached, but earlier assistance will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
- (3) Not to any greater extent than the position which arises when any other person settles in Western Australia who may be eligible for commission assistance.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN METROPOLITAN AREA*Establishment of Industries: Appeal to Commonwealth*

6. Mr. BRADY asked the Premier:

- (1) Has any representation been made to the Commonwealth Government to try to establish industries in the metropolitan area in towns where there is a chronic state of unemployment, particularly among teenage youth?
- (2) If not, will he arrange a survey of the position to see if a joint State-Commonwealth solution can be found to the position?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) There are no known towns in the metropolitan area where there is so-called chronic unemployment. In any case the establishment and expansion of industries in the metropolitan and country towns is a continuing process which is being successfully undertaken by the State Government. Likewise a survey of industrial potential and possibilities is constantly being undertaken.

NICOTINE AND ALCOHOL POISONING*Reduction of Incidence*

7. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is any action likely to be taken by him in the near future to reduce the incidence of nicotine and alcohol poisoning?
- (2) Has any consideration been given to producing a State-wide campaign for adult education on the creeping paralysis of the two poisons referred to?

- (3) What percentage of hospital patients are receiving treatment for the direct and indirect use of the two poisons referred to?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The Health Education Council was requested some time ago to undertake an anti-smoking programme.

This is being developed at the present time and is to be directed at young people. The ill-effects of excessive alcohol are also included in schoolteaching material.

- (2) The advantages of an adult education programme are less promising, but both the Public Health Department and the Mental Services have supported and will continue to encourage moves in this direction.
- (3) Because of the varied effects of excessive smoking and excessive consumption of alcohol, it is impracticable to obtain reliable information on the lines sought by the honourable member.

SCHOOL DENTAL UNITS

Number Unused and Schools not Visited

8. Mr. HART asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many mobile school dental units has his department?
- (2) How many are not in use due to lack of personnel?
- (3) Is it departmental policy to try to visit all country schools once in two years?
- (4) How many country schools at present are waiting over two years for a visit?
- (5) Of these how many are over—
(a) three years;
(b) four years?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) 13.
(2) 2.
(3) Yes.
(4) 123.
(5) (a) 35.
(b) 50.

ESPERANCE BREAKWATER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Principals and Subscribed Capital

9A. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Who are the principals of the Esperance Breakwater Construction Company?
- (2) What is the subscribed capital of the company?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) and (2) The company was only registered for incorporation on the 6th August, 1964, and it has 28 days in which to finalise formalities with the Companies Office. When this is completed full information will be furnished to the honourable member.

BREAKWATER AT ESPERANCE

Rock Required

9B. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the estimated tonnage of rock that will be required to complete the breakwater estimated from the commencement of operations by the present contractors?
- (2) Will this exceed the original estimated quantity?

Dimensions

- (3) Will the dimensions of the breakwater be lesser or greater than originally planned?
- (4) If so, will he give details?

Cost

- (5) Are the new contractors to be remunerated according to the same scale as the original contractor or are they to be paid on a cost plus system?
- (6) Is it anticipated that the cost of the completed breakwater will be in excess of the original tender price?

Date of Completion

- (7) What is the approximate date for the completion of this work?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) 37,500 tons.
(2) Yes, by 2,000 tons.
(3) Dimensions of breakwater as planned are unaltered. Since awarding the contract a decision has been made to construct a spur off the breakwater to protect the reclamation.
(4) The spur will be at right angles to the breakwater leading towards shore and will be 200 feet long and 135 feet from the seaward end of the breakwater. 20,000 tons of stone additional to that in No. (1) will be required.
(5) Payment for the residual amount of the contract (37,500 tons *vide* No. (1)) will be at the original contract rates. Payment for stone listed under No. (4) will be at contract rates plus 2s. 3d. per ton due to the longer lead.
(6) Yes, due to the additional stone required above the original estimate.
(7) Approximately three to four months from date.

LAND-BACKED WHARF AT ESPERANCE

Date of Completion and Facilities Available

10. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Will he indicate the expected completion date of the land-backed wharf at Esperance?
- (2) When will the first berth be available for shipping?
- (3) What facilities will be available to load and unload vessels; i.e. gantries and/or dockside cranes?
- (4) Will these facilities be available for the first vessel?
- (5) If dockside machinery is not being installed, will rails for their future use be imbedded in the dock surface?
- (6) What facilities are planned for dock workers at this site?
- (7) Will they be available when the loading and unloading of ships commence at this wharf?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) July, 1965.
- (2) October, 1965.
- (3) Initially no mechanical handling equipment will be provided.
- (4) Answered by No. (3).
- (5) Yes.
- (6) A modern amenities building will be provided.
- (7) It is planned to have these facilities available.

MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT BOARDS

Decision as to Retiring Age

11. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) At what date was the decision reached to retire members of boards at or about the age of 70 years who are subject to the Minister for Agriculture?
- (2) Who made the decision?
- (3) Why were boards within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Agriculture the only ones singled out for a decision of this kind?
- (4) Why was the W.A. Egg Marketing Board specifically singled out for attention when some other boards within the same category have members whose age approximates that of Mr. C. L. Harvey?

*Egg Marketing Board: Mr. C. L.
Harvey's Successor*

- (5) Was the person appointed to fill the position of Chairman of the W.A. Egg Marketing Board a member of the Retail Grocers' Association?

Producer Representation on Egg Board

- (6) Would he agree that the board is now virtually "producer controlled"?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) December, 1963.
- (2) The Government.
- (3) The question of retirement of older members of boards is still under consideration.
- (4) On a number of boards members have a specified term of appointment and can be retired at the appropriate time. The Chairman of the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board was appointed for an indefinite period in accordance with the Act.
- (5) No.
- (6) The producer representation on the board remains unchanged.

Uniform System of Dismissal

12. Mr. KELLY asked the Premier:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to bring members of all boards, irrespective of those under the control of the Minister for Agriculture, under a uniform system of dismissal at or about the age of 70 years?
- (2) Will an age limit of a similar character be applied to officers who have already been retired from Government or other employ, and who have been re-employed by the Government in some special capacity?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) As intimated in the reply which I gave yesterday to a question asked by the member for Balcatta, the question of fixing a retiring age is being examined by the Government.

MARGARINE PRODUCTION IN W.A.

Amendment of Quota and Population of State

13. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What year was the Act amended providing for a quota of 800 tons of margarine for manufacture in Western Australia?
- (2) What was the total population of W.A. in that year?
- (3) What was the total population of W.A. on the 30th June, 1964?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) 1952. The Act provided for a maximum of 800 tons, of which 600 tons were allocated.
- (2) 612,935.
- (3) 784,107.

SERPENTINE RIVER FLOODING*Inspections and Damage Repair*

14. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that the Serpentine River has broken its retaining banks in a number of places upstream of the bridge situated seven miles west of Serpentine, and that millions of gallons of water have flooded about 30,000 acres of farmlands, likely to create a serious shortage of stock feed?
- (2) Has he, or have P.W.D. engineers, inspected the great amount of damage to roads, fences, and farmlands, caused through the bursting of the river banks; and, if inspections have been made, what early action is anticipated in repairing the damage?

Suspension of Operation of School Bus and Milk Truck

- (3) Has it been brought to his notice that neither the school bus nor the milk truck is operating and that ski boats drawing 12-15 inches of water are traversing what were valuable clover paddocks, without any danger of fouling the top wire of existing fences?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. Repairs are proceeding satisfactorily in the district. Manpower and equipment have been increased substantially to expedite repair work.
- (3) It is understood that school bus and milk truck routes are all operating from today.

WATER RATES*Charges at Southern Cross, Merredin, and Kellerberrin*

15. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) At what date were water rates last increased in Southern Cross, Merredin, and Kellerberrin?
- (2) Prior to that date when was the previous increase?
- (3) What rates applied prior to the last increase?
- (4) What water rates are being currently charged?
- (5) Do these apply to towns only, or have farmers, whose properties adjoin the main conduit, been placed on a differential rating?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Rates were last increased in—
 - (a) Southern Cross, in July, 1962 by way of rate in £ increase from 2s. 6d. to 3s.

(b) Merredin, in January, 1964 by way of adoption of new Taxation Department valuations.

(c) Kellerberrin, in January, 1964 by way of adoption of new Taxation Department valuations.

(2) Previous increases to the above were—

(a) Southern Cross, in July, 1961 by way of rate in £ increase from 2s. to 2s. 6d.

(b) Merredin, in January, 1962 by way of rate in £ increase from 2s. 6d. to 3s.

(c) Kellerberrin, in January, 1962 by way of rate in £ increase from 2s. 6d. to 3s.

(3) (a) Southern Cross, 2s. 6d. in £ on departmental valuations.

(b) Merredin, 3s. in £ on departmental valuations.

(c) Kellerberrin, 3s. in £ on departmental valuations.

(4) (a) Southern Cross, 3s. in £ on departmental valuations.

(b) Merredin, 3s. in £ on Taxation Department valuations.

(c) Kellerberrin, 3s. in £ on Taxation Department valuations.

(5) Answers Nos. (1) to (4) apply to towns only.

Country lands properties in these districts are currently rated at 5d. per acre on properties within 10 chains of the main, up to a depth of 1½ miles from the pipe. The rate has been 5d. per acre since January, 1958; previous rate was 3d. per acre.

MR. GREGSON*Salary Paid and Nature of Duties*

16. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) Is Mr. Gregson, erstwhile manager of the State Building Supplies, still in receipt of a salary or retainer from the Government?
- (2) What is the amount of Mr. Gregson's emolument?
- (3) What is the nature of Mr. Gregson's present duties?
- (4) Is Mr. Gregson required to observe regular hours of work similar to employees in the public service?
- (5) Is Mr. Gregson consulted at least once each week by anyone acting on behalf of the Government?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) £3,934.

- (3) Mr. Gregson is employed in a full-time capacity in the Treasury, and is responsible direct to the Under-Treasurer. He has carried out many assignments of a special character and at present is largely engaged on duties as chairman of a committee co-ordinating development of the new town of Exmouth. He is also a Government representative on the State Housing Commission, the Treasurer's representative on the Tourist Development Authority, and a member of a number of departmental committees.

(4) Yes.

(5) See answer to No. (3).

IMMIGRANTS

Inducements Offered by Government

17. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Immigration:

- (1) In connection with the Government's further drive for immigrants are special inducements being offered?
- (2) In order to avoid a repetition of the misunderstanding which occurred subsequent to the Lonnie mission, will he state for the purpose of record exactly what is to be promised to prospective migrants?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) A State group nomination has been lodged for an unspecified number of migrant tradesmen in various categories. No special inducements are being offered.
- (2) There was no misunderstanding which occurred subsequent to the State migration mission. Migrant tradesmen accepted under the current group nomination will be offered employment on arrival. Initial accommodation will be provided at Point Walter Hostel in the normal way.

CEMENT

Price in South Australia

18. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

As he does not know the price of cement in South Australia to the Government and the information could lead to beneficial results to the Government of Western Australia, will he ascertain the information and supply it to Parliament?

Mr. WILD replied:

Bag cement in South Australia is £9 5s. 6d. per ton, and is the lowest in the Commonwealth due

to the ease of obtaining raw materials, cheaper power, due to a special low rate for night consumption, and consumption nearly double that of Western Australia due to the scarcity of clay and building timber in that State.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Bets Refused after Acceptance by Agents

19. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) In how many instances have agents of the Totalisator Agency Board taken bets and issued tickets therefor and the board has refused to accept such bets?
- (2) In such instances, what was the position where the agent was unable to inform the bettor prior to the running of the event that the bet had been refused, and
 - (a) the horse, the subject of the wager, was successful;
 - (b) the horse was beaten?
- (3) Is it a fact that in instances where the horse was beaten the agent was required to pay the amount of the wager to the board and in those cases where agents refused they were dismissed from employment?
- (4) What is the total amount of money received by the board from agents in respect of bets which were on beaten horses and for which the board refused to accept liability?
- (5) What is there to be said for a board which in certain circumstances keeps a bettor's money when a horse is beaten and refuses to pay the bettor when the horse wins?
- (6) As an agent cannot legally accept a bet otherwise than for or on behalf of the Totalisator Agency Board, were the bets above referred to made with an agent or the board?
- (7) If it is considered that the bets were not actually made, what right has the board to retain the money involved?
- (8) When did the auditors, McLaren & Stewart, first draw the board's attention to this irregularity?
- (9) When did he first become aware of it?
- (10) What action does he propose to take in connection with the matter?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) No records are kept which would give this information. However, where permission to take a bet is

required, an agent should not issue a ticket before obtaining permission.

- (2) In both cases the bet would stand.
- (3) No.
- (4) Nil.
- (5) Answered by No. (2).
- (6) to (10) I am unaware of any such bets being made but, if the honourable member can supply specific cases, further inquiry will be undertaken.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

Peak Profit Prior to 1959

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

- (1) With reference to his reply to question No. 40 of Wednesday, the 5th August, what was the peak year of profit prior to 1959, the amount of the profit and the amount of the capital then involved?

Profit for 1962-63

- (2) Is it not a fact that the Auditor-General has certified that the profit for 1962-63 was £249,281 not £506,003 as stated by him?
- (3) From what sources or activities was the £249,281 profit derived?
- (4) As the Auditor-General has reported that the transactions relating to the management and control, and the business of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreements under part VIII of the Act are kept separate and are not incorporated in the Commission's accounts, why were figures from this source included in his answers to questions on the 5th August?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) 1955-56

State Housing Act	£177,861
Commonwealth - State Housing Agreement	193,665
	<hr/>
	£371,526

The profit on State Housing does not take into account a loss of £64,547 on army huts. Annual losses on this scheme varied from £34,000 to £97,000 until the huts were dismantled in 1956-57. These losses were subsequently borne by the State Government. Capital involved £30,485,425.

(Profit represents 1.2 per cent. on capital).

- (2) The profit on State Housing Act operations only was £249,281, as stated in the answer to the question.

- (3) State Housing Act operations.

Without reproducing the profit and loss account in detail, as shown in the annual report tabled in the House in 1956, it is not possible to itemise the profit. The largest individual item was profit on sale of land.

- (4) As question No. (4) asked whether the Government would take action to reduce rents, and as rental homes are almost entirely under the Commonwealth-State Agreement, the additional information was given.

METROPOLITAN REGION TOWN PLANNING SCHEME ACT

Loans for Land Purchase: Sinking Fund Provision

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

- (1) Will he explain why on Tuesday, the 4th August, in reply to question No. 10 he gave a series of percentages which when calculated give an amount of £3,764 10s. as being the total additional cost to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority in making the required provision in the metropolitan region improvement sinking fund at the Treasury whereas the authority at page 24 of its report for 1963 stated that the amount calculated by the Treasury was £5,430?
- (2) What amount was actually credited to the sinking fund?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) The correct amount of Sinking Fund provision calculated by the Treasury was £3,770 and not £5,430 as shown in the Auditor's report on page 24 of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's report for 1963. The error arose out of a wrong interpretation of the Under-Treasurer's letter setting out the amount of sinking fund required and has since been corrected.
- (2) The Sinking Fund provision is calculated on the basis of the first payment being made 12 months after the date of the loan. The following amounts have been credited to the Sinking Fund—

	£
1962-63	1,660
1963-64	3,770

22. This question was postponed.

POLICE AT KALAMUNDA*Appointment of Additional Officer*

23. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Police:

When is it anticipated Kalamunda will be allotted an additional policeman?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

The transfer of a second constable to Kalamunda is now in hand and he should commence duty within a matter of days.

RAPID TRANSIT: HILLS AREA*Platform and Parking Area at Midland Junction*

24. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) When is work to commence on the development of the platform and parking area at Midland Junction in connection with the rapid transit from the hills area?

Timetables and Routes

- (2) Have timetables and routes been decided in so far as bus transport is concerned?

Commencement

- (3) When is it anticipated the co-ordinated plan will commence?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) No definite date has been fixed but a start is to be made as soon as possible. Local discussions to finalise details are expected to be arranged at an early date.
- (2) These have yet to be finalised.
- (3) Present planning is on the basis of the scheme commencing by the end of March, 1965.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC: DISLOCATION SOUTH OF BRUNSWICK*Effect on Supply of Goods*

25. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What build-up, if any, of goods traffic consigned to centres south of Brunswick has been caused by dislocation of rail traffic south of that centre?
- (2) What measures have been adopted to deal with goods traffic which is ordinarily handled per rail?
- (3) Has any shortage occurred by failure to deliver goods to Nannup, Manjimup, or any other centre south of Brunswick?
- (4) Is the railway road service fully equipped and capable of dealing with the emergency?

Emergency Services of Private Firms

- (5) Has any private firm been used to deal with any emergency arising out of a build-up of goods traffic ex Perth to the south-west?
- (6) If so, what firm or firms?
- (7) If any private firm was so used, what factors were taken into consideration in the choice?
- (8) If help is required by railway road service will he investigate the possibility of using private firms during the emergency who are equipped and capable of transporting goods to and from Manjimup and Nannup areas, and Perth?

Delay in Delivery of Potatoes

- (9) Has any delay taken place in the delivery of potatoes to Perth ex Manjimup and Pemberton?
- (10) If so, what was the duration of the delay?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) A build-up of traffic did occur at Brunswick Junction during the initial stages of the washaway, but when road bridges were restored, railway road transport was immediately implemented. All perishable and urgent traffic was then cleared.
- (2) Staff and handling facilities for road transport services were placed at Brunswick Junction to meet requirements. Traffic is railed to Brunswick Junction, road to Picton Junction thence rail to destination. Perishables are delivered from Brunswick Junction to destination direct by road.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) No.
- (6) Answered by No. (5).
- (7) Stubbs Ltd. cartage contractors for hospital project elected to haul from Brunswick Junction of their own volition.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) No. Only unavoidable operating delays due to transshipping traffic from rail to road and back to rail.
- (10) Answered by No. (9).

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT*Submission of Annual Report to Minister*

26. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Is an annual report of the Fisheries Department submitted to him as Minister, as is the practice with most other Government Departments?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Annual reports were submitted up to and including the 31st December, 1938, when the Minister of the day, believing they served little useful purpose, directed that the practice cease. Preparation of such reports has not since been resumed.
However, in future, an annual report will be presented to Parliament.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSIONERS

Date of Appointment, Seniority, and Previous Occupations

27. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) On what date or dates were the three commissioners appointed under section 54, subsection (1) of the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912-1963?
- (2) What is the order of seniority under such section 54?
- (3) What was the occupation of each of the three commissioners immediately prior to their appointment as commissioners?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) 1st February, 1964.
- (2) Commissioner E. R. Kelly.
Commissioner D. Cort.
Commissioner J. R. Flanagan.
- (3) Commissioner E. R. Kelly—Senior Industrial Officer State Department of Labour.
Commissioner D. Cort—Senior Industrial Advocate employed by the Employers Federation of W.A.
Commissioner J. R. Flanagan—Secretary of the Westralian Branch of the Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union Industrial Union of Workers.

SHIPPING THROUGH ALBANY

Report of Industrial Officer

28. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

Can he advise the House of the outcome and findings of his industrial officer who visited Albany to check the potential shipping through the port of Albany?

Mr. COURT replied:

The report is being studied with a view to consultations with shipping and local interests.

CLASSROOMS: NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Primary Schools

29. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the average number of children per classroom in each respective grade in primary schools?

High Schools

- (2) What is the average number of students per classroom in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th year high school classes for the current year?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) Information in the form requested is not available, but class sizes in February, 1964, were as follows:—

	Primary	Secondary
Over 40	47.3%	22.9%
31-40	38.5%	44.8%
30 and under	14.2%	32.3%

"CONTRACT GOODS" SYSTEM

Supply of Wagons to Transport Firms

30. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is it a fact that transport firms are being supplied rail wagons at considerably reduced freight rates between Perth and Albany under what is termed "contract goods"?
- (2) If so, what are the names of the firms enjoying this privilege?
- (3) Are the firms enjoying the concession rate conveying high freight articles such as groceries, etc.?
- (4) What would be the difference in freight charges for a four-wheeled F.D. wagon under contract goods and one conveying groceries, etc., under the normal freight charges or system?

Effect on Goods Shed Staff

- (5) Is it a fact that the staffs of the transport firms load and unload these wagons to the detriment of the W.A.G.R. personnel?
- (6) Will the contract goods system eventually do away with goods shed staff?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Special wagon-load rates are available to transport agents under contract conditions between all stations and sidings open for traffic. Under this system, which was introduced in 1961, a demand by clients requiring door to door delivery services was met.

- (2) Mayne Nickless Pty. Ltd., McIlwraith's Transport Pty. Ltd., and Cargo Distributors operate to Albany, but the rates are available to all transport agents. Other agents who have completed contracts but do not operate to Albany are Barnards Services, NA and VA Brandstater, Co-Ordinated Freight Lines, A. L. Grow, R. P. North Pty. Ltd., Nor' West Transport, and Thomas National Transport Pty. Ltd.
- (3) The conditions provide for the despatch in wagon-loads of mixed consignments of general goods and groceries, but some specified commodities such as beers, wines, spirits, fuels, etc. are excluded.
- (4) It is considered that the commissioner, in accordance with good commercial and ethical practices, has a responsibility to keep this information confidential. It should be appreciated that the W.A.G.R. is a transport business actively competing with other forms of transport.
- (5) The consignments are loaded and unloaded by the contractor, but this has not been to the detriment of the W.A.G.R. staff. Without the present modern approach to procuring business and giving service to customers the railways would not be able to compete.
- (6) It is not envisaged that this system will eliminate the necessity for goods shed staff.

YOUTH CENTRE AT ALBANY

Erection

31A. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Education:

Has the matter of erecting a youth centre at Albany been finalised between the Education Department and the youth centre organisation?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

No.

SWIMMING POOL AT ALBANY

Use of Land Adjacent to Albany High School

31B. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has consideration been given to requests for land to build a swimming pool adjacent to the Albany High School?
- (2) If so, what are the determinations of the Government respective to land for a swimming pool?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No Education Department land adjacent to the Albany High School can be released for a swimming pool, as all land is required for educational purposes.

ALBANY HARBOUR BOARD ACCESS ROAD

Accident Prevention Measures at Crossing

32. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Railways:

As the new access road serving the Albany Harbour Board crosses three sets of railway lines, what protective measures does the W.A.G.R. intend to take to avoid accidents?

Mr. COURT replied:

This crossing is located on Albany Harbour Board property and measures to protect road traffic over it are the responsibility of the Albany Harbour Board.

Due care will be taken by the Railways Department with shunting over the crossing.

33. This question was postponed.

FRUIT

Number of Research Stations

34. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many research stations for horticulture are operating in the State?
- (2) Would research for cotton in the north of the State be included in this category?

Money Spent in Interests of W.A. Fruit Growers' Association

- (3) How much of the £86,770 as quoted in *The West Australian* of the 19th September, 1963, would be spent on research as it affects the interests of the W.A. Fruit Growers' Association whose interests are pome, stone, and citrus fruits?

Income from Fruit from Stoneville Station

- (4) What was the income from the sale of fruit from the Stoneville station in the year 1963?

Fertiliser Use in Orchards: Articles in "Agricultural Journal"

- (5) Is it a fact that no articles on fertiliser use in orchards have been printed in the *Agricultural Journal* since 1931?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Four.
- (2) No.

- (3) The total figure of £86,770 quoted in *The West Australian* of the 19th September, 1963, referred to expenditure for both extension and research activities. It is not practicable to dissect this expenditure to assess the amounts spent on pome, stone, and citrus fruits.
- (4) £373 for the year ended the 30th June, 1963.
- (5) No.

FLASHING LIGHTS

Installation at Verna Street Railway Crossing, Gosnells

35. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

In view of the fact that the provision of flashing lights at the Verna Street railway crossing, Gosnells, was given high priority some time ago, when will these lights be installed?

Mr. COURT replied:

Approval of the Main Roads Department to provision of flashing lights was received in April last. Date of installation depends upon supply of material now on quote.

HOUSES IN CANNING ELECTORATE

Number Built in 1963-64

36. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

What number of houses—"spec." and War Service excepted—were built by the State Housing Commission for the year 1963-64 in the following districts:—

- (a) Manning-Koonawarra;
- (b) Riverton-Rossmoyne;
- (c) East Cannington;
- (d) Kenwick;
- (e) Maddington;
- (f) Thornlie;
- (g) Gosnells;
- (h) Canning Vale?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) One.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) Nil.
- (f) One.
- (g) Two.
- (h) Nil.

POLICE STATION FOR GOSNELLS

Establishment

37. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Police:

Has provision been made in the Estimates for 1964-65 for the establishment of a police station in the Gosnells district?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

The construction of a police station at Gosnells was included along with a number of other buildings in the draft building estimates for the current year, but it is not possible to indicate when work will commence until the availability of finance is known.

RAPID TRANSIT: ARMADALE-KENWICK

Location of Special Terminal

38. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

In view of the fact that nearly 12 months have elapsed since the announcement of the proposed Armadale-Kenwick rapid transit system, will he indicate where the special terminal is to be established?

Mr. COURT replied:

The Armadale-Kenwick scheme is being held in abeyance pending experience with the Midland scheme.

HARVEY RIVER DIVERSION

Payment of Compensation for Flood Damage

39. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What number of applications for compensation have been received from landholders in the Harvey district whose properties were damaged by flooding from the Harvey river diversion during August, 1963?
- (2) Is liability admitted in respect of these claims?
- (3) Has payment of compensation been made to any of the claimants?
- (4) If not, will he undertake to expedite the payment of compensation?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Six.
- (2) Irrespective of liability, the department is active in finalising assessment of damage with a view to payment of compensation.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes.

CAR PARKING FACILITIES

Partial Closure of Stirling Street

40. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Lands:

Has the Perth City Council been granted permission by the Lands Department to close portion of

Stirling Street, Perth, between James and Bridge Streets for the purpose of establishing car-parking facilities?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

The establishment of car-parking facilities in the City of Perth is governed by the City of Perth Parking Facilities Act.

The Lands Department is not required to grant permission in this instance.

SMOKING

Restriction on Advertising

41. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Has the Government further considered the—

(a) barring or restricting of advertisements glamorising smoking;

(b) restricting such advertisements on radio and television until the late evening?

(2) If so, with what result?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) (a) and (b) Advertising on radio and television is outside the jurisdiction of States, and is controlled by the Commonwealth under the Broadcasting Act.

The desirability of deferring such advertising until the late evening was discussed at a recent conference of State Health Ministers and is under examination by the Federal authorities.

No action in regard to other advertising is contemplated until the position in regard to these two major outlets has been clarified.

(2) As indicated above the matter is still under examination.

LAND AT KWINANA

Reservation for Fertiliser and/or Chemical Works

42. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

(1) What area of land has been reserved at Kwinana for British Petroleum Limited or any of its subsidiaries or associates for the purpose of a fertiliser and/or chemical works?

Effect of New Reservations on C.B.H. Allocation

(2) To what extent, if any, does any land reserved for the company or companies impinge on the area already set aside for the use of Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) The ammonia and urea plant will be within existing refinery boundaries.

The fertiliser complex to be developed in addition to this plant is intended to be in the Kwinana area but final location is the subject of negotiations.

The fertiliser complex will involve about 125 acres.

(2) The areas do not impinge on land which was under consideration for possible Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. purposes.

BASIC WAGE INCREASE

Effect on Grants Commission's Findings

43. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Premier:

(1) Does he consider the statement of the Minister for Labour (The Hon. G. P. Wild) which appeared on page 1 of *The West Australian* newspaper of the 2nd July, 1964, and quoted hereunder, to be correct?

Statement referred to:—

Mr. Wild said that an important point to be considered was that W.A. was a claimant State.

If its basic wage was lifted above that of New South Wales and Victoria it would receive an adverse adjustment in the special disabilities grant from the Commonwealth Government.

(2) If the statement is not correct, will he take action to publicly contradict such statement in the interest of the public of this State?

(3) Does the apology of the Crown Solicitor, made on behalf of the Government, and which appeared on page 3, of the *Daily News* of the 3rd July, 1964, include reference to the above statement?

Mr. BRAND replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

(3) The apology simply related to the announcement that the Government would be represented by counsel before the consent of all parties had been obtained.

GOVERNMENT HOUSES*Right of Occupants to Discuss Furnishings*

44. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Premier: Will he grant to all Government employees occupying Government houses which are basically furnished the same privilege of right of discussion as to the cost and type of furnishings as that being granted to the Administrator of the North-West?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The administrator's appointment is a special one.

The circumstances surrounding the work of the Administrator for the North-West are not comparable to the conditions of service of most Government employees occupying Government houses.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**ORD RIVER SCHEME***Commonwealth Aid*

1. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Premier: With reference to an article in *The West Australian* this morning under the heading, "Aid Not A Grant—Brand" in which the Premier said that the Prime Minister had told him in a letter received in the weekend that Western Australia's case for aid to complete the greater Ord scheme was still receiving consideration, would he enlighten the House as to whether the Prime Minister has given any indication when this case might be considered and a reply given?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The Prime Minister's letter simply indicated that the question of the comprehensive water scheme had been decided and would be included in the Budget. It would then be the subject of a decision by the State Government as to whether it would come to an agreement. As to the Ord River, the matter was still under discussion and no decision was made.

QUESTIONS FOR NOTICE PAPER*Closing Time for Receipt by Clerk*

2. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Speaker: In view of the fact that the Assembly will not be meeting tomorrow is it intended that the time for the closing of questions for the notice paper should be 5 p.m. this evening, or will it be extended to some time tomorrow?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) replied:

I think the Standing Orders make the position quite clear; and in view of the fact that I am so often taken to task for not observing Standing Orders, I think the answer would rest very much with the discretion of the Clerk.

Mr. Graham: You stick to Standing Orders at all times, Mr. Speaker!

INDUSTRIAL SEMINAR AT ALBANY*Comments by Deputy Premier*

3. Mr. HALL asked the Deputy Premier: In view of the statement made by him as Deputy Premier at the opening of the industrial seminar held at Albany recently, and as appeared in *The Sunday Times* of the 9th August, that Western Australia was missing the bus in selling, how does he reconcile his statement, in view of the fact that the present Government has been in office for approximately the past 5½ years, with the statement made by the Minister for Industrial Development at the same industrial seminar that over-reliance on primary produce exports was undesirable, which statement appeared in *The West Australian* on Monday, the 10th August, 1964?

Mr. NALDER replied:

The honourable member gave me prior notification that he would be asking this question without notice. The conference to which he referred was the first country conference of the Institute of Sales and Marketing. I do not consider that anything I said at that conference conflicts with what the Minister for Industrial Development is reported to have said. I suggest that had the honourable member been present at the conference and heard all of my remarks, he would have agreed entirely with all that I said.

WATER RATES*Valuations of Premises at Merredin, Kellerberrin, and Cunderdin*

4. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Water Supplies:
- (1) (a) Of the 1,003 premises at Merredin rated for water supply purposes for 1964 what number had a net annual value of £80 and over?
 - (b) How many of these were business premises?

- (2) (a) Of the 422 premises at Kellberrin rated for water supply purposes for 1964 what number had a net annual value of £80 and over?
- (b) How many of these were business premises?
- (3) (a) Of the 295 premises rated at Cunderdin for 1964 for water supply purposes, what number had a net annual value of £80 and over?
- (b) How many of these were business premises?

Mr. WILD replied:

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

- (1) (a) 656
(b) 95
- (2) (a) 226
(b) 55
- (3) (a) 161
(b) 27

TELEVISION FOR EASTERN GOLDFIELDS

Correspondence with Commonwealth Government

5. Mr. EVANS asked the Premier:

In reference to a letter read out by him in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd October, 1962, from the then Acting Prime Minister (The Hon. W. Spooner),—being a reply to a resolution carried by this Chamber on the 5th September, 1962, asking for the necessary action to be taken by the Federal Government to extend television facilities to the Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, and certain other areas of the State—in which the Acting Prime Minister gave the following assurance:—

I shall see that the resolution of the Legislative Assembly of W.A. is brought to the attention of my colleague, the Postmaster General . . .

You may expect a further reply when the representations of the Legislative Assembly have been examined in detail.

has a further reply as promised been received from the Federal Government? If so, what is the purport of the reply?

If not, will he undertake to ascertain the response of the Federal Government to the unanimous resolution of the Chamber?

Mr. BRAND replied:

I thank the honourable member for giving me ample notice of his question.

I hereby lay on the Table of the House a copy of the latest correspondence from the Acting Prime Minister concerning television facilities in the Eastern Goldfields area.

This letter was received following representations made by the Shire of Kalgoorlie and that shire has been supplied with a copy of the Acting Prime Minister's reply. This is a much later letter than the one to which the honourable member referred.

The correspondence was tabled.

CANNINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

*Inspection by Public Health Department:
Tabling of Papers*

6. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Health:

In connection with the inspection of the Cannington High School conducted by his department on the 7th August, 1964, will he lay on the Table of the House the papers pertaining to the inspection?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for giving me prior notice of this question. I hereby lay the papers on the Table of the House.

The papers were tabled for one week.

CEMENT

Price in South Australia

7. Mr. TONKIN: On the 4th August I asked the Minister for Works what was the price to the Government of cement in South Australia. The Minister replied that the price was not known. Usually when it is intended to provide the information it is indicated in the answer. As the Minister did not indicate in his answer that it was the intention of his department to find out the price, I would ask him how it comes about that to-day he was able to supply the information which he was not able to supply on the 4th August?

Mr. WILD replied:

When the question was brought to my notice on the second occasion, I arranged for the information to be obtained by telephone from South Australia.

Mr. Tonkin: Thank you; but why couldn't that have been done the first time?

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD*Replies to Questions re Former Agent Donohoe*

8. Mr. CRAIG (Minister for Transport):

I promised the Deputy Leader of the Opposition last evening that I would supply him with answers to questions that he had asked some 12 months ago. Unfortunately I did not have the time to arrange for extra copies to be made, but I shall do so. The answers are as follows:—

(2) (a) Default by the person concerned under clause 22 of his agreement with the board.

(b) The chairman of the board is not required to make a decision on such a matter.

(c) No.

(d) On the 4th July, 1963, to Detective Sergeant Moorman at the head office of the T.A.B., 918 Hay Street, Perth. The exact words are not known, but the matter of a charge under section 37 (b) of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act, 1960-63 and the possibility of a more serious charge were brought under notice.

(e) Yes. The contents of such writing form part of a C.I.B. report of investigations. Such reports are invariably confidential and privileged.

(f) Answered in (e) above.

(g) Yes. After fully considering the reports received, the Chief Crown Prosecutor reached a conclusion that a charge of stealing as a servant could not be established by reason of there being insufficient evidence.

(h) Answered in (g) above.

(i) No.

(j) No, not to my knowledge.

(The questions by Mr. Tonkin appear on p. 523 of "Hansard," 1963.)

LAND AT KWINANA*Availability to Co-operative Bulk Handling*

9. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

Concerning his reply to my question on today's notice paper, am I to understand that no land will be made available to Co-operative

Bulk Handling Limited in the Kwinana area, or is the matter still under consideration?

Mr. COURT replied:

When obtaining the answer to the question asked by the honourable member, I was unable to find that any land had been specifically earmarked for C.B.H. I found that when the area was being planned, some general areas were referred to as being possible sites for various purposes. Included in those areas was a site for C.B.H. To the best of my knowledge there has been no change in the intentions of those people who are planning and allocating these areas. However, I will make some further inquiries for the honourable member.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr. H. May, leave of absence for four weeks granted to Mr. Curran (Cockburn) on the ground of ill-health.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY*Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 11th August, on the following motion by Mr. O'Connor:—

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

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

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [5.8 p.m.]: I am pleased to be able to make a small contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate. In listening to the Speech given by His Excellency the Governor, I was anxious to hear any reference made to the goldmining industry. We know, of course, that the Governor's Speech is prepared by the Government of the day, and I was sorely disappointed to find that reference in the Speech to the goldmining industry was confined to part of one complete sentence. The reference appears on page 5 of the Governor's Speech, and reads as follows:—

Gold production was over 800,000 fine ounces—

The reference to gold then terminates, the sentence being completed as follows:—

—the value of all minerals produced during the year being £21,076,000.

Those are the only words referring to one of the major industries in this State; to one of the major industries which contributes to the economy of this nation.

I am at a loss to understand the attitude of the State Government. There is so much that could have been said about the goldmining industry; there is so much that needs to be said; and there is so much action that needs to be taken. The Government has given no indication that it even considers investigating the problems facing the goldmining industry. It contents itself by giving a statistical report, and that report is condensed into part of a sentence in a Speech comprising nine pages given by His Excellency the Governor. The reference is contained in part of a sentence which takes up a line and a half in that Speech.

The goldmining industry has, over the years—particularly since 1949—displayed unusual vitality, and it has not taken lying down the imposition of a fixed price for gold. However, the industry should be made the subject of a vigorous programme of education and agitation, more so now than at any other period in its history. Education is required to convince the Federal Government of the value of, and necessity for, gold in connection with international trade.

The attitude of the Federal Government towards the administration of the bounty legislation must be sharpened by a realisation that the need for an infusion of monetary assistance for additional underground work is very real. The time-wasting delays in the processing of applications by mining companies, as has been evidenced this year, must be eliminated. In May a major company had an application stood over because, I understand, the Treasury officials could not interpret the scope of the benefits that were available under the Act. There was a considerable delay. Of course these things cannot be tolerated. If the Government is going to assist, the assistance should be clearly offered and promptly carried out.

The problem facing the industry is simply to pinpoint the fact that the industry is selling its product at the price which applied in 1949, even though that price was an artificial one brought about by the devaluation of sterling. However, the price that the goldmining industry is receiving for its product today is that which applied towards the latter end of 1949, and that price was brought about through the good offices of the Chifley Labor Government. If that had not happened the industry would have been operating on the price level of 1932-33.

This is the only industry today which sells its product on the price level that was available in 1949 and has to meet the cost levels applying in 1964. The repercussions which flow from this situation are easy to pinpoint. We have to consider the rising costs of production, and

they include labour costs. Those who take up the cudgels for the employing classes will readily say, "What are the workers doing towards trying to assist the industry? They are reaching out for wage increases."

That is not the case at all. The men who are engaged in the mining industry are entitled to wage justice, and to working conditions similar to or comparable with those of men engaged in industry elsewhere; and it is only right for the men in the industry to demand equal wage justice and working conditions with what is available elsewhere. I would say that the men working in the goldmining industry, particularly in some facets of the work, are entitled to greater remuneration than are men in industry in some other fields.

It should be noted also that it is in the interests of the goldmining industry itself for it to hold its key men—the skilled machine miners—by paying them good remuneration, because if the industry finds it cannot, or if it will not, pay the good men, it will lose them; and that will be to the detriment of the industry, because it will be difficult to recruit other men with the skill necessary for the economic production of gold.

Therefore, if anyone wants to be quick to point the finger at the working man—at the labour cost, and say that it is one of the factors reacting against the economy of the goldmining industry today, then that person should pause and consider that the solution to this problem lies elsewhere; it lies in removing the glaring injustice that prevails as to the price paid for the product of the industry.

The State Government should have expressed itself along these lines: That not only should the Federal Government be ready, without procrastination and delay, to offer monetary assistance obtained from its revenues, in recognition of its responsibility to safeguard a national interest, but also it should recognise that there is another role for it to accept; and it is in this field that the State Government should have been most active. We should have heard what it intended to do, and we should be able to see it putting its words into action by giving a lead not only to offsetting the injustice of a fixed price for gold, but by planning and initiating a move and then by putting that move into operation so that steps would be taken to meet the spokesman from the United States of America, and from the other International Monetary Fund countries, to show them that we will no longer blindly accept their stand to preserve a pegged price of 35 American dollars per fine ounce of gold.

The United States of America and the other I.M.F. countries are prepared to conform to this stand as long as we will

conform to it, or allow them to do so. I say the time has come when their action or decision should no longer be allowed to go unchallenged. The time has come when there should be another well organised gold deputation from Western Australia to Canberra. I say the time has come when the State Government should give a lead to the goldmining industry. It should offer its assistance and make its facilities available so that in Canberra the views of the goldmining industry may be heard, and so that ultimately the voice of Australia in reference to its goldmining industry will be heard at the places where the decisions are made that could bring about a change in the price of gold.

The time has come when a lot more should be said than just a few words taken from a statistical report stating that the production of gold last year was 800,000 fine ounces. I say the time has come not only for words from the State Government, but also for the State Government to transform those words into action; and if this Government does not do it, then the next Labor Government returned next year will not procrastinate with mere words, but will put those words into action, and perhaps these glaring injustices will then be removed. But the opportunity lies with this Government now to do something; to give a dynamic lead. Yet it has contented itself with a few words taken from a statistical report—that is its sole reference to one of the major industries of the State. With those remarks, I will pass to other matters.

I would like to speak for a few moments on the subject of law reform. I was pleased to note—I expected this step to be taken—the move by the Crown Law Department to remove from our Statute book some of the antiquated and obsolete legislation that still appears therein. However, again I feel that the Government has missed the bus. I wish to quote now from the 1962-1963 presidential report of the Law Society of Western Australia. The president had this to say in reference to law reform—

Early in the year, it appeared as if an official Law Reform Committee might be established. Your Council, in consultation with the Chief Justice, offered to assist in the formation of such a Committee which, it was hoped, would consist of the Chief Justice, or a Judge nominated by him, five practitioners nominated by the Society, a representative of the Law School, and a representative of the Crown Law Department with an officer of the Crown Law Department as permanent Secretary. However, for reasons not entirely clear, and to our disappointment, the Government decided against the proposal. Recently, I discussed the matter again with the Chief Justice and it is likely that we will proceed on a non-official basis

with a Committee constituted as above but without the Government representatives.

I prefaced my remarks by saying that the Government had missed the bus. What a golden opportunity it was; what an offer that was made to it by the Law Society of Western Australia to form a balanced law committee! Here it was for the asking; but the Government apparently, for reasons not entirely clear, as the report states, did not accept the offer, and it missed the bus.

Whilst speaking on law reform I would like to make reference to three points that have concerned me, and in respect of which I intend to ask some questions. The first relates to criminal law and the law relating to procedure in jury trials of matters of criminal jurisdiction.

The present law provides that the Crown Prosecutor has, when the jury is being selected and each prospective jurymen's name is read out, an unlimited number of challenges. As soon as the name is read out by the clerk of the court, if that prospective jurymen is not acceptable to the Crown, the prosecutor on behalf of the Crown merely has to say "stand aside" and that person's services are dispensed with. The Crown has an unlimited number of challenges, whereas the accused person is limited to only six—that is, six peremptory challenges; and there is the right reserved both to the Crown and to the accused person to challenge on the ground that cause must be shown. I intend to ask the Minister for Justice, through his representative in this Chamber—

Will he give consideration to amending the law relating to jury trials in matters of criminal jurisdiction so as to remove the advantage possessed by the Crown Prosecutor as against an accused person, of having an unlimited right to stand by jurors, and bring this into line with the right possessed by the accused of six peremptory challenges and the challenge of additional jurors for cause shown?

This question, I think, shows that the need for law reform is not non-existent in 1964. I would like also to ask the Minister, in this enlightened year of 1964—

- (1) Has the Government considered introducing legislation to amend the appropriate law relating to infancy—the Transfer of Land Act—and the legislation concerned with land dealings so as to provide that the age limit for borrowing on mortgage of land will be reduced below 21 years in the case of young married couples and people about to be married?
- (2) Is it intended to legislate accordingly this session?

Another question concerning law reform arises out of the situation whereby a person, probably due to ignorance of the law, charged in a court of petty sessions, and not knowing the nature or the implication of the charge, pleads guilty. Having pleaded guilty, such a person is at present precluded from lodging an appeal. If that person pleads guilty and is convicted, he cannot, under the present law, lodge an appeal. I refer to section 197 of the Justices Act, which is one of the provisions relating to appeals from courts of petty sessions.

Members might cast their minds back to the case of a young university student about 12 or 18 months ago. He pleaded guilty, and by the word of the law he was precluded from the right of appeal, purely and simply because he pleaded guilty. Whether he was aware of the implications or the nature of the charge, I do not know. I would like to see section 197 of the Justices Act amended to provide that in such a case a plea of guilty in a court of petty sessions need not necessarily be fatal to the person's right to lodge an appeal.

Leaving the field of law reform, I shall now make reference to a project which I consider could offer some scope for decentralisation in the Kalgoorlie district, and that is in reference to the use of the smoke which now escapes from the smoke-stacks on the mines into the air, and the precipitation of elemental sulphur. I was pleased to note the most recent reference to this project in *The West Australian* dated the 27th March of this year. It is a subject which has occupied my attention ever since I have been a member. It also occupied the attention of the previous Government, and a report was made by a committee established for this purpose in 1953. However, that committee encountered difficulties which, at that time, would have resulted in interference with the production of gold; and, of course, in the interests of producing only a by-product, that could not be.

Steps are now being taken to ascertain whether these difficulties can be resolved so that there will be no interference with the production of gold and, at the same time, allow the use of the sulphur which is now being burned and escaping into the air. I refer the House to the following item, and I point out that I am following it up with a great deal of interest:—

Gold Plant Problems For Study.

The Government Chemical Laboratories will investigate problems associated with ore-roasting operations at mines on Kalgoorlie's Golden Mile.

Mines Minister Griffith said yesterday that the work could yield valuable information leading to improved plant operations and general benefits for the gold mining industry.

The laboratory officers believed their work could help in the possible recovery of elemental sulphur from smoke-stacks.

The laboratories planned an on-the-spot study of technical aspects of present roaster operations. This would be backed by the specialised facilities of several divisions of the laboratories.

My purpose in making reference to the subject is to let it be known that I earnestly hope every effort will be made by the Government Chemical Laboratory and the companies concerned to ensure fruitful results from this project.

I would now like to make reference to the standard gauge railway project as it is likely to affect Kalgoorlie, and to investigate whether the passing of the line through Kalgoorlie can provide some industry in that town to compensate for the loss of employment which will naturally follow with the removal of the transshipping activities in that district. I believe tremendous scope is offered there if we can get the Government of the day to co-operate, or to urge support from the Commonwealth Government to establish at Kalgoorlie a railway repair or maintenance shop which could be used for rolling stock on that line. I would even go so far as to recommend strongly that it could establish works for the manufacture of certain implements which could be used for the same purpose.

I have broached this subject before, and I realise the project is at a very early stage and that what I say may be considered premature. Nevertheless, my suggestion is worth recording and filing so that it can be drawn out at the appropriate time and some action taken thereon. That is the reason for my mentioning the matter again. I have raised it before and have written to the Minister for Railways on the subject, and I trust this reference will merely go to show that I still believe this is a matter which should be considered at the appropriate time. I hope that in this field the Government will not miss the bus.

I now wish to speak on two educational matters. The first is the Eastern Goldfields High School. I regret that I have taken so long to speak on other matters that the Minister for Education is not now in his seat, because I would have liked him to hear my remarks.

Mr. H. May: He will read your speech in *Hansard*.

Mr. EVANS: I am not so sure; but when he learns that I have been referring to one of his portfolios, he might. The Eastern Goldfields High School is one of the major high schools in this State, as proved by its enrolments; but despite this it cannot lay claim to a gymnasium of its own. On representations being made to the department, the reply is, of course,

that the finance available can only be used for the erection of classrooms and not for other matters, even though they may be necessary, until the demand for greater classroom accommodation has been met. However, I find that that policy is not followed in the metropolitan area. New high schools are being erected almost daily in the metropolitan area—they are almost like mushrooms—and it is found that a gymnasium is always included in them.

Mr. H. May: You will have to shift the goldfields down to the metropolitan area.

Mr. EVANS: I will now pass from the level of secondary education to the tertiary level; that is, to the level prevailing at the University, and to refer to the financial side of the question; namely, to the announcement in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of the 27th July, 1964, headed, "W.A. University Raises Fees."

Mr. Toms: What, again?

Mr. EVANS: It is significant that my colleague alongside me has interjected "again." Under this heading, the report reads—

Perth July 27.—The West Australian University senate tonight agreed to raise student fees for 1965 by 15 per cent., the third increase in three years.

The finance committee chairman, Mr. K. Townsing, who is also the State Under-Treasurer, said tonight that the new increases would bring Western Australian fees to 58 per cent. of the standard Australian level calculated on the average of Melbourne and Sydney University fees.

(In 1961, the West Australian University senate adopted a policy of raising fees in stages to the standard level).

Mr. Townsing said the maximum Commonwealth grant to the West Australian University for 1965 had been fixed to £878,000.

The University would have to raise £1,625,000 from fees and the State grant to get the maximum grant.

Unless fees were raised, the State grant would have to include £117,000 to cover the difference between West Australian and standard fees.

The State had paid £108,000 this year to meet the difference and wanted the amount reduced for 1965.

It is the concluding part of the report with which I find fault. The Government is anxious to have educated persons in this State, but has no desire to pay for their education; it merely wants to ensure that the amount it paid last year is reduced in 1965. Here again is ample evidence of how the Government has missed the bus. Is it intimidated by the Commonwealth

Government? By its amended constitution, the Commonwealth Government is given wide financial powers to collect the majority of the revenue from the whole of the Commonwealth, but it is the responsibility of the State Government to demand its fair share of that revenue. I feel that this State Government is rather chary or scared of offending the Commonwealth Government. What I have referred to are instances of how the State Government should be present and, like *Oliver Twist*, asking for more.

If the State's financial resources are insufficient to finance the University, it should look for more money from the Commonwealth instead of the University Senate having to take the only alternative step; namely, raising the fees of students who already, in many instances, are impoverished. Do members realise that university graduates, when seeking employment, on noticing there are employment opportunities overseas in many spheres, grasp those opportunities and take the positions offering elsewhere? Although we may feel we are losing valuable talent, we should stop and think that these graduates, in their own minds, feel no obligation to the Government of Western Australia, because they consider they have paid for their education out of their own pockets. It is a fact, of course, that they go overseas to obtain employment, and we are definitely losing this wonderful talent.

Here again, the Government should make a concerted effort to restore our University to its previous level. It was once the pride of all the Australian universities, but it has lost its title and soon will be swallowed up in the name and fame of being one of the expensive universities. The Western Australian University was, as I have said, the pride of Australian universities when it was a free university. Unfortunately, it is now no longer free, and it has lost its pride of place.

Mr. J. Hegney: Initially, it was established to give everyone the right to have a university education, but now they are making it very difficult for students.

Mr. EVANS: I now come to a matter which is of interest to everyone, but will definitely be of concern to the Minister for Police, who is in charge of traffic. I refer to section 11 of the Traffic Act, which deals with the fees that are paid to local authorities for motorcar licenses. That section sets out the machinery for collecting the fees and for the local authority to issue the license, and then follows a proviso which reads—

Provided also that a local authority may, in exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the Minister, grant a license to the owner of a particular vehicle therein mentioned without payment of the prescribed fee . . .

The key words are—

... a local authority may, in exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the Minister, grant a license to the owner of a particular vehicle ... without payment of the prescribed fee ...

This section is put into operation in this manner, I understand, when an application is received by a local authority from some person who feels he is subject to the exceptional circumstances and who applies for a license to be granted to him without the payment of the prescribed fee. Regardless of whether he asks for a license absolutely free, or asks for one when only part payment is made, it is still a license granted without the payment of the prescribed fee. First of all, the local authority decides whether it will recommend to the Minister for Police that the license shall be granted in these circumstances. If it does, it finds that the Minister for Police has drawn up a preconceived category into which this license comes—that is, one purporting to be granted in exceptional circumstances—and it is judged against the standards and within the limits set by the Minister.

I have before me a letter addressed to a person in Kalgoorlie who through various exceptional circumstances, judged on the merits of his case, applied to the Kalgoorlie Town Council to be granted a license at a reduced fee. The council considered the matter and sought the approval of the Minister for Transport. This person finally received a letter from the Kalgoorlie Town Council stating that further to his application and the recommendation of the council to the Commissioner of Police, the commissioner had advised that the policy laid down by the Minister was that concessional licenses, under the provisions of section 11 of the Traffic Act, would be granted to civilian invalid pensioners, subject to income, and to totally and permanently incapacitated pensioners whose income was from pension only. Those are the only categories in which the Minister will interpret what are exceptional circumstances.

Let it not be said that I am trying to derogate from these categories. They are exceptional circumstances, but I claim these categories do not set a limit to what are exceptional circumstances. Any preconceived idea of the Minister is not within the spirit of the law, and each case should be adjudged on its merits. It seems that the existing formula is limited to the two exceptions I have mentioned.

Mr. Craig: That is not right.

Mr. EVANS: The Minister says I am not right, but I have received an assurance from the Police Department in writing indicating that the Commissioner of Police has set down the various categories; and they are in accordance with what I

have just quoted from the letter. I ask the Minister, in future, to judge each case on its merit, without limiting any approval to be given, as in the case I mentioned. I do not wish to derogate from those cases which are in the category of exceptional circumstances, but the Minister's approval should be granted also where the merits of a case justify the concession, though the case may not fit into the category of special circumstances. I support the Address-in-Reply.

MR. HART (Roe) [5.48 p.m.]: I would like to make some comments in the Address-in-Reply debate to His Excellency's Speech delivered at the opening of Parliament. The overall picture of Western Australia, as he outlined it from the top to the bottom, was very factual; and generally speaking it was a true picture of what is taking place in this State. He touched on various phases of development in the State, but there are problems to some of that development.

The outline which His Excellency gave of agricultural and industrial development, and of the progress being made in the newly developed areas, was very encouraging. However, I know only too well there are many problems confronting us, and they have to be faced up to.

Firstly I wish to refer to the northern part of the State where the development of the Ord River scheme is proceeding. The area in the Kimberleys has a wonderful potential, although that is not appreciated in some places. The Government is going ahead with development in that area. Anyone who has visited that part of the State will realise the great potential of the area; he will also become aware of the problems which confront development, and of the need for the Government to take some action. I commend the Government for its persistence in the task of developing this area in the face of much criticism, some of which was very unfair.

The main criticism levelled against the Government—and it seems to be a single-track type of criticism—is that because the State cannot undertake one type of development, it should not try to undertake the vast development of the Ord River scheme. The critics have made a comparison of the return which could be derived from the expenditure of the money on developing the southern part of the State, with the return which can be expected from the Ord scheme. They consider that if the £20,000,000 involved in the Ord River scheme were to be used in developing part of the wheatbelt areas of this State, a quicker return would result, and the proposition would be much more payable. All of these arguments disregard the fact that the Kimberley area has to be developed. That is the task of the Government, whichever party may have the job of carrying out that development.

I would like to pay a tribute to the departmental officers who are charged with the responsibility of solving the many problems associated with main roads, water conservation, and dam building in the northern part of the State. The problems there are quite different to those found elsewhere in the State. In agriculture, in particular, many problems which were not experienced before have had to be worked out on a scientific level. The departmental officers, in whatever category they may be engaged, are doing a particularly good job in finding the answers to the problems.

There is one part of the development in the north about which not much has been said, but it is a very important part. I refer to the area of land in the Ord catchment which is being regenerated; this is known as the regeneration area. I have travelled through this area, which is about 150 miles east of Kununurra. Some 800,000 acres of land in a very depleted state can be seen. This was caused by overstocking the land with cattle, and by the lack of watering points.

In Western Australia hundreds of thousands of acres of land have been greatly overstocked, and through the lack of watering points the land has reached the stage where it is almost beyond regeneration. The Government has taken action to overcome this difficulty, and it has resumed much of the 800,000 acres from the pastoral leaseholders. The Government is endeavouring to regenerate that land.

While I was up in that part of the State I came into contact with a young agricultural officer, Mr. Alan Payne, a very fine type of person. I mention his name because I have a great admiration for what he is doing. In the area I refer to, 150 miles east of Kununurra, he has the task of supervising the regeneration, under the direction of the department. There are 14 to 15 areas, each of 60,000 acres, being fenced, and on each area strips of pasture are being sown. All this work is being done under Mr. Payne's supervision.

On these paddocks, which have been fenced, and from which stock has been removed for a couple of years, one can see evidence of regeneration and reversion to their original state. The effort being made to regenerate the land in the Ord catchment is a very vital part of the overall development which the Government is undertaking up there. Having spent a very long day—from daylight to dusk—travelling over 400 miles of country in the company of Mr. Payne and my colleague, Mr. Gayfer, I could not but be impressed with the development that is taking place. I applaud the work that is being done under Mr. Payne's supervision.

I would now like to turn to general development in the more settled areas of this State. There the overall picture is

very bright, and we have seen an influx of settlers from the Eastern States. Quite a lot of new capital is coming into this State in developing these areas. In these days we hear of 1,000,000 acres of land being thrown open for selection and being taken up each year. Despite all that development there are many problems to overcome, and some farmers have experienced a bad time; they are the ones who were affected by the bad season last year. However, the overall picture is pretty good. Some of those farmers suffered losses through rust in their crops, and others suffered from having too much rain.

Within this pattern of agricultural progress we find one section of farmers who require financial help, bearing in mind the large sums of money which are needed for carrying on wheat and sheep farming in the eastern areas. I have said this previously and I repeat: There is a need for the Government to give financial assistance to one section of young farmers, many of whom are the sons of farmers on established properties.

There is no need for an overall civilian settlement scheme to be formulated, but there is need for financial assistance to be given in some cases; that is, if we wish to retain these young men as farmers. We can retain them on the land if enough money is forthcoming to assist them. This is a task which the Government should take in hand.

A scheme either large or small can be implemented under the existing Land Act. The Minister is at present empowered to carry out development on land under section 85, which states—

(1) The Minister may carry out on land within a special settlement area such improvements, including clearing, drainage, fencing, sowing, provision of live stock and machinery, houses and buildings, and such other improvements, whether of the same or different kind as or from the foregoing, as he may think fit and either before or after the land is thrown open for selection.

(2) The fair value of any improvements existing on or affecting any land applied for within a Special Settlement area or authorised and in course of construction, or intended to be constructed, shall be determined by the Minister, and the price of any such land shall be increased by the value so determined of such improvements, with interest thereon, or upon so much thereof as for the time being is unpaid, at the prescribed rate, to the intent that the price of the lands as increased by the value of such improvements, with interest thereon as aforesaid, shall be paid by the selector at such times and in such manner as the price of the land, if unimproved,

would have been payable, except where the land is sold under paragraph (aa) of section eighty-six of this Act.

I read that out because I feel that all the various methods of assistance throughout Australia tend towards getting some help of a capital nature and then assisting the sons of farmers already settled on the land. I am advocating that this Government should do something for a limited number of our farmers, based on that section we already have.

I will pass from that to a matter which has been under discussion for a number of years and which has a very big bearing on the prosperity of this State and its woolgrowers. I am referring to a reserve-price plan within the wool auction system. The wool marketing authority has recommended that we give consideration to the establishment of a reserve-price plan within our present auction system. There is nothing new about this, because it has been advocated for a great many years.

In 1950 the two big Federal woolgrowers' organisations, as we had them then, independently gave thought to this type of improvement and then co-operated and decided that they would approach the Federal Government and request that a ballot be taken for an improved marketing scheme based on a reserve price. The Federal Government agreed. Subsequently the Australian Wool Growers' Council withdrew its support of that idea. A ballot was held, but it was lost. From that date to the present time the need for an improved method within the auction system has been evident, and during the last several years pressure was brought to bear and as a result there was formed what is known as the Australian Wool Industry Conference, which is the authority charged with the responsibility of working out some improved method of selling. In 1950 when the ballot was held on almost the same question there was no such authority. Through the authority now nearly all growers have a say.

The ballot which I believe may be held before very long has been recommended by the marketing committee of this organisation. The marketing committee was appointed by the Wool Board, and the Wool Board in turn was appointed by what is known as the A.W.I.C. which is the Australian Wool Industry Conference. Therefore it is obvious that the background of the ballot then was very different from that which exists today.

When the ballot was held previously on this very important question there were all kinds of opposition. I have no doubt there will be all kinds of opposition this time, and expert opinions from professors and economists and all those fellows who criticise very strongly but who very seldom make any constructive suggestions that

would work. They pick a plan to pieces but do not suggest any alternative constructive ideas as to what could be done.

I think I have explained the background of this subject together with the present position. The authority appointed by the growers from among their own men has recommended a reserve-price plan. I think it is the duty of all woolgrowers and members of the industrial organisations associated with the woolgrowers to support this plan even though they concede there are points contained in it about which they are not very happy. Rather than criticise the plan outside their organisations, they should criticise it within them. I am sure the men we have placed in authority will look after the interests of the various wool organisations. It is therefore up to all of us who want to see some improvement to submit our complaints or criticism to them for further consideration.

I would like to submit to this House tonight some of the things I think need clarifying in connection with this reserve-price plan. I think we should support it, but I point out weaknesses that could appear so that our own men can try to overcome them. The first point I would make is that in regard to the suggestion which is before all woolgrowers today—and I am one of them, as are other members in this House—the reserve price should be fixed at a certain level. A case has been submitted based on, perhaps, 54d. as the reserve price.

A hypothetical case has been put forward based on an average selling season of 65d. They say that if it was 65d. last year, then it is reasonable to start this year with a price of 54d. For those of us who wish to improve the industry, if the price is too low it could be dangerous. The situation needs looking into very carefully.

Bearing in mind the fact that competition is good, there is another point that needs clarifying. At present we have a lot of private buyers in Western Australia. Many of them represent pretty big firms. Over the last few years the auction system has been criticised, but the private buyers have done a particularly good job. I am not going to carry the flag for the private buyers, but until something better comes along we shall have to have them.

Those who are charged with considering the merits of this reserve plan should hesitate before they cut the ground from beneath the feet of the private buyers. Private buyers have been competitive and they will continue to be competitive under the reserve plan—and we need that competition. There has been a reserve plan in New Zealand for a number of years. It has been fairly well accepted. I understand that the private buyers have continued over there and there has been healthy competition within the reserve plan and between wool selling brokers. They lifted

about 11 per cent. of the wool over there and it has not done much harm—probably a lot of good.

I believe that we should be supporting the reserve plan and look for ways and means of making it better. A new authority, which will be a marketing authority, is to be set up within the present framework. It will be set up on an Australia-wide basis. I believe that those associated with the marketing authority should be elected from woolgrowers throughout Australia. The proposed authority was sponsored by the Australian Wool Industry Conference.

When a vote has been taken in connection with the reserve plan, there will be a roll of woolgrowers. A method of voting will have been agreed upon and we will have a registered roll of woolgrowers throughout Australia. Although nearly all of the major woolgrowing organisations are associated with the A.W.I.C. there are several that have remained outside. If we have a registered roll of woolgrowers, then the members of the proposed authority should be elected from members on the roll, and it should be on a State basis within the Australia-wide set-up. Another factor in favour of this separate authority is that hundreds of millions of pounds are involved in the industry each year, and if there were only one organisation it could become too monopolistic. If there were a wool marketing set-up comprising elected woolgrowers, under the direction of the A.W.I.C., we would have another voice—a direct voice representing woolgrowers—which would be a healthy safeguard in the overall picture.

Mr. Rowberry: Who is going to finance all this?

Mr. HART: The question of finance is a big one. This problem, together with a host of smaller ones, will no doubt be dealt with in due course. I think we shall be able to face up to those problems. The question of finance might be regarded as being a big bogey. One might ask, "Where are we going to get the money from?" We might have a straightout acquisition scheme, which I personally think is the best thing. What we have before us now is something that was decided upon after a great deal of investigation by the Australian Wool Industry Conference. Each State was represented at the conference and each of the two biggest organisations had 25 representatives in attendance.

The conference studied various schemes, such as acquisition, appraisalment, auction, reserves within the auction, and so on. After extensive investigations, and following consideration of all the facts at its disposal, the conference recommended the reserve plan. We have to bear in mind that we have taken 40 years to reach this stage. We now have this recommendation of an overall authority. For the first time for many years something has been put forward that, generally speaking, is acceptable to all organisations within the industry.

MR. HALL (Albany) [6.13 p.m.]: I desire to start my speech by commenting on the forthcoming retirement of the member for Collie, Mr. Harry May. When commencing my parliamentary life I was ably assisted by Mr. Harry May.

Point of Order

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): On a point of order, the honourable member cannot refer to a member by name.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

MR. HALL: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I shall bow to your wishes. The advice and help of the member for Collie have stood me in very good stead during the course of my parliamentary life in this Legislative Assembly. I feel that his retirement is slightly premature because he looks so physically sound, and I know that his constituents will miss him dearly. The member for Collie is held in very high esteem by those departments with which I and other members of this Chamber have had dealings. The people in Collie will no doubt feel a sad loss on the departure of their beloved member.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. HALL: Prior to the tea suspension, I was paying a tribute to the retiring member for Collie, and I would like to conclude on the note that I wish him well in his retirement. I also express my best wishes to his wife.

On Thursday last I asked the Premier if he would be prepared to give earnest consideration and thought to the establishment of a major lottery for the purpose of alleviating the losses in the flood-ravaged areas of the south-west. You, Mr. Speaker, represent one of the areas. I have always held the Premier in very high esteem for being practical in thought, and appreciative in most cases of urgency or necessity.

However, on this particular occasion I am at a complete loss to understand his assessment of the facts. My proposal was completely divorced from politics, and was made with the motive of stimulating finance to ease the position of the people who are affected—and those who will become affected—in the areas under discussion. The Premier did say that he was awaiting a complete assessment of the facts, and that is understandable in the circumstances. As Mr. Gabbedy has said, and as has been published, that will take some considerable time. The Premier may have thought that if he agreed to my suggestion he would be setting a precedent whereby he could, at some future time, be approached by many other organisations for assistance in this particular manner—the striking of a lottery. However, I can think of no greater need; and this has been substantiated by the

committees established and working in close co-operation and cohesion with the people affected.

The Lord Mayor's Fund also substantiates the claim that this would be considered a major disaster to Western Australia. So I say it is an outstanding occasion, and we could accept the precedent of this particular tragedy to strike a major lottery to ease the problems of the people in the flood-ravaged areas of the south-west.

This might mean some disruption of the work of the Lotteries Commission, but I fail to see why this should not be an occasion to disrupt the commission when so many other people have been disrupted and so many homes ravaged—beyond repair in many cases. It is obvious from the response to the collections for the flood victims that we are not going to receive the support we had hoped for—or that the Lord Mayor and Premier had desired or hoped for.

It is obvious that if there is a tightening up of finance, we have to find some way of extracting the money from the pockets of the populace in Western Australia, and particularly those in the metropolitan area. I could think of no finer way of getting this money than offering them something in return, and this could be achieved by investment in a major lottery. The people will give freely to a cause if they think they stand a chance of getting something out of it. I would say that every time a ticket was displayed in a lottery kiosk, or other place of sale, it would be an advertisement and would illustrate the urgency and need for the finance to meet the requirements and necessities of the people in the ravaged south-west areas.

I also feel that the Premier would have a weapon placed in his hands so that when he approached the Prime Minister for funds to ease the predicament of the people affected, the Prime Minister would have to give consideration and deep thought to the fact that we had done something out of the ordinary. We would have disturbed our own happy set-up in life by striking this major lottery for the easement of those people.

It is obvious that what I am talking about is urgent; because, even though the sum in the Lord Mayor's appeal fund has been almost doubled, an assessment in today's issue of *The West Australian* is that the flood damage in Collie is approximately £800,000. I would say that is a conservative estimate, but one that has been readily accepted because it was made on the spot.

I do not intend to elaborate on that matter any further, but I do ask the Premier to give earnest consideration to the suggestion I have made. It is not made with any political motive, but is merely

suggesting a form of assistance that we, both Government and Opposition, can give to these people.

I should now like to mention the subject of shipping through the port of Albany. The diversion of interstate cargoes through the port of Fremantle has sadly depleted the tonnages being handled in the outports of Western Australia, particularly on the south and south-west coasts. We realise that with the use of seaintainers it is a hard problem to overcome; but if we are to treat decentralisation on a fair and equitable basis I see no reason why the shipping companies should not do their part and ship some cargoes through the outports of this State.

After all, the population of the Albany zone is approximately 45,000 to 50,000, and the requirements of a zone of that size are tremendous. Included in that number is the farming community; and we have only to realise the added freights these people have to pay for their oil, fuel, foodstuff, clothing, and so on, because these articles are shipped through the port of Fremantle, to understand how much it would mean to the people in the zone if more use were made of the harbour at Albany. In addition, a fair proportion of the goods used in the Albany zone is transported by road or rail from the Eastern States.

We have to combat this in some way and we have to be fair about it. After all, the zone is entitled to receive some equity, or at least a fair equity, from its development and cultivation. The people in the area should be able to plough back into their properties some of the proceeds instead of being called upon to pay extra in freights, and so on, because of the use of Fremantle Harbour. If more money were available in the zone we would be able to provide more employment for our younger people who, at the moment, I am sorry to say, are migrating to the city in great numbers.

A greater use of the outports would stimulate activity and employment and would help considerably to decentralise these areas. Not only do we hope to be able to hold the population we now have, but we are hoping to attract people from the city. This cannot be done unless employment is available, and a greater use of the Albany Harbour would be a step in this direction.

The subject of mineral sands has been raised on many occasions and, although there are lucrative deposits of sands in the Albany district, little has been done to develop them. It is hard to understand why the leaseholders have not done something. In this regard I give credit to the Minister for Industrial Development because, whenever I have approached him, he has always endeavoured to find out what the leaseholders are doing about their leases. The same sort of thing has happened whenever I have approached

the Minister for Mines, and it is to be hoped that something will be done about it.

One has only to think of the tonnages of mineral sand in its segregated form being shipped from the port of Bunbury to realise what a wonderful asset it would be to Albany if the mineral deposits there were being worked—in this regard I refer to rutile, zircon, and other refined properties of the mineral sands. If an industry similar to that in Bunbury could be established at Albany, and the port at Albany used for the shipment of the sands, it would be a great boost to the zone. I think we should do a little pressurising so far as the people who hold these leases are concerned.

You, Mr. Speaker, would be aware that the leaseholders have at times been reprimanded by the Mines Department because they have done little to develop their leases. I think the time has come when we should give serious consideration to the establishment of this industry and the segregation of the sands on the sites of the deposits, and probably a further partial segregation at the shoreline so that the product could be loaded in bulk at the port of Albany.

There would be an immediate stimulation of activity in the area and there would be further avenues of employment open to the people in the zone. The increased tonnages shipped through the port would help to make Albany an "A"-class port and provide the waterside workers with a full-time job, instead of the port remaining, as it is today, a partial "A"-class port providing only part-time employment for the workers employed there.

As the member for Blackwood, Mr. Speaker, you have been approached regarding sleeper shipments through the port of Albany. This is another matter which I think should be looked at very closely, because at present the sleepers are being shipped through the port of Bunbury even though they are coming from the Albany zone. I believe also that the export of timber produced in the Albany zone should be channelled through the port of Albany. I do not entirely blame the Government for the present position. We have had a visit from a liaison officer with the Department of Industrial Development who is making an investigation into the possibility of the greater use of Albany as a port. I have no doubt that if we can have timber and mineral sands shipped through the port of Albany the tonnages handled, both export and import, will almost treble.

The question of harbour development is one to which I would like to refer, and I was hoping that the Minister for Works would be in his seat. Development of the Albany Harbour is a very important matter, and it goes hand in hand with the

development which is taking place in the hinterland, particularly the opening up of new agricultural areas. The opening up of these areas should make a tremendous difference to the port; and after three to four years' cultivation we are seeing some results. This development should have a big effect on our exports, and with the use of phosphatic rock and the importation of other commodities for the manufacture of super our imports in that area should increase.

That brings me to the point where I should like to make a recommendation to the Minister in regard to the foreshore road; and I hope he will read the portion of my speech which deals with that matter. The use of Festing Street for vehicles on heavy haulage was a temporary expedient. The road was to be used until such time as a foreshore road could be built to carry the heavy loads that were coming in from the Albany agricultural zone and other areas adjacent to it.

However, today the drivers of the heavy transports who were using Festing Street and York Street are finding themselves in difficulties. A roundabout system has been introduced at the top of York Street and it has prevented the heavy transport hauliers from using that avenue to the harbour. As a result, all of the heavy haulage vehicles are now using Festing Street and the residents who live along that street, and in streets adjacent to it, are in an uproar. It is called the rumble of the grumble in that area, and one can easily understand the anxiety of the people there. They cannot sleep during the day and they cannot sleep during the night. As a result it is understandable that after a while their nerves get jagged and they get very cross about it. In the near future I am expecting a petition to be forwarded to me and then I will have to decide what is to be done about it. It will be a protest about the use of Festing Street as the main artery to the harbour.

The Minister for Works should give earnest consideration to the establishment of a foreshore road for which complete reclamation is not needed. It could be done with the erection of a causeway and by a slow dredging process to effect reclamation, and the land reclaimed, when sold or leased, would provide finance for the completion of the road and meet the cost of the reclamation. No cheaper industrial sites can be found at any time than those on reclaimed land, and if the foreshore road were built no greater advantage could be gained by the Albany Harbour authority and the Albany people generally.

This road would not only give a straight-through transport road to the harbour but also to Borthwick's meatworks. In mentioning the meatworks I might also point out that large numbers of cattle travel along Stirling Terrace, another main street

of Albany. The object would be to complete this foreshore road as soon as possible to link up with the road system that is being developed; that is, an outer ring road, an inner ring road, and another which comes closer in to Albany again. These three roads, coming from different directions, will all feed into Albany, and they could link up with the harbour development and so follow the Tydeman plan for the harbour, and the road development that is taking place in and around Albany at the moment.

The changes that are taking place in Albany Harbour today prove that a third berth at this time would not be premature. In the trade statistics for the year ended the 30th June, 1964, appears a statement on the port statistics of the Albany Harbour Board. From these statistics it can be seen that in 1963-64, 149 vessels, of a gross tonnage of 1,255,657, entered the port of Albany. The inward tonnage of cargo that came to the port totalled 166,284 tons in the same year, and the outward tonnage was 340,120. Also in the same year, 11,956 oil bunkers were supplied, and the tonnage for the total trade was 518,360. The main items of cargo that passed through the port of Albany during 1963-64 were as follows:—

IMPORTS

	Tons
Rock Sulphate	91,682
Crude Sulphur	16,336
Jute Goods	807
Petroleum Products ..	54,660
General	2,799

Through the port of Albany there has also been a big increase in cereal exports. The figures are as follows:—

EXPORTS

	Tons
Wheat	266,599
Barley	22,298
Oats	33,035
	Bushels
Apples	111,444
	Bales
Wool (Greasy)	20,689

In mentioning wool, I can recall the member for Roe referring to the private selling of wool, and I would like to point out that 100,000 bales of wool were produced in the Albany agricultural zone. However, we handled only about 46,000 bales through the port, so apparently there was quite a number of bales disposed of by private selling. We hope, therefore, that the marketing system will bring some stability in the sale of wool in order that we can develop industries complementary to our zone. The following items were also exported from Albany during 1963-64:—

	Tons
Frozen Meat	1,913
Whale Oil	3,295
General	4,226
	Head
Livestock, sheep	3,500

The shipping of livestock overseas is an innovation which is being tried at the Albany port.

Summing up, there is much development taking place in Albany, with very little or no planning for future harbour development to accommodate the shipping which is required for the various commodities produced. We are rapidly opening up the hinterland and we must look forward to the prospect of future development. The Minister for Works, therefore, should have an overall look at the development that has taken place in the Albany agricultural zone and match it with some harbour development.

The other point I want to raise is the planning of a second city. I raised this subject during the last session of Parliament. I was rather surprised that our Town Planning Commissioner had not given thought to the planning of a second city in Western Australia. Whether he has now done so, I do not know; but I do know that the planning of a second city is not premature and we should be moving to the fore to plan not only the whole of the State but also a second metropolis.

Mr. Oldfield: What about the second State?

Mr. HALL: We will come to that in a minute. We will not be too impatient for a start.

Mr. Brand: Where do you think the second city should go; at Bunbury?

Mr. HALL: I would think the Premier would agree with me entirely. I would like to take his mind back to the catastrophe that has occurred in the last few days. The two potential sites for the establishment of a second city—taking them alphabetically, and in order of priority—are Albany as the No. 1 site, and Bunbury as the second consideration.

Mr. Rhatigan: What about Kununurra?

Mr. HALL: I do not know about Kununurra; but I am prepared to say that if we look carefully at the picture—we might pass over it if we continue to be jocular—we must seriously consider the catastrophe of recent days and the seriousness of the plight in which the metropolitan area was placed only last week. As a result of the floods in the south-west our lines of communication were completely severed and the various avenues along which transport travels in carrying our food supplies to the metropolitan area were also seriously affected. Our milk supplies were in jeopardy because many of the roads along which those supplies travelled from the south-western corner were impassible.

Mr. Bickerton: We want more cows in King's Park.

Mr. HALL: The serious prospect of our water supplies from the south-west being cut by an atomic attack is also ever present, because most of the water supplies

for the metropolitan area are drawn from reservoirs in our south-west corner. Further, although we have had a deluge of fresh water in recent weeks which, in some way, may have neutralised the salinity of our rivers, the records show that there are very few fresh-water rivers left in the south-west portion of our State. I mention this because the salinity of the rivers and the supply of fresh water are two important considerations if we intend to plan for a second city. If we built a city in the south-west we would have to double the capacity of the reservoirs which now supply water to the already congested centralised city of Perth.

To the Minister for Industrial Development I would say, "You are pursuing a policy of centralising all your industries which will continue to attract people to the surrounding areas and lead to greater congestion of the metropolitan area." We have already created a monster and a Frankenstein by the use of motorcars, and I think we are creating another one by centralising all our assets and industries in one area, because we have to rely on the south-western portion of the State for supplies to feed the citizens of the Perth metropolitan area. Albany, however, presents an entirely different picture. We have a very fine harbour, which has not been used or developed to anywhere near its full capacity.

Mr. J. Hegney: I seem to have heard about this before!

Mr. HALL: The honourable member has probably heard about it from my predecessor, and I can only hope that I can get the message over as forcibly as he did, without having to fire any shots from the fort. In all seriousness, we have a harbour in Albany which is second to none in Australia.

Mr. Fletcher: It is second to Fremantle.

Mr. HALL: It is nothing of the kind. I might concede that it is possibly second to Sydney; but I doubt even that. Sydney Harbour, of course, is a glamorous harbour; and although Albany is not glamorised to the same extent it is, nevertheless, one of the best harbours in Australia.

Albany Harbour continues to exist on its merits. The hinterland of Albany is being opened up considerably. We certainly have not finished expanding in that area. Let us therefore look at the potential expansion of Albany and see what we can take in by way of population, and by way of establishing a dairying industry at Denmark and Mt. Barker to meet the needs and requirements of the second city when it is founded.

Albany now has a population of nearly 14,000 people. It is a neck-and-neck race between Albany and Bunbury so far as the intake of population is concerned; but I think that, at the moment, Albany is ahead by about 50. With the gradual

expansion of its assets, and with its wonderful natural harbour to serve the district, the future of Albany is assured, even though its capacity is untapped.

Mr. J. Hegney: It is certainly assured.

Mr. HALL: There is no doubt about that. I feel sure members will agree that Albany lends itself admirably to the establishment of a university. There is no denying the fact that young people are apt to migrate to the metropolitan area with a view to furthering their academic education. We have young people leaving their homes in Albany and coming to the city to take advantage of the educational facilities at university level provided in the metropolitan area.

The educational environment in Albany would be completely different and divorced from that of the metropolitan area. There would be some difference in the type of education provided, particularly in the agricultural field. There is no doubt that Albany would be ideally suited for the establishment of a university and the setting-up of perhaps a research station, and a chair of agriculture at that university. It would be necessary to set up something which would match, and be in keeping with, the requirements of the Albany agricultural zone.

One of our deep concerns is the availability of industrial water. As the Minister for Industrial Development keeps insisting and telling us, we must work hard for the establishment of industries in our decentralised areas. But before we establish such industries we must provide the necessary requirements and amenities to induce people—those who are prepared and willing to do so—to go into those areas which are decentralised. We must provide these people with the attractions offered by the city; and we must be able to match the city and its surrounding industries in the provision of cheap power.

It is essential that we be provided with uniformity both in the price of power and in the price of water. These facilities should be made available to us, as they are to the people in the metropolitan area. I would like to stress that it is most important that industrial water be made available to all decentralised areas, and particularly to Albany; because there is where my interest lies.

We have an abundant supply of fresh water available, and surveys have been carried out which indicate that we can draw water from the Denmark River. The damming of the Denmark River would meet the need of industry and commerce in Albany for many years to come. There is no doubt that it is a fairly large and comprehensive scheme and one which would be quite expensive; but the Government must be fair and consider the decentralised areas, particularly if it desires

us to seek industries similar to those which are attracted to the metropolitan area.

I believe a temporary expedient would be the linking up of the Waychinicup scheme with the Two People Bay scheme. That would prove a standby for a few years and enable us to get our feet firmly on the ground. We would then be able to proceed with the water scheme in relation to the Denmark River. If we linked up the Waychinicup scheme with Two People Bay it would help us get over the difficulty for the time being. At present the water is being supplied from what is called the south coast bores; and although it has a lime content, it is good water in other ways. It is not, however, good domestic water, because of the washing agents that are used today. I have heard women complain bitterly about the cost involved, and the amount of material it is necessary for them to use.

I would stress the necessity, therefore, for a uniform rate for electricity and for water. I am very pleased to see that the Premier has made a statement to the effect that he hopes to strike a uniform rate in relation to water. I had to cross swords with the Minister for Electricity last session concerning the establishment of a uniform rate for electricity in country areas; or shall I say equalisation charges of electricity for the country areas and the metropolitan area? I do not think I won many points there, because I could not find much of the Minister's reply in *Hansard*. As a matter of fact, his reply was a very weak one indeed. I had to get a microscope to try to find it.

Mr. Nalder: You did not score many points on your action with reference to the Milk Act either.

Mr. HALL: I will deal with that directly. A uniform rate for electricity would be a great advantage to country areas. If we were to look carefully and make a thorough research into the annual reports of our State Electricity Commission I think we would find there is more than a possibility—indeed a probability—that a subsidised scheme could be brought into operation to enable the country areas to enjoy a uniform, or an equalisation, rate in electricity charges.

There is something along the same lines in South Australia. That State has a subsidy Act whereby it is able to introduce legislation to enable it to overcome these difficulties, and meet the needs of the people in decentralised areas. They are entitled, and should be permitted, to enjoy conditions similar to those enjoyed by people who live in the metropolitan area. I believe we still, to a great extent, ride very greatly on the sheep's back with regard to our primary industries. A tremendous amount of electricity is used here. I appreciate that the delivery lines for electricity are great distances apart; but

there is no doubt that we would consume more electricity if the price were right, and if we were provided with the comforts that people in the city enjoy.

Accordingly I hope the Minister for Electricity will give that matter some thought. A start has been made in an endeavour to strike some uniformity in charges for domestic, commercial, and industrial water in the decentralised areas. If we could be granted this privilege in the field of electricity, I am sure we would be able to attract people to those areas about which I have been speaking.

I fully appreciate that we do enjoy certain privileges in connection with industry, and that is something upon which we can all congratulate ourselves; because all Governments have seen the necessity for providing cheap electricity to enable industry to be attracted into the more decentralised and far-flung areas.

I would like the Minister for Fisheries, who is not in his seat at the moment, to consider the point which I am about to make in relation to fish haunts. I have undertaken an extensive research into this subject. Through the auspices of the Consul for the U.S.A., Mr. Mayfield, and from the information he was able to obtain for me, I found that the U.S.A. has gone quite extensively into this field of fish cultivation.

Japan is in front of the U.S.A.; and if the Minister were in the Chamber he could, perhaps, comment on his recent trip to Japan and tell us whether he came across fish cultivation there. In many instances old car bodies have been used to build these haunts. They are still being used, although from experience it was found that these bodies deteriorated quickly.

In both the U.S.A. and Japan heaps of rubble, old concrete pipes, and shell beds which are introduced, as well as other methods of fish cultivation, are used. The distribution of superphosphate through perforated tins in the water was practised, to cultivate the natural foods on which the fish live.

There may be some difficulty in establishing fishing beds for underwater spear fishermen, in view of the hostility from professional fishermen, who complain that fish stocks on our coastline are being depleted by these spear fishermen. Let us be fair! We provide the community with playing fields and football grounds, so why should a patch of the ocean bed or beach not be established for underwater spear fishermen? These could be leased to this type of club, and they could be located outside the shipping lanes.

The underwater clubs should be permitted to establish fish haunts, which they could supervise and in which they could undertake research. By doing that, we would be going half way to overcoming the animosity which exists between the professional fishermen and the amateur fishermen. These amateurs are sportsmen,

and if they were provided with suitable ocean beds, at least they would be kept off the streets. Such fish haunts could be made into a tourist attraction, and this State would benefit from visitors from all parts of the world and from the other States of Australia.

Fish farming has been pursued in the U.S.A. and Japan very vigorously. It has proved to be a lucrative venture. It could also prove to be successful in Western Australia. With the services of the marine biologists, we could approach this type of development with different methods in the future.

In 1947-48 the Commonwealth scientific investigation and research authority made approaches for the establishment of oyster farming in Australia. Two spots were selected, one in Tasmania and the other in Oyster Harbour at Albany. In a few days' time we will know the result of the transplanting of oysters in the Swan River. From my experience and research I agree with the article which appeared in *The West Australian* which indicated that these oysters would be destroyed. The oyster requires a certain amount of fresh water, but the water must also contain a certain salinity. When there are floods, and torrents of fresh water intermix with the salt water, the water in the river is neutralised to a certain extent and becomes unsuitable for the oyster. For that reason trouble could be experienced in establishing an oyster farm in the Swan River.

Oysters have continued to exist, in an uncultivated, unwatched, and uncared for state in Albany. The oysters which were transplanted from Japan still exist in an uncultivated stage; they are quite edible and large. Samples of these have been given to me by spear fishermen. The oysters mature and grow in Albany Harbour, but we cannot find out when they were transplanted in those waters.

We do know that a Mr. Manea conducted an oyster bed in Albany about 20 years ago. It is quite conceivable that the oysters bred from that initial bed in Albany Harbour, and deposited themselves on solid substances, such as piles and any metal to which the oyster will cling.

Research will show there are certain times when the tides carry the oyster spat and deposit it on to the sticks. This is evident, because in a cultivated state holding bases are prepared for the oysters, so that the larvae, which three days later turn into spat and become spawn oysters, can settle on a solid base.

I have contacted some oyster farmers from New South Wales who are prepared to come to Western Australia, at the minimum cost, to study the breeding periods of the year when the larvae of the oyster are active. The knowledge which they could give us would be invaluable, and would assist us in developing the oyster industry.

Their reports indicate clearly that the oyster spawn can be taken from the oyster, living in a natural state. We would not have to look outside of the State to find oysters which will live in the temperature of the waters along our coast. Oysters are living there in an uncultivated state at the present time. If these oysters can exist in a natural state—without the attention that is given in farming, without the attention of marine biologists, without any need to clear the racks, and without the need to cull the oysters—surely then, under cultivated methods, oysters could be farmed successfully.

I return to the point I mentioned previously. In Sydney a method of blending superphosphate with oil is used in providing food for the oysters. The mixture is placed in the soil, in the base, or in the shell beds. Thus food is cultivated for the oysters.

The very fact that oysters have existed in four or five places in Albany, without cultivation and without attention, proved very conclusively to the outstanding oyster farmers in New South Wales, to whom I have referred, that Albany presents more than a possibility for the establishment of oyster farms.

We are importing practically every type of oyster that is marketed in this State today. If we could put oysters on the table at a suitable price, we would have a lucrative industry which would stimulate the finances of the State by the mere fact that we would not be importing that commodity from another State. In other words, we would be creating employment and not importing unemployment, which we are doing today. Therefore I would ask the Minister for Industrial Development, in the absence of the Minister for Fisheries, to give this matter earnest thought. If detailed information from the oyster farms in Port Macquarie, New South Wales, is required, I am quite prepared to assist wherever I can and do anything to have this particular industry established in Western Australia.

The other note I strike is one of warning. It concerns the fishing industry; and I hope the Minister for Industrial Development will take heed of what I have to say. I refer to the whaling industry. We have heard much recently about the desire and anxiety of the Nor-West Whaling Company to establish a whaling industry in Cockburn Sound. It seems rather odd to me that this company should have been given any encouragement whatsoever to establish an industry to the detriment of another that is already established in the sperm whaling field.

It has been suggested that the Nor-West Whaling Company be established by depleting the quota of the Cheyne Beach Whaling Company and giving it to the former company. We have an industry

that has carried out the research required to establish itself; and it has gone through the financial trials, tribulations, and troubles that go with it. However, that company will now have its quota reduced. For what reason? No additional benefits will accrue to the State. If one goes into the position one finds that the whaling industry in Albany is probably the oldest industry in the State, because whaling was carried out there many generations ago by the French and the Norwegians. Therefore, because of its early foundation and the fact that it has conducted research into sperm whaling, that company should be retained.

There are protests right and left in regard to sharks; and they will grow. When five whales have been tied to the mooring buoys I have seen the ravage of the sharks when they have attacked a whale, not from underneath, but by sliding over the side of a whale and virtually tearing out chunks 4 feet to 5 feet wide. Therefore, do not be fooled into thinking that sharks will not attack the whales, even if they are slipped on to a lighter, as they usually are. I would hate to pull a whale on to a barge or lighter.

Mr. Oldfield: How many sharks are attracted to the swimming beaches as a result of the whaling station?

Mr. HALL: They are not attracted to the swimming beaches, but to where the offal and effluent is discharged. This applies to herring as well. They could be caught by the ton; and the only reason they are not is that the herrings are completely soaked with whale oil and they are not edible unless they are bled quickly. Sharks are attracted to the particular area of discharge, and there is no doubt about it that they will always be attracted to an area where this industry is established.

I do not want the decentralised industry that is already established to be discouraged by a pandering to the whims of centralised interests in order to establish a similar industry in a centralised area. The present company is doing a good job and it has spent a tremendous amount of money in its establishment, the purchase of plant, and the purchase of additional whalers. In addition, it has purchased aircraft for spotting purposes. It is obvious that it will be some years before that company will recover the money it has spent. I can well remember the days when this firm was really battling and I had to approach the then Minister for Works and Electricity (The Hon. J. T. Tonkin) and the Minister for Fisheries—

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. W. A. Manning): Order! The honourable member's time will expire in five minutes.

Mr. HALL: I am sorry I cannot cover all the ground that I would wish. However, I would mention that, through the establishment of the high power tension main

by the Minister for Electricity and the establishment of a black road, the industry became successful; and since that time it has become even more successful. It has been a great contributor to the economic strength of this State.

I now wish to speak on tourism. Members of the Australian Labor Party recently visited Albany and saw its beautification and advantages in the field of tourism, which have hardly been touched and are virtually unexplored. I say without fear of contradiction that tourism can be and should be pushed forward in that area as it would be to the advantage of the State as a whole.

I also raised a matter concerning the coastal shipping service last session with the Minister for the North-West. Some good has come out of it, although not on the actual lines suggested by me. It was seen that there would be advantages in the establishment of a coastal service going around the north to the Eastern States and then returning and calling at the southern ports of Western Australia. Without a doubt it is proving a great boon to the outports and to tourism. I would also say that it is a great boost to the State Shipping Service. Previously Eastern States tourists were travelling on ships owned by other shipping companies, but now we have been able to enter that particular field and are able to attract those tourists.

I would ask the Minister for the North-West to consider another proposal which would be advantageous for our tourist trade. The shipping service could be brought around from Fremantle to the southern ports where inward freight could be unloaded and outward freight collected. Then at Esperance the ships could pick up tourists who had come by tourist coach through the country towns or around the coast. This would have a two-fold advantage: the tourist would make a delightful trip through the country, and at the same time freight could be handled, thus stimulating shipping. Therefore this would be a great service to the tourists and a great advantage to the zones concerned.

Only recently tourists coming back from the Eastern States on a State ship passed the remark that they would have liked to go on a country tour when they disembarked at Albany for the day. Therefore it is obvious that we have another field of tourism to exploit to the advantage of Western Australia which would at the same time boost our State Shipping Service.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. W. A. Manning): Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

Extension of Time

Mr. OLDFIELD: I move—

That the honourable member's time be extended.

Motion (extension of time) put and passed.

*Debate (on Address-in-Reply motion)
Resumed*

Mr. HALL: I thank the House for the undoubted privilege of continuing my remarks, but will not weary members a great deal longer. The other point I would like to stress now is the industrial development in our particular zone. I must pay a compliment here in regard to the industrial seminar. While I have the opportunity, I would like to mention, in reply to the Deputy Premier, that I had no invitation to attend the industrial seminar; otherwise I certainly would have been there, because I believe every good can come out of discussion and the bringing of people into an area. This is particularly so if those people have never made a previous visit. They carry away a good impression, and the business people gain a favourable impression and impact from such visits. This is especially so if such visitors have travelled abroad.

The matter on which I wish to dwell mainly is one that is perhaps a hobby-horse of mine; and that is the establishment in Albany of a wool-scouring works and its complementary industry, fellmongering. It is anticipated that this year, because of the prolific growth of the sheep population, the wool yield will exceed over 200,000 bales in the Albany agricultural area. It will not cease there, either, because as we are developing our land, so our sheep population is increasing immensely.

When it is realised that there are four scouring works operating in the metropolitan area, it is only reasonable to assume that we should be able to carry a scouring works and its complementary industry in a decentralised area, especially when that area is in the heart of the district in which the commodity is produced. It is only sound reasoning to assume that it is more practical, and common-sense, and cheaper to purchase and process the wool where it is actually produced.

We are in the position of having good roads servicing an area in which the agricultural development is tremendous; and we can now see the light, as the Minister for Industrial Development has said, and are able to stimulate industry into the internal structure of Western Australia. I can agree with him very strongly on the point that unless we do stimulate industry internally and use these commodities, we are virtually exporting our unemployment. We must be able to create industrial strength internally so that in times of hostilities we have machinery we can put into operation.

Although we are today riding on the back of the primary producer, we have to look seriously at the overall position and establish industries in our internal structure and thereby create employment in the areas, particularly in decentralised areas, to the advantage of the areas concerned, the equity of the zones, and that of the State as a whole.

I would ask the Minister for Industrial Development to give that one serious thought. I am led to believe, as the whispering campaign has indicated, that land has been purchased by a company with the object of establishing a wool-scouring works at Albany. I believe I have given the Minister the clue tonight to three industries that could be created. The first one is the cultivation of oyster farming; the second, the wool-scouring works; and the third, the fellmongering works. The fellmongering works will come into their own with the establishment of the small abattoirs which I feel sure will spring up adjacent to the railway line. These will be established for the slaughtering, agisting, and the treating of by-products for despatch to the metropolitan area in the chilled freight trucks we hope the railways will be able to supply. These small abattoirs are contemplated not only in Albany but also in Geraldton, which is toying with the idea. Collie is on the move, and also Bunbury; and Albany, for sure, will be in that particular field. In that way livestock will not have to be carried over long distances to the Midland Junction saleyards and slaughterhouse.

Fellmongering is a complementary industry in the treatment of pelts, and also hides; and it is an industry which could be built and assisted with the movement that will take place in the decentralised areas. In this way the zones will gain their full equity from the development which takes place.

The other point on which I wish to touch is, I would say, a very delicate subject and is one in regard to which I will ask questions of the Chief Secretary tomorrow. It refers to the control he has over censorship. Judging by the replies he gave today to another member, I am able to gauge the reply I will receive tomorrow. It appears the Chief Secretary has very little control over censorship when the Commonwealth is the controlling body.

Another matter I should like to touch upon is sex sense and censorship. When we see the revealing figures of illegitimacy, the incidence of venereal disease, and the number of sex charges, I think we have to give some thought to why these things occur. Illegitimacy seems to be occurring among the younger sections of our community.

Mr. Rowberry: We should have mind censorship; it is all in the mind.

Mr. HALL: The member for Warren says that we should censor people's minds. If we look at literature, at films, and at some of our TV shows, we can easily see how the mind could be stimulated and these actions occur. Historians have continually warned us of the necessity for adjusting our thoughts and ways of living.

Mr. Rowberry: That's right! Adjust your minds!

Mr. HALL: History tells us that the Roman Empire fell, as did the Grecian Empire, and the Polynesian Empire.

Mr. Rowberry: The Roman Empire was based on slavery; that's why.

Mr. HALL: They all fell; and not, as the member for Warren said, through slavery. Sport predominated; vice ran riot; and morals were corrupted. I think, when I see these revealing statistical figures, that we are heading for the last roundup.

It is time we gave serious thought to the problem. People are becoming alarmed about these rising figures—these very revealing statistics. They demonstrate the type of literature that is being circulated; and the people concerned are glamorising the literature, so much so that we are now getting topless and bottomless bathers. Without elaborating too much on this subject, I think it is time we took stock of ourselves in the matter of sex sense and censorship.

Another point that I should like to make concerns the resiting of the railway station at Albany. I have raised this matter before by way of question. In a sweeping statement, the Minister for Railways said that something was being done about it. I hope something is. As the city grows—I name it a city before it has been made one, to make sure that I have impressed upon the Government the fact that it should be a city—the resiting of the railway station should be in keeping with the progress and development of the area. One of our major needs is the broadening of our marshalling yards.

Mr. W. Hegney: I thought you were going to say the broadening of our minds.

Mr. HALL: With the heavy trucks that are now coming into the city, and with the extensive development of the area, there is congestion on many occasions during the height of the grain season. This is not only dangerous to workers and operators, but it means bad handling. Shunting has often to be done unnecessarily in order to alleviate the congestion in the railway yards.

Another aspect is the necessity to win back to the railways some of the passenger traffic which the department has lost. Fares have been increased, the overall effect being that if one has a car one would prefer to use it rather than the public transport system—and here I name the

railways and bus services. There has been, at the same time, an alarming increase in the death and accident toll on the roads. If we were able to induce people to use the public transport services, particularly in suburban areas and for overnight travel, we would neutralise a proportion of the road traffic. Perhaps a larger proportion of the public would accept this means of transport, and those who travelled on the railways would be in the hands of skilled operators, which would mean a greater degree of safety.

If there were a reduction in fares, there might be a reduction in the death rate. In the overall picture there would be a neutralising effect, because there would be greater inducement to people to travel on the railways, and there could be a lessening in the road toll. Car parks should be provided in suburban areas, and the trains might then be filled to capacity and used to a larger extent.

We should endeavour to provide, in the off-seasons, weekend excursion fares. Any person who could prove that he was proceeding on holiday—perhaps by producing a certificate from his employer—should be given concession fares from the railways. People would then be more inclined to use the railways. The railways would not be operating at peak capacity, but we would be reaching somewhere near the peak. It might be advisable to have staggered holidays, although there would be some repercussions as a result of this suggestion. Some industries would be in favour of this, and others would not. People might be induced to travel during slack periods.

I also believe there should be controlled serving of liquor in railway buffets, similar to the privilege enjoyed in aircraft travel. I do not mean there should be orgies of drinking, but I believe that controlled drinking, similar to that which exists on aircraft, would provide a stimulus to railway travel. It would encourage people to travel on the railways.

Those are points that should be looked at. I think the Minister is broadminded enough to look at most of the suggestions with a view to determining whether or not they are practicable. They have been based on the fact that I use this mode of travel considerably, and I am aware of the feelings of people in my electorate.

I will conclude by saying that I am sorry the member for Maylands is not in his seat. He asked me about the establishment of a second city and a second State. The establishment of a second State is the most controversial issue that has been raised for some considerable time. It has been publicised by broadcasts, by articles in the Press, and by meetings in the State. The movement originated during a period of dormancy that existed in the southern portion of the State in about the year 1933, when the population was static

at about 4,000. Today the population of Albany is about 14,000, and the people feel they have been neglected.

Last financial year, apart from sewerage and water development, which was only in keeping with the development of the town and would have had to be done anyway, the Public Works Department's programme in the town consisted of the expenditure of a sum of £4,000 on harbour work. So is it any wonder that we get the feeling that the people want to secede?

But that is not the whole of it. We have to realise that Western Australia is a gigantic area and there must be some line of demarcation for the establishment of a new State. I would suggest that a new State would not be formed for 15 or 20 years, because many difficulties have to be overcome. However, there is no reason why a commissioner could not be appointed to go into the matter and decide on some line of demarcation which would be acceptable to the State as a whole, and to the people vitally concerned with it. It will take place.

Mr. Rowberry: Who is going to be Prime Minister?

Mr. HALL: They have asked me if I will be, but I think I will be too old by that time! If we look at the figures we find that in the Albany agricultural zone at the moment there are 45,000 to 50,000 people; and when South Australia seceded its population was something like 60,000. So it is not unreasonable on the part of the people concerned to think about these matters. They have thought about them to the degree that an organisation has been formed and members have probably seen an article in *The Sunday Times* to the effect that the Prime Minister intends to give the members of the organisation a hearing.

Some people ask: What is the attitude of the political parties in regard to this matter? Research shows that the leader of the Labor Party, Mr. Arthur Calwell, is in favour of the establishment of more States. He has openly stated that in the Press and also by means of telecasts. Research also shows that the Country Party, at least in the Eastern States, is not opposed to the secession of States. The Liberal Party is a little more conservative. It believes in stronger regional councils and the spreading of local government activities.

Mr. J. Hegney: They are more to the right.

Mr. HALL: Yes, something after that style. However, we have to face up to the fact—and I think the Minister for the North-West would agree with this—that the north-west is a tremendous problem and one that has to be faced by the people of Australia as a whole. The security of Australia depends upon the development of the north-west and therefore I

do not believe that that development should take place to the detriment of other portions of this State. I believe we should all weigh in to help that development but that the lion's share of the cost should be met by the Commonwealth; because it is really a matter of defence and is of benefit to the Commonwealth as a whole.

I suggest to the Government that it give serious thought to the possibility of a second State being established at some particular time, and that a commissioner be appointed to investigate the position with a view to suggesting a line of demarcation. I think that would be the starting point. The second matter that would have to be investigated would be the question of amending Federal legislation so that the constitutional problems could be overcome. At present one dissenting State can disqualify any secession movement. Therefore, this is a matter which has to be looked at both from a Commonwealth and a State point of view.

We all know the weaknesses involved. A referendum would have to be held in the affected area; and in order to get a balance I think it would be necessary to take in a part of the goldfields as well as a part of the south-west, or the southern portion of the State. However, I leave that thought with members. It is only a thought, but I would strike a note of warning that within 15 to 20 years there will be a direct and vigorous move to secede from the State of Western Australia.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [8.57 p.m.]: The Address-in-Reply debate offers members an opportunity to cover a wide range of subjects, both Federal and State. The member for Albany has certainly done that in no uncertain manner. Everyone in every industry and avocation has certainly been well taken care of in his speech tonight; and there is no doubt that Albany is well represented.

My first subject this evening is the Government's affront to Fremantle in the job that has been done on the northern approach to the Fremantle railway bridge. The approach is unsightly, unpopular, and unbecoming; and it is very poor in comparison with the Narrows Bridge, which was a Labor Government structure. The Narrows Bridge is admired by our own people and overseas visitors to this State. It cannot be compared with the ugly structure that this Government has inflicted upon my electorate and the Government's attitude is interpreted in my area as being one which says, "Anything is good enough for Fremantle."

Mr. Court: That is not so. What about the lovely terminal you have? Does that look as though we accept the philosophy that anything is good enough?

Mr. FLETCHER: That is offset by the ugly structure that the Government has created in North Fremantle. In addition, I am asked what I am doing about it.

Mr. Hart: Well, what are you?

Mr. FLETCHER: People confuse Government with Parliament. Because one is a member of Parliament they seem to think that one has some power to upset the attitude of the Government. We have had recent illustrations of how impossible that is. Our arguments are put forward in this House but we are defeated in the vote. All my powers of persuasion and the aggressive attitude I show in this House are pushed aside by this Government's ruthless majority of one. As I have already said, we had an example of that last night.

To counter the interjection by the Minister for Industrial Development, I submit in argument that if the Government was holding the Fremantle seat with a narrow margin nothing would be too good for the district. However, as I say, we have this unsightly approach to the rail bridge inflicted upon us. The North Fremantle residents can no longer enjoy a view of the harbour which they previously could enjoy, and the East Fremantle residents have had this obstruction placed right in the foreground of a view of the harbour and the sea beyond, which previously was uninterrupted.

Mr. Court: Where would you put the bridge?

Mr. FLETCHER: I will come to that presently.

Mr. Court: The bridge has to be placed somewhere.

Mr. FLETCHER: Property values, particularly expensive homes in the East Fremantle district, will decline as a consequence. The occupants of those homes took up residence in East Fremantle in good faith and were quite happy in the area they had selected. However, this Government has made them completely unhappy as a consequence of the structure it has created. Fremantle city councillors, East Fremantle town councillors and residents are really upset over the matter, and the previous distinguished mayor, Mr. W. Wauhop, took strong exception to it. His Worship the present mayor, Mr. Vic Ulrich, also takes exception to it; and I gave an undertaking that, at the first opportunity, I would express the thoughts of the East Fremantle and the North Fremantle residents on this structure, and also that I would express my own attitude towards it.

Mr. Court: Would it be a surprise to you to know that that bridge is basically the same as the one proposed by your Government?

Mr. FLETCHER: The Minister says it is basically the same, but I know to the contrary.

Mr. Court: You do not know!

Mr. FLETCHER: Traffic crossing the road bridge is confronted with this unsightly object. As the mayor of Fremantle so frequently mentions, Fremantle is the gateway to Australia, but this approach to the rail bridge has created a bad impression not only in the minds of the local residents but also in the minds of overseas visitors. The Minister interjected by asking what would be the alternative. I suggest the alternative could be the construction of ferro-concrete pylons to carry the rail; or, alternatively, fabricated steel pylons. However, the Minister will probably say that that would be much more expensive. The Minister says that the Government has spent the difference between the cost of a ferro-concrete or fabricated steel structure in other directions.

The Fremantle people justifiably ask: Why should this be done at the expense of Fremantle? However, before the Minister interjects again, I will get on to the Governor's Speech.

Mr. Court: Are you going to tell us why this bridge is different from that which your Government proposed?

Mr. FLETCHER: No, not just now; I will tell the Minister later.

Mr. Court: We will wait until we get to the Estimates; you can tell us then.

Mr. Rowberry: Don't make any sweeping statements!

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order! One at a time!

Mr. FLETCHER: I do not know whether the Governor sights his speech prior to his reading it at the opening of Parliament. I mention this matter with some temerity because some members on the Government side may interject and say that His Excellency does have an opportunity to look at the Speech prior to his reading it at the opening of Parliament. However, I did notice that the Governor—as is only natural when one tries to pronounce some of our native place names—had some difficulty in pronouncing the name of the town of Gnowangerup. Anyone coming to this State from overseas with a background such as that of the Governor naturally would have difficulty, when confronted with such a word, in pronouncing it.

Unfortunately, soon after, His Excellency encountered the word "chiropractors" which, of course, is not an everyday word. Touching on the matter briefly, I would suggest to the Government that, if the Governor did not see his Speech prior to reading it, he should be given that courtesy and opportunity in future, and thus be saved any similar embarrassment.

I notice that in the Governor's Speech there is no reference to workers' compensation. I also heard the Premier interject in this House that the Act will be amended.

I believe there was some reference in the Press to an amendment of the Act, but I would suggest to the Premier that if he does not do something about amending the Workers' Compensation Act this session it will be his last opportunity for many years! Ever since I have been here I have taken the Minister and the Government to task for the paltry treatment that is meted out to trade unionists by the lack of adequate benefits paid to injured workers under the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act.

I have here a letter dealing with workers' compensation as it affects miners. This correspondence arises in consequence of a person residing within my electorate suffering from miner's phthisis. I wrote to The Hon. E. M. Heenan, M.L.C., because I felt that although I was giving the right information to my constituent the written word would be more convincing. The reply I received from The Hon. E. M. Heenan, M.L.C., is as follows:—

H. A. Fletcher Esq., M.L.A.
Parliament House,
Perth.

re Taglinferri—Silicosis

Your letter of the 13th inst. with enclosure—which I am returning—is to hand.

This case is typical of many which have come under my notice over the years and if you care to look up *Hansard* and read my remarks—and those of other goldfields members on the subject—in recent years, you will appreciate that we of the Labor Party have done our utmost to remedy the injustice. As a matter of fact it was directly due to a motion moved by me and carried in the Council that the 3 years limitation for making claims was deleted from the Workers' Compensation Act. I forget the exact date off-hand but it was within the last 2-3 years. Unfortunately we could not get the deletion made retrospective to apply to such claims as this one. However, all miners are now protected and if after leaving the mines they develop silicosis in years to come they will be able to get compensation.

There is still hope that as a result of the recent committee's report on silicosis something may be achieved but as yet the report has not been made public. Here again it was as a result of our efforts that this committee was appointed and I and other goldfields members gave evidence before it. Trusting the above outline will assist.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) Eric Heenan.

I know the appropriate Minister is not taking the slightest notice of what I have been reading, so I will explain it.

Mr. Cornell: Read it again.

Mr. FLETCHER: No, I will not read it again, but I will explain the meaning of the letter; I will bovrilise it, as it were.

Mr. Burt: Bull!

Mr. FLETCHER: It is not bull, as the member for Murchison well knows, because he represents an electorate where this applies. The letter means that those found dusted since the Heenan Labor amendment was carried can now claim any number of years subsequent to that amendment; for which many miners can thank the Labor member mentioned. It also means, however, that these people cannot claim for any dusting that might have taken place before the amendment was carried.

I have written a few notes at the bottom of this letter one of which says, "We shall see what we can do with the Government's announced workers' compensation amendments this session"; that is, in 1964.

Mr. Burt: This Government introduced the amendment.

Mr. FLETCHER: It will be interesting for the honourable member to know that Mr. Heenan raised it in another place. Other goldfields members here are also aware of that fact.

The point I am attempting to make is that it is unfair that a person who contracted this awful disease, say 10 years ago, and who was not aware of the fact until now, is not entitled to any benefit. So I give notice that if this is not altered as a result of the amendments the Government proposes to the Workers' Compensation Act, the House will hear more about it from the member for Mt. Hawthorn, the member for Fremantle, and other members on this side of the House. We want to ensure that the amendment will provide that everybody who has worked in a mine and subsequently finds that he has silicosis, is entitled to the benefits of the Act. Any person who has worked in a mine would have *prima facie* evidence that that is where he contracted the disease.

Mr. Burt: That occurs now.

Mr. FLETCHER: I do not want to read the letter again; but even those who were dusted and subsequently found themselves to be dusted were not entitled to the benefit of the Act. Now, however, as a result of the amendment to which I have just referred, they are entitled to such benefit. At the same time those who were dusted prior to the amendment are not entitled.

Mr. Burt: They did not claim prior to the amendment.

Mr. FLETCHER: I would now like to refer to the matter of iron ore exports. The Governor's Speech mentions this subject as follows:—

The State's mineral resources continue to attract wide interest.

I would be surprised if they did not, particularly with the amount of publicity the Press gives in creating the impression that it is all attributable to this Government, and that the iron ore reserves did not exist prior to this Government coming into office. That is the impression that is encouraged in the public mind through the medium of Press propaganda.

I noticed the other day that the only export we have had to date has been one plane load of samples that left here for America with a view to their being evaluated for iron content, and, no doubt, for possible treatment potential. I will, however, be very pleased to see exports of iron ore from Western Australia irrespective of which Government is in office. I am concerned, nevertheless, that propaganda is used for the purpose of creating the impression that the present Government has achieved wonderful things in relation to the exploitation of iron ore from this State to the advantage of Western Australia and its citizens. I also, unfortunately, noticed in *The West Australian* of the 12th August, 1964, the following:—

Communist China has joined the queue—of which Australia is already an impatient member—of countries eager to supply raw materials to the booming Japanese iron and steel industry.

This year, Japan imported 50,000 tons of iron ore from China.

It was a sample, and the sample was, not unexpectedly, high-grade ore.

China now wants Japan to buy 1,000,000 tons of ore next year, with the likelihood of even bigger sales being sought in subsequent years.

The Japanese steel corporations are willing enough, because China is geographically the closest of its present and potential ore suppliers.

That is the sort of thing that causes me concern. I am concerned at the fact that China is so close to Japan, and with labour costs being so much lower there than they are in Western Australia, I am afraid we might miss out. The proximity of a potential Chinese source of iron ore supply should cause us in Western Australia a great deal of concern.

Another point mentioned in His Excellency's Speech is that in keeping with the upsurge in development the encouragement of immigration will be strengthened by State group nominations covering a variety of trades. I have endeavoured to elicit from the Government what effect this migration will have on the housing position. I had two questions on the notice paper but both of them have been very carefully evaded. Today I asked—

Further to his reply "that those nominating shall be responsible for housing and employment of such migrants," does this imply that if an employer nominates a number of migrants a number of State Housing

Commission houses will be made available to house them; and, if so, will this not increase the figures and waiting periods mentioned in the reply to question No. 3, *Notices and Orders of the Day*, of the 5th August, 1964?

I asked the question deliberately because irrespective of what the Minister has said I do know it does aggravate the situation.

Housing is one of our worst problems in the Fremantle area, particularly as it relates to requests from our constituents. Many of our people unfortunately have had to wait two or three years for State housing accommodation, but soon after migrants arrive they are given a house at the expense of our own people. I deplore that attitude, because it causes ill feeling between the new arrivals and our own people who happen to be on the waiting list; and it is necessary for the member for Fremantle to start making excuses concerning the Government's policy in this respect.

There was a committee on housing set up as a consequence of the arrivals due to the Lonnie Mission. Mr. Darling of the Employers Federation is on that committee, as is a Mr. Fletcher. I would point out that he is no relation to the member for Fremantle. I know these two gentlemen are on the committee, because their names are made known to me by migrants who arrive in this State. They point out that they tried through this medium and were successful in obtaining houses. They obtained these houses before applicants of long standing; applicants resident in Western Australia. In reply to my question, which I read out earlier, the Minister said, "No." The Minister is wrong; because houses are allocated to new arrivals, and our own residents in Western Australia have a longer waiting period as a consequence. This causes ill will and dissatisfaction between the new arrivals and those who have been here a long time.

Mr. J. Hegney: Those who come into my electorate go straight into new homes.

Mr. FLETCHER: At first the migrants are sent to Point Walter; but, soon after, they are allocated houses. Some of the migrants arrive here and live in the homes of their nominees, but incompatibility soon occurs as a result of two families living under the one roof. In such circumstances an inspector from the State Housing Commission is called in, and he reports on these cases of where emergency accommodation should be provided because too many people are living under one roof. The local resident, however, remains on the waiting list for houses for two, to 2½ years! I mention this matter, not necessarily as a criticism of the Government, but as the factual position.

I know it is of no concern to the Government, and it will continue to bring migrants from overseas, ostensibly to help Western Australia; but I have reservations of the extent of such help. We can put the money which is spent on bringing migrants to this State to much better use in assisting to provide houses for local residents, and in enabling them to rear families.

On that theme, in *The West Australian* of the 5th March, 1964, the following report appeared:—

**Flying Migrants Cost Australians
£3,750.**

Glasgow docker William McMillan and his family of nine have left on a 12,000-mile flight as guests of the Australian taxpayers.

Cost to Mr. McMillan: £25; cost to the Australian Government: £3,750. The McMillans are immigrants. They decided last year to make a new start in Australia but ran into problems.

This expenditure of £3,750 has been repeated on many occasions as a result of importing migrants from overseas. Such expenditure could be used to assist our own people to purchase homes. In securing homes for young couples we would encourage them to rear natural-born Australians, and there would be no necessity to have expensive importations from overseas. Surely the reasonableness of this argument should appeal to those members opposite who are listening.

On the other hand, we find this unfortunate situation: Young married couples—both husband and wife—have to work if they wish to acquire their own home. This matter is referred to in an article which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 28th April, 1964, under the heading, "Buying A Home: Some Of The Problems." I commend members to read this article. If they do they will be struck with the reasonableness of my argument. It is very wrong that the people of this State should experience difficulties in securing homes, while thousands of pounds are spent to import new citizens. The article goes on to state—

The day may come when Perth fathers, after telling their sons the routine facts of life, will end their homilies with this advice:

"Above all, my boy, marry a girl with a good job and make sure she doesn't give it up after the wedding."

We know why the average young bride is compelled to leave her employment! The article continues—

This makes sense in W.A. in the 1960s because many lending and building authorities believe the working wife is the main hope hundreds of families have of buying their own home. It is especially true of the

State's "new poor" in the housing field—the young family with only one breadwinner earning from £25 to £35 a week.

I submit that the number of people earning a salary of between £25 to £35 a week is not very great. It goes on—

These people do not qualify for a State Housing Commission home, they are too young to have qualified for a War Service loan and their present earnings make it difficult to pay rent and save for the house they feel will be in keeping with their status and income 10 or 15 years hence, when they will have reached the peak of their earning ability.

I adopted that line of reasoning last evening, but there were sinister sneers by members opposite, who claimed that I was painting a gloomy picture. Yet what I pointed out is referred to in this article. So I was not so far off the beam. The article continues—

While the working wife is often the mainstay of this income-class economy, it is still possible for a couple to get a house on the one wage.

But a man paying moderate rent—about £6 a week on Perth standards—with one or two small children, faces years of struggle before he can save the necessary deposit.

By the time he raises this sum he could find, as hundreds have done already, that his extra commitments and the rising cost of land and building have turned his dream home into a millstone round his neck.

This newspaper article then deals with private builders. These people are reaping a harvest from the plight of those who are seeking homes, because there is no control over the price which builders can charge. As a consequence, our economy has deteriorated. Those who have articles, goods, and services to offer, charge prices which the suppliers think the people can stand. Even if all families cannot afford the cost, there are families with working wives which can afford the cost, so the price is fixed as high as possible. As a result, families consisting of young mothers with young children—and these mothers cannot work—suffer, because the prices are inflated. The unscrupulous speculators assume the public can afford to pay, and they work on the assumption that all wives are working and that the economy of the home can afford the prices which they impose.

I refer to another report which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 18th March, 1964, under the heading, "Contract Rates For Aged Pair." It states—

A newly-wed English couple, aged 83 and 78, had been flown to Australia as migrants on a chartered plane at normal contract rates, Immigration Minister Opperman said today.

There is little prospect of people of that age contributing children to Australia. I contend the finance used in bringing those people here could be used to considerable advantage in assisting young Australian couples to establish their homes.

Another matter mentioned in the Speech of His Excellency the Governor dealt with the development in this State. It states—

In keeping with this upsurge in development, the encouragement of immigration will be strengthened by State group nominations covering a variety of trades.

I read that paragraph earlier; and I believe the argument I submitted in connection with it was justified criticism of the Government, particularly in regard to housing.

Another paragraph in the Governor's Speech reads as follows:—

The value of fish caught last year rose to the record figure of £5,377,000. Earnings from the export of crayfish exceeded 11,000,000 dollars. Research programmes in crayfish and prawns have been intensified to assist in the assessment of stocks. A new fisheries patrol vessel will be constructed this year.

When I noticed the figures quoted in that paragraph I was immediately reminded of a letter I wrote to the Minister for Works, who has left the Chamber, as he is no doubt unimpressed by the argument I am submitting in connection with his portfolio. I approached his department as a result of having received the following letter from an industry that is within my electorate:—

Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative
Society Limited
Marine Terrace, Fremantle,
W. Aust.
March, 5, 1964.

In the past few years new crayfish-ing centres have been opened up along the coast south of Jurien Bay. From two of these, Cervantes and Green Islet, the crayfish are taken by truck to our processing plant at Jurien Bay.

There is, however, one major drawback, to this otherwise convenient arrangement. The road between Green Islet, Cervantes and Jurien Bay is very unsatisfactory. There are only the tracks which have been made over the last few years by vehicles travelling this route.

Our Crayfish Processing plant and Jetty at Jurien Bay was built at a cost of approximately £100,000. We are to build a Receiving Depot and Jetty at Cervantes worth approximately £12,000. Another one is intended for Green Islet at the same cost. The maintenance alone, of 5 new

vehicles during the last two seasons has cost the Society approximately £12,000. The upkeep of these trucks has been so high because of the bad roads. So bad in fact, that the trucks have at times been bogged in spite of them all being 4-wheel drive vehicles. We intend to purchase another new truck valued at £5,000, but do these tracks which exist, warrant it?

The road between Green Islet, Cervantes and Jurien Bay is only about 30 miles, and we are not asking for a bituminised roadway, but a good gravel one. This will cut down on the wear and tear of good vehicles (which have depreciated greatly) and also assure us of live crayfish, so as to guarantee an excellent quality for export product.

I would point out to the House that this is a carbon copy and is difficult to read. To continue—

I think you will agree, that we are more than justified in approaching you, as our M.L.A., with this request for improvements to be made on this route. We also feel that you will understand the urgency of this matter and attend to it with haste.

Yours faithfully,
Fremantle Fishermen's
Co-operative Society Limited,
(Sgd.) J. Minervini

Arising out of that letter I wrote to the Minister for Works on the 15th March, as follows:—

Please find attached a copy of a letter from the Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd., requesting my co-operation in obtaining improvements in roads used by the Society in Cervantes-Jurien Bay area.

I am pleased to comply, and do ask that urgent attention be given to this request, pointing out that the Headquarters of this progressive Industry is within my electorate, and as a consequence, I have personal knowledge from those engaged of the problems involved, from catching to export.

Having in mind the present large capital outlay in plant, and the further amounts intended—the contribution to State and Federal economy—the resultant acquisition of hard currency—the employment created—the percentage loss of cray catch during motor transport on almost impossible roads—the damage to expensive vehicles and other factors, I do ask that priority be given to the earliest possible establishment of suitable roads in the localities mentioned in the attached.

In short, I would suggest that, just as farmers and other pastoralists need consideration in transport, then so do those engaged in the Fishing Branch of Primary Industry.

In anticipation of an early and favourable reply.

My purpose in reading that letter to the House is to expedite my case on behalf of the Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative to obtain assistance and put extra pressure on the Minister, because I believe that is necessary.

I wrote to the Minister for Fisheries attaching a copy of that letter; and I also sent a copy to the Minister for Education (Mr. Lewis) who is the State member for the area; and one to the Federal member for the area, asking them to use their best endeavours with the appropriate Minister. I received a letter back from the Minister for Fisheries which says, in part—

I would like you to know that I will join with you in adding my representations to the Minister for Works for improved road communications in this region.

I had the courtesy of a letter back from the State member whom I previously mentioned, which said in part—

While not being optimistic over the prospects of improving the road, you will note that the last paragraph of the first page indicates that some further investigation will be made to see if it is possible to find suitable materials to effect improvements to the road under review.

That reference is to the Minister's reply to me.

I had another letter back from the Federal member who also offered to support my endeavours in this respect. Some considerable time later I received a letter from the Minister for Works in reply to my letter of the 11th March, in which he said, in part—

Due to the scarcity and high cost of materials and the few vehicles using this route, it is not practicable at this late stage in the crayfishing season to effect any worthwhile improvements. However, further investigations will be carried out prior to next season in an attempt to locate suitable materials to effect improvements to the running surface of these routes.

We need something more than that; they are just promises.

I also noticed the following paragraph in the Governor's Speech:—

Legislation will be introduced for the re-enactment of the Main Roads (Fund Appropriation) Act. The State will receive £11,700,000 this year from the Commonwealth Aid Road Fund and it is proposed to spend approximately one-fifth of this amount on works north of the 26th parallel.

I would suggest that since it is intended to spend only one-fifth of the £11,700,000 north of the 26th parallel, a percentage of the remainder should be spent in the locality I have mentioned. In my opinion, a lot of the £11,700,000 just mentioned would have come from that area by way of revenue obtained as a result of our export of cray tails to America; and previously I mentioned the figure of 11,000,000 dollars. Surely with a big proportion of that wealth coming from that area it is only reasonable that the people who produce that wealth should be better served in the way of roads.

I earnestly request the Government to give early consideration to the spending of a proportion of the £11,700,000 in that area to give better road services to the fishermen and others working there. Unfortunately, as a consequence of the bad roads and the fact that the Hill River crossing is washed out in bad weather, the fishermen working in and carting crayfish from that area have to travel miles inland via Gingin, Muchea, Bullsbrook, and so on, to Fremantle.

There is another aspect to be considered. If a truck breaks down because of a broken spring, and it has a load of crayfish or other fish, these could be out in the sun for hours and the catch would deteriorate, the crayfish would die, and many hundreds of pounds would be lost to those fishermen and to the Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative. I ask the Government to do what it can with the roads for the sake of the co-op.

I also make the suggestion that the Government give consideration to installing at the Hill River Crossing—which, as I have mentioned, is so frequently washed out—two or three Hume pipes of sufficient diameter to carry the floodwater so that the trucks can traverse the crossing in any weather.

There are other matters dealt with in the Governor's Speech to which I wish to make reference. One of them is the following:—

The policy of creating a favourable economic climate for private investment is bringing good results. Many new factories, including two tyre factories, have been completed during the past year and are producing a variety of goods which have added to the diversification of Western Australian industry.

I read the whole paragraph for a purpose but I now wish to repeat the first sentence as follows:—

The policy of creating a favourable economic climate for private investment is bringing good results.

We have seen examples of this creation of a favourable economic climate in the Government's attempt to hold wages at a level which will make the position

attractive for overseas investment. This was the subject of many amendments last night, because we resent the fact that the Government, in creating a favourable economic climate for private investment, is doing so at the expense of trade unionists and the small wage and salary workers in this State. That is how I analyse the significance of that first sentence which I have just quoted.

Now I am beginning to wonder if it is bringing good results because it is done at the expense of the trade union movement; and also for other reasons. The following is an article which appeared in *The West Australian* on the 5th August this year:—

U.S. INVESTORS INVADE AUST.

NEW YORK, Tuesday.—United States business was investing about £1,800,000 capital a week in Australia where there was a total U.S. investment of more than £540,000,000, the magazine *Newsweek* reported today.

Newsweek devoted nearly four pages to a report headed "The American Invasion of Australia."

"In the last few years, U.S. capital has swept into the 3,000,000 square-mile continent on a scale unmatched by anything since the country was settled by British colonialists in 1788," the report said.

"THE LURE: A lush consumer market and Australia's vast mineral resources—known reserves of at least 15,000,000,000 tons of iron ore, 2,000,000,000 tons of bauxite and 30,000,000,000 tons of coal."

More than half of the total U.S. investment had been placed in the last five years in manufacturing and development of natural resources. Industries included the manufacture of consumer goods, oil exploration, car assembly and production, and iron ore and bauxite mining.

MIXED RECEPTION

"American companies have also learnt that not all Australians welcome them," the report said. "In and outside the Government there is a fear that Australia's economy—like that of Canada—might become dominated by American interests.

That is my concern also. It is an opinion which has been expressed by economists here in Western Australia through the Press that we could arrive at a similar situation to that which exists in Canada which is being dominated by American investment. If that occurred here, we in this House would become mere ciphers. We could arrive at a situation where America was controlling our economic policy and could control our foreign policy and every other policy of this country from Washington.

The people of Western Australia elected us as their representatives to look after their best interests; and I do not want Western Australia run financially, or in any other respect, from Washington. We are the people's representatives and we do not want to see any dominance from overseas.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. FLETCHER: So soon? To continue quoting—

This feeling boiled up earlier in the year when, under a new law, U.S.-owned companies were compelled to reveal their profit figures and General Motors-Holden announced 1963 earnings of £19,000,000—more than any domestically-owned company had ever reported in Australia.

That was the subject of my condemnation last night: that such profits could be made at the expense of the Australian buying community. To continue the article—

Australia is still a long way from becoming a Canadian-style satellite to the United States.

About 20 per cent. of all company earnings there is American-controlled. It is estimated that two-thirds of Canada's manufacturing industry is U.S.-controlled.

The magazine said that many American investors believed the surface of Australia's immense possibilities had barely been scratched.

The Premier is back in the Chamber. I was saying before the Premier returned that I was concerned to see—

Mr. Brand: I heard this last night! Go on!

Mr. FLETCHER: Well, a good story bears frequent repeating.

Mr. Brand: Oh, yes!

Mr. FLETCHER: The Premier did not hear this last night. I was saying that I did not wish to see American investment attracted to this State to such an extent that the country concerned would dominate the economic policy of this State. I repeat what I said before: that we in this Chamber are elected as the representatives of the people of Western Australia, and I do not want to see a situation develop here in Western Australia whereby, as a consequence of American investment, we will be dictated to by Washington representatives, elected in that country and not by the people of Western Australia. That is something to be concerned about, and the Premier did not hear about it last night. He did not hear about it earlier this evening, because he was not here.

Mr. Brand: I must have heard it last session.

Mr. FLETCHER: You did not.

Mr. Brand: I took particular notice of it.

Mr. FLETCHER: I correct myself. The Premier did hear it last session, because I read to the House the situation that had developed in Canada and said that I did not wish to see the same situation develop here.

I have a wealth of other material here with which I could deal in the same vein; but in view of the fact that the Estimates are pending and I will have further opportunity then, and the fact that you, Mr. Speaker, informed me I had five minutes to go five minutes ago, I will resume my seat.

Adjournment of Debate

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [9.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The member for Warren has moved that the debate be adjourned. All those in favour say, "Aye"; all those against say, "No." The "Noes" have it.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Divide!

Mr. Brand: Be fair! For the Labor Party's benefit we are not sitting tomorrow.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Ring the bells!

Mr. ROWBERRY: That was just a subterfuge on my part to see that the House was properly representative when I got up to speak.

Mr. Brand: They will be flocking in.

Division not proceeded with.

*Debate (on Address-in-Reply motion)
Resumed*

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [9.53 p.m.]: Despite the late hour and the fact that I will not be able to correct the speech I am now about to make until next Tuesday, I propose to proceed. The Address-in-Reply debate gives members an opportunity of ranging over a wide variety of subjects, including sex, financial, economic, and general problems.

I should like, firstly, to deal with one of the subjects that were mentioned in the Governor's Speech, which was that a favourable atmosphere had been created in Western Australia for foreign investment. Some months ago I had an opportunity of visiting Esperance and of looking at the land settlement and development that had taken place. I found that although it is American capital that has been invested there—and I will have something to say about that later—it is Australian know-how that has been responsible for the development of the area.

The main reason for the failure of the Chase experiment is that Chase disregarded the know-how, knowledge, and information given him by our local agricultural experts. He wanted to treat the Esperance plains as the prairies of the U.S.A. had been treated, and it just simply did not come off. The subsequent venture in land development has been successful because the manager there was wise enough to listen to local knowledge and know-how.

I want to make it perfectly clear that the reason for the success of Mr.—the name of the person eludes me, but he has something to do with radio and television.

Mr. Guthrie: Linkletter.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The reason for Linkletter's success is that he listened to the local advisers. The land has been developed by Australian farmers. There is a funny thing about this—and I am speaking about the favourable atmosphere which has been created for foreign investment. If we allow that foreign investment made possible the settlement and development of the Esperance area, then who were going to buy the farms once they were developed? Are they not Australian farmers who are farming there? Is it not Australian credit that is redeeming the investment that was made in the first place? The idea is that Chase and Linkletter will spend so much money, which will be redeemed by Australian credit, by Australian farmers taking up the land. The money will be redeemed, plus costs and a reasonable profit. If Australian credit is able to redeem this investment plus profit, I should like to know why Australian credit could not have been used to settle those people on the land in the first place. Is that not logical? That is the big illusion about foreign investment, capital, and credit.

The fact is that Australian credit has got to redeem that investment or the project will be a failure. We will not get American farmers over here to farm and develop the area. It is being settled by Australian farmers; and Australian farmers will be financed by Australian banks; and Australian banks will eventually pay back the investment to America. Why, in all that is sensible, could we not have done this for our own people in the first place? If we can do it subsequently, then we could have done it in the first place and settled those people on the land. This is in line with the pleading of the member for Roe earlier this evening.

There is a distinct catch in this investment. I subscribe to a little book called, *Farm Policy*. I believe that some of the writers in it are knockers so far as the Minister for Development is concerned. They have gone into the question of financing the Esperance development. The

member for Roe asked the Government earlier this evening to settle a limited number of civilian settlers and sons of farmers on the land and suggested that they should be Government-financed. He did not say who was going to do the choosing. When he referred to a limited number he did not say who would choose the members of that limited group.

This booklet has an article in it written by Mr. H. E. Fels of the University of Western Australia. He has undertaken research into the cost of establishing a farmer on an American block at Esperance. The cost involved in settling a man on land in that area would be £25,000 for the first year, and his income would be nil. For the second year his expenditure would be £5,000 and his receipts would be from £1,400 to £1,750. This takes into consideration that wool is priced at 48d. or 60d. per lb. His expenditure in the third year would be £4,000 and his receipts would be £2,800 to £3,500. Typical later years are assessed at expenditure, £4,500, and receipts from £5,000 to £6,000.

After four years of hard work—more than four years, because the article refers to typical later years and this could mean any year after the third year—we find that receipts would be £6,000 against an expenditure of £4,500. That represents a profit of £1,500, or a return on his capital of something like 8 per cent. to 12 per cent. in the first three years or 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. on his invested savings of, say, £15,000. If a person had £15,000 with which to settle on land at Esperance he would have a return of £1,500 from the land with wool at 60d. per lb. Members can therefore understand the difficulties involved in settling on land at Esperance, particularly if a person has no capital at the back of him.

The member for Roe should have a look at some of the calculations made by professors. He did not seem to think very highly of them. He seemed to be of the opinion that because they had not worked on the land they could not understand the problems, so far as finance and economy were concerned, in settling on the land.

Another factor that we must take into consideration with land development was mentioned in an article which appeared in *The Farmers' Weekly* of the 6th August this year. I suppose members of the Country Party who are farmers get *The Farmers' Weekly* sent to them because they are members of the Farmers' Union and it is the union's paper. However, the article to which I wish to refer was written by an American agricultural expert. He is a Fulbright lecturer and his name is Professor K. L. Robinson. He is a Professor of Agricultural Economics at Cornell University,

and at present he is a Fulbright lecturer in agricultural economics at the University of Sydney.

The member for Fremantle warned, and I have warned members too, that the only way to develop a country, and the best way to develop it, is to increase the home market. The professor said—

At present the United States has "retired" 50-60 million acres from cropping—more than the entire acreage planted to crops in Australia.

Members can see the significance of that. The article goes on—

If this were brought back into production, I hate to think what could happen to world markets.

It is almost frightening to think that with the economic system we have, and which is supported by this Government, which bows down and worships private enterprise, we have to prevent production; otherwise the system will fall flat on its face. In fact, production is no longer a problem. This is proved by the fact that America can afford to "retire" 50 to 60 million acres of land—more than the present acreage under crop in Australia. What is it for? To enable the production that is already taking place to be sold.

Yet we have people in this country who advocate the settling of more land and the production of more crops and beef to send to America, which has already "retired" 50 to 60 million acres of its own land! It makes one think seriously of the expediences that have to be adopted to enable our present so-called economic system to operate. It is operated by a series of expediences, by a series of ventures into peradventure, if there is such an expression.

While on the subject of agriculture, I noticed, in the Governor's Speech, that there is some mention of the development of the dairy farm improvement scheme, and the fact that so much money has been expended and 220 farms have benefited. I was also interested to read in the same copy of *The Farmers' Weekly* to which I have already referred—and I wonder if the farmers who are members of this Chamber ever trouble to read their own paper—

Mr. Gayfer: Don't talk rot!

Mr. ROWBERRY: I said I wondered whether they did, because there is no evidence forthcoming that they do, although I do not say that they do not read it. I was talking about the dairy farm improvement scheme, and I said that some 220 farmers had participated in it. The scheme was extended to cover all the butterfat-producing districts in the State. I

represent one of the principal butterfat-producing areas, and the producers in my district are not even making the basic wage.

We often hear a certain amount of grouching from the producers of wheat and wool about their costs being high—and, by the way, the cost of agriculture in Western Australia is the highest in the Commonwealth, and why that should be I do not know. Is that a reflection on the efficiency of our farmers; or is it because the people whom they support, and who supply them with machinery, are charging them far too much—in other words, the people whom the Liberal part of the Government strenuously uphold and support? It could be that, or it could be some other factor.

I think the farmer who is interested in his job would set out to discover exactly why the farming costs in Western Australia are the highest in Australia. Is it the farming procedure? Is it the land? Is it the lack of fertiliser? Is it poor husbandry?

Mr. Gayfer: Have you ever heard of Hughie?

Mr. ROWBERRY: I have heard of Hughie, and I know that we cannot control the weather, or Hughie's vagaries. But people know when they take on farming that the weather is an imponderable, and so they should make arrangements within the spheres that they can influence. So I would say to the dairy farmers, "Don't look to the Leader of the Country Party for any help" because I notice he told them bluntly in *The Farmers' Weekly*, about a week ago, that no more help would be given in the way of subsidies to dairy farmers. I also noticed an article by the leader of the dairy section of the Farmers' Union, and all the positive advice he could give to the dairy farmers was nil. He did say that if the earnings of dairy farmers were reduced that would have a detrimental effect upon butter factories and such-like, which had been established at great expense and to which the dairy farmers themselves had largely subscribed. However, for positive advice from the Farmers' Union and the farmers' leaders themselves I have looked in vain.

I have read articles that the solution is feed and breed. That may be so, but the fact is our dairy farmers have been at the job a long time and have been battling with the elements—as we have been reminded recently—but they are still earning well below the basic wage as a yearly income.

When I hear the advocates for the importation of more margarine, or for increased production of margarine in this State, I shudder to think what is to happen to our dairy farmers. Are they to be pushed still lower down the income bracket? We hear Mr. McEwen urging

them to give up dairy farming and enter other types of agricultural production. Unfortunately, however, the original group settlers were allocated only small areas of land and they have no scope for going in for the production of sheep and beef cattle. The area required for such production is simply not available on their properties. Therefore we must not do anything which will prove more detrimental to the interests of the dairy farmers. Instead, at all cost, we must give them all the assistance we can through the Department of Agriculture.

I notice the Minister for Agriculture paying a great deal of attention, and it is to be hoped assistance will be forthcoming for these people in the near future.

Mr. Kelly: Do you think there are far too many dairy farmers on a low quota?

Mr. ROWBERRY: Do you mean a low quota of wholemilk?

Mr. Kelly: Yes.

Mr. ROWBERRY: There is no wholemilk production in the Warren area; that is reserved for the plutocratic dairy farmers around Pinjarra and other centres to our north.

Mr. Nalder: He is talking about Pemberton and Northcliffe.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I have struggled to try to have the production of wholemilk extended to the south because the dairy farmer in those parts is not earning sufficient money from butterfat production. The only difficulty is that wholemilk production must extend over the full 12 months. That could be done, however, with proper feeding and provision for ensilage. Direct feeding could be carried out. The grass could be fed completely off the strip and not allowed to die and cover up the new grasses which come on in the springtime. A great deal of research and instruction could be carried out for the benefit of the dairy farmers along those lines; and I think we could extend, as far as possible, the production of wholemilk southwards to Manjimup, Pemberton, Northcliffe, and other areas which were originally group settlements, instead of increasing the quotas of the dairy farmers who are already in wholemilk production.

It should be our aim to keep the man on the land, and not to discourage him and advise him to enter some other industry. If there is anything that can be done; any new advance in nutrition to increase the capacity of the cow to produce more milk and butterfat; any new method of breeding a better strain which will stand up to the rigours of the climate and still give better breeding results, then steps should be taken to put it into effect.

We on this side of the House are often criticised because we do not tell the Government what should be done in the best

interests of the State to promote and advance various works and industries, and I hope that what I am now saying will have some effect in the right place. Without the slightest doubt there are numerous dairy farmers in my electorate who are merely existing, and they eke out a precarious livelihood by working in the timber mills. Of course, I have already told the House that employment in the mills in my district is becoming less and less easy to obtain.

I have mentioned the town of Northcliffe, and for years I have been striving to induce the Minister for Works to install a reticulation system in that town. I have stressed the point that the people who live in the far-flung centres of our State should be encouraged to stay there. That is one way of keeping the people in country areas that are already established, instead of trying to foster further decentralisation. In encouraging people to stay in the centres where they are already residing we should provide them with all the niceties and necessities of life which are available to their city brothers and sisters.

In our present-day civilisation, one of the main necessities is a reticulated water system connected to the house. On the 25th May, 1964, I received a letter from the Minister for Works after he had made several promises to investigate the matter. I might mention that I have been following up this matter for six years. The Minister's letter is as follows:—

Dear Mr. Rowberry,

Your letter of the 7th March, wherein you made representations on behalf of a number of people at Northcliffe who petitioned for a water supply for that town, is referred.

This matter has been investigated and I am now able to advise that in the tentative Loan Programme 1964-1965, under New Works, a sum of £13,000 has been included for consideration to commence construction of a standpipe supply to Northcliffe.

Just fancy that, in these enlightened days, we should be going back to the village pump! Of what earthly use is a standpipe water supply for any town?

Mr. Gayfer: It could be used for fire-fighting.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Yes, as my friend on my left says, it could be used for firefighting; but nowadays I think our support should be given to the provision of a water supply right to the house so that a hot water system can be installed to provide hot water at the kitchen sink and in the bathroom. Also, when the house is served with a reticulated water supply, a septic system can be installed and a toilet constructed under the main roof of the dwelling. In fact, most local authorities have laid it down that a septic system is now a must.

So I repeat: Of what use is this tentative water supply scheme to any town? I hope it is only tentative, although the saying is that a half loaf is better than no bread. Nevertheless I should hate to insult the people of Northcliffe by telling them the Government intended to install a standpipe water supply for their needs. It is similar to the old town well that we had many years ago. Why not do what we did before? Why not dig a well, and then the people could congregate there with their buckets and have a conversation, following which they could depart to their respective habitations?

The Minister goes on to say that it would be appreciated, however, that the availability of loan funds will determine whether a water supply from Northcliffe can be proceeded with, and that the full reticulation water supply scheme is estimated to cost approximately £50,000. What if it is estimated to cost £50,000! It is only an investment. Why do we not create a favourable atmosphere for investment for the welfare of our own citizens? An amount of £50,000 invested in the water scheme will be paid back, both directly and indirectly. Furthermore, it will be an investment in human nature which, to my mind, is a prime consideration. So I hope the Minister will have a further thought on this.

The denouement, however, took place after I received this letter. The Minister for Works and Water Supply visited Northcliffe in conjunction with a member from another place. His cohorts called the people together in Northcliffe and asked them to bring a plate. He then made a public announcement that he had decided to allocate a certain sum of money for the provision of a water scheme in Northcliffe, because the Legislative Councillor who was with him (Mr. Willmott) had asked him to do so.

Is not that paltry party politics? On the one hand we have the member for the district asking for a water scheme from the Minister for five consecutive years; but because there is an election pending next year he calls together members of the Liberal Party and makes an announcement that because of representations made to him by the members of the Liberal Party he has decided to give Northcliffe a water scheme.

A little while ago I read a letter where Mr. Withers, the president of the Liberal Party in Western Australia, insisted on the truth. No Sir Gallahad in search of the Holy Grail pursued the truth with greater assiduity than did Mr Withers, I should imagine, particularly when he thought it was going to trample somebody into the dirt. If he wants the truth, here it is.

We also had a visit from certain members of the Assembly, who went through the Warren area on a fact-finding mission,

we are told. I hope they found some facts; and I hope we will hear something about those facts in this Assembly. I hope they found out something about the position of the sawmilling industry at Pemberton, on which I have closely questioned the Minister this session. I hope they found that there was a tremendous degree of despondency in the town of Pemberton because of the lack of activity on the part of Hawker Siddeley. I also hope they looked at the particular and significant fact—if they were looking for facts—that the Minister in his answer to me, either today or yesterday, said that because it was uneconomic to work two shifts, one shift had been put off.

I wonder whether they heard the Minister make an announcement with a great flourish of trumpets at the beginning of last session, that Hawker Siddeley would build a new mill at Collie, at which two shifts were going to be worked. If it is economic to work two shifts at Collie in a modern mill, then why is it uneconomic to work two shifts in the mill at Pemberton? That is a fact on which they can enlighten themselves and this Assembly. They should enlighten us with all the facts.

I wonder what has happened to this mill which was going to be built at Collie: the mill that was announced with a great flourish of trumpets by the Minister? Not one stick, not one stone, and not one piece of timber has been put in place. I do not suppose the site has been cleared for the mill at Collie. It is merely one of the spurious promises with which this Government has deluded the country.

The Minister further said that the company is at all times desirous of expanding its industry and its mills, as long as it is economic to do so. The fact of the matter is that the market for timber in this State over the last five months has been tremendous, and the mills cannot complete their orders in time. It could be attributable to the fact that so many men who were put off at Pemberton have migrated to other places; and, as a result, it is impossible to man the mills and cut the timber.

Mr. Graham: At which centres?

Mr. ROWBERRY: At all centres. There is not a mill in any area that is not short-staffed, or looking for men because of the state of the market, and because there is this great demand for timber.

Mr. Graham: How long has this been going on?

Mr. ROWBERRY: For the past five months.

Mr. Graham: The timber production while this Government has been in office is down 20 per cent. compared with that of the previous Government.

Mr. ROWBERRY: One will admit that timber was difficult to sell when Hawker Siddeley took over the Pemberton mill. But that is not the case now.

Mr. Hawke: A lot of men have gone out of the industry.

Mr. ROWBERRY: They had to leave the industry because there was no work for them. That is the point I am trying to make. They were driven out of the industry by the shortsighted policy of this new company which came to Western Australia and which, in the words of the Premier, was going to give industry a shot in the arm. I have said it before, and I will say it again, that the shot it gave industry was not in the arm; it was in another part of the anatomy.

That is why the work force was dispersed. Sawmillers who had been in the industry for a long time had enough foresight, and sagacity, and enough of the milk of human kindness in their breasts to hang on to their expert workers. But it was left to this Johnny-come-lately Hawker Siddeley group to show what they could do. I wish to dispute the Minister's assertion that the company is willing at all times to expand its industry. The facts speak for themselves. If the company had been willing it would have started on building the mill long before. The Minister should have seen to that. He now comes along in this House and makes a grandiose announcement about the new mill that is to be built. It has not even been started.

When I asked a question of the Premier on the 2nd August, 1962, whether the Government would impose the conditions of the permit issued to Hawker Siddeley, he said it was only right the company should have time to settle down and rehabilitate the mills. He said the company was contemplating buying new machinery, and would soon be able to cope fully with the permissible intake of logs.

Two years have passed since that time, and the days of grace have elapsed. The Premier should ensure that this company is held to the conditions of its permit. The action of the company is not only detrimental to Pemberton, but, as was indicated in the answers to my questions the other day, it is detrimental to the economy of the State, in that thousands and thousands of pounds in royalties are not being paid to the Forests Department for further development. This matter should be looked into.

Representations have been made to me by people from all walks of life at Pemberton that a Royal Commission should be appointed to inquire into the affairs of Hawker Siddeley, not only in Pemberton but in other parts of the State. I am informed that before the local management of the company can buy any machinery,

or take steps to upgrade its railway line it has to obtain approval from the parent company in Britain. No felling is being carried out on the company's railway line which connects the mill with the station, because the local manager is not permitted to spend any money in that direction without obtaining authority from Britain. How then can it be said that the company is anxious at all times to do everything possible? The local representatives of the company might be anxious to do everything possible, but they are prevented by the cheeseparing attitude of the parent company.

This company has had a favourable atmosphere created for its foreign investments. I say advisedly that we can do without this sort of investment in Western Australia. I hope the points which have been raised in connection with the nefarious activities of the company will be rectified; because, after all, it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the law is observed. It should not dispense with the law in respect of certain people, and insist on the law in respect of others. The Government should not do anything to stifle the critics of the activities of the company; it should ensure that the law is upheld.

We have heard arguments in this House on the advisability of conducting discussions when a matter was *sub judice*, but we who make the law should uphold the law. We should be the last ones to break it; we should be the first ones to ensure it is upheld.

I regret the Minister for Health is not in the Chamber at the moment, because I want to bring to his notice a matter concerning dental treatment for schoolchildren at Manjimup and district. I heard over the radio tonight that a petition is being prepared and collated by the Primary Schools Parents and Citizens' Association in Manjimup; and that when the petition is completed it will be presented to the member for the district for presentation to this House.

For years I have been pressing for such a dental service for the district. As a result of pressure which has been exerted the school dentists have visited Manjimup more frequently in recent times than they did previously. I give the Minister credit for that. But what is being provided is not sufficient to meet the demand; because, apart from the schoolchildren, at least 50 per cent. of the people there cannot afford dental treatment. It is beyond their means. Because of that situation we would like a dental clinic to be established at Manjimup to serve the whole area; and it is highly desirable that it should be.

We have collected signatures from as far north as Balingup. That is a strange feature, because the people in Balingup

and north of Bridgetown are attached to Bridgetown, and their loyalties lie there. In this case they have decided that a dental clinic should be established in Manjimup.

The member for Albany spoke at great length about the establishment of a new State, and claimed that Albany should be its capital. If we were to draw a straight line from Albany to Bunbury, and to take the whole area bounded by that straight line and the coastline from Bunbury to Albany, we would find that Manjimup was not only the geographical centre, but nearly the exact geometric centre of the area. If there is to be a second city in that part of the State it should be Manjimup.

The trouble with a port is that it cannot expand seaward. With an inland town expansion can take place in all directions, and such a town is very accessible from all points of the surrounding area. If a second city is to be established in the south-west, the claims of Manjimup are paramount. I am not being parochial when I say this; but it is significant that the places from which the signatures were obtained for the petition to establish a dental clinic at Manjimup radiate from Manjimup up to a distance of 30 miles.

It is also significant that in that area there is a large number of people who work on dairy farms, and who earn less than the basic wage. It is impossible for people on the basic wage, when there are two in the family, to afford dental treatment. What then can be done about dairy farmers who earn below that standard? It is simply impossible for them unless they get the treatment from a dental clinic, one of which should be established in Manjimup. I am sure that when Labor takes over next year and holds the reins of office this will be one of the first things to which it will give consideration; and not only for Manjimup, but for other country centres as well. We people have not benefited by this great surge forward which has been happening in the State according to the newspapers.

I am sorry the Minister for Forests is not here, because I have a point which I would like to bring before his notice. I wrote to him some weeks ago. I paid a visit to Nannup and found there had been a considerable recession in the timber industry. That was several months ago. Apparently the timber is being cut in the Nannup area and carted to Busselton to be milled. The Minister for Forests is also the member for Vasse, in which electorate Busselton is situated, so it might have been a sore point with him had he been in the House.

Nannup is a town in which the local governing authority is struggling to make ends meet. It is a small town with a

small income, and it has large commitments in the way of extending roads and other public facilities. It is always struggling for money, and yet we have a situation where timber cut in Nannup is being carted out of the area and sawn in Busselton. I asked the Minister what was the original purpose of the dedication of the forests in this State, and what was the original purpose of giving leases to the sawmilling companies and laying down a figure which is called the permissible intake. He informed me—I knew of course—that it was to establish these mills and establish a supply of timber for the State in perpetuity. But it was more than that. The purpose—the initial purpose; the main purpose; the more important purpose—was that we would be able to establish towns with a life that could go on in perpetuity. The forests were allocated so that so many loads of timber would be produced which would enable the companies to build a mill big enough to deal with the timber and employ men to be the nucleus of a township which, in turn, would give secondary employment and sustain the population so that schools, hospitals, shops, and halls could be built.

That was the main purpose behind the dedication of forests and the allocation of leases to timber companies, not that they should exploit our forests for the sake of profit. In that case we are merely giving away our heritage. Unless the maximum number of people get the maximum benefit from the exploitation of our natural resources, we are merely making a hole in the ground or leaving stumps in the forest with no advantage to our native population. I hope these points will be considered very seriously.

The same thing applies to the exploitation of our mineral resources. Unless we can give gainful employment in the exploitation of these natural resources to the maximum number of our own population, then we are wasting our time both humanely and economically. What happened in Pemberton is tragic; and what happened in Pemberton could be largely rectified at the present time if the company there was forced to live up to the conditions of its lease and employ the maximum number of people necessary to exploit its full permissible intake. In addition, the royalties which would accrue to our State exchequer should be reaped to the full.

I hope the Minister for Forests will live up to the promise he gave me. All that I have had from him up to the present time is a short note saying he has received my letter and he is having the matter investigated. That was several weeks ago. I hope the investigation has been completed and that we will have some pronouncement

that it is not possible for a company to exploit the timber resources of Nannup and take the timber away to another town which is in no need of building up at all. This is being done not only at the expense of the mill workers in Nannup, but at the expense of the whole economy of Nannup, because if there is a substantial wage bill coming from a mill alongside a town, the mill workers spend their wages in that town, which increases the ratable value of the shops and businesses there and brings additional income to the local authority.

Mr. Graham: To what town is the timber going?

Mr. ROWBERRY: To Busselton.

Mr. Graham: What electorate is that?

Mr. ROWBERRY: It is Vasse.

Mr. Graham: Who is the member?

Mr. ROWBERRY: The Minister for Forests.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I do not need that length of time, Mr. Speaker; and I suppose members will be relieved to hear me say that. I could not hope for an extension of time at this hour, nor would I ask for it. Several weeks ago I had a letter from the Minister saying this matter was being looked into, but nothing has happened.

Mr. Graham: Typical of this Government.

Mr. Hawke: More cobwebs.

Mr. ROWBERRY: One could not expect that gentleman at his time of life to rush around and rectify these things, but this is something that is vital to the economy of Nannup. I say that when areas of forests are allocated and townships grow up around those leases, the timber which is there should be dedicated to the upkeep and sustenance of the town which was brought into being because of the granting of the leases in the first place.

In closing I would like to refer to an article which appeared in the *Weekend News* about the time Pemberton was affected by the activities, or lack of activities, of the Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies. It was said that the company had spent quite a lot of money in an attempt to expand its business. It had sent officers to South-East Asia and it had been selling timber at below cost to build up a market in South-East Asia for Western Australian timber.

Now I want to ask members: If in fact the company did that and sold timber at less than cost, could we ever expect people to buy it for any more than less than cost in the future? If it did sell it for less than cost, at whose expense did it do so? It embarked upon a cheeseparing policy of sacking as many men as it could. So what do we have? We have our priceless heritage which took thousands of years to establish, being sent to South-East Asia at the expense of employment in Pemberton.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. W. A. Manning.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

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

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 18th August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.52 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 18th August, 1964

CONTENTS

	Page
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : FIFTH DAY—	
Speakers on Motion—	
The Hon. D. P. Dellar	271
The Hon. R. F. Hutchison	275
The Hon. A. R. Jones	258
The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon	268
The Hon. H. C. Strickland	260
ASSENT TO BILL	256
BILL—	
Supply Bill, £26,500,000—Assent	256
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Dalwallinu Hospital: Expenditure on Works and Improvements	257
Drilling for Gold and Water: Footages	257
Menzies-Leonora Road: Bituminising	257
Railways—	
Road Buses: Kalgoorlie-Esperance—	
Provision of Heating	258
Transport: Tonnages Carried between Coolgardie and Esperance	257
Water Supply for Mallee Area—	
Bores	256
Deep Water Drilling Programme	256
Goldfields Water Scheme Extension	256
Government-owned Dams	256

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

SUPPLY BILL, £26,500,000

Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the Bill.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

WATER SUPPLY FOR MALLEE AREA

Bores

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

- (1) How many bores for water are there in the Mallee area?
- (2) When were they sunk?
- (3) What was the result of each in—
 - (a) depth;
 - (b) physical properties; and
 - (c) stock use properties?

Government-owned Dams

- (4) (a) How many Government-owned dams are in the area?
- (b) Where are they situated?
- (c) What are their sizes and capacity?
- (d) When were they excavated?
- (e) How many are functioning?

Deep Water Drilling Programme

- (5) Will the Government consider a deep water drilling programme for the Mallee area, using modern methods to bore for the water and testing of various horizons?
- (6) Is the Minister aware of the increasing demand for water in the Mallee area with the expansion of agriculture, and increasing stock numbers?

Goldfields Water Scheme Extension

- (7) Will the Minister consider extending the goldfields water scheme to as far as Scaddan, similar to the comprehensive scheme in other farming areas?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) to (3) Unknown. There is no present requirement for bores to be reported and no census has been taken. In 1952 the Government put down 52 bores totalling 2,036 feet in an area situated between 15 and 30 miles north of Esperance. Depths ranged from 8 to 150 feet. The majority of them are 40 to 50 feet deep. They were drilled in decomposed granitic rocks and many bottomed in solid granite.
- (4) (a) 49.
- (b) In an area approximately 30 miles wide disposed symmetrically about the Norseman to Esperance road between Bromus and Scaddan.