

Sir Charles Court: I think I would back my judgment against yours.

Mr MAY: That may be so, but our judgment was sound when we came into office in 1971.

Mr Rushton: Was it?

Mr MAY: It is all right for the Minister for Local Government to interject; but I suggest it would be far better if he looked after his own department.

The judgment of the Tonkin Government was proved to be correct, when the State Electricity Commission decided at the time that it did not want to allocate leases to the company at Collie; but the Tonkin Government went against the State Electricity Commission and granted the leases to one company at Collie. Even the State Electricity Commission admitted that it had underestimated the amount of coal at Collie. We did have the foresight to look into the question and it is just as well we did.

Mr Rushton: You had quick foresight.

Mr MAY: It is just as well we did look into the matter, because one can imagine what the price of fuel in Western Australia would have been if this Government had its way.

I only hope the Fuel and Power Commission will be given every opportunity to expand its operations in Western Australia. It was operating on a shoestring and trying to appoint experienced men to the commission. I am sure the present Minister is in accord with the operation of the Fuel and Power Commission.

When the matter of electricity charges comes up during the debate on the Estimates I shall have something more to say, because I think once again the people of Western Australia must be told. Even *The West Australian* newspaper has referred to the shortsightedness of the Brand-Court Government in connection with its actions in Collie.

The Government must tell the people what it proposes to do and what they are likely to be up for. It is of no use the Premier saying that he has to put up the charges because of the action of the Commonwealth Government. The charges are being increased only because of the ineptitude of the Brand-Court Government prior to 1971.

MR CRANE (Moore) [4.58 p.m.]: As I rise to my feet on what will be a memorable occasion for me I feel very humble indeed. I have been schooled lately in the problems of making a maiden speech, and after a thorough analysis of what I have been told it would seem there is nothing to be really worried about because nobody bothers to listen anyway!

Besides this feeling of humility I do feel a great sense of responsibility to the people of Moore who elected me; and I thank them sincerely for the trust they have placed in me. I pledge I will always serve them to the best of my ability.

Before continuing I feel I should, as previous members have done, congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election to your high office. You have shown us this afternoon that you bring to this office the dignity and decorum that is necessary.

I thank those members who have welcomed the new members to this Chamber; and I, too, would like to congratulate the other members who have been elected to Parliament. While I am in the process of thanking everybody I feel that I should on behalf of the electors of Moore thank my predecessor (Mr Edgar Lewis) who faithfully served the electorate of Moore for a period of some 16 years. I hope he enjoys his retirement. As with all members of Parliament, it was probably not possible for him to be popular with everyone. This of course also applies to all of us. I do know, however, from my travels through the electorate of Moore that Edgar Lewis gained many friends. I also know that while he was here he gained the respect of members on both sides of the House.

I will start my address by explaining the composition of the electorate of Moore. It is made up of eight families—the shires of Goomalling, Victoria Plains, Wongan-Ballidu, Dalwallinu, Coorow, Dandaragan, Gingin, and Moora.

On behalf of the people of Moore, I would like in this House to thank the officers of these shires, and particularly the shire presidents and councillors, for the valuable work they do. They are the people who really give us our democratic form of government. It is the government that is closest to the people. The councillors serve on their shire councils without any thought of reward except the satisfaction of having served their community well. They come in for a great deal of criticism, particularly at ratepayers' meetings, and that is when we know how close this type of government is to the people.

The electorate of Moore, while a rural electorate, is made up of people from all walks of life. They are not only farmers—perhaps farmers are least in number in rural areas. There are people backing the rural areas who work in motor garages, shops, and offices; school teachers, and so on. They come from all walks of life. The industries I represent are quite varied. For instance, on the west coast we have the fishing industry, which adds a great deal to the export-earning capacity of this State. This industry is backed by people who work in the processing factories.

Further east, we go through the grazing areas which have made their valuable contribution. I hope they are able to continue to do so but I wonder and worry very much about the escalating costs, particularly when the superphosphate subsidy is to be taken away and other costs are to be increased. Moving further east in my electorate through the grazing areas, we come to the wheatbelt. Everyone knows the contribution the wheatgrower has made to Australia.

I do not think there is any need for me to tell members how important the wheat industry is. There has been an outcry lately about the deferment of the wheat payment. While some people do not seem to worry about it, I point out that the wheat producer does not hold that money in his hot little hand for long. It passes on to the rest of the community of Australia. Therefore, no-one should be fooled into thinking it is not an industry that is worth preserving. It is worth preserving.

Many problems are experienced in the rural industry, and as I am one of the last speakers for rural electorates I suppose members have heard about the problems before. But on behalf of the people of Moore I must reiterate them.

One can start with any one of the problems but I will take education first. This is a problem of paramount importance. It appeals to the emotions of people who are trying to put their particular problem relative to the work they are doing in government. However, it is important to us people in the rural areas. It is an expensive pastime—if that is the word—to send one's children away to the city where they can receive better education. I believe—and I hope I can convince members of it—that it is of paramount importance that secondary education in country areas and the establishment of school hostels be complementary to each other. It has always been a problem to obtain a better education in rural areas. In my electorate we do not yet have a senior high school. One will be completed in a few months' time, and we are very appreciative of that; but we expected to have it three years ago.

In education in country areas there is also a problem for those people who are unfortunate enough to have handicapped children. This is a problem wherever one lives but it is exaggerated in rural areas and I feel a compassionate Government must take it into consideration.

We have other problems in regard to doctors. I have a problem in the House, with a doctor alongside me—the member for Subiaco—who keeps digging me in the ribs; but I wish everyone in the country had a doctor as close to him as I have. Some people in country areas, particularly in my electorate, must travel 70 miles to see a doctor.

All our problems are interrelated, and perhaps I will be castigated for what I am about to say. However, a disproportionate increase in license fees for heavy vehicles was recently introduced. I remind members that in the country a heavy vehicle is not a luxury but, in many cases, a necessity. I have never yet seen a Minister of the Crown do a trip in the country in a Mini Minor.

Water is, of course, one of the prime necessities of life. I hope that through the good offices of the members of this House the comprehensive water scheme will be encouraged and that we will persuade the Commonwealth Government to make additional grants available so that the scheme may be extended to people who require water, which is not a luxury but a necessity. Electricity is considered by some people to be a luxury but it is also a necessity, and I support the remarks of the member for Katanning yesterday when he said he hoped the State Electricity Commission would extend its services.

The matter of telephones is a running sore in rural communities. I have in my file correspondence from people in my electorate going back to 1968. The file was handed to me by the member for Mt. Marshall because part of my electorate was in his area. These people keep asking the same questions and getting the same replies, and I wonder whether our priorities are right.

While speaking about priorities, I refer to television. When watching television in outer areas, one of the prerequisites is to put on a "beanie" and snow shoes because all one will see is snow, and at least one feels at home. Yet members who say they have the interests of people at heart support the introduction of colour television when the country areas are not being served adequately by black and white television and, more importantly, they are not even getting an adequate telephone service. I believe our priorities are not right, and I feel very strongly on that point.

The rural industry is, of course, the backbone of rural areas; but it is augmented and supported by the other people from all walks of life whom I have mentioned. Unfortunately, in the last few years there has been an exodus of people from rural areas. This has been brought about by many factors—sometimes by unfulfilled promises and sometimes by lack of action on the part of people in responsible places.

I suppose one of the most important features of the rural industry is marketing. Here again, we find we run up against a brick wall in trying to find a satisfactory solution to the problem. Unfortunately, in the two organisations which represent the rural industry in Western Australia, we

very often find, to the detriment of the industry, that while the philosophies of the organisations are different they apparently spend a great deal of time in empire building within their organisations rather than being concerned about the industry itself.

I say this without fear of contradiction because that is the impression I get as I move around the electorate. I have mentioned the matter to the presidents of both organisations. I do not blame them—I believe they are honourable men—but I consider the executives of the organisations could spend a great deal more time concerning themselves with the industry itself rather than with their own empire building.

Two forms of marketing are usually propagated by these organisations. One is the free enterprise system, which many have supported over the years and which has in some instances stood the test of time. The other form is statutory marketing, which some people believe to be the panacea for all our problems. I do not align myself completely with either side because we must have an opportunity to apply the best of both.

Only last week I was at a meeting in Watheroo where the growers of a new commodity in Western Australia—lupins—were hoping to devise a scheme whereby they could have the freedom to choose between both marketing systems. No doubt some will take sides in this instance, but I urge members of this House at least to give it an opportunity, have a good look at it, and see whether we can make it work. We can put men on the moon, so surely we can do anything else we want to do.

I move on to some other problems which affect the rural industry. I keep mentioning the rural industry because that is where the greatest part of the wealth of this country comes from. Rural people have the heaviest end of the log to lift and the least number of people to lift it, and someone has to speak for them. Unfortunately, many of the problems about which people tell me as I move through the electorate cannot easily be solved by the State Government because they emanate from policies which are set in Canberra. I do not wish or intend to point the bone at anybody because I believe we here have to do some serious soul-searching; but I must say some of the policies frighten me a little.

It must be remembered that I speak as a farmer. The joys and sorrows that farmers know are my familiar friends because I have experienced them. There is an old bush saying that one does not know what it is to be stung by a bull ant until one has been stung, and when it comes to farming I believe I have been stung by most of the problems. With my

wife, I pitched a tent, and we carved our farm from the virgin bush, so I know what the problems are. I am proud of my family and of the family farm, of which they are also proud. It is not easy to do these things and when obstacles are put in our way the task is made so much more difficult.

I firmly believe that the land we develop does not really belong to us; it is only on loan to us for as long as we live. It is a priceless heritage which must be handed on to those who follow. We should hand it on in at least as good condition as it was in when we took it over, and probably in better condition; but under some of the policies of today that is not possible.

The encroachment of salt over our country is something we must come to grips with. One of the easiest cures for this problem is to fence off the affected areas. This is one of the methods we all used. I said "used", in the past tense, because the taxation concessions for most kinds of fencing have been taken away from us and the incentive is gone. This country of ours, Australia, is to be handed on to future generations, and it is our responsibility, and the responsibility of those elected to all Houses of Parliament, to ensure it is handed on in a better condition than it was in when we took it over.

Another problem which emanates from Canberra is, of course, that of water. We know that Australia can be practically described as a waterless continent. Water is a priceless commodity that should be conserved at all costs. Every drop of water that falls on our land should be conserved; yet here we find again that the incentives we had to conserve water have been taken away from us.

I am not pleading this case on behalf of the farmers. They will survive because they have the courage to survive; they would not be there if they did not. I am speaking on behalf of the people of Australia, because they are the ones who will benefit most from policies which are streamlined to help overcome this serious matter of the conservation of water in this semi-waterless continent.

There is another problem which faces Australia, and it faces us all because it discriminates once more against the primary producer. I refer to the problem of high taxation. As you know, Sir, under the system we have if one has a good season one knows that high taxation will follow like a tidal wave; and if that good season is followed up by a bad season one is in a serious situation indeed. That is why I commend the suggestion that a system, such as the use of taxation prosperity bonds, be implemented to alleviate this problem.

Probate, of course, is a hardy annual, but I must mention it because it is true that it is an iniquitous tax which discriminates against those who would build, and develop and I do not believe they should be discriminated against. If I were a bricklayer or a carpenter my tools of trade would be a trowel and plumb-bob, or a hammer and saw; and I could earn a living from those tools as a tradesman. I am not a bricklayer, nor am I a carpenter; I am a farmer and my tools of trade are my farm. The money that I earned from farms by myself and others is a contribution to the wealth of this nation. One of the things I would ask on behalf of all primary producers is that they be given the opportunity to an equal share at the table of the wealth of the nation.

The farmers are a very conscientious group: they have never failed us yet. Industrial strife is unknown in this industry, and it is the wish of those in the industry to produce for themselves and for the world at large. This is an honourable task for anyone to undertake.

I intend to mention now the superphosphate subsidy which has been taken away from the farmers. Many people say that this subsidy was not in the interests of Australia. I believe it was. Food is one of the fundamentals of life and it is the responsibility of us all to ensure that food is produced as cheaply as possible for the masses. It is not the farmer who will benefit mainly from a super subsidy; and this can be proved, but I do not believe it is my responsibility to prove it at this time. It is the people themselves who in paying more for their food will pay the price for this thoughtless deed.

The price of petrol in rural and country areas is another problem with which we are faced today. This problem was foisted upon us recently, and I have already explained that some people merely to visit their doctor must travel 70 miles. I am sure the removal of this concession must add to their costs and their concern. Again, hospitals are facilities that we must have and I hope we can encourage the development of regional hospitals in rural areas.

My concern in outlining these policies which are directed at the rural industries is that, to coin an old phrase, I am afraid that if these policies are persisted with we might find we will strangle the goose that lays the golden egg. That would be a tragedy for us all.

We also have other problems facing us; they are the problems of the States and individual State rights, and the problems of local government. The problems of local government worry those in rural areas because we rely so heavily upon that form of Government. I would say here

and now—and I make no excuse for saying it—that I firmly believe the course towards centralist policies was charted long ago, but it is only recently that the engines have been put to full speed ahead.

The Constitution as it is framed is there to preserve the rights of the States. I believe it was designed by very wise people for a very real purpose, and it must be defended just as strenuously as our individual rights must be defended.

Something that worries me—and we see this not only in the country, but right throughout Australia now—is the tendency to inculcate in people the notion that they should receive rewards for laziness. I refer, of course, to handouts to those who are not prepared to work. Work is one of the necessities of life; it is a healthy occupation and it is not a dirty word. I believe that work and the rewards which come from honest work must be encouraged by us all.

A problem worrying all of us in the rural areas at present is the division that seems to be encouraged between people who live in urban areas and those who live in country areas. I would say that the leader of any nation has a tremendous responsibility to keep together the people of that nation and not to divide them. I just question whether this is always being done because we hear phrases such as "never had it so good" directed at farmers.

I would conclude so far as farmers are concerned on this note: Whilst it may be true that this year we experienced a summer of optimism we face now the winter of despair.

When I speak of the problems brought about by the policies foisted upon us I think of inflation. This problem is moving across Australia like an insidious cancerous growth. Have we honestly tried to come to grips with it? Have we all dedicated ourselves to its destruction or to the halting of it? I doubt that we have. I am sure that with the other new members of Parliament, I enter this political arena at a moment of critical importance in our history. I would remind you, Sir, that some such moments have in the past been the prelude to disaster; but they can also be the turning point towards prosperity.

It behoves us to co-operate to do this for the country we love so much. Dunkirk, when those brave little boats went out and their occupants faced and defeated almost impossible odds, was for Britain such a moment; but of no more paramount importance to us than the critical stage we have reached today. We stand at the crossroads and I believe that it is we, the elected representatives of the people, who will always have the responsibility to show leadership, to show co-operation, and to guide the people away from this terrible stage that we are reaching.

The moral fibre of our nation is decaying. We are faced with pollution of two kinds. We know of the pollution of the environment, but there is another one far worse, I believe; that is, the pollution of our minds. We see the filth that is presented to us and we seem to be powerless before it. I believe we must take a stand and make people realise where their responsibility really lies, and I am sure we will do it. As I have said, we are the people who are looked upon to give this lead in society.

We will have to compromise with each other a great deal; we will have to be prepared to exchange servility for fortitude; to exchange our buck-passing tactics for responsibility; and to exchange our vote-catching efforts for statesmanship. The challenge is ours; are we big enough to take it up? I would hope that we are and I am sure if we do take it up then, by the examples we set, the dignity of our democratic parliamentary system will be lifted and preserved. To do this it will be necessary for us all to be honest with ourselves. I put this thought forward because it was said to me many times as I moved throughout my electorate during my election campaign. People are a little tired of the manner in which those who represent them sometimes behave. It was said to me on more than one occasion: "Please be honest with yourself because if you cannot be honest with yourself you most certainly will not be honest with anybody else."

I suggest that spirit was best summed up by Shakespeare in his inimitable way in the concluding passage of the message of Polonius to his son: "This above all: to thine own self be true; And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man."

I thank you, Mr Speaker, and members of the House for listening to me on the first and only occasion I suppose that I will enjoy immunity from being heckled. I have been told that this House tames lions. That does not worry me very much because I am not a lion. But I do hope that members here do not pull tail feathers, because I am a "Crane"!

I sincerely meant what I said about my service to my electorate and about the responsibility I believe we in this Parliament all have when we undertake the duties that are before us today.

MR SHALDERS (Murray) [5.27 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, before speaking to the motion moved by the member for Wellington, may I firstly add my congratulations to those of other members to her on her election as the only lady member of the Legislative Assembly in the Twenty-eighth Parliament. May I also, Sir, add to the many congratulations you have received

my own congratulations to you on your election to such high office in this Parliament. I am not so young that I do not remember you in your time as a sportsman in this State. I believe you were well respected by your opponents for your fairness and good sportsmanship, and I think members of both sides of the House know that you will bring the same fairness to the office you now hold.

I also congratulate the Premier and Ministers of the Government on his election and their appointment to those positions. I congratulate also the Leader of the Opposition and his deputy on their appointments.

I think it is appropriate at this time to thank members from both sides of the House—and I do so sincerely—for the encouragement and assistance they have given me since I was elected. They have all gone out of their way to make this trying time one of easiness for me. It is also appropriate to thank the officers, the attendants, and the staff of this House for the help they have given me.

Last, but not least, I wish to thank the electors and the people of the Murray electorate for the confidence and faith they have shown in me by electing me to represent them. I am conscious that I represent the electorate of a former Premier of Western Australia. I refer to the late Hon. Sir Ross McLarty who served Murray for a period of 32 years and during that time earned the respect of all members.

I wish also to pay tribute to the last member for Murray (Mr Ewart Runciman), who retired at the end of the Twenty-seventh Parliament. He served his electorate and his State with honour and dignity.

The tributes that were paid to him at a function held in the electorate upon his retirement reflected the esteem and respect in which he was held by those he represented.

Turning now to affairs concerning my electorate, I wish to say, firstly, that I regard it a privilege to represent such an electorate as Murray. Because it has such a diversity of natural attractions and a variety of industries and occupations I will be afforded the opportunity to become vitally interested in, and play a part in, much of the business that will come before this House during this Parliament.

Initially I would like to mention the waters of the Peel Inlet and its tributaries. These waters are a tremendous natural asset and, in a number of ways, are almost unique. However, currently they are at risk, mainly due to an increase in the growth of weed and algae. There is a possibility that they will be subjected still further, in the future, to other forms of pollution. The reason for this increased

growth of weed and algae is not clear and has not been well established. It is possible, however, that the reduction in the water flow over the years is partly responsible for the problem, together with the increased amounts of fertiliser that are being carried into the estuary as a result of the run-off of water from the various farms in the area. This may have contributed to the problem. Whatever the causes are, the problem is creating a good deal of annoyance and causing a great deal of trouble to the professional fishermen who earn their livelihood from these waters.

Apart from the fishermen, the thousands of local residents and tourists who visit the area to indulge in the many leisure activities that are offering there, such as fishing, crabbing, prawning, and boating, are subjected to a great deal of inconvenience. The problem is also inconveniencing those who have homes bordering the area, because when this weed begins to rot the stench that emanates from it has to be smelt to be believed.

I think the former Minister for Health will agree with me when I say that because he visited the area just prior to the election. I am sure that brought the problem home to him in view of the rapid action he took at the time in an endeavour to solve it.

I wish to compliment the Peel Inlet Advisory Committee for its work in the past and in the present. The members of that committee have performed a great service and have already achieved much. I welcome the commitment by the Premier, to create a statutory body, with its own powers, to exercise control over these waters and associated areas.

Mandurah is also the centre for boats that are used by fishermen engaged in the rock lobster industry. In the past these fishermen have been faced with a problem in trying to gain exit through the entrance to the estuary so that they may engage in deep sea fishing. That problem has now been largely overcome by the building of training walls to prevent the building up of the sand. However I believe it is possible that the provision of these training walls have created another problem; that of erosion.

I am sure every member of this Parliament, and indeed every person in Western Australia, is familiar with the problem of erosion now being experienced by those people residing in the Ormsby Terrace area of my electorate. I can assure the House that I am concerned about this problem. I know the Government is concerned and I have made the Government aware of the concern of the people in my electorate. The Mandurah Shire Council is also concerned about the erosion, and again I have made the Government aware of the concern that is felt by that council.

At this point I congratulate the Government on its initiative in extending its understanding and assistance to the shire. Previously the shire was offered a subsidy of \$2 to \$1, but the Government has now increased its offer to \$3 to \$1. I believe this shows that the Government fully realises that shire councils have difficulties with their finances at the moment. The local shire is currently considering the Government's proposal and I hope its determinations will lead to the start of some operations that will afford relief in the near future.

I also applaud Cabinet's approval of the formation of a subcommittee to deal with erosion problems in all areas of the State. I hope that that committee will meet with all the success possible.

I turn now to mention another natural asset of my electorate; that is, the large tract of State forest in the Dwellingup area. Unfortunately the dieback disease has already claimed 40 000 acres of forest. This is causing grave concern. At present experiments and research are being carried out on reforestation, but to date only a small area of approximately 200 to 300 acres of State forest has been replanted with trees. It is hoped that successful replanting of alternative species with commercial value can be accelerated. I say "commercial value" because the livelihood of those employed in the timber industry at Dwellingup is at stake.

Although, to me, Dwellingup is probably the most politically unkind area in my electorate, I assure the House and the people residing there that I intend to work unstintingly in an endeavour to achieve some form of stability for the timber industry and to assure the people employed in it that their livelihood will not be placed in jeopardy.

Within the Murray electorate there is a great diversity of primary industries. Dairy farming is carried on from North Dandalup, in the north of the electorate, through to Pinjarra, Coolup, Waroona, and Wagerup at the southern extremity of the electorate. Those engaged in the dairying industry are hoping that the recently created single dairy authority will cater better for their interests than the bodies it replaced. Those people will be watching with great interest and concern the early period of the operation of that authority.

The production of beef and sheep, pig raising, and fruit growing are other primary industries carried on in my electorate. All those engaged in these industries are concerned at the rising cost of items which are necessary for their industry. I could mention superphosphate, fuel, and labour as only a few of the items which have rapidly risen in price in the past few months. In contrast to that, in some cases, the returns are diminishing. This is causing a drastic state of affairs and

the people involved are looking to the Government for ways and means to alleviate these difficulties and they are seeking advice so that they may find ways to achieve better and more efficient marketing—an aspect which is so important in these days of intense competition.

Members are no doubt aware of the bauxite mining operations of Alcoa near Pinjarra. The establishment of this project, with its expansion, and its daily operations, have led to a population explosion in Mandurah and the development of a satellite town at Carcoola, or North Pinjarra. The company is well aware of its responsibility to protect the environment wherever possible and it is making strenuous efforts to replant trees in those areas affected by mining operations. To date, its mining operations have been carried on largely in forest areas which have been affected by the dieback disease, so any successful reforestation can only be to the long term benefit of the area.

The company has also accepted the responsibility of participating in community affairs by making generous donations to local organisations and, indeed to the Government. I can well recall the former Minister for Health in the Tonkin Government congratulating the company on its participation in, and its contributions to, the extensions to the Pinjarra Hospital by meeting over half the cost of \$500 000.

I hope that smaller industries will be encouraged and offered incentives to decentralise and that some of them might see fit to select my area as a centre or sub-centre for their operations.

The people in the Murray electorate work in the many and varied industries I have described. They are also employed in the shops, offices, businesses, and schools that are necessary to meet the daily wants of the residents. I wish to make special mention of the large number of pensioners residing in my electorate. Being on a fixed income, in today's world of rising costs for every commodity, they have been hard hit. I have already made representations to both the Premier, as Treasurer of this State, and to the Federal Treasurer, to try to provide some relief for these people. In particular I have called upon the Federal Treasurer to provide greater concessions in respect of telephones which I consider to be vital and necessary to these people who are more likely to be in need of essential medical and hospital services than perhaps citizens of other age groups, because they are less able to avail themselves of alternative methods to contact those services.

I have suggested to the Federal Treasurer that he might consider reducing the telephone installation and rental costs to pensioners. I have also suggested that he may consider allowing pensioners to pay the initial connection fee for a telephone

installation, and the first rental charge, on a fortnightly basis. This would overcome the difficulty of pensioners having to find such a large amount in a lump sum.

I am also keenly aware of the impact on pensioners of the proposed increases of vehicle registration fees which have been announced by the Government, and indeed of the impact of the increased cost of commodities that have also been announced. Nevertheless, I think the Leader of the Opposition would be less than frank if he did not admit that had his Government been re-elected it would have had to take many of the same measures that have been taken by my Government to date.

I suggest, and I am in the process of communicating my suggestion to the Federal Treasurer, that in view of the tremendous increase in revenue collected by that Government through the medium of income tax, that it offer the State Government an amount equivalent to that which would be lost to the State Government if it waived vehicle registration fees to pensioners, and, at the same time, provide matching money to the State Government to meet the amount it would have collected from pensioners in vehicle license fees.

I hope, during the time I have been speaking, I have communicated to the members of this House some of the background of the natural attractions, industries, problems, and hopes existing among the people in my electorate at the time of my election to this House as their representative.

I thank members for their indulgence on the occasion of this, my first speech in the House, and conclude with the hope that I may emulate my predecessors in the service given by them as representatives of the Murray electorate.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Moller.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [5.46 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Speaker, if I may, with your indulgence, I would like to explain that in view of the important Premiers' Conference called for next Tuesday to consider ways and means of combating inflation at the national level, both the Deputy Premier and myself will not be present in the Chamber on that day.

I have explained the position to the Leader of the Opposition. The Minister for Works, Water Supplies, and Housing will be Acting Premier in our absence.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.47 p.m.