

MR. MARSHALL (Wembley Beaches) [3.17]: Speaking to this Address-in-reply debate, it is not my intention, of course, to deal with every aspect of legislation that is proposed in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech. First of all, I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the electors of Wembley Beaches for giving me the privilege of representing them in Parliament. The previous member, of course, through an alteration in the electoral boundaries of Wembley Beaches, did not contest the seat and he is no longer with us. I say in this House that over the years that Mr. Nimmo represented Wembley Beaches he was held in very high esteem. As I am here to represent every elector, irrespective of political affiliations, I hope and trust that I shall be able to retain that confidence entrusted in me.

I also appreciate the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition and his solicitation of the new members in this House, and also his sincerity in drawing our attention to the importance of taking some notice of the financial affairs which have to be administered by the Government from time to time. It is very interesting coming from one who has had very long and practical experience in seeing the way that Government money has been expended on the development of this State and the number of projects that have been completed over a good many years. Since 1924, the Governments of which the Leader of the Opposition was a member, held office in this State for approximately nine years.

It would appear, therefore, that Labour Governments have been responsible for the development that has taken place since that time, and that most, if not all, of the many large projects that have been carried out in the State have been carried out by Labour Administrations. So, some credit must be given to the members of the Labour Governments that have given considerable thought to ensuring that the development of this State has been in the best interests of the people. I can quite understand that when the Leader of the Opposition looks on this side of the House, it is only natural that he would not find any wizard of finance because he realises they are all sitting on that side of the House!

Hon. D. Brand: The member for Leederville would not like to hear you say that.

Mr. MARSHALL: I appreciate his sincerity in drawing our attention to the matter.

I intend to speak upon one or two questions that concern my own electorate particularly. I have not got the railway troubles and a few of the other problems that some members have, but I draw attention to one matter that is of great interest not only to the people of my own electorate, but also to a great number of

others who live in Western Australia, and that is the matter of our ocean beaches. There are at least seven of them that come within the boundaries of the Wembley Beaches electorate. It must be generally recognised that they are patronised by hundreds of thousands of people, and they provide one of the cheapest and most healthful forms of recreation possible.

The many hundreds of thousands of people who visit the beaches put a constant strain on the local authorities and the people of those districts who attempt to provide the necessary amenities and facilities that should be there. I feel that some assistance should be given, and I ask the Government to give consideration to the matter and possibly exercise some control by the formation of a board of control to act in close liaison with the local authorities to see that the necessary amenities are provided for people, both from the metropolitan and country areas, who visit the beaches during the long summer months.

Another important matter is in regard to the regional and town planning envisaged for the future, particularly in the metropolitan area. I hope the Government will take into account the fact that it will be necessary to provide good access roads to these beaches. I realise, of course, the responsibility of the local authorities in this regard. They are doing all they possibly can with the financial resources available to them. I have lived on the main Scarborough Beach-rd. for the past six years, and during that time the local population has increased threefold. With the increasing numbers of people from the metropolitan and country areas who patronise these beaches, the road carries one of the heaviest volumes of traffic in the metropolitan area during the summer months.

I think some consideration should be given to this fact because it is quite beyond the resources of the local authority to put the road into such a condition that it is safe to carry that amount of traffic. I hope the Government will take that matter into account when it is planning new roads for the metropolitan area. The West Coast Highway is a road that should be widened over the whole length of the coast. According to the regional plan, it is proposed to run a road north at some considerable distance from the coast. I see no reason why the Government should not accept the responsibility of widening the West Coast Highway accordingly.

As far as schools and the education of our children are concerned, that is a problem which arises in most electorates, but in the thickly populated area that has been built up in Scarborough we find that considerable overcrowding takes place. As a consequence, we expect that the Government, after taking into consideration all the information available to it, will go ahead

and build not only additional classrooms for the existing schools, but an additional school in the South Scarborough area where we know full well that one is required.

The Trades and Advisory Council has been established by the Government, and I feel sure, particularly because of the manner in which it is constituted, that it will render valuable service in promoting greater local production and consumption of goods; and that it will assist materially in improving the financial stability of this State. Every effort has to be made to reduce our adverse trade balance and to put our own people back into employment in Western Australia. Encouragement must be given to people wishing to take up land and to settle on the arable areas available.

Some years ago in England, a Labour Government secured the passage of the Land Control Act when it was found necessary to step-up the production of foodstuffs which were vital to the economy of Great Britain at the time. Under that Act any person holding arable land and not using it to the fullest advantage, could be instructed to lease or sell it. It is interesting to note that the Conservative Government is still implementing that legislation. In this State, too, we have many large areas of land that could be utilised to a lot better advantage; and I think it is nearly time that some of these people were told to get on with it, or get out.

The establishment of new industries is desired to further increase our industrial capacity, and more emphasis must be given to employer-employee relationships. As one who has worked in industry for a good many years, and who has taken a considerable part in the activities of industrial organisations, I suppose I can speak with some knowledge of the problems associated with employer-employee relationships. I point out that a larger degree of efficiency in management in industry would make a very valuable contribution in overcoming some of our difficulties.

In our great industrial organisations we can find just as many sincere men and women, imbued with a strong sense of responsibility and an understanding of human values, as we can among those with a more academic outlook, trained in our universities. It is no use dealing with human relations in a theoretical manner and talking a lot of abstract nonsense. Let us get down to fundamentals and essentials so that everyone can do his job and play his part as is expected in a civilised community.

Unfortunately we have developed some very bad habits, among which is an inclination to allow others to share responsibilities that we should ourselves be willing to shoulder. We need leadership in every branch of our national life, politics,

business, labour, the Press, the church and education, but we must also be prepared to stand on our own feet. To illustrate my point in this regard I will quote an article which appeared in the "Scarborough District News" of the 19th July, 1956. It is as follows:—

Your Own Two Feet.

Drawings of the casual Australian show him loose limbed, cigarette rolling—and leaning on the nearest post. We find them amusing because we like to think of ourselves as appearing this way on the outside, whilst beneath this offhand exterior lurk our real characteristics—sturdy independence and latent strength.

Yet, just how independent are we? How many of us are capable of making a decision quickly and clearly, and then standing or falling by it? How many of us carry out the plans we have made; and if we do, how many of us have done it alone? Aren't we rather inclined to rush about seeking advice, asking help and in the final stages, either not doing it at all, or getting someone else to do it for us?

Fundamentally, we seem to have developed into a nation of leaners, and here in our own district we have a proportionately large number of them. The worth-while efforts of a few people are constantly being "leg-roped" by the majority, and much of their work is not creative at all, but rather a superman effort to "carry" those who are too lazy to make any effort.

Take for example the honorary secretaries of our many district associations. How much of their time is spent in matters which are not their responsibility at all? The clause in their Constitution which applies to them, lays down in precise terms their particular duties, and it most certainly does not imply that they should be dashing about organising raffles, social functions, bazaars or soothing the ruffled feelings of their fellow members. Yet they do all this and more, simply because no one else will bother. Small wonder that the secretary's job is hard to fill. Their efficiency and enthusiasm is strangled from the moment they take office.

Another very convenient leaning post in any community is the parliamentary representative. From the moment he is proclaimed at the polls his life becomes an agony of service. His telephone runs wild, his wife becomes a permanent attachment to its receiver, and he himself is a human rock against which the waves of demand and request beat incessantly. He walks a constant tightrope endeavouring to please his

constituents and at the same time perform the duties for which he was primarily elected. Frequently, when after a great deal of trouble he does manage to fulfil a request, he is scarcely thanked, and one job completed, leaves room for another leaner to move in.

No, truthfully speaking, nearly all of us are leaners in one form or another; we rely heavily on our parents, our ministers of religion, our teachers, our politicians—in fact, on anyone whom we think will relieve us of the necessity of thinking and acting for ourselves. But most of all, as a community, we lean heavily on our district associations, expecting them, almost unaided, to perform miracles of road improvement, hall building, district expansion, and community development.

It would be nice to see more of our residents standing firmly on their own two feet.

I think that sums up the position very well, and I will now refer briefly to some of the legislation mentioned in His Excellency's Speech, and particularly that with regard to workers' compensation. My colleague, the member for Kalgoorlie, quite ably outlined certain phases of that legislation concerning compensation for miners' diseases under the Third Schedule of the Workers' Compensation Act, but I can never understand—and never will—why, under that Act, when a worker becomes incapacitated by accident, he should suffer a substantial reduction in his normal income, and particularly the worker with family responsibilities.

Workers, I maintain and have always maintained, are entitled in such circumstances to a continuation of the standard of living that they previously enjoyed, and I hope some recognition of that principle will be found in the amending legislation when it comes before the House. Improvements to the Factories and Shops Act are suggested and they should assist materially in minimising the risk of accidents occurring in industry.

The restriction of trading hours under the Factories and Shops Act imposes unnecessary restraint on the activities of many small business people, and particularly those in various areas catering for tourists and visitors who may require goods outside the existing permissible trading hours. I consider that consideration should be given to amending the Act so as to provide that where such contingencies arise, it will be possible, in the circumstances I have outlined, for such people to obtain the goods they require.

In the industrial field today we find great changes contemplated in industry. Much has been said about automation and there is quite a lot that should not be said. One feature of the application of automation to industry is that it will

increase the demand for highly skilled technicians and skilled workers. Of course, that creates a demand for technical training facilities to be provided. Mechanical handling is nothing new as that has been evolved with the progress of civilisation. In our early history, the economic conditions under which many great projects were carried out—mostly by unskilled slave labour—were such that the need for mechanical handling did not arise.

But with the spread of civilisation, and a general raising of the standard of our living, a growing demand for consumer goods, and with the advent of power driven plant and the consumption of vast quantities of raw materials, a host of new handling problems have to be coped with. To do this an entirely new industry has come into being the object of which is to design and produce mechanical handling equipment. We can only expect that by the gradual change, brought about by the introduction of this type of machinery, there will be a considerable reduction in the manual labour that has been used in the past. But we must also expect that with its introduction there will evolve a much higher standard of living than is at present being enjoyed.

With our increasing population we must make every endeavour, in addition to building the technical schools that we require, to construct primary schools and high schools wherever the necessity arises. With a continuation of the housing programme, and the building of schools and hospitals the necessary impetus will be given to the building trade, and this in turn will considerably relieve the present problem of unemployment.

I notice that the Government proposes to build several new hospitals and I wish to draw attention to the question of staffing these institutions. It has been suggested that we should endeavour to obtain from overseas several hundred nurses to staff the hospitals which are already in existence. Therefore it is quite evident that if we intend to build more hospitals we will accentuate the problem of getting trained hospital staff.

In that regard, I would also like to mention the present position with respect to the training of nurses. We encourage our young girls to enter the nursing profession, an appropriate curriculum is laid down and these girls are required to reach a certain standard. However, I think that question could be investigated because I find—I am particularly interested in this subject because I have some personal interest in it—that these trainee nurses are expected to study while doing their work and if they are on annual leave or are away sick, that time is not counted in their period of training. I realise, of course, that they must become proficient and that they have to pass the necessary examinations; but in addition to studying to become fully qualified, they are also performing a job of work.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.3 p.m.

Mr. MARSHALL: Prior to the suspension, I was making some reference to the essential need for paying some attention to the staffing of our hospitals which are at present in existence and of those that we expect to build. I was referring to the system of training our young people, and I consider that some consideration must be given to ensure that every facility is provided for them in the way of accommodation and so on. Following on the points I raised, I have also ascertained that when taking time off from their ordinary duties to attend lectures, I understand that that time is debited against the period which would enable them to qualify and so obtain an increase in salary, which would normally be given to anybody else working in industry after the completion of a certain specified time.

I feel there is some injustice created by that fact. These trainee nurses are performing good service in the duties they carry out in the normal course of their work in our hospitals, and it is difficult for me to associate their remuneration with their qualifications, because I consider they should be paid in accordance with the length of service they give, particularly when one considers the period of time they put in. I appreciate, as I said before, that they must have a complete and proper training before they become qualified nurses. I wanted to raise that point, however, and I hope the Minister will take all I have said into consideration, particularly bearing in mind the fact that we are endeavouring to encourage girls and women from overseas to come here and help us out of the difficulties we experience in obtaining our own people in sufficient numbers to undertake training as nurses. I will not delay the House much longer and I would like to thank members for the courtesy they have extended to me in the course of my speech.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [4.7]: I am pleased to have the honour of representing the Narrogin electorate following the retirement of Hon. Victor Doney, who served that electorate faithfully and well for such a large number of years. I hope to serve it just as faithfully and for just as many years. I would like at this point to express my thanks to members and the staff for the help, consideration and advice that has already been given to me. No doubt I will need plenty more. I do appreciate what has been done.

It is my duty to represent the entire electorate and I hope to do so justly and fairly in relation to the whole constituency. Quite apart from representing the electorate itself, I hope I shall truly represent this State. We are part of the great British Commonwealth of Nations and I think we must have a vision big enough to embrace that fact. I realise we have a tremendous responsibility for the development of this State and I think we

should set about it in a way that will bring credit to us and prosperity to Western Australia.

Fairly recently we have had set up a metropolitan regional plan. This seems to provide a splendid basis for the present and for the future. No plan such as this could be 100 per cent. correct, but I do believe that a plan which envisages what should be done in the future is worth a considerable amount, even if it is not 100 per cent. correct, because without a plan we would have no hope of advancing along the lines which we expect, and at the same time to have co-ordination.

I suggest that following upon the metropolitan regional plan, a regional plan for the country should be formulated. If we are to develop this State as a whole, it is essential to have some planning for every region so that we can put our resources to the best use, in the best place and by the best possible route. Unless these things are planned we will not get too far. I realise this is a long-term project and cannot be accomplished hastily. I suggest that in the meantime we should implement this idea to some extent by the development of rural industries.

By that I mean the processing of primary products at, or as near as possible to, the place of production. We have an abundance of good quality primary products, but we do not process enough to provide sufficient employment and to be able to export the finished goods in any great quantity. That is an important matter and it is time we dealt with it. With the good quality products we grow, we ought to find many markets. There is the processing of grain, the treatment of timbers, and the use of waste timber, colossal quantities of which are burnt. There is the use of the products from the mallet forest, the extraction of tannin and the use of the timber, the processing and canning of meat and carcasses, the treatment of hides, etc.

They are all associated with our primary production and it is high time we gave a good deal of consideration to planning rural industries near where the products are grown. When we look at the position we find that far from encouraging country processing, the discrimination in railway freights discourages any action along those lines. Very often the processed article bears two freights. In the case of wheat, for instance, there is freight to the mill, then the processed wheat bears a higher freight when it is railed out from the mill.

So we see that any product consigned to the port or city has to bear two freights when it comes from a country mill. In any case the freight is higher on a processed article than on the original primary product although they may have the same weight when carried by the railways. Because of this discrimination in rates the