

Mr. Wild: Is there anything wrong with it? It is being done now to some degree, isn't it?

Mr. TONKIN: Finally, I desire to say that I consider it most unusual for the Premier's Department to give a letter of introduction to a private citizen going overseas. The only conclusion I can draw is that it was a pay-off to John Alver for assistance he had rendered the party during the election campaign.

Mr. Brand: Is it unusual for the Premier's Department to give a letter to a private citizen?

Mr. TONKIN: Yes.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Do you really believe what you just said?

Mr. TONKIN: Of course I do! If Bill Smith or Tom Jones applied to the Premier's Department tomorrow for a letter of introduction to the Agent-General, or somebody else in England, do members think he would get it?

Mr. Court: If a person can demonstrate that he is of good character the Prime Minister's Department will do it.

Mr. TONKIN: The recommendation for this letter of introduction came from the Chief Secretary's Department, which is closely allied to the Department of Public Health; and the question of our sea beaches was decidedly a health matter. Mr. John Alver went out of his way to draw attention to an effluent pipe, which *The West Australian* thought ought to be fixed up and which this Government has decided to do nothing about.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Why should you assume there is any link between that incident and my recommendation that a letter should be given to Mr. Alver?

Mr. TONKIN: Why did you recommend that Mr. Alver should get a letter of recommendation, and not Bill Smith?

The SPEAKER: The hon. member has another five minutes to go.

Mr. Bovell: I have given a letter of introduction to the Agent-General. That is what he is there for.

Mr. Brand: I propose to continue recommending the giving of letters of introduction to prominent citizens.

Mr. TONKIN: The remarkable thing is that this break in the effluent pipe, which gave rise to a special article in the *Week-end Mail* headed "The Tragedy of our Sewerage Surf", was there during every day, week, and month of the McLarty-Watts Government term of office, because the break has been there since the pipe was put into the water. It is irreparable, and *The West Australian* knew it was irreparable, but it blamed our Government for not repairing it.

I asked a question the other day whether this Government is going to repair the break, or whether it intends to make any alterations to the plans of the previous Government for the sewage treatment plant. The answer was "No". So the situation about which *The West Australian* complains so much, and over which it made so much political capital, is to remain precisely as it was. There is to be no repair of the effluent pipe, and no change in the lay-out of the sewage treatment plant.

How can we expect the people of Western Australia during election time to have the issues fairly presented to them? It is a wonder that the Labour Party ever gets into office, considering what it has to put up with from the powerful Press and members opposite.

This is an indication of what we can expect: The Minister for Health recommended that a site, which was selected years ago for a school in Mosman Park, should be used partially for a private golf course, and the Government agreed to it.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There was a change of site.

Mr. TONKIN: Here was a special site, selected by the site committee to be used in that way. My opinion is—although the Attorney-General gave us different information today, and I am not disputing that he can be right—that the cost will be greater when building on the other block. A builder told me so.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The site is equally good, or even better.

Mr. TONKIN: The proposal is to take a portion of the site, specially selected for a school,—

Mr. Hawke: And not to be used for public purposes.

Mr. TONKIN: —and allow some people in the district to use it for a private golf course. It would not be so bad if it was to be a public golf course.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It would be open to the public.

Mr. TONKIN: If that is the sort of treatment we can expect from the Government, the sky appears to be the limit.

MR. CRAIG (Toodyay) [6.5]: May I first of all offer you, Mr. Speaker, my sincere congratulations on your election as Speaker. I felt honoured in being elected to represent the Toodyay electorate. I trust that my actions in future will justify the confidence that has been placed in me, and that I shall fulfil the requirements of the electorate and the electors. I realise full well the responsibility involved. I have in mind the example set by my predecessor, Mr. Lindsay Thorn, who served this electorate for a long term of years. I trust that I can live up to the standards set by him.

I want to express my appreciation to all members of this Assembly and to the staff of Parliament for welcoming me into their ranks. I shall reciprocate that kindness in future.

The electorate I represent, being a rural one, is engaged mainly in primary production. Various forms of primary production are undertaken in the electorate—such as wool, wheat, general farming, market gardening, orcharding, and even fishing. Practically the whole of the commercial vineyards of this State are situated in the Swan Valley, which forms an important part of my electorate.

I think the first settlement in this State took place in part of my electorate. I know that settlement in Toodyay took place within two years of this State being established as a colony. I venture to say that the living conditions experienced by some of the people in some parts of my electorate are just as primitive as they were a century ago. There has been considerable development south of the metropolitan area in the provision of water conservation schemes, irrigation, large electricity undertakings, modern transport, hospitals, and so on—in fact, everything that is conducive towards bringing a standard of living to those country districts, comparable with that enjoyed in the metropolitan area.

I regret that the same state of development, or the same rate of progress in the provision of those facilities northwards of the metropolitan area—which falls in the Toodyay electorate—is not taking place. Some members will be surprised to learn that an important district like the Swan Valley, which supports some 600 to 700 families, and which is only five miles from the metropolitan area, has no water scheme. That condition should not be permitted to continue any longer.

It was only a few years ago when negotiations were in train between the State Government and the Commonwealth Government for extending the water main through Swan Valley to Pearce, to serve the Air Force station. For some reason or other those negotiations fell through. The result was that the Commonwealth Government decided to seek its own water supply per medium of sub-artesian bores. One bore was sunk with unsuccessful result; the second bore met a similar fate; and I am led to believe that the third one will receive the same fate as its predecessors.

I am informed that the cost involved in the sinking of these bores approximates the estimated cost for laying the pipeline to Pearce in the first place. If that pipeline had been laid, the people of Swan Valley would have been provided with a water supply, and there would be a possibility for extending the scheme further through the Chittering Valley. I hope it is still not too late to do something along

those lines, and so help the residents in that area to overcome the difficulty they are now experiencing through lack of a water supply for domestic purposes.

The lack of amenities in that area extends also to electricity. The electricity supply has only been extended virtually to the fringe of the electorate. Only in the last two months has power been made available to the Bullsbrook district. This again was done to meet the requirements of the Air Force station at Pearce. The private consumers are still waiting patiently for the completion of the survey undertaken by the Commission as to which properties are acceptable for connection to the electricity supply. Why this survey was not made 12 months ago I do not know. It seems to be the policy of the Commission, in the matter of extension of electricity supply to any particular area close to existing transmission lines, not to make any extension unless the consumption warrants the costs of those extensions.

That may be a sound policy on the part of the Commission to justify costs, but I think such a policy hampers development in this State. I would appeal to the Minister to give serious consideration to meeting the many requests that have come forward. I have received dozens of them; and many of the residents have even offered to subscribe voluntarily to meet the cost of extensions, or to help manually. For some unknown reason those people do not seem to be able to get the facilities they require.

I would like to touch briefly on educational matters. The condition and the standard of the schools in my electorate are reasonably good, except for a shortage of classrooms in some instances, and septic tanks in others. I am given to understand from what I have read that improvements in this connection will be undertaken as soon as finance becomes available.

While dealing with finance, I take the opportunity of expressing my opinion on the necessity to assist non-governmental schools. I know that my action on this matter is one for consideration by the Commonwealth Government. I hope that the Premier and the Government will give consideration to putting up a case to the Commonwealth, if they think on the same lines as I do. I often wonder what the burden would be on our State finances if the non-governmental schools were not in existence. There are a number of such schools in my electorate, and they provide a high standard of education which meets the wants of the district.

Whilst on the subject of finance I must express appreciation for the work being done by the parents and citizens' associations in education. They do a sterling job. I hope every consideration and assistance will be given in the furtherance of their work.

I now refer to transport and the set-up of the Transport Board. I believe the board was formed principally, not for the co-ordination of road transport, but for the protection of the railway system. Areas in my electorate which are not served by railways concern me. In the Toodyay electorate there are two transport systems. One is the railway on the extreme east; and the other, the privately-owned Midland railway, from Gingin northwards. People living in the area which is not served by any railway system are being unnecessarily burdened with Transport Board fees and regulations. If I thought there was any possibility that such fees would be credited to railway revenue I might have a different conception; but they are not.

At present an area within 20 miles of the G.P.O. Perth is free of road transport restrictions. That area can be extended by another 15 miles, to a total of 35 miles, at the discretion of the Transport Board. This virtually means there is a free limit of 35 miles. Outside of that area the farmer is required to meet the costs imposed by the Transport Board. I consider some extension of that limit should be made. I go so far as to advocate the complete exemption from those regulations of areas not served by the railway system.

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

Mr. CRAIG: There are only two more matters to which I wish to refer, the first being roads. I consider the roads are very good and this reflects great credit on our Main Roads Department. I was very pleased, as were also the residents of Toodyay, when the Minister announced that he had made sufficient funds available for the completion of the Toodyay-Red Hill-rod. This decision will be appreciated by the many users of that highway.

I would also like to draw attention to the work being done by the Main Roads Department on what I consider experimental roads to Lancelin Island. That type of construction is unique in this State, and I believe it is unique in Australia. If it proves successful at the conclusion of our coming winter season, prospects will be opened up for a cheap form of road construction in our outer areas that will be appreciated by the people from those districts.

I want to make a brief reference to the Swan valley because I feel it is a very important part of my electorate, and in no small way is a contributor to our State's economy. It is only an area of some 5,000 to 6,000 acres, and yet from that confined portion has come over £1,000,000 worth of produce annually. Most of this originates from the vines; and in addition to that there are the three largest wineries operating in the State.

We have built up substantial export markets, mainly with the United States and Canada, and also with our exports of grapes to Singapore and Colombo. Unfortunately, this last season, on account of bad setting of the crop, the value of production from that area has been halved. Representations have already been made to the Government for some form of assistance to these vignerons. There are over 600 registered, and I think that some form of help is absolutely necessary if they are to survive and continue to play their part in assisting in the State's economy.

I do appreciate the forbearance of members in listening so patiently to me, and I will not prevail any longer upon their generosity. I will conclude by expressing my best wishes to the Premier and his Government for a very successful term of office; and I cannot help but add that I feel quite confident that it will be for many years yet.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [7.34]: May I, Sir, as a brand new member—not as a new Brand member—offer you my congratulations on your appointment to your new high office. May I also ask your indulgence for any small transgression of which, as a new member, I may be guilty. I do not ask for the indulgence of my political opponents for I will have difficulty, quite frankly, in not being controversial.

First I would like to pay a tribute to the man I succeed in this House—The Hon. J. B. Sleeman. I hope that with the passing of time, I shall merit the respect that this good man earned in this House and in his electorate. He has always been a man devoid of affectation; he was also a man of the people, and one who fought for the people and for the man in the street. He did not fight for any narrow section of the public. He was not here to amass a fortune or retain one on behalf of anyone else; but he retired having gained something far more precious—and that was a good name. May he live long to enjoy it!

In my electorate, I gained more than twice the total number of votes of my two political opponents in a very stormy campaign. Despite all that was said against me, and the fact that I was alleged to have doubtful affiliations with all sorts of parties; and despite the fact that I was opposed by a member of the D.L.P. and a member of the Communist Party, I polled more than twice the aggregate number of votes of my two opponents. Because I have an industrial background, I feel that anything I have to say here is likely to be controversial. I make no apologies in regard to anything I might say in criticism of members opposite.

As the D.L.P. was very active in the campaign in opposition to me I want to mention how strangely quiet it has been since achieving its object of having the L.C.L. elected to the Government.