

had signed the contract. That does not leave much time for people outside to know, and it appeared to me that he had under suspicion some officers in the department who might have conveyed the information to me. That might have been natural enough, seeing I was associated with officers down there for six years. But I hasten to assure the Minister and the House that the source of my information was completely outside the Government service, and nobody in the slightest degree associated with the Government gave me the information. I obtained information of a figure—it was not the actual figure that I had, because I said that it was £35,000. I knew there were a number of tenders over a certain range, and the information was volunteered to me by a person completely away from any Government association.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

#### *Fifth Day*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

**MR. O'NEIL** (Canning) [4.41]: At long last it appears that I will be given the opportunity of joining my voice with other members in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, upon being elected to your high office. I can assure you, Sir, that I will probably echo the sentiments of all new members when I say that we will look to you often for assistance and advice in this our first term of office. I can be equally sure that you will grant us the benefit of your wisdom whenever we call upon you for such advice.

It may seem unusual, on this my first occasion of addressing such an august assembly, that I am inclined to be a little critical of the Government of which I am so proud to be a supporter—I can hear some clutching of straws. It is rather paradoxical that the reason I am critical is because I desire to congratulate the Government of which I am so proud to be a supporter.

**Mr. Graham:** No!

**Mr. O'NEIL:** I desire to congratulate it upon the forthright manner in which it has put into effect the policy so clearly enunciated prior to the 21st March, this year. In common with many new members—principally on this side of the House—I sought representation in this Assembly so that I could voice my objection in no uncertain terms to some of the acts of a socialistic nature, even though they be termed Christian Socialism—and whatever that means I am not quite sure—that have been perpetrated by the members now opposite.

As you, Mr. Speaker, and many other members present are aware, prior to obtaining my high office, with the approval of the electors of Canning, I was engaged

in a particularly absorbing and interesting profession, namely, that of schoolteaching. I have been told that I shall never be other than a teacher; and I hope that whoever told me that was telling the truth.

I believe that one of the principal duties in our community is undertaken by the profession of which I was so proud to be a member because in that profession we are dealing with the portion of our community which I consider to be the most important. I trust that my sojourn here will be long, and that in my contributions to the deliberations of this House I will be able to show that we are passing something worthwhile into the keeping of the future citizens of this proud State of ours, to which, in my new capacity, I shall be able to add some glory, shall I say?

In my few short days here I have had evidence that the assertion I made that I would never cease to be a teacher is quite true. As a teacher I realise that one of the basic principles of learning is repetition or, as the education psychologists would have it, frequency; and a member on the other side of the Chamber who many years ago belonged to the same profession has, without doubt, proved to me that he, by virtue of his continual repetition, was well trained, at least as a teacher,

Because of my previous vocation it would be most unusual if I did not have something to say about education. Firstly, I support the Minister for Education in his decision—made shortly after the election—to postpone the policy or proposal to raise the school leaving age to 15 years in three annual increments of four months. I fully support the principle of raising the school leaving age, but I think we must realise that with the lack of accommodation, and the shortage of teachers it is virtually impossible to put that policy into effect at this juncture. However, I would like to console him, because if my assumptions are correct we would find the school leaving age today to be quite a deal in excess of 14 years.

To support my assumption I would make two main points. Firstly, because of the facilities which exist for the majority of our children to spend at least two years in a high school in the city, or a junior high school in the country, there is an urge to continue on to the third or junior year. There is an urge to do that on the part of the children who have become accustomed to that type of education, and who enjoy it; and there is an urge, on the part of the parents, to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to keep their children at school for a further year.

The second point is an example of the adage that "It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good". Unfortunately over the last couple of years we have seen notices in the Press to the effect that the Director of

Education requests parents to keep children at school, when they are due to leave, because of the lack of employment opportunities. I trust, and I am sure, that under the administration of this Government that lack will disappear.

Becoming more parochial, and again on the subject of education, I would like to draw attention to the fact that in the area, part of which I represent, between the Kent-st. High School in Victoria Park and the John Curtin High School in Fremantle, both of which are five-year high schools, no five-year high school facilities exist. Both schools—Kent-st. and John Curtin—are packed to the "plimsolls." I would urge the Government to give its immediate attention to an investigation into the practicability of erecting five-year high school facilities in the area between John Curtin in Fremantle and Kent-st. in Victoria Park.

There is one further matter which in my opinion needs to be given urgent consideration, and that is the provision of third-year accommodation at the Applecross High School. As members would know, this school has been in operation for 18 months—it is in its second year—and it has catered for an intake of children in the first and second year only from schools as far separated as Melville and Collier. At the moment I think the school attendance would be in the nature of 1,200 or 1,300 children, and the anticipated enrolment next year, at first year level, is an additional 600.

The school is now filled to capacity. Some of the classrooms are being used temporarily for manual training for boys and domestic science for girls. I understand that the next move is to build a wing to cater for those facilities. To me, the provision of such requirements is extremely urgent.

As to the training of teachers, I was extremely gratified to hear the announcement, during the Governor's Speech, that it was proposed to erect a third teachers' training college, because it is an urgent necessity. However, among other necessities is provision of adequate housing for those teachers who are transferred to the country. Although the State Housing Commission has been most co-operative on this need, I would hazard a guess that there are many teachers who would forgo the rigours of country service because of the high rents they are paying and the lack of amenities, and return—as I did—to the more congenial atmosphere of the metropolitan area; and look what happened to me!

I must express myself on what I consider to be the most important aspect in the overall development of our State. Whilst at present our economy is based on agriculture and primary production, I feel

that we are on the verge of great industrial development. I am sure we must all agree that the basic requirement for such development is the provision of adequate power supply, principally in the form of electric power, which is drawn from two main sources; that is, from hydro-electric schemes or from conventional power stations using large quantities of water and coal or oil.

At the moment this State of ours has no facilities to use water to create power from hydro-electric sources other than, perhaps, in the North; and, secondly, we have no great resources of either coal or oil. Further, none of our inland areas have an adequate supply of water. What, then, is the answer? In view of the fact that we are living in an atomic age, I have been extremely interested in the development of atomic energy and its conversion into electric power. Britain has led the world with the atomic reactor, but the principle employed is the use of heat from atomic reaction to heat water and convert it to steam to drive conventional steam turbines. Once again, our inland areas do not contain sufficient quantities of water which are suitable for the production of power from that type of atomic reactor.

However, for the last few months I have been following, with particular interest, the direct generation of electrical energy from atomic power which has been experimented on in America. Perhaps in this we may find our answer. I would urgently request this Government—I am sure it will—to keep its eye on this type of new electric power.

The area on the eastern side of the Swan River is poorly served with hospital accommodation. In the Stephenson Plan dealing with the regional development of the metropolitan area, I have noticed a suggestion that a 700-bed hospital be erected in an area which is close to the electorate I represent. Although I do not deny the necessity of erecting a first-class training hospital somewhere in the vicinity of the new Medical School, I appeal to the Government not to deny the people of that area the normal hospital facilities to which they are entitled.

I do not wish to take up the time of the House unnecessarily because we have far more important questions to deal with. So, in conclusion, I look forward to a long period of happy associations with members of this Chamber and the staff of Parliament House. Both members and the staff have, to date, made me feel at home; and, to my way of thinking, that is the greatest praise I can offer.

Mr. NULSEN: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.



Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—23.

Mr. Andrew	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Brady	Mr. Moir
Mr. Evans	Mr. Norton
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Graham	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Hall	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Heal	Mr. Toms
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. May
Mr. Jamieson	

(Teller.)

Noes—26.

Mr. Bovell	Mr. W. A. Manning
Mr. Brand	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Burt	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Cornell	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Court	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Craig	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Crommelin	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Owen
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Perkins
Dr. Henn	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Watts
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Wild
Mr. Mann	Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller.)

Majority against—3.

Motion thus negatived.

**MR. BRADY** (Guildford-Midland) [5.0]: I am not quite prepared to speak, Sir, but rather than see the Address-in-reply debate collapse, I shall address myself to it. The change of Government gives private members an opportunity to bring before the new Government any difficulties that may be associated with their particular electorates. One of the matters on which I will touch, straightaway, is the very subject that the member for East Perth was trying to get considered on the floor of the House earlier this evening. I refer, of course, to crosswalks, the danger to pedestrians, and the matter of road traffic generally.

I understand that in the last five years, in my electorate, in one area, about a quarter of a mile in length, four or five people have been killed. In another area, in a matter of 10 years, five people have been killed. Both these areas are very close to pedestrian crosswalks. I think it is high time the Main Roads Department, the Transport Department, the Police Department, and the State Electricity Commission had a conference to see what can be done to prevent this severe loss of life.

Mr. Roberts: What action did you take last year?

Mr. BRADY: I never stopped taking action while I was Minister for Police, but it is not sufficient for one department alone to take action. If the member for Bunbury will wake up, he will see what I mean.

Mr. Graham: You could not wake him up if you hit him over the head with a piece of 4 x 2!

Mr. BRADY: These accidents are taking place, and it is not uncommon now, while travelling from Fremantle to Perth, to see at least a dozen houses for sale on either side of the road. That indicates to me that the people in those houses have found the number of accidents so nerve-racking that they have decided to leave the area in which they are taking place.

As I said before, I am particularly concerned with my electorate at the moment. At the corner of Morrison-rd. and the Great Northern Highway, there is a crosswalk which runs from the convent school to the other side. In my opinion there should be four crosswalks—one on every crossing—at that particular corner, because I do not think it is sufficient to have one crosswalk at a corner. If four crosswalks were provided it would mean that the pedestrians would have a certain degree of safety, no matter in which direction they were travelling.

The position is a difficult one, but it is nevertheless serious. It has got completely out of hand, and I feel the member for East Perth should have been permitted to rescind the regulation in question. I am rather surprised that the Minister for Police should have said that the ex-Minister for Transport (the member for East Perth) was responsible for the regulation. It is a very poor, and shabby way of trying to get out of the difficulty. It is shabby to approve a regulation and, when it is challenged, to try to argue that the previous Minister was responsible for its institution.

Another matter which I wish to discuss tonight is the possibility of the Minister for Police, or the Minister for Transport—who in this case is one and the same person—taking the initiative with a view to convening a conference of the Main Roads Department, the Transport Department, the Police Department, and the State Electricity Commission in an endeavour to try to stop these accidents. I have only mentioned one corner that is dangerous. There is another in the vicinity of the West Midland station where there have been several deaths. Quite recently, the Midland Municipal Council arranged a conference in connection with the matter of another danger spot and discussed the possibility of placing flashing lights on the Helena-st. corner, where there have been 30 accidents—both major and minor—during the last three years. On one corner alone there have been 30 accidents: 10 major accidents and 20 minor accidents!

It is time something was done about it, and if this Government can achieve anything in that direction it will certainly add to its laurels, because it will be instrumental in preventing many deaths, and will also bring about a position where