

We find that from time to time people are somewhat critical of the actions of police officers, but they are the first to complain if a huge number of policemen are not made available at a minute's notice to carry out any duty required. This was well borne out during the "bikie" incident on the 5th March, this year. I am sure all members are aware of that happening. It commenced at Brookton and the matter was blown up out of all proportion by the media. In saying that I would point out that I am not on the side of the "bikies" in any shape or form.

Nevertheless if members read the Press reports of the incident I think they will agree that one could have been excused for expecting open warfare to break loose. However I am certain it was the cool judgment and the capable handling of the situation, shown by members of the Police Force that contained the incident which, incidentally, was a new experience to the members of the force. The first move by the "bikies" surprised the police, but over the weekend they rapidly rallied their forces.

Members of the force were subjected to a great deal of criticism over the handling of a very delicate situation, but I still think they dealt with it in the best manner possible. Nevertheless the matter goes a little further than merely criticising the members of the Police Force. When an incident such as the "bikie" incident at Brookton takes place it comes as something of a surprise, and this is brought about by the tactics adopted by such people when they go on a rampage. I saw a similar incident in New Zealand. They ring up various hotels and order liquor in large quantities. They may say to the publican, "We want to order 30 gallons of beer for Saturday evening." They will ring up four or five places at various locations to order their beer requirements, and usually the publican endeavours to fulfil their requirements. The object of this tactic is to fool the police and everybody else concerned, because at the last minute they visit a different venue and it is impossible for the police to know their destination.

I would point out that even if every publican where beer had been ordered telephoned the police advising that "bikies" may arrive at his hotel it would be impossible for 100 or more policemen to be despatched to that point.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Are you intimating that the hotels at Brookton were telephoned about this incident beforehand?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No, I did not say that. I said that these are the tactics that "bikies" adopt. I also said I saw the same being done in New Zealand. However, seeing the honourable member has mentioned the publican at Brookton, I

would point out that I examined the reports of the incident very thoroughly, and I found the Press made no mention of the fact that no complaint had been made to the police by the publican at Brookton. He did not object to the "bikies" being there. Before they left Brookton, they did pay for all the breakages that took place. When I say that, however, members should not think for a moment I am defending the "bikies", because we just cannot have such people going around terrorising country towns, or cities for that matter. I am not defending their actions at all.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: I am not questioning you on that point. I merely asked you whether you were intimating that the publican at Brookton had been telephoned beforehand.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No, I was not. I was saying that it would be impossible to deploy 100 policemen to any given spot in such a short time, and I did refer to the tactics employed by these people to fool the police and prevent adequate protection being given to the country centre involved.

I believe the public criticism of the Police Force was quite unfounded and it must have left members of the force a little daunted because, as far as I am concerned, they acted in the correct manner, although such action may not have been to the satisfaction of everybody.

As I said earlier, I support the motion and I will now conclude my speech. However before resuming my seat I trust that the new members who will be making their maiden speeches in this House will do so with a great deal of confidence, because it is an experience which affords the member concerned an opportunity to debate those subjects he would like to get his teeth into. Before concluding I congratulate the new members on their election to this House and I also congratulate those who went before their judges and masters and were returned to office as members of this Chamber.

THE HON. G. E. MASTERS (West)
[7.58 p.m.]: I rise for the first time in this House with a great deal of pride but not, as the previous speaker said, with a great deal of confidence. Firstly, Mr President, I add my congratulations to the many you have received over the last few days and which have been bestowed upon you on your having been elected to the President's Chair in this House. I know you have served in this Parliament for a period of something like 21 years with great distinction. Further, you have served as Leader of the House and as a Minister of the Crown, and I personally thank you for the help you have been able to give me over the past few weeks when I have been trying to find my feet as a member of Parliament, and I suppose I can honestly say you have guided me along the right path.

I would also congratulate the Leader of the House, the Hon. Neil McNeill, on his election to that position and his promotion to Minister for Justice. I congratulate the Hon. Graham MacKinnon and the Hon. Norman Baxter on their appointments to the Ministry and also the Hon. Ron Thompson on his election to Leader of the Opposition. My congratulations go to those members who have been newly elected to offices and various duties in this Chamber, and also to those new members who, like myself, are keen to find their way and probably very anxious to say a few words.

I would like to thank the staff, and the Clerks in particular, for the great help I have received from them over the last few weeks. Once again, I think a new member is somewhat at a loss in finding out how to go about things and how to deal with the problems and questions which arise for new members. I give my sincere thanks to the ladies and gentlemen of the staff for the help I have received.

I also take advantage of this opportunity to pay a great tribute to my predecessor, the late the Hon. Fred White. He served as a member of the Shire Council in Kalamunda and eventually became the shire president. For a long time he was regarded as one of the best shire presidents in the district. He was elected to the West Province and served for a period of six years, and during that time he gained great respect from members in this House. Such was his dedication to duty that he eventually gave his life in the service of his community. I hope I earn as much respect from the province and from members in this House, and I hope I do the job as well as he did.

I am a comparative newcomer, not only to this House, but to the State of Western Australia. I have lived here for just over 12 years and many people refer to me not only as a newcomer, but possibly as a new Australian. However, I am sure I will overcome any small problems which might arise and represent the West Province to the best of my ability.

The West Province is not the largest in this State, but it most certainly is not the smallest. It does not have the greatest population, but it does have a great variety and offers greater challenges than do most provinces in this State. The province stretches from Yanchep to Toodyay and includes Whitfords and the State housing area of Girrawheen, Swan View, the vineyards of the Swan Valley, the hills of Kalamunda, and Mundaring. It takes in Bickley, Pickering Brook, and the agricultural areas of Toodyay and Bindoon.

I think my province could justifiably be split into two areas: primary and urban. The province stretches in a great arc north and east of Perth, and reaches right to the metropolitan area. As far as the primary producers are concerned it could well be called the larder of Perth.

The Wanneroo market gardens have for many years produced a great proportion of the market produce for this State, both for the metropolitan area and for the country regions and they are also responsible for much of the export trade to neighbouring and Asian countries.

The Swan Valley is certainly rearing its head and is now recognised as one of the finest wine-growing areas in Australia. I think that members realise that only 10 or 12 years ago it was very rare to go into a restaurant and see people drinking wine; they were usually drinking beer. However, since then there has been a tremendous upsurge in interest in and consumption of wine; the Swan Valley has grown and accepted the challenge. The wine growers have raised the standards of their wines and those wines now compare favourably with wines produced in the Eastern States. I emphasise that the potential for wine growing is excellent, and the potential in the export trade is very great, and will be of benefit to this State.

During the last year the Swan Valley produced 74 per cent of the unfortified wines in the State; it produced 70 per cent of the fortified wines; and 99 per cent of the wine used for distillation. It also produced 98 per cent of our table grapes so it can be seen that the Swan Valley has a great bearing on our way of life in this State.

The Pickering Brook and Bickley areas have long been regarded as producers of fruit of a high standard. This is recognised throughout Asian, European, and Arab countries. I think these areas will go on producing and will continue to maintain their high standard. The areas are close to the city and the producers are able to supply their produce in good condition. At the same time there are a large number of cold stores in the area which enable the producers to supply the metropolitan area and ships under the best possible conditions.

The egg producers of this State are, again, centred around the metropolitan area, and poultry meat is now within the reach of every household whereas once it was considered to be a luxury. The lush farmlands in the West Province are probably some of the finest in this State and for a long time they have been responsible for producing beef, lambs, wheat, and wool. These products are known throughout the world and, again, represent a large proportion of our exports.

I am shocked that many people adopt the attitude that once the world market for a particular commodity seems over-supplied they should hold back and restrict production. This attitude, in my opinion, is a tragedy and I believe that the State Government and the producers should get together and receive advice from the best experts and salesmen that money can afford. The Government, and

the producers, should adopt a vigorous and aggressive policy and go out into the world to sell our products. The produce of Western Australia must be sold to other countries and we have to fight for those markets; if we adopt a negative attitude we do not deserve to sell.

His Excellency the Governor, in his Speech when opening Parliament, drew attention to this fact and said—

The Government intends to review, and step up organisation and techniques for marketing primary products.

This would involve people going out and striving to sell our produce on the world markets. A good example would be the announcement made on Friday, the 26th of this month, to the effect that lamb sales to Iran totalled 4 000 tonnes with the possibility of the sale of another 2 000 tonnes. This represents between 65 and 80 per cent of our estimated production for the coming season.

Apple growing spreads through the Bickley and Pickering Brook areas and, of course, Donnybrook should be included amongst the major apple producing areas. They are facing great problems in the European markets and I believe we have to get into the Asian and Arab markets, and concentrate more on the Japanese market where I believe there is a demand for such fruit.

I will now deal briefly with urban development in the West Province. The development is such that it can be referred to as a population explosion. For example, in June, 1970, Wanneroo had a population of 4 725. In 1974, four years later, the population had reached 39 865. I would imagine that such an increase could compare favourably with the old gold rush days.

The population of Kalamunda, in June, 1970, was 16,500 whereas in June, 1974, it had increased to 24 850. In Mundaring the population in June, 1970, was 11 000 whereas it is now over 15 000. I believe the West Province has a greater growth rate than any other part of Western Australia.

The growth of Wanneroo Shire may be greater than that experienced anywhere else in Australia. The people in the area come from all walks of life and from all parts of the world. I would probably know better than most people that they come to this country to create a new life with their families. They bring with them old traditions and they create new ones which add to the richness of our way of life. These people come to this country and accept the challenge. Western Australia is still regarded as a very remote area. Perhaps "time-wise" it is not so great, but the remoteness is there because of the distance from other countries and as a result of this new settlers do face many problems.

I am worried because those people with young families need encouragement. They have come to Western Australia for a very

good reason: they believe Australia to be a free country. I hope that, in this regard, we never disappoint them.

While campaigning during the early part of this year I travelled through the urban areas to a great extent and I was greatly concerned with some of our State Housing Commission areas. I do not say that all State Housing Commission areas are particularly bad, but I do believe the density is appalling in some parts of Girrawheen. That is quite unnecessary in this day and age. It seems that the maximum number of houses are constructed on the minimum of area in order to provide cheaper services and keep down prices. This worries me a great deal and I believe it is a short-term approach. The social and health problems will be much greater under such conditions than they are in areas which are already established. In fact, we hear many people in Government and in Opposition—people who should know better—referring to such developments as depressed areas. Some of them are termed "depressed areas" even before building is completed.

I am worried at the density of the housing, and also the lack of facilities in the initial stages of development; facilities such as recreational areas, kindergartens, halls, and the sorts of things necessary for a good social life. These facilities should be provided at the same time as the initial development.

The Wanneroo Shire Council has spent something like \$300 000 over the past three years in developing reserves, but it is often too late. It is a struggle and children who have to wait four or five years for recreational facilities miss these amenities at a very important stage of their lives. We have to look very carefully at development and provide these facilities in the early stages.

Dr Neil Beck, in a speech which he made about six or 12 months ago, said that if he could have the necessary recreational developments in the areas of Balga, Girrawheen, and Nollamara he could cut his doctor's bills by half. Added to this is the cost of social problems and even colour problems. On the one side of the road there is private housing and on the other side there is housing provided by the State Housing Commission, and the social rift is growing wider.

We now hear that the Federal Government intends to develop 200-acre areas to house 6 000 to 8 000 people. I cannot understand the attitude regarding this sort of development. It seems to me that it is intended to create areas of discontent; I cannot think of any other reason. In time we will be ashamed of these areas. People are trying to get away from slums and ghettos which we are tending to develop. We should be able to take advantage of experiences throughout the rest of the world and realise that we deserve something better. Ours is a new country.

The Wanneroo Shire Council recently conducted a tour of its area with the Minister for Local Government and Town Planning. The shire suggested that in the development of the many areas in the Wanneroo Shire the State Housing Commission could possibly be responsible for 15 per cent; not 50 per cent but 15 per cent of the development. The State Housing Commission areas could then be integrated with private housing and the people could enjoy associated facilities. There would not be a line of demarcation. I think this is something worth striving for. High density development produces low quality housing. I again say this does not apply to all housing development. Development has occurred in some areas, at Forrestfield, High Wycombe, and Malda Vale without creating problems. Urban development creates many different problems, and I refer to communication, the lack of local industry, leisure, and retirement. Two good examples of this type of disability exist in the Wanneroo Shire and the development of the Kalamunda Shire. I refer to Wanneroo Road and Welshpool Road which would be the two most heavily and over-used roads in this State. They just cannot cope with the traffic. Traffic to Kewdale uses Welshpool Road. Improvements to Wanneroo Road have taken place over the past four or five years but it is still in a chaotic state with increasing usage.

A major cause of the problem could be that the work which is available for people living in these outlying areas is centred around Perth. I believe that local authorities should be able to establish industries within their own areas. I refer to light industries which might employ 10 or 20 people.

Small businesses employ a number of people and this takes the load off the roads and communications. The local authorities should be able to purchase land, either from a State or Federal grant, before its rezoning potential becomes apparent, before someone says, "This will be industrial land. We will grab it now to make some money." The local authority should have the power to decide on a particular area for this purpose, and it should then be given the money to purchase the land, and perhaps revitalise the Industrial Land Development Authority. The land could be developed and marketed at a reasonable cost.

Many advantages would flow from such a scheme. The stability of the area would be improved and a load would be taken from transport problems. By creating a pool of industrial land the local authorities would also keep the price down.

It is stated in our Liberal Party policy speech that we should give added strength to local government. This sentiment was repeated last week and it is laid down in our own policy.

At the moment the small man, who is being crucified by the inflationary tendencies, is suffering the most. One possible way to help him is to encourage the local businessmen to have a go in their own area rather than forcing them to pay exorbitant prices for industrial land elsewhere.

The use of leisure time is a major problem in our life today. The MRPA has a proposal to develop an area eight miles long by one mile wide at Lake Joondalup. This is one step in the development of a recreation area in the metropolitan region. Before it is too late we should develop other areas. A wildlife sanctuary will be developed at Lake Joondalup as well as facilities for sailing, rowing, golf, and nature walks. A theatre also is to be provided.

Now is the time to make such plans, before it is too late. The MRPA is also planning for a third metropolitan university. This is a long way ahead, but it is good thinking. It is intended to build a regional hospital in the not-too-distant future, and Wanneroo certainly needs this facility. With such hospitals in the outer metropolitan area, we could stem the growth of the vast hospital complexes in Perth, and cut back the hospital empires which seem to be developing.

Problems develop when people retire. We teach people to earn a living without teaching them how to live. We see people of about 55 to 60 years of age literally fade away through lack of interest. They have a wealth of experience to give to the community, and they should be encouraged to do so. I believe the local authorities in Kalamunda and Mundaring have been active in their efforts to create rural subdivisions. Many retired people would like to live on small holdings of two, five, or 10 acres. They like to grow their own vegetables and perhaps to keep a cow and poultry. This proposal to set aside small acreages between the urban and rural areas has a lot to commend it.

The local authorities should have more say in their own development, and as long as they work within their own district schemes, they should be encouraged to take more responsibility in decision-making, without frequent reference to the Town Planning Board in Perth. Sometimes weeks or even months are lost whilst decisions are sought; and time is money these days, so prices escalate and inflation takes over. I urge that local government authorities be given much more say in their own affairs, and particularly in planning, as long as they work within set guidelines.

I do not intend to say much more tonight. It is my privilege to represent the West Province. As I said before, I hope to earn the respect of members of this House and of the people of my electorate. I intend to work very hard for my

constituents. I know we are facing major problems, and these problems will increase. I thank members, and particularly you, Mr President, for the courtesy you have extended to me by listening to my speech.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. A. A. Lewis.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Assembly Personnel

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees appointed by that House.

House adjourned at 8.22 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 30th July, 1974

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

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [4.31 p.m.]: I move—

That the member for Kalamunda (Mr Thompson) be appointed Chairman of Committees.

Mr McPHARLIN: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Question put and passed.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

THE SPEAKER: I wish to inform the House that I have appointed the member for Vasse (Mr Blaikie), the member for Katanning (Mr Old), and the member for Canning (Mr Bateman) to be Deputy Chairmen of Committees during the present session.

THE PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Digest 1973: Tabling

THE SPEAKER: I have for tabling a document entitled *The Parliament of Western Australia: Digest 1973*. As a brief explanation of the presentation of this paper, I would explain that it is the result of a decision made by the Joint Printing Committee of last year; and it contains some valuable information in the form of a synopsis of the proceedings of the 1973 session. I submit it to the House as an additional and I think valuable service to members.

The paper was tabled (see paper No 1).

QUESTIONS (39): ON NOTICE

HEALTH

Atmospheric Pollution: Monitoring

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the atmosphere of the Perth metropolitan area been tested in 1974 for the amount of—
 - (a) nitrogen dioxide;
 - (b) ozone;
 - (c) nitrogen oxide;
 - (d) nitric dioxide;
 - (e) carbon monoxide;
 - (f) particle matter?
- (2) What were the results of such tests?
- (3) In what areas were they carried out and on what dates?
- (4) What monitoring of the atmosphere for pollutants is carried out at Medina?
- (5) What are the results of such monitoring, if any?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) to (d) Yes. Total oxides of nitrogen area measured.
 - (b) Yes.
 - (e) Yes.
 - (f) Yes.
- (2) The most recent results, for June 1974, for the Perth city area are as follows:

Total oxides:

Mean for month—53 micrograms per cubic metre.

Highest 24 hr. reading—142 micrograms per cubic metre.

Ozone:

Mean for month—32 micrograms per cubic metre.

Highest 8 hr. reading—120 micrograms per cubic metre.

Highest 1 hr. reading—128 micrograms per cubic metre.

Carbon monoxide:

Mean for month—2.9 parts per million.

Highest 8 hr. reading—6.5 parts per million.

Particulate matter:

Mean for month—10 micrograms per cubic metre.

Highest 24 hr. reading—35 micrograms per cubic metre.

- (3) Essentially in the central business district, with supplementary results from suburbs, on a continuous basis.