

# **BILL—PLANT DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT.**

The PREMIER: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill for "An Act to amend the Plant Diseases Act, 1914-1954."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

## **LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.**

Mr. SPEAKER: Accompanied by hon. members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to members of both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused printed copies of the Speech to be distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

## **ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.**

### *First Day.*

MR. HALL (Albany) [3.54]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—

May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

I should like to express my first thoughts on being elected as a member of Parliament. What are the duties of a member of Parliament? By what obligation is he bound to the constituency to which he is attached? What kind of work is he expected to do and what kind of life has he to lead?

I will try to answer these questions, first by referring to some general principles and then by giving a concrete illustration. Certainly, it should be the happiness and glory of a representative to live in the strictest union, the closest correspondence and the most unreserved communication with his constituents. Their wishes should have a great weight with him, and their opinions high respect; their business unlimited attention. It is his duty to sacrifice his repose, his pleasures and his situation to theirs. Above all, always, and in all cases, to prefer their interest to his own.

Parliament is not a congress of ambassadors with different and hostile interests, which interests each must maintain as an

agent or advocate against other agents and advocates. Parliament is a deliberative assembly of one nation with one interest, that of the whole. We choose a member indeed, but when we have chosen him he is not just the member for his electorate; he is a member of Parliament. I shall endeavour to give effect to that policy myself.

I should like to bring to the notice of members the dangers that lie ahead of this Government and, in fact, of all democratic Governments, if we do not use the advantages we have in our power, mainly decentralisation. The maldistribution of the people of Australia is a feature of our development upon which the adverse comment of thinking people has been more or less continuous. In no other country in the world may be seen cities quite as large, or a rural population quite as small, having regard to our total area and numbers. Many factors have operated to produce this result.

The attractions of life in the city are undeniable. It is all too true that they are industrially richer and both these reasons cause the loss of youth from country areas. The convergence of roads and railways at focal points has greatly influenced the growth of the capital cities. Modern methods of quantity production and the growth of large units of secondary manufacture have had the effect of expediting the growth of the cities. By political action the great natural resources of the cities have been exploited to the comparative negligence of the countryside. The general trend has been, in short, to make more work and greater opportunity in the big manufacturing centres and less in the country. If we are to meet the threat of world trade domination by Russia we shall have to decentralise, adjust and overhaul our monetary system and make sure it is working with an honesty of purpose. If we fail to awake to these necessities, then democracy and Australia will be lost.

Albany's claim for a naval base leaves nothing to be desired. It has a water depth of from 70 to 100 feet, natural, complete protection from prevailing winds, fresh running water and good roads. Yet we hear the cry of "Centralisation," of "Emphasised Interests," of "Cockburn Sound." Our industries are becoming congested; our traffic is congested and I am afraid that our minds have become congested. Our roads are narrow but I believe we have only bituminised the cart tracks of our forefathers. We have acres of land, but we make our roads as narrow as our thoughts. I need no more proof of this than the terrible accident of last December when two vehicles were unable to pass without disastrous results to life and limb.

The Albany harbour, when completed, should serve as the natural outlet for the southern half of the State, and railways

and transport should lead to the south and not to the north. The country is fertile and fruitful and well stored with nearly all the things the people need. The people are intelligent, industrious, strong and famous for their perseverance. Their inventiveness and their resourcefulness now assert that if the labour of these people were properly organised and wisely applied, this State would in return for very little toll, yield abundance for all.

Today Australia has made much progress in her march forward as a nation. Future progress will depend on the intelligent use of our resources. If, in our selfish greed for riches, we destroy our resources and imperil the livelihood of future generations, then we shall have betrayed our heritage. Every Australian should acquaint himself with our many problems.

I should like to conclude by congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your successful appointment as Speaker of this House.

Mr. O'BRIEN (Murchison): I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. Sir Ross McLarty, debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday next.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.12 p.m.

## Legislative Council

Tuesday, 7th August, 1956.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m.

#### PRAYERS.

The PRESIDENT: I will ask members to remain standing while I read prayers.

Prayers read.

#### QUESTIONS.

##### LONG-SERVICE LEAVE.

##### *Application to Private Industry.*

Hon. W. R. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

As it has been indicated in the Press and the Lieut.-Governor's Speech that legislation will be introduced during the current session to extend long-service leave benefits to employees in private industry—

(1) Can he inform the House whether these benefits will be on the same basis as those enjoyed by Government employees?

(2) Can he also say whether leave will be made retrospective if at the passing of the Act the employee has already served the necessary period to qualify him for leave?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) and (2) Details of the proposed legislation are still receiving the consideration of the Government and it is expected that an early decision will be made.

##### DRAINAGE.

##### *Implementation of Comprehensive Scheme.*

Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH asked the Chief Secretary:

In view of the fact that many property-owners and occupiers throughout various parts of the metropolitan area are suffering much personal inconvenience, damage to property and financial loss, in some cases to such an extent that people have been obliged to vacate their premises due to flood waters, and in view of the fact that drainage throughout the metropolitan area has reached the stage of emergency proportion, and in recent years has become increasingly worse, will the Chief Secretary inform the House exactly what steps the Government has taken to date to implement the comprehensive drainage scheme of the metropolitan area, and also indicate the Government's intended action to prevent the position from further deteriorating, and consequently becoming completely out of control?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

The Government has planned a series of drainage areas within the comprehensive drainage scheme and work has been commenced in the Welshpool section of the Bentley-Welshpool scheme. Further work in connection with the comprehensive drainage scheme is dependent upon the availability of funds. This project has been included in the schedules recently submitted to the Commonwealth Government in connection with the State's application for financial help to relieve unemployment.